INT. GATHERING ROOM - DAY

O'Brien enters an old, closed off room. JANICE, LORETTA, ROGER, MIKE, and DIMITRI all sit at a table. There's taxidermied animals throughout the room.

DIMITRI
You're fifteen minutes late.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
Well, Dimitri, crime doesn't have a schedule.

JANICE
It sure doesn't.

ROGER
I've got a podiatry appointment at one so let's make this quick.

O'Brien remains standing.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
I've been thinking about the best way to handle Max coming back to town.

DIMITRI
When will he be here?

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
He already is.

MIKE
Just deny everything.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
Revolutionary idea, Mike.

MIKE
I'm just saying, why do we have to make a big deal out of all this? No one outside this room knows what really happened.

LORETTA
If we deny everything, it looks like we're hiding something.

DIMITRI
We are hiding something.

LORETTA
But it can't look like that.

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ROGER
Just arrest him for speeding.

JANICE
What if he doesn't speed?

MIKE
We all speed.

They all look at the Sheriff realizing they all admitted to a crime.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
There's nothing to even deny yet. He has no lead and no information.

LORETTA
Why's he coming to town then?

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
Apparently, Benji had a child.

MIKE
And somehow none of us knew this?

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
I looked into it. Couldn't find anything.

DIMITRI
Then how does he know.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
Donna Dixon.

MIKE
I swear to God if I see her, you're gonna have to restrain me.

DIMITRI
She's crazy. I refuse to sell her gas.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
It'll be fine. He knows nothing. He's accepted our truth.

ROGER
For now.

JANICE
I don't think there's much of a problem unless he finds something.

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DIMITRI
We can make sure he doesn't.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
Max can look all he wants. There's nothing there.

A beat.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)
Besides, if he gets curious, it's best to just let him... get it out of his system. Find the path to nowhere himself.

MIKE
Kind of like going to pound town with a bridesmaid before your wedding.

JANICE
What?

MIKE
Get it out of your system.

JANICE
You're a disgusting man.

MIKE
All is fair in love and war.

JANICE
That's a mortal sin.

Janice holds her cross.

MIKE
Well, God needs the Devil, doesn't he?

A beat.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
Alright. We're in agreement then?

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