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EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

A straight shot to the horizon, flanked by thick woodland.
A beat-up sedan thunders along the sun-roasted asphalt.

INT. SEDAN - MOVING

Gripping the wheel is Edward (35), his colorful clothes a treat for the eyes.

EDWARD
(singing)
*And here I go again on my own.
Going down the only road I've ever
known.*

His hands tap the wheel to the beat.

EDWARD
*Like a drifter I was born to walk
alone.
And I've made up my mind.
I ain't wasting no more time.*

He points to the backseat where CASPER (6) sits in his clearly-too-small car seat.

CASPER
(singing)
Here I go again!

Edward claps.

EDWARD
That's my boy! We'll make a rock star
of you yet.

CASPER
I'm on air drums. Mama, you do air
guitar.

JADE (35) begrudgingly strums out a few chords on the backseat. Casper *will* be the next John Bonham.

Edward turns to inspect the band.

EDWARD
Come on babe, you can do better--

JADE
-- Look out!

Edward's eyes dart forward. He slams on the brakes.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD

The sedan skids to a halt at the feet of HITCHHIKER (65) nonchalantly standing in the middle of the road, thumb extended.

He ambles to the passenger window, bends down, and stares in. His eyes barely visible beneath thick, unkempt hair and beard.

Edward, still breathing heavily, lowers the window.

EDWARD
Are you okay?

HITCHHIKER
Can I get a lift?

EDWARD
Well I think--I'm not sure--I mean--

INT. SEDAN - STATIONARY

--Hitchhiker opens the door and gets in.

HITCHHIKER
Thanks.

EDWARD
Woah, just wait--

JADE
--We can just give him a lift to the next town. We're in the middle of nowhere.

Edward glances out, spots a sign: **Mile Marker "66"**

He sighs, pops the gear stick into first.

EDWARD
Fine.

INT. SEDAN - MOVING - DAY

Hitchhiker stares at Edward, who stares at the road ahead... occasionally chancing an awkward side glance.

EDWARD
So, where are you heading?

HITCHHIKER
I don't know.

EDWARD
You don't know-- Well, what should I call you?

Hitchhiker looks blankly out of the window.

HITCHHIKER
I don't know.

Edward looks back to Jade and Casper, they both shrug.

EDWARD
You don't know your name?

HITCHHIKER
I've forgotten it. I've forgotten everything.

CASPER
Daddy, I need the toilet.

Edward smiles at Casper through the rear view.

EDWARD
Alright, Kiddo. It'll have to be a wild one, though.

Hitchhiker jerks his head towards Edward.

HITCHHIKER
Do not stop the car.

EDWARD
What? why?

HITCHHIKER
It will get you.

EDWARD
It?

HITCHHIKER
It will steal your memories. Take everything from you.

EDWARD
Well... we'll be careful--

HITCHHIKER

It will take them in pieces. Faces.
Names. Your own name ends up sounding
like a strangers.

Edward is taken aback.

CASPER

Daddy, I don't like him.

HITCHHIKER

I am saving your life!

EDWARD

OK, now look Mr. No Name-- you are
scaring my kid, so let's just--

Hitchhiker sits back, puzzled.

HITCHHIKER

What kid?

Edward snorts.

EDWARD

What do you mean "What kid"? The rock
and roll legend back there--

Edward turns. There is no Casper. No car seat. No Jade.

He stomps on the breaks. Frantically searches the back seat.

EDWARD

Where did they go?

HITCHHIKER

Where did who go?

EDWARD

Don't be fucking stupid-- my wife and
kid! where did they go!?

HITCHHIKER

You're starting to scare me, but you
better drive before *it* gets you.

Edward looks out of the back. Darkness approaches. Fast.

He slams it into first and skids the car away.

EDWARD

What the hell is going on?

HITCHHIKER

You tell me. You're the one looking for people who aren't there.

EDWARD

Yu-yu-you must've seen them when you got in.

HITCHHIKER

What were their names?

Edward goes to speak-- nothing. His brow furrows as he searches his memory.

EDWARD

I... erm. They were called... I think... I don't know... Why don't I know!?

HITCHHIKER

Are you even married?

EDWARD

Yes! of course!

HITCHHIKER

Where did you get married?

Edward tries, but comes up empty.

HITCHHIKER

When was your kid born? What color was his hair? Do you have a job?...

Edward can't answer. His face contorts.

HITCHHIKER

Who are your parents? Do you have any siblings? Where do you live?

EDWARD

Just stop! Shut up!

HITCHHIKER

What is your name? What is **your** name?

EDWARD

Shut up!

Edward hits on the breaks. The sedan skids to a stop. He grips his head, squeezes his eyes shut.

EDWARD

Get out, get out, GET OUT!

He looks to the passenger seat. Empty. He glances around. Alone in the car.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD

Edward steps out. Nobody around. He spins, searching.

A sign at the side of the road catches his eye: **Mile Marker "66"**.

Edward shakes his head in disbelief. Turns back to the car. It's gone.

Edward looks up and down the road. Darkness approaches. Fast. Closer. Closer.

Edward darts into the woods. Behind him, the darkness engulfs the road.

With nothing but woods in front of him, Edward surges forward, clambering over fallen trees and through shrubs.

EXT. WOODS - DAY - MONTAGE

- Edward (45), clothes weathered, hair and beard full of leaves, pushes through thick bush.

- Edward (55), hair longer, grayer, clothes colorless, ambles through the trees.

- Edward (65) only his eyes visible underneath his unkempt hair and beard, limps on.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Edward shuffles through the woods like a zombie, doesn't stir until-- his feet hit asphalt.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Edward looks down. A road. A sign: Mile Marker "66"

He darts to the middle of the road, thumb extended as a beat up sedan screeches to a halt at his feet.

EDWARD
(singing softly)
Here I go again on my own.