

# Paris, Texas

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## Sequence 1

TRAVIS walks through a sweltering desert as vultures eye him. He is bearded, wears worn clothes, and carries an empty plastic water container. He appears to have been on the move for some time. He reaches an isolated settlement and searches for water before collapsing in a bar.

## Sequence 2

A DOCTOR examines TRAVIS, who says nothing, and finds in his wallet a card with the name “Walter R. Henderson.” The DOCTOR telephones WALT, who is in Los Angeles. WALT tells his wife ANNE that TRAVIS has been found and that he is going to Texas to pick him up. ANNE is dismayed. “What about Hunter?” ANNE asks WALT. “What am I supposed to tell him?” “I guess you better tell him the truth,” says WALT.

## Sequence 3

WALT on an airplane, then in a rental car. He finds the DOCTOR but is told that TRAVIS left early that morning. WALT pays the DOCTOR’s bill and takes TRAVIS’ possessions, then drives off through the desert. Eventually he finds TRAVIS, who is calmly walking. “Don’t you recognise me? It’s Walt, your brother.” WALT persuades TRAVIS to get into the car, and expresses his hope that TRAVIS isn’t going to stay silent the whole journey, then asks him where he has been for the past four years. TRAVIS says nothing. WALT asks if TRAVIS has seen JANE or talked to her. “Anne and I sort of gave up on you. We thought you were dead.”

## Sequence 4

WALT and TRAVIS arrive at a small motel in the middle of nowhere. WALT leaves TRAVIS and drives into town to buy some new clothes for him. He returns a short time later, but TRAVIS is no longer at the motel. WALT drives off and again finds TRAVIS walking calmly through the desert. When WALT asks TRAVIS where he is going, TRAVIS says nothing.

## Sequence 5

They drive. At a motel, TRAVIS puts on fresh clothes and shaves his beard. WALT phones home and speaks to HUNTER, TRAVIS’ son. WALT tells HUNTER that he is with his father and that he is bringing him home. At a diner, WALT tells TRAVIS that he and ANNE have been looking after HUNTER since TRAVIS and JANE (HUNTER’s mother) went missing. “We didn’t know what else to do.” WALT again expresses his annoyance that TRAVIS isn’t speaking.

### Sequence 6

The following day. TRAVIS finally starts speaking. He tells WALT that he wants to go to Paris. They go to the airport but at the last minute TRAVIS panics. He doesn't want to fly and they are forced to get off the plane. WALT is annoyed, even more so because to continue their journey to Los Angeles, TRAVIS insists on renting the same exact car as before.

### Sequence 7

They drive. TRAVIS shows WALT a photograph of an empty plot of land in Paris, Texas, and tells WALT that he owns the land. Later, WALT goes to sleep in the car as TRAVIS drives, and they end up far from the freeway. WALT is again annoyed. "Here we are in the middle of the Mojave Desert in a place that doesn't have a name." Later, WALT tells TRAVIS about HUNTER, who is nearly eight years old. "He's part of the family now. Anne and I are like his parents now." "Does he think that you're his father?" asks TRAVIS.

### Sequence 8

They drive. TRAVIS tells WALT that he bought the land because their mother told him it was where she and their father made love for the first time. "So I figured that's where I began," explains TRAVIS. "Me, Travis Clay Henderson. I started out there."

### Sequence 9

They reach WALT's home in Los Angeles. TRAVIS meets ANNE and HUNTER. That evening at home, TRAVIS doesn't sleep, but instead washes the dishes and polishes every pair of shoes in the house. The next morning, HUNTER clearly finds his father's behaviour strange. TRAVIS offers to walk HUNTER home from school. HUNTER isn't happy about it, but ANNE insists. Later that day, HUNTER sees TRAVIS waiting for him outside school, but he gets into the car of a friend's parents and leaves TRAVIS standing alone. Later, ANNE apologises to TRAVIS. Later still, the family sits and watches home movie footage that includes HUNTER as a baby and JANE. HUNTER is warming to TRAVIS. Later, he tells ANNE that he thinks TRAVIS still loves JANE.

### Sequence 10

Another day. TRAVIS borrows clothes from WALT's closet, dresses up "like a father," and picks up HUNTER from school. The two walk home together, and TRAVIS shows HUNTER family photos in old albums. "I never felt like you were dead," says HUNTER. "I could always feel you walking around and talking someplace. I feel mom too." TRAVIS says he does too. Later, ANNE expresses her concern to WALT about TRAVIS breaking apart the family and them losing HUNTER. That night, ANNE tells TRAVIS that after HUNTER came to live with them, JANE would telephone, asking about him. "She made me promise not to tell anyone she was calling." ANNE explains that she opened a bank account for JANE, and that in Houston, on the fifth day of each month, JANE deposits money for HUNTER.

### Sequence 11

TRAVIS walks around Los Angeles. Later, he tells WALT that he is going to find JANE and asks to borrow some money. TRAVIS tells HUNTER that he is leaving, and HUNTER tells him he wants to come along. That evening, HUNTER telephones home, where ANNE and WALT are worried about him. HUNTER hangs up on them. Later, at a motel, TRAVIS and HUNTER talk about JANE. “Do you remember her?” asks TRAVIS. “Not really,” says HUNTER.

### Sequence 12

They drive to the bank in Houston and see JANE in her car as she makes a deposit. She does not notice them, and drives off, with TRAVIS and HUNTER in pursuit, to a peep show, where she works. TRAVIS follows her inside, sits in a booth with a one-way mirror, and talks to her. JANE does not know she is speaking with TRAVIS.

### Sequence 13

Next day, TRAVIS and HUNTER drive to a hotel, where TRAVIS leaves HUNTER alone in a room. TRAVIS gives HUNTER a tape recording he has made, explaining that HUNTER belongs with his mother, that it was TRAVIS who “tore them apart.” TRAVIS goes to the peep show and talks to JANE, telling her their own story, about how their marriage broke up. Eventually JANE realizes it is TRAVIS on the other side of the mirror. TRAVIS tells her where HUNTER is.

### Sequence 14

JANE goes to the hotel room and re-unites with HUNTER. TRAVIS watches from the car park, then gets into his car and drives away.