

LIFE ON HI-5

A Play in One Act

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Keen: A bratty young high schooler.
The redneck leader of the
pack.

Corny: A spastic high schooler.

Weaser: A sickly high schooler.

Skinner: The high school daredevil

Muffin: The crazed girl from Laguna
Beach.

Sheriff Webbie: The ominous, fair weathered,
town sheriff.

Scene

The interior of Lovetta's Diner, on a desolate Highway
Five.

Time

Present day.

SETTING:

We are in the interior of Lovetta's Diner, with a big Lovetta's Diner sign. A cheap, rundown, ramshackle, piece of shit eatery, located on the desolate and bleak strip of highway known as Hi-Five.

AT NIGHT:

Night has fallen. The place is dead and dreary. KEEN, a dumpy, yet dapper redneck enters and switches on the light. He signals for the others to come in.

KEEN

C'mon guys! The coast is clear!

(WEASER, a plump, little wippersnapper enters breathing heavily. He plops down at a table, whips out his Primatene Mist and shoves it in his mouth. He sucks the stuff down like there's no tomorrow)

KEEN

You okay there, Weaser?

WEASER

Sure, Keen... Just my lungs festerin'.

(WEASER sucks in some more mist. He gets a headrush. His head starts to roll around, eyes glazed over. KEEN looks back out the back door of the diner)

KEEN

Hurry up, Corny!

(CORNY, a backwoods type enters, full of jubilation and spastic anticipation. KEEN looks around outside, then shuts the door)

KEEN

What took ya so long?

CORNY

Gee, Keen! I dunno! I was havin' so much fun sneakin' and runnin', I ran around the diner once just to make it more funner!

KEEN

Why you stupid sack uh shit! Did anyone see ya?

CORNY

No, Keen! Honest! Nobody seen me! I just wanted to make it more funner! That's all.

KEEN

Well, it don't matter anyhow.

(KEEN goes to the window, looks out
at the highway)

KEEN (Continued)

Look at that hell. Just desert, and mountains, and a
strip of shit called Highway Five. Sometimes I wish a
car would drive by here and catch us sneakin' into
Lovetta's.

CORNY

What a neat idea, Keen. Sneakin' into Lovetta's after
she closes. I haven't felt this neat since I saw Evil
Kenevil jump the Snake River in that big ol' missile
car.

KEEN

He missed, you know?

CORNY

Did he?

KEEN

Yep... Slammed right into the side of that fuckin'
canyon... Bam!

CORNY

I don't remember that.

KEEN

Musta felt good.

(CORNBY goes to WEASER)

CORNY

Hey, what happened to Weaser?

KEEN

He's havin' asthma again.

CORNY

Are ya havin' asthma Weaser? Are ya? Huh? Are ya?

WEASER

Shut your ass, boy! Can't ya see I'm sufferin'?!

CORNY

Oh, I can see your sufferin'. I can see your
sufferin'. Sure.

(WEASER gets up, to get away from CORNY. He stands by KEEN for a change of company. WEASER and KEEN look out at the highway together. CORNY comes up behind them)

CORNY

Whatta ya seein'?

(KEEN addresses WEASER, avoiding CORNY)

KEEN

You know what I did the other day?

WEASER

What's that?

KEEN

I went out in my front yard, and I stood on a big ol' mound of dirt, and I looked out at the highway, real mean like, and I just said... Fuck you!

(KEEN flips a bird in the direction of the highway . WEASER chuckles. CORNY doesn't. He is unsure of the humor)

KEEN (Continued)

And then my momma came out of the house, cuz she heard me talkin' foul like, and she said, "What was that boy?" I just turned, looked at her, real mean like, and said fuck you!

(KEEN flips off the highway again. WEASER chuckles. CORNY is still unsure of the humor)

CORNY

That's funny, Keen. You got guts!

KEEN

You know, Weaser. It just gets to the point where life is so desolate, so worn out, so rehashed, that nothin' don't matter no more. Not even your own momma.

CORNY

Do it again Keen! Do it again!

KEEN

Do what?

CORNY

Flip of the highway, like ya just did! Flip it off!
Will ya? Huh? Will ya?

KEEN

All right. Fuck you!

(KEEN flips off the desert. WEASER
chuckles in delight)

CORNY

You're the greatest Keen!

(CORNY gets a little envious.
He steps up to the window)

CORNY

Fuck you!

(CORNY flips off the highway, and
bursts out laughing at his own
aggression. KEEN just shakes his
head. WEASER looks at CORNY with
a crooked look)

WEASER

That sucked.

CORNY

Whatta ya mean that sucked?! That was funny! Keen was
funny! So, I'm funny!

WEASER

Aw, your always stealin' Keen's jokes.

CORNY

I says I ain't!

WEASER

I says you are!

CORNY

Ain't!

WEASER

Are!

CORNY

Ain't!

WEASER

Are!

(CORNY and WEASER glare at each other head to head)

KEEN

You boys wanna see somethin'?

WEASER

What's that Keen?

(KEEN pulls out a pack of cigarettes, and removes one)

CORNY

Shoot, howdy! Is that one of them Marley-boros?!

KEEN

The real Mc Coy.

WEASER

Are ya really gonna smoke it, Keen?! Are ya?!

KEEN

Yep.

CORNY

Wait a minute Keen! We gotta sit down and watch this!
Like in a movie!

(CORNY and WEASER sit down at a table excitedly. KEEN lights a match)

WEASER

Wait a minute, Keen. There's a no smokin' sign supposed to be hung up here!

KEEN

Well, it ain't here now.

(KEEN puts the match closer to the cigarette in his mouth)

CORNY

He's gonna do it, Weaser! He's gonna do it!

WEASER

Look at Keen! He's just like Evil Kenevil!

(KEEN lights the cigarette, and starts puffing)

CORNY/WEASER

Go, Keen! Go!

(CORNY and WEASER spring up from their seats and put their faces right up to KEEN's face)

CORNY

Look at him puffin Weaser! Look at him puffin!

WEASER

I see it! But, I don't believe it!

CORNY

He smokes just like Skinner!

(Suddenly, KEEN's expression of superiority avalanches into a look of disappointment as he takes offense to CORNY's remark. KEEN walks away from the others and faces a corner)

CORNY (Continued)

What's wrong Keen? Did I say somethin' wrong?

KEEN

You son of a bitch, Corny... You know how I feel about Skinner.

CORNY

How can you say that about Skinner? He's the neatest guy in the whole school.

WEASER

You gotta admit, Keen... He is pretty neat... with that G-B-D, G-F-H, uh... what do ya call it?

CORNY

G-T-O!

WEASER

Yeah, G-T-O. That's a bad ass mother fuckin' car.

CORNY

It sure is... You gotta admit it Keen. Skinner is pretty neat. Sometimes he's neater than you.

(KEEN spins around, tense, revved)

KEEN

Oh, yeah? Well, lemme tell you boys somethin'. This ain't no ordinary sneakin'. No siree. I brought you twos her for a reason.

CORNY

You did?

(KEEN looks CORNY right in the eye)

KEEN

Yeah, I did.

(KEEN paces)

KEEN (Continued)

Does the word Muffin, mean anything to you?

CORNY

We serve 'em for breakfast.

WEASER

Oh, that's right.

KEEN

Forget that shit. I'm not talkin' 'bout that kind of muffin. I'm talkin' bout the kind of Muffin you squeeze.

WEASER

Is it an orange muffin?

KEEN

Nope... This kinda Muffin's got ruby red lips and big ol' titties.

(CORNY turns to WEASER)

CORNY

What kinda muffin's got ruby red lips and big ol' titties.

WEASER

We don't serve 'em here.

KEEN

It's got nothin' to do with here. It has to do with schoolin'. Harley high schoolin', that is.

CORNY

We go to Harley High School!

KEEN

It has to do with one fine little blossom who plays volleyball with us in our P.E. class...

(CORNLY and WEASER look at each other in disbelief as they realize who KEEN's talking about)

CORNLY/WEASER

Muffin! The girl from Laguna Beach!

KEEN

Wa-la.

WEASER

You got a date with a Lagoonian?!

CORNLY

Any guy who gets a date with a Lagoonian is one swift chicken!

KEEN

And I'm that swift chicken.

(CORNLY and WEASER crowd around KEEN)

CORNLY

Gollee, Keen! Your neater than I ever imagined!

KEEN

Neater than Skinner?

CORNLY/WEASER

Neater than Skinner!

KEEN

Well, if you boys play your cards right. You just might getta meet her.

CORNBY

When?!

WEASER

How?!

KEEN

Well, she said she liked to party.

CORNBY

And?!

WEASER

And?!

KEEN

So, it just seemed fittin' that I invite her here to party with us.

CORNBY

Ohhhhh Keen! You're neater than I ever imagined.

KEEN

Neater than Skinner?

CORNBY/WEASER

Neater than Skinner!

(There's a "knock" at the door.
KEEN answers it. Standing in the doorway is MUFFIN, the blonde Venus, decked out in tropical beach attire, a severe contrast to the redneck Hi-five wardrobe worn by the others. She carries a bag full of booze and other trinkets)

MUFFIN

Hi, Keen!

KEEN

Hi, Muffin! Sure is good to see ya! We've been awaitin' for ya! Come on in. Make yourself ta home!

WEASER

(To CORNY)

Hey, that's the girl who used to play with Skinner on the monkey bars.

(KEEN seats MUFFIN, sets her bag down for her)

KEEN (Continued)

I'll fix ya somethin'!

MUFFIN

Thanks.

(CORNBY and WEASER stand side by side in a corner facing MUFFIN. They've turned to wide-eyed marble statues, unable to move, stricken with disbelief and awe. Meanwhile, KEEN fixes a drink behind MUFFIN. He pulls out a twelve pack of Near Beer. He's all thumbs himself. The can he open sprays all over him. Meanwhile, MUFFIN lights up a cigarette without a second thought. CORNY and WEASER look on in amazement. KEEN manages to pour a glass of beer for MUFFIN. He into the glass with his hand and removes the large head. He goes to MUFFIN and gives her the glass)

KEEN

Here you are, mam.

MUFFIN

What is this?

KEEN

Near Beer... Knocks you on your ass. Bam!

MUFFIN

Fuck that shit...

(MUFFIN reaches into her bag and pulls out a bottle of Old Smuggler liquor)

MUFFIN (Continued)

I drink Old Smuggler.

(KEEN's never seen a minor with her own liquor)

KEEN

Whoa!... Whoa!... Whoa!

MUFFIN

Whoa, what?

KEEN

How do you even begin to drink that?

MUFFIN

Like this.

(MUFFIN pops the top and shoves the bottle down her throat. As she chugs, CORNY gets up the nerve to speak)

CORNBY

Ka, Ka, Ka, Ka, Keen?

KEEN

What?

CORNBY

Ya, Ya, Ya, Ya, You gonna introduce us?

KEEN

No. You guys can go on home now.

(KEEN goes to CORNY and WEASER. He begins to lead them out. Suddenly, WEASER has another asthma attack. He falls to the ground)

KEEN

Oh, shit! Looka that! Get 'em outta here, Corny. He's ruinin' my date.

CORNBY

Anything you say, Keen.

(MUFFIN dusts the bottle completely and passes out. Suddenly, there's another "knock" at the door)

KEEN

Who's there?

SKINNER

(O.S.)

This is Sheriff Webbie! Open up! I know your in there!

(KEEN gets flustered)

KEEN

Okay Sheriff! Okay! We was only funnin'! Honest! We didn't steal nothin'! We didn't break nothin'! Honest!

SKINNER

(O.S.)

I'll be the judge of that! Now, open the goddamn door!

KEEN

Okay, okay, okay!

(KEEN opens the door. There's no one there. Suddenly, SKINNER, a young kid wearing a middle part palmeade hairdo and a leather jacket, jumps out of the dark and gets KEEN in a Half-Nelson and gives him a few noogies. SKINNER kicks the door shut. He lets KEEN go)

SKINNER

Shit, howdy! I had you boys jumpin' like jack rabbits!

(CORNBY's face goes from a look of distress to a look of sunshine glee)

CORNBY

Skinner!

SKINNER

Hey, Corny... What happened to Weaser?

CORNBY

He's havin' asthma, Skinner. He's havin' it real bad.

SKINNER

Lemme handle it, Corny.

(SKINNER grabs WEASER's Primatene Mist and Shoves it in WEASER's mouth. He pumps the dispenser a few times. Suddenly, WEASER springs back to too-good-to-be-true life)

WEASER

I can breathe, again! I can breathe!

CORNY

Gosh, Skinner! You're neat!

SKINNER

I know kid.

WEASER

Thanks, Skinner!

SKINNER

Anytime.

(KEEN stands in front of MUFFIN, trying to hide her from SKINNER. SKINNER catches on)

SKINNER (Continued)

Whatta you hidin' there, Keeny ol' boy?

KEEN

Nothin'. I ain't got nothin' to hide.

(SKINNER pulls a switchblade on KEEN)

SKINNER

Move over, Scallywag!

(KEEN moves aside. SKINNER goes to MUFFIN and lightly slaps her cheeks, trying to get her to come to. She comes around opens her eyes, and is suddenly sober and alert)

MUFFIN

Hi! You must be Skinner!

SKINNER

So, you've heard about me, huh?

MUFFIN

Oh, I've heard, and heard, and heard, and heard...
Tell me, why do they call you Skinner?

SKINNER

Cuz I skin cats.

MUFFIN

Why Do you do that, Skinner?

SKINNER

What the fuck do you do on Highway Five?

MUFFIN

Sunbathe.

SKINNER

You bitch.

MUFFIN

That felt good, Skinner.

SKINNER

It always does... It always does.

(KEEN steps in)

KEEN

Hey, hey, hey, hey. Break it up! Muffin's my date. I
think you'd better leave, Skinner!

SKINNER

Okay... Fine.

(SKINNER walks to the door, and
opens it)

CORNY

You're gonna leave that easily, Skinner?

KEEN

Shut up, Corny!

(SKINNER stops dead in the doorway)

SKINNER

Damn! I almost forgot!

KEEN

What's that?

(SKINNER closes the door, goes to MUFFIN, and slowly takes off his jacket. He rolls up his sleeve exposing the most fucked up tattoo ever inscribed. It reads, MADE IN TAIWAN. He gets his arm right up to MUFFIN's face and flexes it at her)

MUFFIN

Oh, Heaven! A tattoo!

SKINNER

Can you guess where I got it made?

KEEN

Gee, I wonder?

(CORNBY goes right up to SKINNER's tattoo and sticks his finger right in it)

CORNBY

Look, Keen! It says Taiwan!

(KEEN looks on with a pissed expression)

MUFFIN

You've been to Taiwan?! Jesus Howard Christ, Skinner! How do you do it?! How do you do it?!

WEASER

Are ya gonna tell us Skinner?! Are ya gonna tell us?! Huh?! Are ya?!

SKINNER

Well, actually I didn't get this tattoo in Taiwan... I got it in Sacramento.

CORNY/WEASER/MUFFIN

You've been to Sacramento?!

SKINNER

Sure. Lotsa times.

KEEN

That ain't shit. Why, one time I drove all the way to the Pacheco Pass onramp, and then I turned the car around and come back, just to prove I could do it. And all I had to eat all day was a little fuckin' stick of beef jerky.

SKINNER

Hmm. Pacheco Pass. Pacheco Pass... Isn't that the one fifty two highway?

KEEN

One and the same.

SKINNER

Aw shit! I drive that all the time!

CORNY/WEASER/MUFFIN

You've driven down Pacheco Pass?!

SKINNER

Well, how the fuck ya gonna get to Sacramento?

MUFFIN

God dammit... A celebrity.

CORNY

Hey, he looks like Evil Kenevil!

WEASER

Yeah! He dresses like him, too!

SKINNER

Well... Guess I'll be goin'.

CORNY

Nice talkin' with ya, Skinner!

WEASER

See ya on the bye and bye Skinner!

SKINNER

Adios, boys. Aloha, Muffin. Bon voyagee, Keen.

(SKINNER goes to the door and
opens it)

CORNY

Hey, Skinner! You gonna tell Muffin about your G-T-O?!

KEEN

Shut the fuck up, Corny!

(MUFFIN springs out of her seat,
and goes to SKINNER)

MUFFIN

You gotta G-T-O?

SKINNER

That's right, babe. Biggest, goddamn, motherfuckin' G-T-O in the world!... Penis!

(MUFFIN jumps into SKINNER's arms
as if they were going over the
threshold)

SKINNER (Continued)

You're pretty cute for a Lagoonian.

MUFFIN

Ride me, Skinner.

(SKINNER exits with MUFFIN. KEEN
sits at the table, breaks down,
and starts blubbering like a
hapless child)

KEEN

Waaaa! Waaaa! Waaaa!

(CORNBY grabs a can of Near Beer and
holds it to KEEN)

CORNBY

You wanna can of Near Bear?

KEEN

(Sobbing to the max)
I don't want Near Beer! I want Muffin!

(KEEN plops his face down in
his arms)

WEASER

Don't take it so hard, Keen.

(KEEN gets up)

KEEN

You don't understand. She was my ticket out of this
ravenous dung heap. She was my ticket to eternal
sexual fulfillment. Now, I'll never getta bang her!

CORNY

Well, at least we've all had poony once in our lives!

WEASER

Hey! That's right!

CORNY

Isn't it, Keen? Keen?

WEASER

Keen? Have you ever gotten poony?

(KEEN shakes his head, mortified,
humiliated, emasculated)

CORNY/WEASER

Oh, Keen... Poor Keen.

KEEN

But, I've gotten titty though!

CORNY/WEASER

That's just not the same, Keen.

(KEEN goes to the window, and looks
out at the highway)

KEEN

Fuck you!

(KEEN flips off the highway again.
WEASER chuckles)

WEASER

I love it when he does that!

(KEEN gazes out at the highway,
in a world of his own)

KEEN

This place is like a living hell. And if you're in a living hell, you're already dead. Dead. Just, dead, in the sadistic heat of the day, the callous cold of the night. Time and time again I've wanted to run away, just run away. But, the faster I run, the scarer I get, and the farther I run, the longer the highway becomes. It reminds me of that old seventies film, *Gone In Sixty Seconds*, or was it *Vanishing Point*? Anyhow, the hero goes through the entire film runnin' from the law. Just a runnin' and a runnin'. And at the end, he sees no way out, so he just gets in his car and slams into another one, and he goes up in itty bitty pieces. I don't have to tell you where they filmed that scene. And when I'm dead, it won't even matter...

ALL

I guess that's life on Highway Five.

(There's a "knock" at the door)

SHERIFF WEBBIE

(O.S.)

Open up! This is Sheriff Webbie!

CORNY

Hey, Keen! Skinner's back!

KEEN

All you're gonna get outta me, Skinner, is a big, almighty, gargantuan fuck you!!

(The door blows open. In steps
SHERIFF WEBBIE, dressed in god-like
police gear, not looking amused.
He holds a paper bag in his hand.
The others gulp)

SHERIFF WEBBIE

You left the door unlocked.

KEEN

Sheriff Webbie! Hi! We were just closin' up!

SHERIFF WEBBIE

At three a.m.?

KEEN

Yeah! Yeah! Uh, uh, uh... What were we doin', boys?

CORNY

we were makin' muffins with big titties!

SHERIFF WEBBIE

Does Lovetta know your here?

KEEN

Oh, yeah! Sure!

SHERIFF WEBBIE

So, if I were to call her at home, she would vouch for you fellows?

(KEEN breaks down)

KEEN

Oh, God! Please don't run us in! We don't know any better!

SHERIFF WEBBIE

Stop blubberin', Keen, I ain't gonna run you in. Why I've banged a few chicks in Lovetta's. All the cops bring chicks here.

KEEN

They do?

SHERIFF WEBBIE

Yeah... If you think about it, this is the last place Lovetta wants to be. She hates it as much as you boys do. Nobody likes this place. Especially, after dark, when sickening things happen on the highway, where there's no light, and no one can hear you scream.

CORNY

You know what I like about you Sheriff? Your a man of the law, but, you're our friend.

WEASER

Yeah. You're always gettin' us outta real bad situations instead of gettin' us into them.

KEEN

It's nice to know that we're not the only ones who don't give a shit about Lovetta's.

SHERIFF WEBBIE

Look, boys. I don't want this to turn into a pow wow.

CORNY

What can we do for you Sheriff?

(SHERIFF WEBBIE reaches into the paper bag and pulls out a dead cat, and holds it up)

SHERIFF WEBBIE

I found this tacked to my door.

KEEN/CORNY/WEASER

A skinned cat!

(CORNY and WEASER crack up, knowing it was SKINNER)

SHERIFF WEBBIE

There was a note attached. It reads, "Sheriff Webbie is a pussy." You boys know who might have done this?

KEEN

Skinner! Skinner done it!

(SHERIFF WEBBIE reaches into the bag)

SHERIFF WEBBIE

Hmm. Do you think Skinner did this?

(SHERIFF WEBBIE pulls out a human hand and dangles it in front of the others)

KEEN

Mercy!

CORNY

Look, Keen! It's a human hand!

WEASER

And it's been cut off!

SHERIFF WEBBIE

Yep. Wait'll you see the body. Found it by that by that stinkin' slaughterhouse you pass, just as you get out of Bakersfield.

(The boys are flabbergasted, speechless. SHERIFF WEBBIE goes to the door)

SHERIFF WEBBIE (Continued)

If you run into that Skinner kid, before I do, tell him I wanna talk to him.

(SHERIFF WEBBIE exits)

KEEN

What if that was Muffin's hand?!

(KEEN goes to a stash box and pulls out a gun)

KEEN (Continued)

I'm gonna kill that Skinner! I'm gonna kill him!

CORNY

You don't know what you're doin', Keen! You're goin' loco!

(WEASER has another asthma attack. He starts woofing down his Primatene Mist. He plops down at the table. CORNY tries to grab the gun from KEEN)

WEASER

Oh, the asthma! The asthma!

(CORNY and KEEN stop suddenly to heed WEASER's words)

WEASER (Continued)

It's as if my disease was within a body that lives within a disease. It's like living within an elevator

that's so big that you can't find the doors, and yet everyone suffocates in their own little space.

ALL

I guess that's life on Highway Five.

(There's a "knock" at the door)

KEEN

Who is it?

SKINNER

Skinner! Open up!

(KEEN opens the door, and lets Skinner walk in front of him. KEEN puts the gun to SKINNER's head.)

KEEN

Take it real slow boy. I don't wanna have to blow your head off!

SKINNER

What the hey?! I just came back to get my switchblade!

KEEN

Ain't no switchblade here, Skinner!

SKINNER

Well, I can't find it!

KEEN

Maybe you left it over there at that slaughterhouse, where you killed Muffin!

SKINNER

I didn't kill Muffin! I just dropped her off!

KEEN

Yeah... Sure.

(Suddenly, SKINNER spins around and tries to grab the gun from KEEN. The two wrestle, knocking over the table. "Blam!" The gun goes off. KEEN gets up. SKINNER gets up. Blood rushes from his

stomach)

SKINNER

Look what ya done ta me, Keen! Look what ya done ta me! And I Never did nothin' to you!

(SKINNER drops dead)

KEEN

Oh, Shit! Oh, Shit!

CORNY

This ain't funny anymore Keen! This ain't funny!

(WEASER has another asthma attack. CORNY helps him with his mist, but it's no use. This is the big one. WEASER starts rolling around on the ground, suffocating)

WEASER

Remember the elevator!

KEEN

Help me ditch this body, Corny! Or I'll kill you!

CORNY

Anything you say, Keen! Anything you say!

(KEEN and CORNY drag SKINNER's body into a corner. CORNY rushes over to WEASER and helps him up)

CORNY (Continued)

I gotta get him to a hospital!

KEEN

You do that.

CORNY

What about you, Keen? Where will you go?

KEEN

There's nowhere to go on Highway Five... I might as well stay here 'til sunup... if it ever does come up.

CORNY

I don't think I'll be comin' back, on account I had nothin' to do with the killin'. I ain't never seen no

one killed before. Life used to be so simple. Playin' hookey, sneakin' girlie magazines from my papa. Sometimes I'd wake up in the morning, just to see the sun come up and shine itself all along the horizon. Love those purple mountains.

ALL

I guess that's life on Highway Five.

KEEN

That's all right, Corny. I'll think of you.

CORNY

And I'll think of you too, Keen.

KEEN

Bye.

CORNY

Bye... Hey! Maybe when this is all over, we can watch T.V.!

KEEN

I'd like that, Corny.

CORNY

So, long, Keen.

KEEN

So, long, Corny.

(CORNLY exits with asthmatic WEASER. KEEN picks up the table and chairs and sits back down. He breaks down)

KEEN (Continued)

I don't want Near Beer! I want Muffin!

(KEEN lets his face fall in his hands. SKINNER's corpse gets up and stands behind KEEN. SKINNER has not come back to life. Rather, KEEN is talking to himself. SKINNER represents KEEN's conscience)

SKINNER

Look what you've done to me... Look what you've done to me.

KEEN

I didn't mean it, Skinner! Honest, I didn't.

SKINNER

You hated me. You hated me. That's why you killed me.

KEEN

I didn't mean it, Skinner!

SKINNER

Yes you did. You hated me, because I stole Muffin.

KEEN

Yeah. Yeah, I hated you for that, Skinner. She was my ticket outta this place. Now, I'll never be able to leave.

SKINNER

You're a grown boy now, Keen. More grown than me, now that I'm dead. You don't need her. You can just leave on your own. Pack your bags, and head on down that white line, asphalt, river.

KEEN

I've tried, Skinner. Honest I have. But, every time I get to the Pacheco Pass onramp, I become so frightened. I don't know what comes over me. I get these hallucinations. I see my momma standing in the middle of the onramp, and I keep thinking that I'm actually gonna hit her.

SKINNER

That's bullshit, Keen. It's time to move on. Get out of the house. See Sacramento.

KEEN

I sure would love to see Sacramento. Tell me one thing Keen... Did you love Muffin as I did?

SKINNER

I banged her in my G-T-O... but I didn't love her...

KEEN

Thanks Skinner... You're all right after all.

SKINNER

Good-bye Keen. God bless America.

KEEN

Bless you, Skinner.

(SKINNER goes back to his spot and lies down. MUFFIN enters, strung out on drugs, booze, black rings under her eyes)

MUFFIN

Hi, Keen.

KEEN

You stay away from me! Hear?!

(KEEN holds the gun to MUFFIN)

MUFFIN

Do you want me, Keen?

KEEN

I do... but I... I don't.

(MUFFIN goes to the Near Beer, and picks up two cans)

MUFFIN

How about a Near Beer?

KEEN

No. Think you'd better leave.

MUFFIN

Why, Keen? We're all alone.

KEEN

That's what bothers me.

(MUFFIN walks up to KEEN)

MUFFIN

C'mon. Have a beer with me.

(MUFFIN hands KEEN his beer. They both sip with suspicion. MUFFIN puts her beer down)

MUFFIN (Continued)

Put your beer down, Keen.

KEEN

I ain't finished with it.

MUFFIN

Do it.

(KEEN puts his beer down)

MUFFIN (Continued)

Now, the gun.

(KEEN puts the gone down. MUFFIN goes to KEEN and puts her arms around him)

MUFFIN (Continued)

Let's do it, Keen. Just like the cops do.

(KEEN turns away)

KEEN

No! I can't! I can't!

(KEEN looks out the window)

KEEN (Continued)

Fuck you!

(He flips off the highway)

MUFFIN

Well, if we're not gonna do it your way... we'll just have to do it mine.

(MUFFIN pulls out SKINNER's switchblade, and raises her arm to stab KEEN in the back. KEEN reacts in time and catches MUFFIN's arm. The two wrestle around)

KEEN

You killed that girl, didn't you!

MUFFIN

Skinner made me do it, Keen! Skinner made me do it!

SKINNER

Don't listen to her, Keen! She's drunk! She likes to threaten men! Make 'em scared of her! Nothin' more!

KEEN

Skinner would never do such a thing! He's a real neat guy! I shoulda known it from the start!

MUFFIN

Don't you love me, Keen?! Don't you love me?!

(MUFFIN stabs SKINNER in the arm.
He grabs the gun, points it at MUFFIN)

KEEN

This one's for Skinner!

("Blam!" KEEN Shoots MUFFIN)

KEEN (Continued)

And Corny!

("Blam!" A hit)

KEEN (Continued)

And Weaser!

("Blam!" A hit)

KEEN (Continued)

And me!

("Blam!" A hit)

KEEN (Continued)

And Evil Kenevil!

("Blam!" A hit)

KEEN (Continued)

And that guy who kept a runnin', and a runnin' from the law, but couldn't find no way out!

("Blam!" A hit. MUFFIN falls down dead. KEEN drops the gun and falls to his knees. MUFFIN's corpse sits up. She stands behind KEEN, representing his conscience)

MUFFIN

I could have loved you Keen! I Could have loved you!

KEEN

Shut up! Just shut up!

MUFFIN

You've made a big mistake Keen. One that you'll live to regret.

KEEN

Just die, Muffin! Just Die!

SKINNER

She's right, Keen. You've made a big mistake!

KEEN

Whose side are you on, Skinner?! Whose side are you on?! Whose side is anybody on?

MUFFIN/SKINNER

Would you like a Near Beer, Keen?

KEEN

(Sobbing)

I don't want Near Beer! I want my mommy!

(The corpses of SKINNER and MUFFIN lie back down on the spots where they died. SHERIFF WEBBIE takes center stage and addresses the audience as KEEN weeps)

SHERIFF WEBBIE

Life on Highway Five is a static concoction of delirium and indifference. Skinner may be the town daredevil. All fun and games, but a simp at heart. As for Muffin, she likes to drink and wave knives, just to get a reaction out of young boys like Keen. Ultimately, she's just as harmless as Skinner. If the hepatitis you catch at Lovetta's doesn't kill you, the boredom will, and if the boredom doesn't kill you... I probably will... For you see, I too, am a victim of the bleakness, the wonderland of insanity, masked with silence, and the jubilation of happy campers who infrequently pass by.

SHERIFF WEBBIE (Continued)

What I'm driving at, is that you can't very well solve a murder, if there's no murder to solve... I don't

think I have to spell it out for you... I'm standing right across the street from Lovetta's, in the same spot I always stand in, watching Keen, like I always do... The sun will be up soon... and when it breaks, I'll go over to Lovetta's and read Keen his rights, and place him under arrest for murder... Naturally, he'll go along quietly, convinced that it's all his fault... just like all the others...

(SHERIFF WEBBIE exits laughing maniacally)

KEEN

I'm sorry Muffin! I'm sorry Skinner! What will ever become of me? I don't have any energy left. I'm too tired to laugh... too tired to cry... And I'm too tired to flip off the highway.

(The entire CAST enters)

ALL

I guess that's life on Highway Five.

(LIGHTS FADE)

END OF PLAY