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FLASHING LIGHTS appear behind him. Cliff freezes. He's caught, holding a slender, skinned arm in one hand and the plastic bag in the other.

A STATE TROOPER CAR approaches, siren blaring. It gets within range... and swerves around Cliff, just missing him.

OPPOSITE ANGLE

The Trooper Car keeps going, obviously on a call.

TROOPER (LOUDSPEAKER V.O.)

Get out of the road, asshole!

Its tail lights disappear, the setting dark and tranquil once more.

CLIFF

Shoves in the rest of the body parts and starts to re-tie the bag. He notices that he missed one-- there is a FOOT laying on the ground.

No time. Cliff KICKS it off to the side of the road.

CUT TO:

INSIDE ROADSTER - SHORTLY

Cliff drives fast, glancing at the first dim glow of sunrise. The clock reads: 5:44.

Cliff thinks back to... that night.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK: RURAL ROAD - NIGHT (OPENING SEQUENCE)

The Sedan moving along at a good clip. We now see the entire conversation, unedited, as Cliff and Abbey argue...

ABBEY

I don't want to talk about it.

(quietly)

This is going to be my last cigarette. I want to enjoy it.

CLIFF

You're quitting?

She nods.

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CLIFF (cont'd)

That's good.

(beat)

Because I want you to be around for
a long time.

ABBEY

Why should I listen to anything you
say?

CLIFF

Because it's true.

(choking up)

I love you so Goddamned much, Abby.
I'm sorry for everything but you
are my wife. We are going to grow
old together and I'm never going to
let you go.

(quieter)

I'm never going to let you go.

ABBEY

Really?

CLIFF

Yes.

ABBEY

I want to show you something.

Abbey unfastens her seat belt, reaching into the back seat.

CLOSE ON: Her hand, reaching into her purse... and removing
the HOME PREGNANCY TEST WAND, revealing it to Cliff.

ABBEY (cont'd)

I'm having your baby, Cliff.

He tilts his head down. Speechless. The results, a light blue
cross, are positive. As it sinks in, Cliff is overcome with
joy.

CLIFF

Oh my God. Oh my God this is great.
This is so unbelievably awesome!
That's why you're quitting. We are
going to have a family!

ABBEY

I'm afraid it's too late for that.

CLIFF

What?

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ABBEY

After what you did, you think I'm going to let you near my child?

CLIFF

What? Because of... Come one... Abbey... I mean, come one...

ABBEY

You lost your chance at that life when you fucked that whore. No more of my family's money. No more house. No more private practice. And Cliff? You're going to pay child support.

Cliff can't believe what he's hearing. It's a nightmare.

CLIFF

Abbey. What? You don't really mean it...

ABBEY

(seething)

You're going to be doing welfare fillings at the strip mall. Because of what you did.

(then)

HEY...!

Cliff sees the branch TOO LATE. He SMASHES through it and loses control. Cliff SCREAMS as they speed towards the MAGNIFICENT TREE...

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL ROAD

The aftermath of the accident... with what we didn't see.

Gasoline drips from the ruptured gas tank into the gully.

Abbey is laid out in a pool of gas, her right eye punctured. Moaning, still alive.

Cliff STUMBLES out of the car, disoriented. Abbey lifts her head, trying to focus with her good eye.

CLIFF

Abbey. Are you...?

BND