INT. O'BRIEN'S HOUSE - MORNING

The three of them enter. They set down the luggage. The table is made up for breakfast.

DARLEEN
I know you don't like a big breakfast, so I just did some eggs, a bagel, I couldn't remember if you liked sausage or bacon so I made both, and a little quiche. Oh, and some fresh orange juice.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
Darleen, you're overwhelming him.

DARLEEN
I'm not overwhelming him. Am I overwhelming you?

MAX
It's alright. Haven't had a home cooked meal since since my vacation with the Taliban.

DARLEEN
You vacationed with the Taliban?

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
Honey, that was his second book. Won the Pulitzer.

DARLEEN
Sorry, I switched to a Kindle and gave away all my physical books.

Sheriff O'Brien sees he's still wearing Benji's old necklace.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
You're still wearing Benji's necklace?

MAX
Well, I didn't know the guy, but, he was my brother.

DARLEEN
Come, sit, eat.

Everyone moves to the table and sits down to eat.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN
So how's your new book coming along?

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MAX
It’s almost finished.

SHERIFF O’BRIEN
And what’s this one?

MAX
I joined a gang. Some real sick people.

DARLEEN
Do you know what your next one is?

A beat.

MAX
I was thinking about Benji’s case.

This gets the Sheriff’s attention.

SHERIFF O’BRIEN
What about it?

PART 2:

INT. GATHERING ROOM - DAY

Community leaders gather to discuss Max’s arrival in town.

SHERIFF O’BRIEN (CONT’D)
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.

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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.

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.

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Janice holds her cross.

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

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