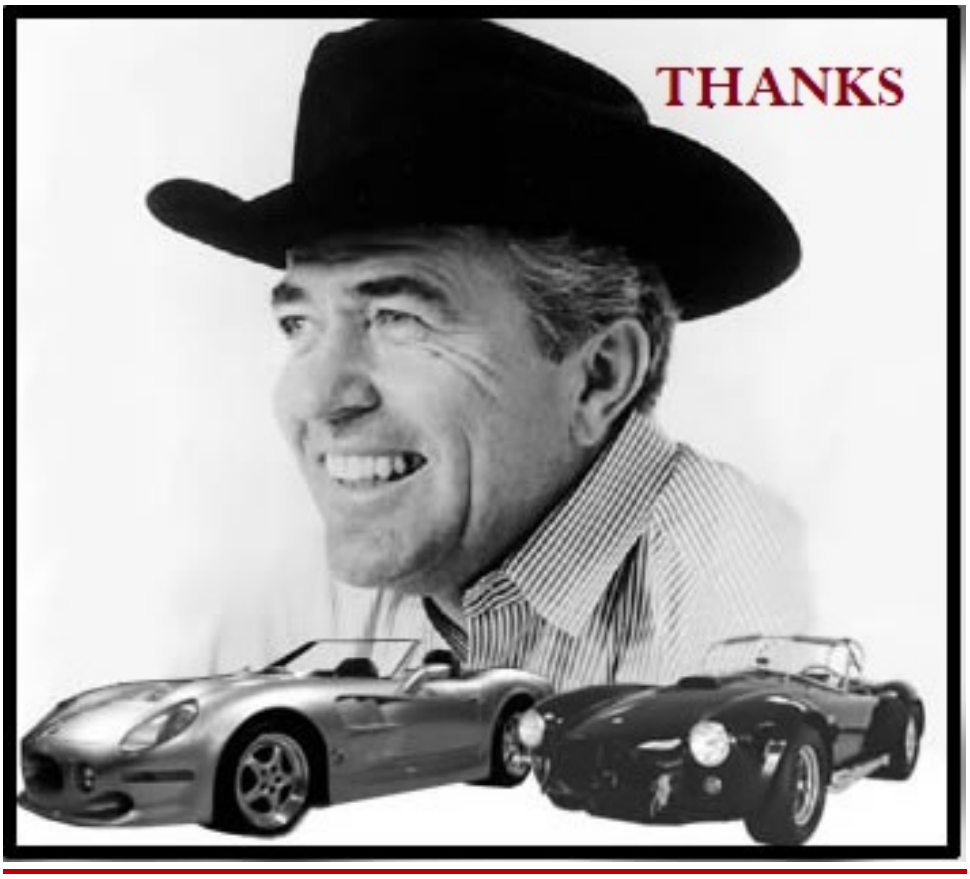
Pedal to the Metal:

The Life of Carroll Shelby

(1923-2012)



Official Honors Northeast Film Script, Summer 2021

Scene 1 : The Theme

INT. BLACKSCREEN – CONTINUOUS

SCREEN shows verses in white text.

NARRATOR (unseen)

For they have sown in the wind; they shall reap the whirlwind. Hosea 8:7.

Scene 2: Shelby in 1936

EXT. By Old Street

WHITE TEXT ON DARKSCREEN WITH NORTH TEXAS MAP INCLUDING EAST DALLAS

AND CAMP COUNTY

Auto Racer and Developer, Carroll Shelby was born in Leesburg in Camp County, Texas in 1923. His family moved to Dallas, when he was seven. Six years later, one day in the Fair Park neighborhood . . .

ED WILKINS

Solicitous, winsome

C'mon, Gangle Gut, prove to me you're not a girl named Carol!

Wilkins initiates a running race. Shelby falls way behind. Wilkins looks around

C'mon, Carroll, where are ya?

Shelby breathes hard and begins to walk. Wilkins races back to him.

So what's the problem?

SHELBY

Ed, I can't, I can't, its my heart. Its never been any good. That's why my family moved here!

Scene 3: Shelby Visits Texas Centennial at His Own Neighborhood in Fair Park, 1936. Converses with Parents.

Powerpoint Slide of Images of Texas Centennial of 1936 to the beat of non-diagetic music.

EXT. Establishment shot of home. INT. Around Dinner Table.

WARREN

Well, I never thought that when we moved to Dallas seven years ago, we would end up living right by the fairgrounds of the great Texas Centennial!

So what did you boys learn in your visit there, today?

ED WILKINS

I liked the Ford exhibit.

SHELBY

Yeah, the new Model 48 Ford convertible can go 80 mph!

ED WILKINS

The Model B Woodie almost looked like it was made of pine.

WARREN

Well its kind of a shame though that we don't have *Texas* car companies. Ford already has two assembly plants, hundreds of dealerships and distributorships thoughout the state that employ what? About 13,000? Its like they're taking over.

ELOISE

Warren, be practical! Our state needs jobs during this terrible recession. Think of it! Thirteen thousand Texan families can enjoy decent meals as we do, because of Ford.

Silence. Warren understands his wife's point, and doesn't contest it, but turns back to the conversation.

WARREN

How did you boys like the mechanical man?

SHELBY

It looked like an alien from Mars! They said the only thing he can't do is vote the Republican ticket!

WARREN

You know, Carroll, I bet you could become an engineer and make something like that someday.

ELOISE

Carroll, I know You could be an engineer. I think your problem is that you have not learned to work more carefully, and thoroughly.

SHELBY

Indignant.

I don't have the time to be more careful and thorough.

ELOISE

Well you know what they say, “slow and steady wins the race.”

SHELBY

That’s a joke! How are you gonna win the race, if you’re a slowpoke?

Takes a drink. Looking to win approval from Ed Wilkins.

I’d rather be impatient!

Scene 4: Reluctance Attending Church

WARREN

Look, Carroll, you have had too many excuses for not attending church.

SHELBY

Dad, I’m busy. I’m tryin to get into a tech college like you want. And there is a lot else goin on. I promised Wilkins’ Dad, I’d help him with his car.

WARREN

Yeah, well its yer mother’s birthday today, and you can’t tell me you have to be anywhere in particular. You are comin with us.

SHELBY

Why?

WARREN

To learn to be good, that’s why.

Ext. Walking outside to church.

WARREN

It's a gorgeous day

ELOISE

It's a gorgeous day to have my son with me (hugs Carroll and moves him forward).

SHELBY

Well Mom its neat to be with you on your special day, but couldn't we be doing something else? I mean I already know the rules of religion pretty well.

ELOISE

Confiding, low pitch

Carroll, I think you have been listening to your father too much. Its not what we do, but what we believe that counts.

They walk on. Eloise is anxious to complete the thought.

Your namesake, the Reverend James Milton Carroll, used to say "there is no bread that preserves us better than the Bible." As we believe what God says, we are saved!

SHELBY

But I just don't feel very saved when I go to church; just bored out of my mind.

The family enters the pew in front of Jeanne and Friend

SHELBY

Arrives last, walking fitfully and dully, but suddenly perks up, and turns around in the pew rather obviously to check out Jeanne. Jeanne and friend wait for him to turn around, and then laugh together.

FRIEND OF JEANNE'S

Softly:

Say, isn't that the boy who never comes. . . .

Loud enough for Shelby to hear:

Maybe he'll need help, finding the hymn numbers or something!

Jeanne and Friend laugh together.

SHELBY

Hearing in any case. Turns around, whispering

No, I'll need help staying awake.

Break in the Action. Fade-Out indicating passage of time.

SHELBY

Medium Close-up of Shelby peering around Confidently, stealing a peak at Jeanne.

JEANNE

Cut away. Fade in to Extreme Close-up of Jeanne's Intense eyes

Scene 5: Accepted into the Georgia Institute

Shelby hands letter proudly to his father. The latter has recently come home from work.

SHELBY

Dad, I've got something to show ya.

WARREN

Takes letter, quotes, first part of letter, than scans, and summarizes.

"Dear Mr. Shelby: We are pleased to inform you . . . ." Georgia Polytechnic! O its going to be expensive, son, but this is such good news . . . !

I bet our son is going to become an engineer!

ELOISE

Hugging Carroll enthusiastically.

I'm so proud of you Carroll! No one in our family has yet gone to college.

Fade Out. Shelby is driving a car. Non-diagetic sound indicates he is going too fast. He is thinking. Voiceover reveals thoughts.

SHELBY

Voiceover:

It's a strange, this leaky-hot world my parents have brought me into. I should start believing in God . . . I wish He would introduce himself to me. Ha. I don't mind being a Texan. What will it be like in Georgia? I'll have to work like hell. Go fast, go far! Southern Belles are you ready for a speed demon? Ha Ha. But what about Jeanne? She is so gorgeous. Why in the world did I fall in love with a church girl of all things?

Scene 6: War!

Jeanne and Shelby listen to radio. Part of the real war address of Franklin D. Roosevelt is heard, especially the first part that describes the Pearl Harbor attack:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lK8gYGg0dkE

Shelby turns off the radio.

SHELBY

That's it Jeanne. Good bye Georgia Polytechnic!

They sit down, and stare into each person's eyes.

The war, and being in the airforce is gonna be an even better school for me.

JEANNE

. . . And what about us?

SHELBY

Those Japs arn't gonna stop us from gettin hitched. Being in the airforce, I'll have the advantage, of getting places quick. While we're kicking the hell out them, I'll find the time to come back.

Looking away, musing.

JEANNE

My Mom, all of sudden, doesn't seem to think it's a good idea. When you mentioned that you were a Capricorn and started talkin like your destiny was in the stars, I think she got a little queasy.

SHELBY

I think I have a special destiny, Jeanne. Machines and motors are going to win this war. And they're part of the future too.

Jeanne looks dubious, like he missed the whole point.

Tell your Mom, I just mentioned the astrological stuff since it seemed to fit.

JEANNE

Of course you might end up dead!

SHELBY

Ah come on Jean. You've heard of parachutes haven't ya? Besides these new P-40s that I'm going drive, cruise at over 300 mph. That's faster than anything the Japs have.

Besides I'm not afraid at all.

I'm different from other guys, Jeanne, trust me!

JEANNE

How can I trust you?

SHELBY

Looks away, with a kind of repentant voice

O Jeannie . . .

Faces her again.

Its because I'm going to be thinking about you all the time. I'm going write you, I'm going to be killing Japs for your sake.

Comes closer

I'm gonna be a hero, and it will all be for you.

JEANNE

Moves away

So you're goin to write me a lot?

SHELBY

Moves closer

Every chance I git.

JEANNE

Now getting emotional.

But what if you're wounded, or lost, or . . .

SHELBY

For your sake Jeanne, I'll pray, I'll pray, and maybe God will let you know what I'm feelin.

JEANNE

You mean, you really will pray, for my sake?

SHELBY

Jeanie, I will do anything for you.

She looks to him, hoping perhaps he has adopted a new religious dimension, and encouragingly embraces him.

Scene 7: the Pilot

EX. Shot at Mid America flight Museum of Mount Pleasant by some vintage World War II plane. Shelby appears with World War II vintage pilot hat, walking outside of plane. Voiceover explores Shelby's thoughts.

This Scene includes a montage of a boot dropping down from the sky which Jeanne retrieves. She pulls a note out from it!

SHELBY

How in the world did I get stuck here at this damn Ellington Field, a few hours from my home, teaching so many farmboys to become flyboys? They got to learn to trust the trim, to trust the machines. That's where we become great. We're goin to win this war because of fast mechanical action. I like soaring. The danger-zone is where I'm safest… Everyone admires my courage. But where is this goin to git me? I don't even get to shoot down Japs? How did I become a flight instructor of all things? Jeanne's going to marry me this month. One advantage. I never failed to have the courage to look that gorgeous girl in the eye. She even got the love letter I dropped on her house from my plane in a boot. Shelby, you ole devil you, what a smart idea!

The scene concludes with a montage: Someone can throw a boot up, and the camera can catch it falling from the sky. Jeanne finds the boot, and the note inside, and looks excited.

Scene 8: Unsuccessful Chicken Farmer

JEANNE

On the edge of complaining. More listing. As if aware of her husband's temper. Jeanne could be folding clothes, washing dishes. Shelby could be reading a newspaper.

Your parents are coming over, tomorrow night. Sharon Ann is still not feeling well, I've still got to get some groceries. And you are shoveling your dead chickens into a dumpster.

SHELBY

Flashing hot

How am I to blame for this damn Limberneck disease. We did so well last year. . .

JEANNE

You know, maybe you should start facing the fact that not all of your stars are in alignment.

Acts both flustered and a little angry

I'm glad you taught all those pilots during the war to fly so we wouldn't have to speak Japanese. I'm glad you gave to your country, and that you work hard. But my parents have sunk a lot of money into your ideas, your dump truck business, and now this. And I just think the big problem with us is that you're just a little too proud of yourself. You think you can get rich real quick, and you are wrong.

SHELBY

I was right last year.

JEANNE

Softer and more pleadingly

Maybe if you came to Church more, and prayed, God would help you to succeed.

SHELBY

Turning surprisingly nasty.

Well, why don't you just pray more for me Miss goody two-shoes?[1] He should definitely be answering your prayers!

Scene 9: Friends discuss Shelby's Rise as a Racer

INT: Friends at a bar. Each has beer.

CULLY CULWELL

So you were the first one to lend Shelby a racin car?

ED WILKINS

Yeah we were buddies going back to Woodrow Wilson High School, where we observed some car racin in the dirt-track days. I had a new flathead Ford V8, with a specially forged and treated crankshaft, and . . . you know how Shelby is . . .He just looks at a muscle car, and has to try it. Before you knew it, we were tinkerin with what his wife, Jeanne, called the "monster," and it was in his garage.

He won his first race with that.

FRED COOK

I just wonder how loyal he is to our team.

ED WILKINS

Well he may be loyal, but he's also expensive. You know I don't mind racin, but I don't go dicin with the opposition, doin all this nose-to-tail stuff like Shelby.

CULLY CULWELL

Yeah, the guy who can't afford a car of his own, is real wheel thumper. I remember what Shelby did, Fred, to your Cadillac-engined, J2 Allard!

FRED COOK

[1] An expression taken from a children's story published by John Newbury in 1765.

Yeah, first he nearly ditched it. Then after the race I noticed the front of the car. That goddamned bumper was more wrinkled than the face of my old lady, fer cripes sakes.

ED WILKINS

Well that's why he wins, Fred. He's nosy! He's always playin the slipstream.

CULLY CULWELL

Yeah, well it still would be nice to have him on our team. After the last race at Caddo Mills, he sure spent a lot of time charming that new guy, what's his name? Oh, Roy Cherryhomes--at the bar. No doubt Cherryhomes could afford anything he wants. He just needs a driver to anoint his fancy Allard J2X as number one.

FRED COOK

You don't think that Carroll would . . . . ?

ED WILKINS

Jump ship? If the price is right . . .

Scene 10: Infamous Confrontation

INT.

CULLY CULWELL

I think invitin Shelby and Cherryhomes over for a few beers, might be a mistake, Fred.

FRED COOK

Hey, we're all gentlemen. We've got to see how people stand, Cully. If Shelby has sold himself to the devil, he's sold himself, but, who knows, maybe Cherryhomes would like to join our team.

With Cherryhomes' support, Our Dallas chapter could field the best team in the hull United States.

CULLY CULWELL

You know what Roy and Shelby have in common? They were both farmers.

FRED COOK

Yeah, except Cherryhomes is sitting on an oil well in Jacksboro, and Shelby is sitting on a pile of dead chickens. If we can get Cherryhomes on our side, and perhaps sober Shelby up a little bit, we could be hitting Daytona, and Sebring with a J2X representing the Big D!

Knock on the door. Fred opens it.

CARROLL SHELBY

Hey, I've brought the man who is bringing us some German imports!

Shelby holds up beers.

CULLY

Uhhh, here I thought it would be a Porsche.

Looking at the beers.

But this will do!

Men all shake hands. Cherryhomes, Scott, and Culwell, all introduce each other with first names. They sit down gradually Cook passes around a bottle opener, and they begin swigging brown bottles with water.

FRED COOK

Roy its so good to have ya. Shelby's been telling me that you've been developin quite a stable.

ROY CHERRYHOMES

Yeah but all of them are becomin obsolee, save one, my true baby, a brand-new, highly modified Allard J2X and Shelby's gonn'a draahve it for me.

FRED COOK

Hey we were thinkin that maybe we could come together, with a kind of Pride of Dallas vehicle, and thought Roy, that maybe you . . .

ROY CHERRYHOMES

No, yall are goin to have to fend fer yourselves. I've got the number-one crate, and now I've got the driver.

Sees a newspaper and snatches it up. More quietly.

I prefer to call my own shots.

CULLY CULWELL

Well you know Roy, Fred's the president of the Texas Chapter of the Sports Car Club of America. He's got all kinds of connections. If we could combine assets we could have one of the best teams in the United States.

ROY CHERRYHOMES

Mebbe. But its my money, and I can do what I want.

FRED COOK

Shelby, I'm shocked your goin to desert your friends who did so much to get you started.

SHELBY

I'm not desertin anyone. Roy's got the best racecar in Texas right now, and unlike you all who have more scruples than a parson, he's goin to let me race at full throttle.

Roy wants to win!

FRED COOK

Carroll, I knew we should never have trusted you.

SHELBY

Getting angry, with a hint of fighting angry. . .

What are you tryin to say, FRED, what?

FRED COOK

You know what I'm tryin to say!

CULLY CULLWELL

Hey guys, break it up. Say come out to the kitchen, and see Fred's new free-standing dishwasher. I mean this man is going to get his wife what she wants.

They go to the kitchen.

SHELBY

Wow Fred, quite an impressive machine.

Cherryhomes comes into the kitchen and sits on the dishwasher.

CHERRYHOMES

The following banter escalates steadily into hostility. Cherryhomes turns caustic to Cook:

And what do you do again?

FRED COOK

Well I pretty much have all I need, and don't really need to work for a living. But I do wish you would get your fat ass off my dishwasher.

CHERRYHOMES

Why should I? Is this like one of your cars, made with plywood or somethin?

FRED COOK

Unlike my cars, I don't know how good the top of this is, and you might break it, you fat ass!

SHELBY

Fred, don't you have any manners? Don't you know who yer talkin to?

FRED COOK

Well right now, I'm talkin to Judas!

Fred pushes Shelby as if he wants to fight. Shelby pushes back and could say "you wanna go outside?" Cully moves in to stop Shelby, and Cherryhomes gets up. Cook stares at Shelby and Cherryhomes.

FRED COOK

You two want to step outside and settle this right now?

ROY CHERRYHOMES

No, we're on our way. Shelby, bring the beer. Its too bad Fred, that when Daytona comes along, all yer gonna hav is some rattletrap! Jacksboro is gonna top the Big D!

Scene 11: Jeanne and Shelby

JEANNE

Well, we've had enough dirt, and heat for one night. Did your big silver trophy come with any money in it?

SHEBLY

No, but as you know, our bar isn't doing bad, and every time I feature a trophy at the bar, the more other racers associate with it as the place to go.

I'm going to git a whiskey.

JEANNE

Aren't you coming to bed yet?

SHEBLY

No, I'm too hyped up.

You should know what its like to race. My mind is still goin 200 mph.

JEANNE

You know when Satan tempted Jesus, he basically challenged him to perform a number of stunts, like falling down a mountain. Why are you always risking your life---for what?

SHEBLY

Jeanne, com 'on!

JEANNE

I don't mind these Caddo Mills Races that much, even though we do have to call a sitter, get home late, and then you don't even want to go to bed. But its all these trips to Florida that are bothering me, and now all these invitations to Argentina and England.

Our three need a Daddy who is home sometimes.

SHEBLY

Pours himself a drink.

Jeanne, you don't know what its like to go 7,000 RPM. The tires begin to sing. People look at you as some kind of death-defying god, . . . the goddamned wind even cheers you on. This is what certainty is, when everything clicks, the machine obeys, and yer jes there, huggin a wheel in a whirlwind.

JEANNE

You're just so set on yourself!

SHEBLY

Getting worked up.

Jeanne, its not just me! . . . Fortunately we don't live like the commies in Russia. We live in a capitalist society. In our system, every career, every job is a race. That's what makes our lives good. But with other jobs, the end of the story is unclear. Racin makes everything clear. Someone always wins. People see and they know exactly what it takes to be a champion.

Our society must do this. It's got to see this!

C'mon Jeannie! You've married a champion!

JEANNE

He goes to pour her a drink, but she blocks the pour with her hand, and shakes her head. Stands up.

I'm going to bed.

Scene 12: Playboy Magazine

Drinking and smoking at a Bar.

ED WILKINS

So have you seen this?

Hands Culwell the magazine.

CULLY CULWELL

OHHH Who wouldn't go for that one. Whoa! What kind of . . .

Turns the magazine on its cover. Sees a beautiful woman.

O it's a *Playboy*, huh?

ED WILKINS

Yeah its been around since 53. It has a lot of class--cars, and sensational nude chicks

CULLY CULWELL

Yeah' I've heard about it. Its got quality articles, not like the old smutty stuff. Heard its even aggressive in some ways, you know, like changing the . . . culture

Both take a drink, and peer around as if someone might catch them with the magazine. Ed takes a rather conspicuous guzzle.

ED WILKINS

Well you take a guy like Shelby. Super-attractive, and personable. Knows his way around a car engine like a bat in a cave. Memorizes his pacenotes. But now he's got a wife, who basically opposes everything he's doin, the bar, the racin, the times away. Shelby's Dallas bar is doing OK, she's not that bad off, and she doesn't work. When Shelby gets home, she's not even excited to see him.

Takes another drink. Winks and smiles at the end of his discourse.

So what's the problem Cully, if I guy like that has a little off-beat fun every once in a while. I mean no one loses. Jeanne and the kids got her home, Shelby functions, and doesn't burn out, cause he still gets some entertainment in.

CULLY CULWELL

Ahhh, I'm not so sure. I think this new fun philosophy,

Shakes the magazine.

or whatever it is, is goin to end up bitin guys like Shelby and his whole family in the ass.

Scene 13: the Mexican Nurse of Puebla

INT. Hospital Room. Shelby awakes suddenly.

NARRATOR AND TEXT ON SCREEN

The Carrera PanAmerica races in northern Mexico of the early 1950s were widely regarded as some of the most dangerous sporting events of all time. An average of five

people died in each race from 1951 to 1954. Carroll Shelby also took his turn at the five-day race, and was doing great until . . . .

SHELBY

Where am I? Ohhhh

Feels head. Is in pain . . .

Must have had a concussion or something. Let's see, what was I doing? The . . . The …. Carrera Pan America, that's it, but I don't remember a damn thing about it!

Incredibly Thirsty.

Oh, water, water . . . .

Sees a water glass and drinks greedily, but bends his neck and head into a painful position and recoils.

Ohhhhhh

In pain. Thinking hard.

Let's see . . . The Mercedes Benz team in 52 was hit by vulture, coming through their windshield . . . did something like that happen to me. . . ?

Ohhhhh.

Nurse enters. Brusquely. Like nurses of the old school, she wears cosmetics, and is young and attractive. She hollers as if to another nurse in the hallway.

NURSE

El paciente está bien. Está despierto y bebe agua.

SHELBY

What did you say?

NURSE

Nurse is sarcastic.

Bueno . . . buenos dias. Es bueno verte.

SHELBY

Oh, its so good to see you and be alive. Look, I'm a racer, and I want to get out of here

Makes an effort to get up, but is overcome by pain before even getting a foot on the ground

NURSE

Puts a hand on his shoulder as if to stop him.

Tendrá que esperar unos días más. Asumo que quieres vivir . . .

SHELBY

Look, get me a dictionary or something! A diction-ierio or something like that!

Fade out. Fade in indicating a passage of time.

Shelby reappears paging furiously through his dictionary. Voiceover.

O my God that señorita is cute! I've heard stories about these Mexican girls. Maybe if the price is right? But no, I don't want that kind. . . . I know, just be bold. Even her parents would support her decision to court a rich . . . I mean, well-off enough American . . .

The nurse reappears

SHELBY

Señorita, agua por favor!

NURSE

Points to a glass of water by the bed stand.

Hay un vaso ahí.

SHELBY

Acts like he can't get it, and smiles.

Mi Boca, Mi boca

NURSE

She begins to hold the glass to his mouth while he drinks. He continues to look at her.

Shelby finishes, and dramatically says:

SHELBY

Yo te amo!

NURSE

My, you sure are fast. But its kind of funny. You don't even know how to tell a girl, you love her.

Scene 13: The Pure Oil Girl

Scene begins with an image of an old "Pure Oil Sign" on the screen.

INT

FRIEND

So you once had a . . well . . . meaningful relationship with the American writer, Ernst Hemmingway?

JAN HARRISON

O yeah, I was his girl for a while in Havana actually. He was a kook really; Soo into the authentic life, he couldn't keep his hands off me, or the bottle. I'm glad that episode is over.

FRIEND

And now you're going to be Pure Oil girl, traveling around with racers, giving them prizes?

JAN HARRISON

Yeah its going to be weird, but Pure Oil is going to pay me four times what I'd make as a secretary. Still, what do I care about racing?

FRIEND

What will you have to do?

JAN HARRISON

Well these guys are basically wild jerks who risk their lives. The organizers want to really cater to their egos, so that these fools will continue to fly around ovals at 160 mph.

I know I will have to give them a bottle of champagne, put a garland of orange petals around their neck, and I guess, kiss them or something. Who knows? And then there's some banquet. I guess I am also required to go to the damn banquet, and smile a lot, but that's basically it.

FRIEND

Well I know of a way you could attract those racin guys if you wanted to. Have you heard of that new perfume called "New Indoor Car Interior?"

Scene 14: Confluence

The scene could begin with a very short montage clip, showing an actual race of the late 1950s.

ANNOUNCER

And now, for the winner of the Daytona 500, the man from Texas, Carroll Shelby

SHELBY

Shelby appears with big smile, carhart bib overalls, and black cowboy hat.

JAN HARRISON

Approaches with garland, and champagne, smiling broadly. Puts the garland around his neck, gives him the champagne, and looks into his eyes, actually about to kiss him, but then hesitates. . . .

Fade Out. Fade In. Camera catches Shelby and Jan conversing at banquet. They stand up. Shelby motions with his head. They join hand to hand, walking out together.

Scene 15: Lethargy at Home:

Shelby is laying in bed bandaged.

JEANNE

Sits by his bed. In a voice which is entertaining the suggestion of reconciliation, but is not quite there. She has a glass of water. Shelby's face is first looking away from Jeannie, as he lies on the bed. He groans a little.

Well I'm glad you've sold a few sports cars with your new Maserati dealership, Carroll. It might even help pay your hospital bills.

But kin you tell me why you're not going to work today?

SHELBY

I jes don't have the strength.

JEANNE

Was it the crash?

Turns toward her and faces her amidst groans.

I don't think that's it. Its . . . my . . . angina again. My chest muscles are strangling me. It hurts. I jes can't . . . . do anything.

JEANNE

Well at least yer home.

Kin I give you some water?

SHELBY

No, I don't need that.

JEANNE

But you're goin to have to see the doctor . . .

SHELBY

I cant see just any Doctor.

Jeanne I'm . . . tryin to buy some life insurance, that will leave you and the kids better situated. . .

JEANNE

Well who do you intend to see?

SHELBY

A racin buddy who also happens to be a certified physician, a Dr. Val Scroggie.

Scene 16: Visit to the Doctor Val Scroggie:

INT. Doctor's Office. Val enters and shakes Shelby's hand.

Dr. VAL SCROGGIE

Carroll, so good to see you!

SHELBY

Well Doctor Val Scroggie, what ya know?

Dr. VAL SCROGGIE

Conratulations! It was so much fun watching a fellow Texan win Daytona.

I love racin, but I jes don't have the guts you do.

SHELBY

Well, you might want my guts, but you certainly don't want my heart. Its been buggin me all my life. I have these major chest pains, and I jes can't do anything.

Dr. VAL SCROGGIE

Understand, and know the feeling, Carroll. I've got my heart issues as well. What kind of cookin have you had over the years?

SHELBY

My family had a black caretaker, named, Birdie, Birdie Pearce, and iverthing she cooked us was Southern fried, and delicious. It always came with plenty of gravy. Jeanne cooks the same way. Its still my favorite fare.

VAL SCROGGIE

Yeah, that Southern Fryin pan was a way to preserve foods really, and get uncertain meat and vegetables to perk up.

Starts writing in a pad, as if to remind himself of something else. But so sure of himself on the following he can easily talk and write different things at once.

But I've sure you've heard the name, Ancel Keys. His research is showing, that these hotter-than-boiling-water fats, that transform meat, have been lingerin in our blood.

Looks up with a serious demeanor

The stuff is known as cholesterol and it clogs yor veins.

Its goin to kill you pal if you don't watch it.

Shelby looks like he has no idea what cholesterol is. Scroggie Looks over papers.

SHELBY

Look, I've had this Angina thing as long as I kin remember. And I have friends who eat double the portions of fried chicken, catfish, okra, pickles that I do, and they're fine. I don't follow this.

VAL SCROGGIE

Somewhat pompously

There are individual factors, genetic dispositions that we still don't quite understand.

But the tests clearly show that your engine's got too much sludge in the tubes pal

SHELBY

Well . . . I guess I can knock off fats. But what am I goin to do for those days when I kin hardly . . . move?

VAL SCROGGIE

Well there are some surgeons in Houston that are gettin mighty adventurous . . .

SHELBY

Shoot if they do anything like an engine flush, I'd bet my seals will end up leaking.

Look, I don't want a big operation, and don't have the money or time to mess with specialists. What do you do for your problem?

VAL SCROGGIE

Well ah . . . .

SHELBY

Com'on, you must do somethin. . . .

VAL SCROGGIE

OK, I'll tell yah, and I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't holler down some hospital corridor what it is.

SHELBY

I won't tell a soul.

VAL

Its pills containing nitro-glycerin, and I kin give you all you need.

SHELBY

Hell, you mean the stuff that knocks the doors off bank vaults?

VAL SCROGGIE

Yep, it's the same stuff, but in smaller doses of course. Now I'm warnin you, don't you even think about smokin or taken alcohol with this stuff!

But it will clean up your pipes—for a time.

Scene 17: Shelby on the Telephone to His Lover

Shelby is on the telephone whispering to his lover, Jan Harrison, late at night. He has an old-fashioned dial-up telephone.

SHELBY

Baby I miss you so much. I'm beyond the point of being able to put it off, I'm coming ASAP.

Pause to hear Jan who apparently is becoming more demonstrative. Record the following line of Jan from the receiver of a phone. Jan speaks loudly.

JAN

You say that, and you've said that. But if I don't see you, I think our whole relationship is going to be off.

SHELBY

Shh, honey, we've got to keep it down. It's a good thing yer in California, cause I can get you after the family gone to sleep, now . . .

A shadow looms over Shelby as he talks away from the encroaching person, his wife, Jeanne

Very soon. I love you more than anything. You've transformed my life. I jes feel a new . . . rush of dash. I can't describe it.

Listens.

Yes this weekend, four days, I'll be burning rubber to see yah.

The Shadow leaves during the previous part of the conversation. Shelby turns around sees nothing, speaking into telelphone.

Love ya sweetheart!

Scene 18: Friends in France 1959

TEXT ON SCREEN

Paris Restaurant, 1959.

The two guys are seated studying French menus.

CULLY CULWELL

I'm so pleased our families could join up for this French vacation, and that Shelby could spring some tickets to Le Mans for his Dallas buddies.

ED WILKINS

Well my wife felt she had to play shepherd to my sheep at the Louvre yesterday, but I guess I learned somethin.

Confused by the French menu he is looking at, he conveys that the Louvre confused him as well. Gives up the menu, and briefly puts it down.

What I'm really lookin forward to, or course, is watching Shelby racing the big one, at Le Mans, goin to the beer tent—or will it be wine?-- plenty of times.

Checking out the new Ferraris, and the French chicks. Le Mans is goin to be way more beautiful than the Louvre!

CULLY CULWELL

Do you think Shelby can win?

ED WILKINS

Well Phil Hill from California broke the American curse last year. But these Europeans with their smaller cars, crazy turns, and wacky rules, make it awfully difficult for Americans

CULLY CULWELL

A twenty-four hour race has got to be about reliability. I have heard that Shelby's Aston Martin is pretty-top-notch foreign tin. Between English engineering, and Shelby's cowboy edginess, I would say . . . we're goin to see a pretty damn good race.

Both study the menu.

ED WILKINS

Wilkins pronounces the following like the word 'pain'.

What is this Pain Purdue ("Pain Perdu")? It sounds nasty

CULLY CULWELL

With an affected though much more correct, French accent:

Its called Pom-pear-DOO. Its actually like French toast, but they start with stale bread. I think you'll like it.

ED WATKINS

Stale bread for twenty-five francs? Are they crazy?

CULLY CULWELL

Changes the subject as he is not too eager to embrace Watkins' lowbrow attitudes.

You know, come to think of it, I wonder why more of Shelby's buddies aren't coming for this. Do you know, whatever happened to Roy Cherryhomes?

ED WILKINS

Brightens up.

Oh, you didn't hear about that?

Funny story. When Shelby left Argentina with the Cherryhomes' J2X, the dockworkers screwed up completely. They dropped a goddamned boxcar on Roy's pride and joy, and squished it like a pancake! Roy was furious!

CULLY CULWELL

Both men laugh.

Well, can't say I'm too sorry about that.

ED WILKINS

It didn't hurt Shelby one bit either. He is absolutely great about getting rich backers. And now he even has John Wyler of the Allard company in England on his side.

Looks at the menu.

Hey, I wonder if they have pancakes?

Scene 19: Shelby Races Le Mans

Shelby's behind the wheel, motioning like he is racing. This scene is a Voiceover. The Nitro-glycerin pills Shelby uses were taken one under the tongue. Each one had to dissolve.

SHELBY

Have to flee the scene. Press it to the limit. Life's getting too complex. Jeanne knows, she knows. How the hell does she? Take it to the limit. What if I crash? I mean.

I fixed my heart. I kin fix my marriage.

Acts like he has the course memorized which he does:

Ten degree slide, ten degree slide.

Looking outside side window

Whoa you hungry Porsche--you son of a bitch!

Focuses on driving

Hot as hell in here. Heart tightening up. Need another pill!

Pops pill under his tongue. Gulps hard.

Starts singing the melody of Goodnight Irene: See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZm96PKwtHc

Again looks out side window. As if he is passing someone.

Ohh poor little Frenchie! Might as well take an accordion to go deer hunting, as having one of those engines.

Jeanne doesn't need to know anything more about Jan. I'll keep the whole thing under wraps. Time will heal. I'm gonn win! I'll make em both rich!

Scene 20: Victory

INT. Around a Table, Shelby, Cully, and Ed.

CULLY

Lifting his glass

Congratulations to our friend

150,000 skeptical Europeans watched as . . .

Ferraris fell like flies, and Porsches perished before you

And the Lone Ranger crossed the checkered flag.

Shell, you were wonderful!

ED WILKINS

Lifts his glass, while cully keeps his raises, completing the formal, toast-like atmosphere.

The natural speed of a runner, such as the kind I beat you with when were young, Carroll, is just mysterious. But mechanical speed is . . .

Builds to a crescendo

knowledge . . . courage. . . manliness!

I mean you are like the auto version of Gene Autry; ridin like lightning, the ultimate cowboy. God, I'm so proud! God bless Texas. If only yer parents could have lived to see the day their son was number one in the world's most prestigious race!

They conclude these rehearsed toasts noting their friend—Shelby, is exhausted.

CULLY

What's wrong, Carroll?

SHELBY

I'm exhausted. The dysentary I suffered, the heat, O man. . . . boys, I'm sorry I can't stay much longer.

Pause for an awkward silence.

CULLY

Trying to figure it . . .

Say where is your wife, Jeanne? I knew she was here for a while.

Why didn't she join you in the winner's circle?

SHELBY

Well the wife's not too happy with my life these days. Racin is so complicated.

Stands up. Earnestly, repentant.

Boys, it was so good of you to come to France for me. I'm so thankful for your support. But I'm afraid I'm goin to have to find some bed to collapse somewhere. Thank ya Ed,

Shakes Ed's hand

Thank ya Cully!

Shakes Cully's hand. Waves and departs. After Shelby has clearly gone.

ED WATKINS

I've never seen him look so . . . wasted . . . Is he really sick sick, or sick over some blonde that he has on the side?

Scene 21: Discovery

JEANNE

EXT. Late afternoon. By the door of a house. Jan is dressed as if Shelby is about to take her out to a nice dinner to a swank California nightclub. Jeanne pushes the doorbell or knocks.

JAN HARRISON

Yes.

JEANNE

Nonchalantly

Hi, is Mr. Shelby home yet?

JAN HARRISON

Shows she recognizes the name, but suspicious

He . . .should be coming soon . . . from the office. Why?

JEANNE

Sizes her up. With a voice full of sarcasm.

You know its kind of funny—you don't really look like his maid.

JAN HARRISON

Outraged.

Who are you?

JEANNE

My name's Jeanne, I just happen to be Carroll's wife.

JAN HARRISON

You mean, you've come all the way to California . . . for this . . . little surprise?

JEANNE

See, as we have three children, and I found he was renting this place . . . and as life has become like really uncertain, I thought I'd . . . clear things up.

JAN HARRISON

Look, Carroll, and I are in love. We're going to Mexico to get married. Didn't he tell you? I thought he had. . .

JEANNE

Well liars can spin out all kinds of stories; and they dont have to add up.

The two women face each other with rising hostility.

But now I guess I know what's going to happen. He's going to Mexico to marry a slut!

Turns and leaves

Scene 22: Shelby Quits Racing, and Decides on New Career

Trento is an immigrant from Italy. He speaks with a real Italian accent. One can hear him:
https://www.heart-valve-surgery.com/surgeons/dr-Alfredo-Trento-Los+Angeles-California.php

TEXT ON SCREEN

Shelby meets Los Angeles Heart Specialist, Dr. Alfredo Trento

ALFREDO TRENTO

OK and who referred you to me?

SHELBY

A Dr. Val Scroggie from Texas who was also a racing friend of mine, once mentioned you. Also being a Maserati dealer from Texas, I've heard . . .

ALFREDO TRENTO

Yes, being from Italy, nothing beats a Maserati in my book. Now who was this Dr. Scroggie from Texas?

SHELBY

Yes, he was a friend of mine.

ALFREDO TRENTO

Why did you leave him?

SHELBY

I didn't. . . . He jes died of a heart attack.

ALFREDO TRENTO

What did he prescribe for you?

SHELBY

Well, he told me to eat less fatty foods, ya know, less fried stuff.

ALFREDO TRENTO

Have you been following the diet?

SHELBY

I even got a new wife, and we have a completely new, fat-free diet. I am now completely away from all that Chicken-fried steak business of Texas, and am living a very health conscious life here in Southern California in Bel Air.

ALFREDO TRENTO

Did Dr. Scroggie give you any special pills or mention any special therapy?

Shelby blinks as if he may be lying.

SHELBY

Uhh, No.

ALFREDO TRENTO

Well Mr. Shelby, your latest episode, makes me convinced that if you continue to race, you're goin to kill yourself. I urge you to consider some exciting new surgeries we are developing--the bypass, and a percutaneous balloon angioplasty.

SHELBY

Well Doc, I think I'd first like to try the new diet, and a new occupation.

ALFREDO TRENTO

Well you know, if I were you, I would consider the fact that your left main coronary artery is like over 50 percent obstructed. What a bypass will do is restore normal bloodflow.

SHELBY

Well I'm a very busy man, and would rather, try the new job and diet.

ALFREDO TRENTO

Well Mr. Shelby, it is against my better judgment to let you walk free from my office. . I can guarantee you, you will need bypass soon if you wish to preserve your life.

Scene 23: Shelby American Drops the Maserati Line in Dallas and Moves to Santa Fe Springs, in Los Angeles

TEXT ON SCREEN

Dallas, 1961

ED WILKINS

So you're sellin the Maserati dealership here in Dallas, and tryin something new in California?

CARROLL SHELBY

Yeah, its not jist that the high end car market is good in Los Angeles. Its OK in Dallas. But a lot of the automobile crowd, like from the big three in Detroit, like to hang out with the Hollywood crowd. You know, thar's no better adverizin than to git yer car on film or on TV.

ED WILKINS

You're still goin to sell Maseratis?

SHELBY

No, I have some friends who are helping me set up a shop in Santa Fe Springs, in LA.

I'm goin to be makin a new kind of car.

The thought came to me in Europe. If one could shoehorn a V8 Ford engine into a great British chassis, you're going to have muscle and the balance. The Allard body has braking, suspension, and shocks. That's what Europeans are good at, That's

what they need in their crowded streets: but you've got to go American if you want the car's heart and soul to be powerful and reliable.

ED WILKINS

Holy Cow, Shell, are you crazy? You mean that with GM, Ford, Chrysler, AMC, and Studebaker, the lone survivors, of a car industry that one time had 100s of companies, you're goin to start makin your own brand of car?

SHELBY

I won't be competing with them, because they are all so stuck in their corporate mud that they won't even begin to know how to compete with me. I'll be making just high-end racing cars, ones that can take on even the Ferraris.

ED WILKINS

You are one crazy, old-fashioned capitalist dude, if I do say so.

But why not use the heart and soul of Mercedes Benz, for heaven's sake? Isn't the Ford V8 a gas guzzler?

CARROLL SHELBY

Sure it takes gas, exactly what we Americans have. The Flathead V8 has evolved to embrace power, and you've got to have a big stable, I mean over 300 horsepower if you want to win. Those German bubble-car engines in their regard for propulsion haven't essentially evolved beyond those of 1913 Taxicabs.

ED WILKINS

And I take it, you're not worried about people not buying.

SHELBY

Gosh Ed. People will be flippin their wallets out faster than a colt when they see a jet-propelled car that can go from zero to sixty in six.

People love breaking limits, having fun, and excitement. Our boxy, fat American cars are like dullsville. I just know I'm on to somethin.

ED WILKINS

And I heard through the grapevine, that things haven't been goin too well with your Texas family.

CARROLL SHELBY

Yeah, Jeanne and I are through for good. She's got the kids. To tell you the truth Ed, my life here in Texas has been killing me, and I've jist got to start over.

Scene 24: Shelby and Jan

INT: The two have either wine, or some fantastic drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Jan is talking a mile-a-minute, and in a way that implies that anything Shelby said would be immaterial.

TEXT ON SCREEN

Bel Air, California, 1962

JAN

Then my hairdresser said that Patty Cooper who knows Natalie Wood, says that she is coming to the party! … Imagine Carroll, what this could mean, bonding with the girl who played Maria in *West Side Story*! I don't know, should I wear my new Pierre Cardin (pee-AIR KAR-din) or my Andre Courrege (AN dray Cour-REDGE)?[2] I love the new sheath dress look! . . .

Looks off dreamily. Becomes sterner

Or, will I look too much like Audrey Hepburn? Now remember, I'll need your new Cobra if I can get a lunch date with someone important. Filled with gas this time. And I'm going to need $200 for my hair, and $100 for my nails.

Sees that Shelby is unimpressed, and modulates to a more loving tone.

[2] Pierre Cardin and Andre Courrege were prominent designers of fashionable clothes for women in the 1960s.

We'll have the Hollywood thing figured out love. Don't you see it? Someday, you're going to dazzle them goin to and coming from work, and I'm gonna dazzle Americans on screen at night for their entertainment. .

SHELBY

You're going to have a great acting career, and I have a friend whose goin to help.

Drinks some wine. Then drinks the rest of the glass impatiently. Looks at the empty glass.

But you got to remember that people are fickle. They change their moods every day. Actresses have to keep looking and acting fresh. Cars always need upgrades. My Cobras are starting to win not just because we slipped the V8 into an AC. We've developed suspension arms that are considerably stronger than an average British chassis. We've reinforced them with plating. Our springs are much stiffer. We're getting better and better. You gotta keep up with the race.

Tries the wine again. But there is nothing left. Feels his chest as if it is acting up. Transforms into a darker mood.

Jan, I'm not always sure that you are keeping up.

JAN

Well you should know about the fickleness factor.

Suddenly feeling victimized and angry.

In fact, You should be the expert.

Looks away from Shelby

I'm just wondering why you went off with Jimmy Trio's wife the other day.

SHELBY

Stunned by the question. Thinking fast. Suddenly angry.

O Hell, Jan, I was drunk, and you know nothing happened.

JAN

Are you drunk at work too? I hear you and your new secretary, Joan Sherman, are getting along famously.

SHELBY

Angry

Who the hell is telling you lies about that?

JAN

Sarcastically

Its gonna be a brave new world isn't it, you and I [Sic]. .

Shelby looks like he is having a minor seizure. Jan gets up and walks away.

SHELBY

Looks into the camera, exasperated, and somewhat, annoyed, worried. Dazed, Shelby pulls out another nitro-glycerine pill, and swallows.

Scene 25: Machinations at GM

TEXT ON SCREEN

GM Executives Frederick Donner and John DeLorean, 1962 in Detroit

Frederic Donner

It is annoying. We come out with the great American sports car, our beloved Corvette, and it wins everything. Then this little parasitical company that hangs around race tracks, starts to deprive us of our glory.

John DeLorean

I don't know really what we at GM can do. Carroll Shelby's damn cobras weigh only a single ton, a third less than the Corvette. Because they're such a small-assed

company, they can evolve super quickly. They're not finding ways to cut costs, OR to appeal to Americans. They are only finding ways to win.

Frederic Donner

Well, John, I asked you to come, because you seem to have your hand on the pulse of the new generation. What are we going to do about it?

John DeLorean

Mr. Donner, it seems to me that We could certainly talk to Shelby, bring him in, let him monkey with the Corvette. But you know that's silly. Our wonderful support-show on TV, *Route 66*, spotlights the Corvette not as the noisy hot rod of some Marlboro cowboy. Rather it is the escape vehicle, the yearning-to-be-free vehicle, the Blowin-in-the-wind vehicle. It is the vehicle where youth makes a statement. Young people today are getting tired of the rat-race . . .

Frederic Donner

But look, GM is not the dominant car-maker because it excludes people. Why can't we satisfy both the beatniks, and the speed cowboys?

John DeLorean

Brand identity, Fred. Its not that we're being exclusive, just prophetic. The Cobra is old school, it is an amalgamation of risks, something that in this nuclear age, Americans are tryin to get away from.

Frederic Donner

Well, still, I'd like you to sound out the Good Ole Boy, and see what he says.

John DeLorean

I'd be glad to sir. Yeah, and we might at least find out what direction that crowd is heading

Scene 26: Machinations at Ford

TEXT on SCREEN

Ford Executives Henry Ford II and Le Iacocca, 1962 in Detroit

LEE IACOCCA

Mr. Ford our company needs a halo car, one with class, speed, and the innate sensation of being superior. The car must be number one in acceleration, and handling, something so obviously superior to the Corvette that GM will have nowhere to turn.

HENRY FORD II

Contemptuous.

You would think Americans would have tired of that 'Corvette eye candy' by now.

What a sham! Maybe we should burst their bubble, and go for a true racer.

LEE IACOCCA

Well there is the case of Carroll Shelby's Cobras. Shelby is little more than a goddammed cowboy, tinkering around with other people's achievements. But he's got quite a network in Europe, and America, and he's brought together a new concept. He's getting orders.

I am thinking we could co-opt him. He must have a price. Bring him on board. It will be good in the sense that our new Mustang has got that strong Western feel already, and Shelby could help us seem more authentic.

HENRY FORD II

Yes, we've got to watch these American racers who are attracting attention. If one like Shelby does become famous, we could develop a raft of high performance parts, from intake manifolds to valve covers. We could offer bits and pieces of allure to those who could only afford bits and pieces.

LEE IACOCCA

Exactly. We could offer a Ford Mustang with a Shelby gearbox, or perhaps even slip a few Shelbyisms into a Thunderbird.

Scene 27: Shelby pitches to GM

EXT: The Shelby Shop, by a Shelby car.

The two meet and shake hands. Shelby is wearing his black cowboy hat.

JOHN DELOREAN

Whoa, like the hat! My parents were immigrants from Austria-Hungary; they liked Gene Autry through. Your ancestors go back pretty far I imagine.

CARROLL SHELBY

Hell Yes, our family had a long tradition in Northeast Texas.

JOHN DELOREAN

Where did you go to school?

CARROLL SHELBY

The San An-TONE aviation Cadet Center where I learned to fly, and teach others to fly during World War II.

JOHN DELOREAN

I won't ask where San AnTONE is,[3] but what I mean is, where did you go to college?

CARROLL SHELBY

Smiling broadly, and in a friendly voice.

College?, the war was the best college of all!

They walk over to a Shelby car.

[3] DeLorean doesn't get Shelby's reference to San Antonio.

JOHN DELOREAN

Well Mr. Shelby, I've gone through your report, and appreciate the test drive.

Your Cobra certainly seems to enthrall certain hot-rod enthusiasts, but why does it remind me so much of the Cold War? Why are you taking such risks? Your simpler suspension layout is delivering more road shocks to the wheel. The disc brakes are a huge variable. They seem to malfunction a lot more than the drum brakes, and they are harder to fix. And then there's the wheel camber; . . . way too radical.

SHELBY

You know, what you feel as fear, a lot of Americans feel as awe.

Americans take risks to be number one.

JOHN DELOREAN

Maybe cowboys take risks, but the average American status seeker is not exactly in that league.

Scene 28: Shelby pitches to Ford

EXT: The Shelby Shop, by a Shelby car.

The two meet and shake hands. Shelby is wearing his black cowboy hat. Iacocca is smoking his trademark cigar.

IACOCCA

I like the hat! My father, was kind of a cowboy at heart, though he drove motor cycles rather than horses. He injured himself falling down so many times, that wouldn't even let me have a bike!

SHELBY

Well your Daddy at least probably appreciated the thrill of travel.

The two walk over to a Shelby car.

Everywhere in America is somewhere else, and you can only get there by car.

Why shouldn't the way be excitin?

Broad, confident smile.

IACOCCA

I respect that. And I respect your Cobras. With their British AC bodies I thought they were the prettiest thing to hit our shores from Europe since my mother came here from Italy.

Smiles.

SHELBY

Pointing to the Cobra

This is the vehicle, Mr. Iacocca that is gonna draw people, even like your Moma and Daddy into your showrooms!

IACOCCA

Well my parents were practical people when it came to money. And I think most Americans are like that.

SHELBY

Mr. Iacocca, do we want to win, and give drivers a sensation of the real power America possesses, or do we want to escape into dreamland? I know you want to win, and I know you want to sell.

IACOCCA

What about we give you 50 million dollars, for exclusive rights to the Cobra, and you go on easy street. What's so bad about that?

SHELBY

If my purpose in life is to give Americans a glimpse of what they really want, and they end up turning that down, I am fine with that.

But I am not selling my company . . . to a bunch of losers.

IACOCCA

Considers. Reassesses the situation.

Mr. Shelby, you're amazing. Detroit comes to you on bended knee and offers you a free pass to Candy Mountain. And you turn us down. I respect that!

Scene 29: Shelby and the Ford People, Pre Race 1966

TEXT ON SCREEN

Detroit, July 1965

HENRY FORD

Mr. Shelby, you won the 1959 Le Mans with a British Aston. Your Cobra has been winning the Daytona, and Sebring, and alot of other important races. So why did all the money and top-grade engineers we have thrown your way not lead to a victory at 24 hours of Le Mans last month?

SHELBY

The 24 hours of Le Mans, is too long race in my opinion. Up till now it has been highlighting kinks with the durability of our parts that we haven't yet worked out.

Now you You may think that that's a problem. But we're working out the bugs.

The main thing we must remember is that Enzo Ferrari is hardly celebrating under some fig tree, guzzling champagne. Their people are scared.

Looking at both men to gain their attention. Raises an index finger.

One fact is sure. Down the Mulsanne (MULL-sahn) Straight, we are jack-rabbiting them every time. Our Cobra engines, and our Cobra power-to-weight

ratios are second to none. Now if Lee can give me a little more leeway with our head gasket and clutch problems, we are goin to sweep them at Le Mans next year.

Ford looks to Iacocca for confirmation.

IACOCCA

Mr. Ford, I'm not quite ready to sign on with Mr. Shelby's interpretation. We had eleven Fords in the field at the last Le Mans, all with slightly different configurations. And yet the twelve Ferraris, and even the Porsches got all the glory. The six-Ford Cobras all conked. The Cobra GTs did a little better. However, I'm willing to give more ground this this time with clutch, gearbox, driveshaft, well even the gasket issues, if Mr. Shelby thinks he can produce a winner.

HENRY FORD

Mr. Shelby, we can only afford one more year of your experimentation. Do you think you can win Le Mans if you have another year?

SHELBY

I do!

Scene 30: the Big Race of 1966

On one half of the screen for one minute: A) Might be able to get a minute's worth of footage from the 24 Hour War documentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vk-epdxiEFA&t=4547s. Or B) at least feature a slide show of 1966 Le Mans Pictures to music. On one half of the screen show Shelby's, Iacocca's, and Ford's emotions as they turn from apprehension to elation in one minute's time.

Scene 31: Post Race

HENRY FORD

I'm proud of you two, and I want to thank you both for the proudest moment of my life. The 1-2-3 finish of our Ford GT 40s at Le Mans brought tears to my eyes.

SHELBY

Well Mr. Ford, now that you have the best cars, I think yer goin to sell the most cars. We just need to let the Mustang emulate the GT 40s, and your customers will all feel like winners.

IACOCCA

Mr. Ford, thank you for believing in Mr. Shelby-- and me. Is it not amazing how Ford can now both appeal to average consumers, and at the same time advertise the most perfect cars on earth!

As the car is the epitome not only of American exports, but of American industry, My God, can we not teach the world about the benefits of our American system?

FORD

We all know that Ford is the essential American automobile. Just look how it brings together you two, a son of Italian immigrants, and a Texas cowboy. What I hope, and what you two are helping to bring to pass, is a day when we will surpass GM for the first time in 30 years! Ford will be number one.

Gets some champagne, from a cabinet and pours drinks.

Gentlemen, this is the highlight of life, and I wonder if I could share with you a daydream, a patriotic daydream, that will make our country truly great, and could make you two, two of the richest men on earth.

My grandfather, Henry Ford in 1929, sold half of the automobiles that were sold on earth. (*breathless*) Gentlemen! We can do the same!

They click glasses.

Scene 32: Sudden Shutdown at Ford

SHELBY

Taking shower and singing a snippet of the Frank Sinatra's Song, "I'll do it my way." The snippet should include these words. Hear it on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w019MzRosmk

Fade out: INT. Impressive Office

TEXT ON SCREEN

Bell Air, California, July 1970.

Shelby Enters backyard, where Iacocca is sunning himself, relaxing. The book mentioned below has been discarded at his side. But he will pick it up.

SHELBY

Congratulations Lee! President of Ford Motor Company, what an achievement!

IACOCCA

O Carroll , Let's sit somewhere.

He gets up and they sit down in some breezeway or?

SHELBY

Smiles. Trying his best to be a personable Texan.

Lee I'm sorry I had to prevail on your neighborliness. I just could not book a time to see you through the corporate boys in Detroit. I'm living in this Holmby Hills area now too.

IACOCCA

A little sarcastic.

Well, when you have over a quarter of a million employees, you've got to screen visitors like crazy, or else you wouldn't even have time to dot an i.

Acts like he is trying to remember what Carrol Shelby represents in his life.

Carroll, you might think that my ascendancy is a result of the victories we've enjoyed. But . . . I'm . . . well . . . what do you think about this book?

Retrieves the book and gives to Shelby. Shelby reads the title:

SHELBY

Unsafe at any Speed: The Designed in Dangers of the American Automobile, by Ralph Nader

Yeah, well, he makes some good points. I mean we all depend on the bottom line, but a lot of this safety-obsession stuff is trash!

I mean safety is fine. We all want that. But safety first? No American believes that!

IACOCCA

A book is not trashy when it leads to seat-belt laws in forty-nine states!

Stands up and turns to the side, gradually leading Shelby in a slow, circuitous path out.

Its powerful. And we in Detroit are committed to rethinking our entire business.

Turns to Shelby, speaking in a not unfriendly but still curt manner.

I'm sorry to tell you that we are becoming a lot less interested in the speed business. We also foresee some coming limitations with oil. Now at Ford, we're not addicted to oil, but, right now, our cars are. We're also concerned about government regulations, and frequent allegations in recent years that Ford cars generate smog

SHELBY

Smiling and trying to joke.

I always thought the best car safety device is a rear view mirror with a cop in it.

IACOCCA

Yeah, well we're going to have to go beyond that. In fact, and I'm going to have to be blunt, we're going to have to go beyond everything you stand for. Carroll, I'm sorry to say this, but as you wanted a quick heads up, I'm going to have to tell you that we're going to have to terminate the relationship between Ford, and Shelby American.

Scene 33: Tales of Shelby's African Interlude

This scene includes a montage where Shelby will roll around in the grass as if dying of a heart attack.

TEXT ON SCREEN

Dallas in 1980.

CULLY

So Shelby's been laying low in the car business?

ED WILKINS

Yeah stagflation, the price gouging of the oil-producing Arab states, the spectacle of motorists cursing their way around the block while waiting for gasoline, all this has taken the life out of the muscle car bidness.

CULLY

Well what's he been doing with himself?

ED WILKINS

Well I have to admire him, its like he saw the writing on the wall. He made a quick decision to leave his business in default mode—like there's always somone who wants a Cobra, but not that many these days.

Rather than twiddle his thumbs, he adopted an even riskier line of work, big-game hunting in Africa.

CULLY

Whoa, is he crazy? Or wait, was this some kind Teddy Roosevelt stunt?

ED WILKINS

Yeah, I think you nailed it. The Cowboy Shelby brand couldn't just twiddle its fingers, it had to do something macho and dangerous, so he got involved with Africa.

CULLY

Is Shelby right wing?

ED WILKINS

Not so much. Some of his customers are. But he's no supporter of Apartheid or anything like that.

CULLY

Well what happened?

ED WILKINS

Its kind of interesting . . .

Shelby went right to the mark in setting up and recruiting big game hunters. It was a matter of finding non-commericalized areas, first in Angola, and second in the Central African Republic. I wouldn't be surprised if he gave the Africans a million-dollars' worth of presents, but he got the kind of hunting he wanted, the kind where you could bag a lion, a rhino, right out in the wild, no chance of zinging some little 12-year old, I mean Shelby mined the darkest areas left in Africa.

CULLY

And he didn't get shot by some communist or poacher?

ED WILKINS

Well, yer spot on Cully; he not only was almost bushwhacked by Cuban soldiers who were propping up the communist claim on Angola, he almost died of a heart-attack

Camera gives Cut-Away Montage to Shelby rolling around on the grass, saving himself with a pill. Cully and Wilkins are now just heard and not seen for the rest of the scene.

right in the middle of the bush. He says these special pills a friend gave him one time, saved him once again.

CULLY

It almost sounds like Joseph Conrad's heart of Darkness. You jes wonder what he was tryin to prove.

ED WILKINS

Well he made money on it, as usual, and at least he's home now in Los Angeles, where maybe he can get some peace.

Scene 34: 1980s: the Young Wife

Stafford is dressed provocatively as a very young girl in strong New Zealand/British accent. This means that the voice will raise slightly at the end of each sentence. See signal for this: ^. She is very exasperated and demonstrative.

SUSAN STAFFORD

So wha [why]did I have to stay at the bloody airport for two ^ hours, waiting fou ow bloomin ^ luggage while you rushed off for some chai(r) time with some ^ bloke? I'm still packing a sad. Aw you some kind of muppet or something? ^Eh?

SHELBY

What do you New Zealanders mean by "Muppet?"

SUSAN STAFFORD

Sits down on the couch, and turns on the TV.

Its kind of like yer an egg ^man . . . but I'm a little too angry as. . .

SHELBY

Frowning. Finally getting the idea of what is being said. Turns off TV.

Why you little ingrate! I marry you, and give you American citizenship, and clothe you with millions, and this at a time when you would be lucky to be flipping burgers if you were on your own.

SUSAN STAFFORD

Turns away from him

Yeah, right. I don't need this. I've had heeps of mates, and I don't need yyeuh.

Pouts and *Postures before the camera as if showing off to the viewer to raise Shelby's jealousy, showing off her beauty.*

SHELBY

Turns away to do something. Reconsiders. Breathes deep. Reconsiders. Gradually puts his hand on her shoulder

C'mon baby, we're both just doin our own thing. We can learn to adjust. Haven't we had terrific times together?

SUSAN

Flings his hand off

Get your bloody hands off me.

Turns away from him once more.

Scene 35: The Expensive wife: Cynthia

Cynthia an ultimate Valley Girl, mimicking the young Kim Kardashian. Again there is uptalking as with New Zealand. Raising their voice at the end of the sentence. Speak fast through your nose, in a squeaky half-hearted way

SHELBY

Look, first thing after we get married you want to live in Beverly Hills, and we do that.

Getting more indignant. Building.

Then you want to live in a penthouse because of your allergies and we do that. And now you don't like using the elevator?

CYNTHIA

Like I totally don't dig the tone in your voice.

SHELBY

We looked for three solid days and finally found a place with a nice balcony. Why don't you enjoy that anymore?

CYNTHIA

Like How can I?

Strokes her hair.

Its like walkin out into a tornado out there. It makes my hair look like a freakin mop.

SHELBY

So what's left, the desert? A yacht? Maybe you'd like a place on the moon?

CYNTHA

I dunno. I think I'm going to need some time to think about this. I mean like I don't think my mind kin handle all the pain yer throwin at me.

I can't live with all this fascist bullshit.

Scene 36: Swedish Housekeepers

Lena speaks in a very sing-songy voice that goes up and down constantly like a backcountry Swede. She take prolonged and noisy breaths as if she is part nervous, and part barely-read- for-America Swede.

SWEDISH GIRL-LENA

I read za connn-tttract and unn-dderstand it. Dank you for za zigning bonus. But I vill say zat I do not mind za terms at all Mr. Shelll-be. I find you a most attractive man.

SHELBY

Well I can't tell you how happy I am to hear that, but you got to remember the part, that marriage isn't apart of this. I've been burned before, and I don't even want to hear you mentioning the term.

SWEDISH GIRL

Well, vat about za word, 'lovvve', can I mention zat?

SHELBY

No! That word can't be in your vocabulary either. I mean, I'm glad that we professional people can enjoy a professional relationship without suing each other, but if we're going to live together, we've got to know the rules!

Scene 37: Coming back to NE Texas

In a car.

SHELBY

Say I really appreciate you, not just for the plane-ride, but for driving me clear to my new Camp County ranch

ANDRE BROGOITTI

Well I live in nearby Titus County, and having had an interest in cars, I don't mind doing this one bit.

So why did you buy a ranch in Camp County?

SHELBY

I'm from here. I was born in Leesburg in 1923 near Pittsburg, and only moved to Dallas when I was seven. And I've had some experience with ranchin. . . .

ANDRE BROGOITTI

And where was that.

SHELBY

Ah have a few thousand acres in the ghost town of Terlingua, which is near Big Bend National ParkWest Texas ranch. We've had a Chili Cookoff there each summer, and I even sell my own chili kits.

ANDRE BROGOITTI

So its kind of good to re-connect with childhood memories?

SHELBY

You know, I've been goin so far n fast in life, and its been a little hard, jes havin a place called home.

ANDRE BROGOITTI

So you still have parents or an aunt or two here?

SHELBY

Well my parents were both born in Franklin County, though they're both gone. They came back to Leesburg in the end, themselves, and you know I think it was the congestion, the traffic. There's just too much clutter and people, but I'm having the same problem. It's the lawsuits, the inquiries, the bean counters. I need some kind of filter, or I'll never do what I want, what I truly enjoy doing, designing new cars.

ANDRE BROGOITTI

Just what do you like about designing cars?

SHELBY

I like to give people the ability to move about absolutely freely, and to enjoy the ride of life while they're at it.

Scene 38: Lee Iacoca Myth of the 1980s

Videotaping a film-making session with Iacocca. This was perhaps the most well-known auto-speech in the twentieth century. Ideal if outside with good cars around.

NARRATOR

Though Ford made billions of dollars in the 1970s, a conflict between Chairman of the Board, Henry Ford II, and CEO Lee Iacocca clouded Ford's future. Foreign imports like Volkswagen, Toyota and Honda were flooding American markets. A devastating study of the Ford Pinto showed that rear-end collisions had often resulted in deadly fires. When Iacocca proposed that the Ford Fiesta include a Honda engine, Ford said, "No car with my name on the hood is going to have a Jap engine inside." Ford fired Iacocca in 1978. But in 1979, Shelby's former patron, Iacocca, became President of Chrysler. Shelby soon gained an invitation to rejoin Iacocca at Chrysler, though his access to the nation's most famous CEO was limited.

DIRECTOR

The Director is speaking to Iacocca as President of Chrysler. Iacocca is speaking with President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. President, I guess we have to give way when the President of the United States is on the other line.

IACOCCA

Gets on telephone. In the 1980s, they are still landline, dialups:

No problem Mr. President. I was just making another commercial, and whatever I can do just let me know, because we at Chrysler deeply appreciate your support for our bailout. Yeah . . . we're doin great, we're jes about to buy out Lamborhini.

Listens intently.

I understand your problem with Ralph Nader and the consumer groups. Look our new K car is going to be the ultimate in eco-friendliness, and safety. . . But as you know we're continuing with the Viper because we need to do something for our customers for a change, rather than just putting out for federal regulators all the time. . . . You have my word. Yes Mr. President. Good bye.

Walks back on set:

OK, I'm ready!

UNIT PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

All quiet on the set. Scene 4, take 3, Action!

Claps the clapperboard.

IACOCCA

Mimic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nppKMomMP-4>.

A lot of people think that America can't cut the mustard anymore. That quality counts for nothing, and hard work even less. . . . As for commitment? That went out with the Hula Hoop!

Fade Out, Fade in indicating passage of time

But we at Chrysler know what hard work quality, and commitment is. And that is why we have the best safety recall record of any automobile company in the world. That is why we can offer five year, or 50,000-mile protection. That is why we are beating the Japanese at their own game.

But hey, if you can find a better car than our minivan, which we can't build enough of, or our K Cars that get an unprecedented 25 miles per gallon in inner-city traffic, if you can find a better car, buy it!

Scene 39: Shelby again works for Lee Iacocca, with Dodge

INT to EXT. Shelby begins with a telephone call, goes to sleep, and then has a dream that occurs outdoors. It is late at night. Shelby is very irritated.

SHELBY

What the hell are you talkin about Bob? They don't? O damn those EPA lawyers!

Drops into nearby bed. Fade Out, Fade in. Shelby is trying to go to sleep but turning from side to side an upward roll of bells or some other device indicates this is a dream. EXT. In the dream Iacocca has a cowboy belt and holster and gun, as does Shelby. It is like an OK Corral Shootout. Both gunslingers are walking toward each other. At first Iacocca almost seems to be talking Shelby out of firing.

IACOCCA

Now Carroll this is what matters. We've gotta see the big picture. Now do you know whose goin to buy the Dodge Viper? Its goin to be 50-something guys going through a mid-life crisis. Its goin to be a dentist who wants to show he's makin something. I don't think we're going to get the kind of new-generation money stream you envision.

They both now are close enough for a quick kill. Iacocca turns mean.

We don't need such a damn big engine.

SHELBY

And you don't think 50-something guys have anything that is particularly urgent in their lives? . . . . Being prompt, having the hustle to beat the competition, showing some eagerness in the face of odds—this is what America is all about Lee.

Exploding

I thought even your father understood that!

Softer, pleading.

Lee, speed can solve our problems.

Tell your damned engineers they've got to start listenin to me.

IACOCCA

I don't need to

Behind Shelby's back, Henry Ford II, Frederick Donner, and John Deleon appear with guns. They gun him down. Shelby is on the ground. Iacocca pulls out a cigar and faces Shelby above him in the eye.

SHELBY

Weeping almost. Shelby pulls out a carton of cigars that are empty and throws it on the ground.

I can't smoke anymore . . . because of my heart!

IACOCCA

You know Carroll, we both know the meaning of hard work; we both know how to give consumers what they want, and to confuse the feds.

But there's a big difference between you and me. My people, my father included, accepted limits, they accepted speeding signs, they respected laws that kept them safe. And sometimes, they don't mind just living out the fantasy, because they know the reality often is too difficult.

But you like danger, big spending, and gambling. You think you can live out here, alone on the Western range, living by your wits. But you can't!

Shelby wakes up with a start.

Scene 40: Iacoca's Real Feelings about Shelby

IACOCCA:

Speaking to a Secretary.

Yeah dictate this letter. Dear Mr. Shelby, we appreciate the support you have given the Viper, allowing it to become the jewel of the Chrysler crown. Your support has helped allow Chrysler to make the greatest comeback in the history of automobiles. I'm not going to deny that your association with us has been valuable. We have tried to compensate you fittingly for that association. In the end, however, the managers of the Viper believe we need to be listening to a new generation of designers and engineers. We truly would like to keep you in the loop. But I am sorry to say that I cannot elevate you at this time onto the executive board of our Viper team.

Scene 41: the Heart Transplant

TEXT ON SCREEN

Heart Specialist, Dr. Alfredo Trento and Carroll Shelby, after the latter's heart transplant, 1990.

ALFREDO TRENTO

Your heart Mr. Shelby, was the worse speciman I have ever seen in my career. One mass of scar tissue. You must have had 40 heart attacks in your life.

SHELBY

Was I dead for very long?

TRENTO

Well you were technically dead for only a very short time. The operation, however took eight hours.

SHELBY

My God, that was as long as a stint at Le Mans. I'm glad you didn't crash.

TRENTO

There were a few leaks that kept us hopping, but we fixed them. You now have the heart of an eleven-year boy who died of other causes right in a hospital. Thanks to his wonderful parents we were allowed to extract the heart. How do you feel?

SHELBY

Well, I will say that I have come out of this with a new reverence for God. I should not have lived.

Scene 42: Shelby and Jeanne about the coming Kidney transplant 1995.

SHELBY

On Telephone.

Michael, no father could expect the kind of sacrifice I am asking you to make. As you already know, I am setting you up financially, and medically, I . . .

Listens. Disappointed.

Yes I will meet with your mother. And I respect you giving her that right.

Fade Out. Fade In.

JEANNE

How can you imperil the life of our son, Michael, by asking for his kidney?

SHELBY

Jeanne, because of my heart transplant, I have to be sure my body doesn't reject the kidney, and Michael's is the best bet. It's the only way I can stay alive!

I could stay on dialysis. But I would rather take my own life than do that.

Whatever my limitations as a father, I'm going to be a really good provider.

Michael will be set for life. He and I have both talked to the Mendez brothers, of Los Angeles . . . they're actually twins, both top physicians, and they have done over a 1,000 successful transplant kidney surgeries.

JEANNE

Paying your son off to risk his life! How many nights did I have to do the dishes, and figure out the grocery list, while helping Michael with his homework, and doing all that because Dad was off living his own life.

SHELBY

Jeanne, the heart operation convinced me that I have made my mistakes in life. It might interest you to know that I now pray every day.

And I am so impressed with the Mendez brothers in a way I was never impressed with Trento. Trento couldn't resist pouring this toxic dye down me, so he could see what was going on. This damned dye was toxic to my kidneys, and I should sue his ass off.

If you want me to, I will sue him, and even give the money I'll win to you and the kids, if you want.

JEANNE

Sue the man who saved your life and gave you a new heart?

Carroll, I am not here for money. I am here for Michael.

Thinks about it.

And I think I'm even here for you in a weird way. Can't you see how selfish you have been? Is it not too late to repent, and ask God to help you through the rest of your life?

SHELBY

Jeanne, I have my own religious values, now. Stop using your own religion to persecute mine!

JEANNE

Sarcastically.

O isn't that sweet. You have your own religion.

And your own religion, evidently allows you to take your own life.

And your own religion allows you to steal, doesn't it!

Cutaway to Shelby's hurt and surprised eyes.

I've been reading the papers. You know. I see where you tried to counterfeit your own cars, and barely slid out of being prosecuted through

some California legal loophole. I wonder what your other customers, with all their original Cobras thought about that.

SHELBY

The *Los Angeles Time*s hates me and every other car person, so go ahead and believe their take on the matter. The point is, I saw the opportunity. Ford, Dodge, the counterfeiters have cheated me out of millions.

But I'm going to have the resources to insure that our children and grandchildren, and even other deserving kids and young people beyond them are not in need.

JEANNE

Carroll, you may be talking to God, but are you listening to Him? Are you attending Church, and reading the Bible?

SHELBY

I know who God is Jeanne! More than ever. Now stop it!

Is this cross examination over? You know I am going to do well for our children. And I have done well for this country, which I love. I've even given you a fairly decent amount of alimony, and want to help. Why women like you can't do the math, and figure out that I'm a pretty decent guy, well. . . I will never figure that out!

Scene 43: New Partner Lena

They finish a meal together.

SHELBY

Lena you are a true prototype. All the other women in my life, jes . . . seemed to have this negativity.

Sips some wine, and smiles at her.

Is it because you're a Virgo (VUR-go) you were meant to find your best relationship with a capricorn?

LENA

Zat could be part of it, von of my favorite guys was a capricorn

But I think you're a small town guy at heart, and I'm a small town girrl. Ve still like the best things in life, and I like your East Texas farm. Somehow ve vere meant for one annnother.

SHELBY

I'm almost glad your not that interested in cars or business. I need to get away from that.

And I do love the way you've been carin for our minatures, our Falabella horses. Given them an apple each day has helped keep the Vet away. I do wish though honey that you would take to the Brahmin Cattle more.

LENA

Vell I love horses, but cows are a man's vork. Even vith the horses I need more help. I don't really like forcing zem to mate, or caring fer zem in childbirth. . . . Its dangerous. I wonder if ve could hire somevon to do zat?

Scene 44: She dies in a crash. 1997.

Shelby voiceover while Lena enters a car with a basket of apples angrily, and drives off. It as if Lena is remembering the tongue lashing Shelby gave her. Camera follows her to car, then take from the back, as she drives down a Farm to Market road.

SHELBY

Lena, I'm sorry I got so angry last night. I do appreciate you for what you are. And I do think you are intelligent. I mean very intelligent. Quit getting so damn upset with me.

It doesn't make any sense though when you say that yer bored, and I'm away too much. Believe me yer not helping me with my job. When you embrace cars you embrace the toughest part of American capitalism. You Europeans should learn that nothing comes easily.

But I do love the way you care for our Falabellas. Look, I've got the money, you can have your caretaker . . . Isn't there enough there for you to do?

Though driving slowly she looks out the window swerves, and screams

FADE OUT

SHELBY

On telephone:

You saw what?

Rips into car, FADE OUT.

Sees car in front of tree, opens door where she is and screams:

No!

Enters side of car, and discovers that Lena is unconscious and dead. Screams:

No!

Scene 45: Shelby Rust, and Shelby.

Rusk is at a desk, it could be the main office of NTCC's new dorm. We could actually ask, Shelby Rusk to do this scene. She lives in Pittsburg.

TEXT ON SCREEN

Pittsburg, Texas, 2000.

SHELBY RUST

I heard your wife . . . . . or girlfriend had a terrible accident. Mr. Shelby, please accept my sympathies.

SHELBY

Thank you. Yes I'm alone again, and that's why I'm paying the water bill. She had been attending to that.

SHELBY RUST

Its great to have you back in our community, Mr. Shelby. I'm sorry this had to happen.

SHELBY

Oh, it was a fluke, she was just going out to give some apples to our Falabella horses.

SHELBY RUST

I bet you can't guess who I was named after?

SHELBY

Who?

SHELBY RUST

You!

SHELBY

What?

SHELBY RUST

Yeah, my father loved mustangs, and being from East Texas and knowing that you had quite a hand in their making, he named me after you. My name is Shelby Rust.

SHELBY

Looks with fascination, almost unbelief.

SCENE 46: Shelby and Ed Wilkins Meet One Last Time:

WILKINS

Shell, I'm so glad we could get together. I wish you would hang out more in Dallas.

But tell me about your time with Chrysler!

SHELBY

Is in a depressed, talkative mood.

I sowed a lot of wild oats there, Ed. That was about the extent of it. I had ideas, you know—new kinds of wheels made of something they called "plastic fantastic," different kinds of suspension arms, chrome-plated shocks, primarily to enable better handling, but they compromised everything.

WILKINS

You know I asked around about getting an actual Dodge Shelby, and none of them really looked like something you did.

SHELBY

Exactly, they were just a bunch of nickel rockets, bearing a mere notion of a concept, or idea I had, and it also tore me up when they used my name as they did. I even worked on a pickup that they scaled back to 175 horse power. You talk about a pathetic truck! Well maybe it passed the emissions test. But I earned a good paycheck, and I like to think that in some small way, I at least added a little excitement and class into the lives of Americans.

WILKINS

So now that you're through with that gig, why don't you spend more time in Dallas?

SHELBY

More and more, I find myself living near the land of my birth, around Camp County in the Northeast section of the state, two-hours east of here.

WILKINS

So you didn't care for Southern California?

SHELBY

Well that was where the action was. It worked out for me. Even Iacocca was a neighbor of mine in Bel Air. Of course he was a traitor in the end. The California physicians were good, but image was everything for them. The *L.A. Times* was out for my blood. One of my spouses, Cynthia, was the Wife from Hell, and she was a valley girl. So no, I don't have a lot holding me in California besides our shop.

WILKINS

Well the people from Camp County don't even remember you, do they?

SHELBY

There are people who . . . actually do remember me. Or let me put it another way. Northeast Texas is the one place in the world that remembers me as one of them. The journalists and paparazzi of Southern California treat me as the enemy, but the people of Northeast Texas are proud that I was one of them.

WILKINS

I guess that must truly be your home then.

Scene 47: Shelby, McCullough and Riedel, and the College.

We could ask Dr. McCullough to play his own part here. They are at a restaurant. One alternative, which could change the texture enough to be semi-entertaining—instead of using actors for this scene, use pictures of McCullough, and Riedel, along with Cade, and enter the sound, but just show the picture of the person talking.

TEXT ON SCREEN

The Carson House Restaurant in Pittsburg, Texas 2007

SHELBY

Herb, I'm glad you called me. I enjoyed visiting with your family. You two seem to have a nice little college here.

HERBERT RIEDEL

NTCC is a very personable college, and new—Part of it is that we only got started in 1985; there's a healthy openness to change.

And you mentioned, that you were friends with Bo Pilgrim. Its amazing we have the largest poultry producer in the world in our district. MR. Pilgrim is providing scholarships for students coming from Camp County.

Dr. McCULLOUGH

Mr. Shelby, your children are grown now as I understand it. Are any of your grandchildren going to school now?

SHELBY

Well yeah, I'm paying for one of them right now at California Polytechnic. I should know because it's a about 50 grand a year.

MCCULLOUGH

You know for that price, twenty students would have the money they needed to attend our college for one year.

SHELBY

How much does Pilgrim pay a year?

MCCULLOUGH

About 50 thousand.

SHELBY

Turns to Riedel.

Would such an amount be helpful to you for the automotive program? I've known so many young people, who can't complete higher learning right out of high school. Before they know it, they have a girl, and a truck, and they're stuck. Automotive is such a huge career window, AND I want young people to be able to have a scholarship at your college to develop real skills and potential in this field!

RIEDEL

That would be amazing, Mr. Shelby! We could name a school like that after you!

SHELBY

Emphatically hitting the table.

DONE!

My foundation will begin this very year to give you $50,000 per year. My idea is that it should be for the Shelby automotive program.

Scene 48: Shelby and Riedel's last encounter:

INT. Low Rent Restaurant. If possible a rain sound outside.

SHELBY

You know Herb, one thing I miss in life. I never did attend college.

HERB RIEDEL

Well Mr. Shelby, you have had such a full life, you have made business deals that would have rattled some of the smartest minds our universities have ever produced.

SHELBY

Yeah, though, but in my life I've had to deal with hundreds of bean counters, I mean accountants, lawyers and physicians. And I've tried my best to befriend them. And I have. But somehow that collegiate experience was something that kept me from seeing eye to eye with these people. I could never relate to them as I wanted.

RIEDEL

Well all friendship is pretty fleeting. Did I tell you that I am a finalist for the presidency of a college in Alabama?

SHELBY

Well I'll miss you Herb, if you git that. Of course I'm going wear myself out jest tryin to live. I spend six hours a day now, jes doin all the therapy and pills.

RIEDEL

But Mr. Shelby, you have had such an incredible perspective and legacy in the car business, that I bet those few hours you still devote to cars, are very productive, and helpful for many people!

Scene 49: Alone. Rediscovers Leesburg.

"Thought" Voiceover, while an elderly Shelby wanders along his Northeast Texas Ranch. No need for outdoor mic setup. We need visuals of his acting to coincide with non-diegetic monologue. There is a wind sound.

SHELBY

Damn Bel Air California, and all those snobs like Lee Iacocca who never mentioned me in their autobiography! I belong back here. In East Texas. Where cows can nibble till their heart's content. I remember the girl who sold me this ranch. Mary Lou Russell, a real cowgirl. Kind of cute. The women in my life never understood me. The problem is that women are like some those tail-fin Chryslers of of the early 60s. They are slow about time, and are all show.

Walks on stiffly.

I could use a woman right now though. God, I'm alone! Why? Corporations have inherited the earth, and they are bent on selling people fantasies. Iacocca should have worked for Walt Disney. As for those L.A. doctors, they would have killed and put me in formaldehyde, if they could have exhibited me as one of their triumphs. .

But you know, here in East Texas, thar's still some real people, and I need to help them.

Hmph, my Baptist buddy Bo Pilgrim invited me to his Bible study. He paid our favorite college $50,000 a year, Hell, I can do more. I'll sustain the payments into perpetuity!

Really getting worked up. Takes out pillbox. Puts a pill in his mouth.

These pills are awful!

Spits it out. Starts throwing the pills away, singly, and stiffly, like an old man into the field. Throws a pill with every emphatic statement.

I'll honor the kind of people who still respect me, forever, who don't mind watching Fox News, or risking their life for their country, or racing automobiles, or delimiting big government, or wearing cowboy boots, and having chili out on the range. Maybe some of my special Shelby Chili. Not like some of those weird-ass Californians. The kind of people who go to universities and read 543 books and don't know a widget from a whangdoodle.[4]

Still I don't quite get it.

My whole life has been about speed, and getting ahead of everything and everyone—but now my only home is here . . .

Looking around at the vacant horizons

in the past?

Looking up. Saying prayerfully.

God, I'm glad I'm glad your on the same track with me, racing side by side.

Looks like he is having a senior moment.

But who exactly are you again?

[4] Last Year's film had a script that was 78 pages, and 54 scenes.

Scene 50: Epilogue

While the narrator tells the story of what happened, clips or pictures of the actors, along with pictures of the actual persons can be shown

Carroll Shelby died in Baylor Hospital in Dallas in June of 2012. His transplanted heart lasted a phenomenal twenty-two years, though he was plagued with attendant problems with his kidneys, and eyesight. The connection of the auto-racer/developer Carroll Shelby to the preeminent American muscle cars of the pre-regulation era, before 1970, makes him iconic still in American automotive history. The most expensive American car ever sold in an auction was a Shelby Cobra, which netted 14 million dollars, in 2016. In 2019, the Academy-Award-winning sports drama film, *Ford v Ferrari*, featured star actor, Matt Damon, playing the role of Carroll Shelby. The Shelby Foundation continues to provide a rich endowment for automotive scholarships at NTCC. NTCC remains the only institution of higher learning in the world that can legally use the 'Shelby' name.

Jeanne Shelby died only four months after her only husband, Carroll, also in Dallas. She remained a devoted mother of Shelby's children, Mike, Pat and Sharon, as well as a caretaker of their six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Jan Harrison: Known as Shelby's "movie star" wife, Harrison appeared in many episodes of the early 1960s TV show, Sea Hunt. She was able to annul her marriage to Shelby, and remarry her original husband. Having a talent for interior design, she later remodeled a hotel that Shelby purchased for a time in California.

Lena Dahl, a native of Stockholm, was missed by many friends in the Swedish community in Los Angeles. Shelby's tombstone in Leesburg alludes to Lena's death near their Camp County farm.

Lee Iacocca is today regarded as one of the most important figures of automotive history between the eras of Henry Ford, and Elon Musk. He is also widely regarded as one of America's all-time best CEOs. His rescue of Chrysler in the 1980s, and development of the K-car platform was an important part of the 1980s American economic revival. Iacocca continued to reside in Bel Air, California until his death in 2019.

John De Lorean like Carroll Shelby started his own high-end car company, named after himself. In 1973, he announced his plan to build stainless steel cars with gull wing doors. After much hype, however, eight years passed before De Loreans went on the market. The model sold poorly. In 1982, a federal agent videotaped De Lorean agreeing to sell 24 million dollars of cocaine. He eventually was exonerated as the sting was ruled a case of police entrapment.

Shelby Rust still lives in Pittsburg and sells artisanally crafted handsoap downtown on Jefferson Street.

Dr. Herbert Riedel left NTCC in 2009 after several years of distinguished service. He served as President of the Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in Alabama from 2009 to 2019. He currently enjoys life on his South Carolina farm.

Dr. Jonathan McCullough: continues to serve as Vice President of Development at NTCC. Along with President Dr. Charles Florio, McCullough helped secure a 1.7 million-dollar gift contribution from Elizabeth Whatley in 2007, one of the largest private gifts ever given to a rural community college.