

As they wave goodbye, Carine catches the cap from the backseat window. And with a parting smile to her brother, she poses with it on her own head. Chris smiles and waves goodbye.

As the Cadillac drifts away, his smile disappears into something other than sadness.

TIME CUT:

8

INT. OFF-CAMPUS ROOMING HOUSE - NIGHT

8

In a warm ambient light, we SEE a black and white poster on a barren wall: Poncho-clad Clint Eastwood from "The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly."

We TILT DOWN a stack of books sitting on the floor - Tolstoy, Stegner, Thoreau, Jack London, and Pasternak. Beside them, a camper's backpack.

Chris sits in introspection at his desk by candlelight. The room is spare, supporting his monkish lifestyle. But on the desk before him, he counts out \$500.68 from a bank envelope. He pockets those bills and change, then removes a check for \$24,000 made out to OXFAM America from the same bank envelope. He scribbles a note: *These are all my savings. Feed someone with it.* Signed, *Chris McCandless*. He then slides the note and the check into a pre-addressed Oxford Famine Relief Fund (in Boston) envelope.

He pulls his wallet from his back pocket. Pulls all the cards and pictures from its sleeves. Considering each, he flicks them into a trash bin, one by one. Finally coming to his social security card, he holds it to the candles flame. As the flame burns bright we -

DISSOLVE TO:

9

EXT. ATLANTA HIGHWAY - SUNRISE'

9

MUSIC (Gordon Peterson's BIG HARD SUN or as radio source Tom Petty's FREE FALLING) rises and PRESENTATION TITLES OVER:

A 1982 DATSUN B210 emerges from the rising sun as the car heads west out of Atlanta. (HIGHWAY 20 TO 78 TO 40)

PRESENTATION TITLES and MUSIC carry OVER:

MONTAGE: We travel with Chris and his Datsun through the towns and open highways, landscapes and landmarks, days and nights, that lead to the Mojave desert in the West.