

From Hunting Season
By Don Zolidis

(EZRA, 45, and CAPTAIN RON, 50ish have escaped to a remote cabin in the north woods of Wisconsin with several hundred thousand dollars of stolen money. EZRA seems gruff and crude, but he has taken in RON, who is a mentally scarred Vietnam vet who once was homeless. In the woods, RON spends his time trying to take care of small animals. EZRA is trying to get them to lay low while the heat over the stolen money dies down. In this scene, EZRA is explaining his past to RON..)

EZRA

I ran away from home sixteen years ago, and I haven't stopped running since. I was supposed to marry this girl. Well, I was supposed to marry her cause I knocked her up when I was nineteen. She was seventeen... pretty, she was real pretty—Amy—I think I loved her. Well, I thought then that I loved her, I guess I didn't. I was nineteen what the hell did I know? Her father hated me, thought I was no good, thought I was white trash—so I told him I was gonna go to law school and get my law degree, just to show him, you know? And I did, well I started at least, I went to college just to piss that guy off—And in the meantime I was just dumb. Couldn't keep my hands off her. We just... man, that's something, you shoulda seen this girl, all fresh, she smelled like a forest in the rain... and I fucked up. Her family was real religious so when I got her pregnant they wouldn't let her have an abortion, she wouldn't a had one anyway, she wanted to keep the kid cause she loved me, and man, I don't know. I guess there are moments when you get tested. Do you stand up and be responsible? Or are you weak? They come along and you just gotta react. And there's a right way to be, and an easy way to be. And they ain't the same. I told her I was gonna love her forever, and I guess she didn't realize I meant that in the abstract. Heh. So I took off. It was the eighth month of pregnancy—I think the last thing I said to her was don't name the boy something stupid like Ezra. Heh. I wouldn't even know where to look for her if I tried.

(Pause)

That's bullshit. I could find her. If I wanted to.