

SCRIPT COVERAGE
"DARKENED SKIES"

WRITER: *Luke Anthony*

LOGLINE: After getting fired from the only job he's ever known, a California auto mechanic is convinced to travel to rural Oklahoma for work, where he develops a new perspective on his place in the world.

SYNOPSIS:

Josh is an auto mechanic living an unremarkable life, but that's how he likes it. He works hard fixing cars, always doing the job right, repeating the same routine day after day. While taking a roadside call on a rainy day, Josh meets Elaine, a young waitress from Oklahoma. He diagnoses her car and tells her there's no need to pay. His gesture leaves an impression on her, and her bubbly personality leaves one on Josh as well. Josh returns to the shop and works long nights to ensure he does every job right for his boss Clark. His coworkers don't share the same sentiment as they only care about the money. Josh returns home late and while undressing notices a \$20 bill. He realizes that Elaine must have snuck it to him. Her act of kindness sticks with him. Clark then shows up and they sit down to share a six pack. reminisce about Josh's father, who passed away when Josh was little. His father always wanted to see the world with his son, his only regret was that he never got to. Clark tells Josh that his father always wanted him to do more than just fix cars... Josh goes back to his routine: pouring coffee, fixing cars, punching the clock, and coming home to a TV dinner. The routine takes a toll on Josh, and Clark's words ring through his head. It all comes to a halt one day when Josh notices his coworker Daryl trying to sell a customer maintenance they don't need. Daryl has done it before, but this time an old woman who is oblivious to his tactics is the victim. Josh can't let him do it again, he intervenes. He tackles Daryl and begins throwing punches, Clark has to come in and defuse the whole situation. Josh tries to plead his case, but Clark tells him that he can't keep him on, not after what the customers saw. Josh realizes that not only does Clark know what Daryl is doing, but he is also allowing it. Josh storms out, and returns home broken. He feels betrayed and lost. He's worked for Clark his entire life, what does he do now? It's then that he notices the \$20 bill, and he gets an idea. Josh finds the Sunset Dinner through the rain and goes inside. Unfortunately, it's empty. He takes a seat and he is happy to see Elaine pour him some coffee. She joins him and they get to know each other more. She's a writer who's struggling to get anything significant published. Josh reveals he lost his job, and Elaine asks if he could take another look at hers. She then gets up to attend to other customers, when she comes back she finds the same \$20 on the table along with Josh's address. The next day, Josh does fix Elaine's car, and in return she offers him a job opportunity. Elaine suggests that Josh come work for her father on their struggling family farm in Oklahoma. Josh refuses at first, until he realizes that Elaine is moving back home for the foreseeable future. Fearing he might lose out on the opportunity his father always wanted him to have, he decides to go.