

Dustin reluctantly reaches for the phone eyes still closed.

DUSTIN
Hello?

INT. ERIK'S VAN - NIGHT

ERIK, Dustin's best friend and nuisance from childhood, sits on the corner of a ratty couch, beads of sweat trickle down his face.

ERIK
Dustin? Dustin?!

INTERCUT PHONE CONVO BETWEEN DUSTIN AND ERIK:

He speaks frantically.

ERIK (CONT'D)
Hey I... I really need you right now... I -

This whole time Dustin's expression does not change.

ERIK (CONT'D)
I'm going to...
(he becomes choked up)
I'm going to kill myself... Right now... I'm taking my life...

He let's out a sob.

ERIK (CONT'D)
And I want someone to be here... I need someone to be here - for witness purposes...

Dustin is tired and speaks in a monotone.

DUSTIN
You want me to watch you kill yourself?

ERIK
Witness me kill myself.

He doesn't even consider.

DUSTIN
No.

Erik gasps in shock and offense.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

I'm not going to come *witness* you kill yourself.

ERIK
But you have to! So the police know it was suicide.

DUSTIN
Write a note.

ERIK
A note?! That can easily be planted... I don't want confusion during the investigation.

DUSTIN
Investigation?

ERIK
Yeah! What if they think I was murdered!?

DUSTIN
Who would murder you?

Erik tries to think.

ERIK
I don't know...Someone from Memphis?

DUSTIN
Memphis?

ERIK
Haven't you seen those cop shows on TV? BAD SHIT GOES DOWN IN MEMPHIS!

Dustin doesn't respond.

Erik's look becomes more desperate.

ERIK (CONT'D)
Just please come over.

DUSTIN
No.

ERIK
Maybe if you come here... I *won't* kill myself.

DUSTIN
No.

ERIK
Come on! I live right outside!

EXT. THE MARX HOUSE - NIGHT

There is a VAN parked outside with the cab light on which Erik lives in.

BACK TO SCENE:

DUSTIN
Go to sleep.

ERIK
I'm going to kill myself-

Dustin HANGS UP the phone.