

EXT. A FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Two deer are standing next to a mailbox on a quiet country road (picture two actors in deer suits).

BUCK
Is this it?

PRANCER
This is the place. I'm nervous. Are you a little nervous?

BUCK
Just be cool, will you?

EXT. BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS

The two bucks break into the Keith home, smashing a window. They walk through the living room.

BUCK
Look! Right over there.

Angle on a buck's head mounted on the wall.

PRANCER
My God. Is that...is that Dave?

BUCK
And look.

PRANCER
Pablo!

BUCK
Sick bastard. He's got their heads hanging on his wall!

PRANCER
C'mon.

They pause outside the door to the master bedroom.

BUCK
Go!

They kick in the door and burst into the room.

PRANCER
Get him!

A struggle ensues between the deer and Stuart. The deer overpower him and drag him down the stairs.

EXT. FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

Prancer holds Stuart's arms behind his back while Buck slams punches into him.

BUCK

And that one's for cousin Ernie. And that one's for my girlfriend Tina. And that one's for Pablo!

Stuart collapses to the ground, gasping for breath.

STUART

What do you want from me?

BUCK

What we want is for you to stop coming into our forest every year with your firestick and killing our friends, asshole!

STUART

Okay. You got it. Just leave me alone.

PRANCER

Haven't had my turn yet. Hold him for me, Buck.

STUART

Please! I'll give you anything you want. Here, I just got paid.

He flashes a roll of bills.

BUCK

That doesn't look like it tastes very good.

STUART

You don't eat it. It's called money? You can exchange it for goods and services.

BUCK

You mean you give other humans this paper and they give you things in return?

STUART

Yes.

The two deer look at each other.

INT. A RURAL TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

Stuart and the two deer are walking up and down the aisles of a truck stop convenience store. The deer are picking out items and putting them into Stuart's cart as the clerk looks on.

BUCK

Two of those, one of those, that looks pretty good, gimme six of those...

PRANCER

Yo buck! You like this hat?

We see he is sporting a "Honk if you love beer" hat.

BUCK

Looks great on you. Throw it in the cart.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - MOMENTS LATER

The two deer are slumped against the wall behind the truck stop. They are finishing off the last of an incredible truck stop feast. A pile of wrappers lays between them.

BUCK

I'm not feeling too good.

PRANCER

Ooooh.

STUART

I'm not surprised. You guys just ate about seventy dollars worth of junk food.

BUCK

Shut- up, human.

PRANCER

You said that this "money" can be exchanged for goods and "services." What did you mean by "services"?

STUART

Well, like, if you give them money, you can get others to do things for you. Perform tasks.

BUCK

What sort of tasks?

STUART
 Pretty much whatever you want.

The two deer look at each other.

EXT. GAME FARM - NIGHT

We see Stuart paying off the game farm manager. From the other side of a fence, we can hear happy animal noises as Buck and Prancer frolic with some petting zoo does.

STUART
 Sounds like they're all having a good time in there.

GAMEFARM MANAGER
 How long do you think they want with them does?

STUART
 I can't see this taking more than a half hour, but I don't know, I'm not a deer.

INT. STUART'S TRUCK - NIGHT

The three are riding along a country road.

BUCK
 Whooooooeeee! I'm actually starting to like you, human. This night has been a good time. A helluva good time.

STUART
 Can I go home now?

PRANCER
 Home? We're just getting warmed up. How much money you have left?

STUART
 About thirty-five bu...dollars.

BUCK
 Is that a lot?

STUART
 Not really.

BUCK
 Well, what can we do that's fun for thirty-five buh-dollars?

STUART

I don't know.

PRANCER

Think! Unless you want me to go rabid on your ass.

STUART

Okay, okay, I got an idea.

EXT. A CLEARING IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

Pan off three cases of beer to reveal Buck, Prancer and Stuart leaning against the back of the truck, all hammered.

BUCK

See, the thing is, I'm just not so sure I buy into your whole "circle of life" argument.

PRANCER

Yeah, man, I mean, it sounds like human rationalization for killing everything in the forest.

STUART

Well, okay let me go through it again. First there's the plants, right?

BUCK

I'm with you so far...

STUART

Well the way we see it, they're at the bottom of the food chain.

BUCK

Okay.

STUART

So then you got your "prey" animals, the ones that live only on plants, foragers and whatnot--that's you guys.

PRANCER

Not sure I care for the term "prey animal" but go on.

STUART

Well, anyway, then, at the top of the food chain are your meat-eaters. Wolves, coyotes, bears, and, okay, humans.

Buck crushes his beer can and belches.

BUCK

That's a bunch of crap. We could all live on plants.

STUART

Yeah, but then there'd be overpopulation. The plants would be overgrazed and everyone would die of starvation.

A silent beat as they contemplate this.

PRANCER

Man, the world's really screwed-up when you look at it that way.

STUART

Yeah...

Another beat. Then, Buck has a sudden thought.

BUCK

Hey, I want to try driving your truck machine thing. Can I?

STUART

I don't know if that's such a good idea.

PRANCER

He's driving!

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Buck is driving way too fast.

BUCK

Yahooooo!

STUART

You guys should put on your seat belts.

PRANCER

The hell with that!

STUART

Slow down!

BUCK
Which one's the brake?

STUART
On the left, the left!

BUCK
What's left mean?!!!

As the truck careers back and forth we

FADE TO:

EXT. STU'S HOUSE - MORNING

Stu's truck is smashed against a tree with the hood open.
Birds chirp as we push into a window on the second floor.

INT. STU'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Stuart is asleep in bed. From downstairs we hear knocking.

STUART
Unnnhhh...

Slowly, painfully, he comes to life.

STUART (CONT'D)
Just a minute.

He grabs his robe and makes his way downstairs. The knocking persists as he approaches the back door. He opens to find...

Buck and Prancer standing on the steps. They seem troubled.

BUCK
It's us.

STUART
You mean...that all really happened last night?

PRANCER
Afraid so.

STUART
Huh.

They eyeball each other for a beat.

STUART (CONT'D)
Well. What do you want now?

BUCK
Can we talk to you for minute?

STUART
Okay.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Buck and Prancer are on the couch. Stuart enters with some coffee and aspirin.

STUART
This should take the edge off a little.

Buck sighs as he accepts the coffee. He laps at it half-heartedly.

STUART (CONT'D)
Something wrong?

Suddenly, Prancer starts to weep.

STUART (CONT'D)
Hey...take it easy. What's the matter with him?

Buck tries to comfort Prancer but he's inconsolable

BUCK
We've been ostracized from the herd, okay?!

STUART
What?

PRANCER
They told us this morning. We're out!

STUART
But why? What happened?

Buck levels his gaze at Stuart

BUCK
We came home with "that human smell."
From you, I might add.

STUART

So?

PRANCER

Oh, it's an old story in the animal community. Once a young animal has come into contact with a human, the rest of group wants nothing to do with them. I know it sounds petty, but it's just the way things are.

STUART

Geez, I'm really sorry guys. Is there anything I can do?

Buck and Prancer look at each other. You ask him. No, you ask him.

BUCK

Well, actually, yes. Is it okay if we stay here for a few days. Just until we get our lives together?

STUART

Uh, here? I dunno.

PRANCER

Please! We got nowhere else to go.

BUCK

I mean it is all your fault. Seriously, dude, you won't even know we're here.

Push in on Stuart's face and

CUT TO:

Various locations in Stuart's house as the deer make themselves at home. Music under.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

As Stuart tries to vacuum, he has to maneuver around the the deer who are sprawled across his couch and Lazy Boy. We see they are watching a nature documentary. They peer around him.

BUCK

(annoyed) You make a better door than window.

INT. THE SHOWER - DAY

Stuart steps into the bathroom.

STUART
Who used my towel?

He opens the shower curtain and finds deer hair all over the tub. He picks up the soap. More deer hair.

STUART (CONT'D)
Oh, c'mon!

INT. THE DINING ROOM - DAY

Angle on the hungry deer eating Stuart's houseplants. He walks into the room and busts them.

STUART
My hydrangeas!

They continue eating.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Stuart is on his hands and knees cleaning up some muddy deer tracks.

STUART
Would it kill you to wipe your feet?!

INT. THE LIVING ROOM

The deer are standing at the window taunting some unseen coyotes from the safety of the living room.

BUCK
Hey coyote, check out this juicy flank!

We hear frantic coyote yelps from outside.

Prancer puts his leg up on the windowsill

PRANCER
Look, tender white meat! Mmmmm, you just can't beat venison.

They turn and shake their asses at the frenzied pack.

Stuart rushes in, slams the window shut and glares at them. The deer high-five.

The deer notice that Stuart is wearing some nice clothes and has his hair combed.

STUART

Well, this week has pretty much been a disaster.

BUCK

Oh, c'mon. I mean, dude, you have to admit, you are a little uptight.

STUART

Okay, but I really need you to be cool tonight. I've got a date and if everything goes okay, I may be bringing her back here.

PRANCER

Mating season, huh? Alright!

STUART

Seriously.

BUCK

Don't worry about it, man. We'll hang out in the backyard or something. We noticed your garden's starting to come in.

PRANCER

We'll just chill and feast on those buds, you won't even know we're here. Okay?

STUART

Okay.

FADE TO:

INT. THE KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

We hear a giggling female voice along with Stuart as they enter from the back door.

JANICE

I like your place.

STUART

Thanks.

JANICE

Don't you ever get scared being out here all by yourself? What about wild animals?

STUART

Oh, they don't bother you if you don't bother them. (then) Actually, that's not entirely true.

JANICE

Whoooooop!

She falls. Stu turns on the light. We see Janice splayed all over the floor. She has tripped over a large white cube in the middle of the kitchen floor.

JANICE (CONT'D)

What is that?

STUART

(pissed) That's it! Where are you guys!

Buck and Prancer appear at the back door.

BUCK

What?

STUART

Did you leave this salt lick in the middle of the kitchen floor?

PRANCER

Oh, that's my bad.

STUART

That does it. That does it! You guys are gone!

BUCK

Now take it easy, Stuart.

STUART

No, this is the final straw. I'm all for being kind to animals but...

JANICE

Do you mean that you took in these poor little deer. You took them into your home?

STUART

Yeah, they were ostracized from their herd, can you believe it? Sorry, Janice, I'll just get rid...

JANICE

You are...the sweetest man I have ever met in my life.

STUART

Yeah?

JANICE

I am so turned on right now I can't even tell you.

STUART

Yeah?

JANICE

Yeah.

Stuart turns to Buck and Prancer. They are giving him a hopeful look.

STUART

I guess you guys can stay a little longer.

BUCK

Cool. And, uh, is it okay if we hit the salt lick a bit?

STUART

Go for it.

As Stuart and Janice exit to the living room Buck and Prancer get down and start licking as we

FADE OUT.