

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

(SCREENPLAY BY KENNTH LONERGAN

TERRY WALKS INTO THE RESTAURANT AND SEES HIS SISTER SAMMY SITTING AT A TABLE. . She sees him, and she gets up to hug him. He's somewhat uncomfortable with it, they sit down, and he is over intently looking at menu. Sammy is at him.

TERRY

Sorry about yesterday.

SAMMY

I don't care...

TERRY

I was studying the bus description... and I just...i got on the wrong bus...i mean, i missed my stop.

SAMMY

I don't care terry, I'm just glad to see you...

TERRY

I'm glad to see you too, Sammy?

SAMMY

It's Saturday....

TERRY

It's just you are dressed so formallly...

SAMMY

Oh, no, ya know, I just thought it was a special, ya know, a special occasion... which it is.

TERRY

No... I thoughth i'd dress up too.

He gestures to his shitty clothes.

TERRY (CONT'D)

(a strange unsuccessful
joke)

Yeah, this is the haute cuisine of garments.

SAMMY

What?

TERRY
Nothing, nothing... um, so hare are
you?

SAMMY
I'm fine

TERRY
How's Rudi.

SAMMY
We're fine, Rudi, how are you? I
mean....

TERRY
yeah...

SAMMY
...where have you been lately,
Terry.

TERRY
I know I haven't been...

SAMMY
I got a postcard from you from
Alaska...?

TERRY
Yeah, I was up there for awhile.

SAMMY
But that was in the fall, Terry....

TERRY
Yeah, I know I've been out of
touch...

SAMMY
I was a little worred, I mean....

TERRY
Oh, i've been a lot of different
places...um.. i went down to
Florida for a while... I was doing
some work in Orlando... I've been
all over the place...

SAMMY
Well... i just wish you would've
let me know you were okay.

TERRY

Yeah, I didn't realize it'd been so long.

He looks around the restaurant.

SAMMY

Are you gonna stay awhile for awhile?

TERRY

Well, I don't know.. I got all thsse things I got do back in Worcester.

SAMMY

Oh..

TERRY

Yeah, so its probably not be able to stay more than a day or so....

SAMMY

Oh, Well,that's all right...

He twists around and looks all over the restaurant. She watch him

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Are you expecting someone?

TERRY

Who would I be expecting here?

SAMMY

It's just that you keep looking around is all.

TERRY

I actually gotta confess to you, Sammy. The reason why you may not have heard from me for a little while is that I've been kind of unable to write... on account of the fact that I've been in jail for awhile.

SAMMY

You were what?!

A couple of people are looking at them.

TERRY

Well I did a little time , i guess,
in Florida For, uh, just for
bullshit.

SAMMY

What?!

TERRY

It was just bullshit.

SAMMY

What did you do?

TERRY

I didn't do anything. Did it ever
occur to you that I was wronged!

SAMMY

No!

TERRY

Well, could I please...

SAMMY

Oh my God!...

TERRY

Would you please let me....

SAMMY

What happened?!

TERRY

I just got into a fight in a bar
down in Florida. Which I was not
the one who instigated it, at all.
But they worked up all this
bullshit against me and then threw
me in the pen for 2 months. I
didn't write you because I didn't
want you to get all upset about it.
I just figured you'd figure I was
on the road for a little while. I
know it was stupid, and I'm sorry,
I really didn't want to make you
worry. But you know what? I can't
run around all the time doing stuff
or not doing stuff because it's
going to make you worry!

(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)

Because I come back here, and tell you about my fuckin' traumas, and I get this wounded little "i've let you down" bullshit, over and over again, and it really just -- cramps me! Like I just want to get out from under it! And here I am back in this back in the fuckin' hole explaining myself to you again!

SAMMY

Can you please stop cursing at me!

TERRY

I mean I realize that I'm in no position to uh, basically say anything, ever - but its not like I'm down there in some redneck bar in Florida having an argument with some strippers boyfriend and I suddenly think, "Hey! Maybe this is a good time to really to stick it to Sammy and get myself locked up for a few months."

SAMMY

I'm sorry...

TERRY

Me too, man. I mean "welcome home."

SAMMY

Hey, you don't write me for 6 months. I have no idea where you are.

TERRY

I'm sorry...

SAMMY

I don't know if you are alive or dead.

TERRY

I'm sorry.

SAMMY

And then you show up out of nowhere and tell me you were in jail.

TERRY

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm really sorry.

SAMMY

I really wish mom was here.

TERRY

So do I, Man.

SAMMY

No one knows what to do with you.

TERRY

I know how they feel man.

Silence, just the sounds of the restaurant.