

Epilogue - 20 years later

It's been 20 years since I last wrote about myself. Everything has gone by so fast. Soda finished high school and went on to study Engineering at the University of Oklahoma. He and Steve joined Cadillac Motors and fixed the V8-6-4 engine in their new Cadillac Cimarron. Darry continued his roofing job. As for Two-Bit, I'm honestly not sure what happened to him. He's probably still moping over Johnny's death.

knock knock

I was interrupted amid my writing by a knock at the front door. I had no clue who it could be at this hour. Cherry came down the steps behind me.

"Pony, you keep writing in your journal." Cherry said, "I'll get the door."

I stood up anyhow and made my way to the door. Cherry beat me to it, so I playfully slapped her hand. We opened the door to find 2 people standing there, both seemed strangely familiar, though it was hard to identify them through their winter gear. This winter was one of the coldest in the history of Oklahoma.

"Come on in y'all." I said, "It's freezing out there."

The figures accepted my offer and gently stepped over the threshold. Once the door was closed, they started removing their winter gear. The one was a lot quicker than the other, and I realized that it was Soda.

"Hey Little Buddy!" Soda shouted as he gave me a big hug. "Ooh! Pony and Cherry sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G." I put my hand over his mouth to shut him up.

The second figure was almost done undressing, and I saw it was Sandy. What more, she had a shiny silver ring on her finger. Soda ran over to help Sandy finish taking off her winter clothes. Then, they both turned around.

"You're engaged?" I asked, puzzled.

"Yep!" Soda replied, grinning from ear to ear, "Have been for the last 3 weeks!"

"3 weeks?" I asked, "How come I'm just hearing about this now?"

"We wanted to get everything ready before anyone knew." Sandy said, "But the time has come, and Soda wanted to tell you first."

"The wedding is next Tuesday." Soda said.

"Next Tuesday?!?!?" I exclaimed, "No warning? You just show up here at..." I glance at my watch, "1:12 in the morning, on a Friday, announce that you're engaged, then invite us to your wedding in 4 days?"

“Glad to see you too, Little Buddy.” Soda said grimly. He quickly threw on his winter gear and stomped out the door.

“I should get going now.” Sandy muttered, “See you Tuesday.”

She followed Soda out the door.

“Well, that went well.” Cherry said, sitting down gingerly on the sofa. “You don’t get along well with your brothers.”

“You haven’t seen the worst of it.” I replied sitting down next to her, “It’s been like that forever. Soda’s usually the nice one.” Cherry sighed, putting her arm around me, “Life is tough.” She said and kissed me.

4 days later, we were ready for Soda and Sandy’s wedding. The service was at a small, private church. Not many people were there. The gang was though, with their wives. It seemed like it went on forever, unlike me and Cherry’s wedding, which went by like the wind. Finally, what seemed like days later, the vows were made, and they kissed.

I spotted Two-Bit on the other side of the cathedral and made a beeline for him after the ceremony.

“Pony!” Two-Bit shouted, “How are you?”

“Not bad” I replied, executing our secret handshake, “You?”

He suddenly turned away, “I...I... I have to go” he stammered and darted towards the exits.

“What happened with him?” A familiar voice from behind me asks. I turned around to see Darry standing there. I gave him a big hug and replied, “I’m not sure. I asked him how he was, and he said he had to go, then ran off.”

“That’s Two-Bit for you.” Darry muttered and hustled away.

“What’s going on?” Cherry asked, “Why’s everyone running away from you?”

“I’m not sure.” I replied, “I guess I’m just a scary person.”

“You are pretty scary.” Cherry joked, then gave me a kiss.

Cherry and I left the church and headed back home. When we arrived, I found a letter addressed to me from... Johnny?

I couldn’t believe what I was reading. I opened the letter and continued my reading.

Ponyboy,

“That’s Johnny’s handwriting alright,” Cherry said, looking over my shoulder.

I don't know how much longer I'll be around. The nurse said I only had a couple of days left. I want you to know, Ponyboy, that I never stop thinking of you. No matter where you go, where I go, I'm always thinking of you.

Stay Gold,

Johnny

25 September 1960

I didn’t know what to say after that. I just stood there, reading the letter repeatedly.

“September 25, 1960?” Cherry said, reading the letter over my shoulder, “Why are you just getting this now?”

“I’m not sure...” I said in a quiet voice, “Look at the envelope, it’s stamped today’s date.”

“Darn you, Ponyboy,” a familiar voice behind me said, “I always knew you were smart”

I spun around and to my surprise, Johnny Cade was standing in front of me.