

The Mother Road

A VISUAL TREATMENT BY JENNY KLEIMAN // WRITTEN BY C.J. BAER





Please enjoy this **playlist** as we get on the road.

About

When champagne-guzzling Upper East Side housewife, Edie Sawyer, discovers the love of her life, Charlie Sawyer, is cheating, she steals the love of *his* life, a cherry red 1968 Spitfire convertible, and unwittingly drives straight towards her past. Stripped of her possessions and status, Edie must face her repressed trauma while traveling solo in the dusty American West.





Humor of

FIRST WIVES CLUB

Journey of

NOMADLAND

Genre References



A Tale of Two Edies
LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD



Young Edie Hanson

Gum-cracking and nails bitten to the quick, Young Edie is headed to California to chase the Hollywood dream. Edie doesn't care that her 1982 Honda Accord is rusted with torn up upholstery, it's hers.

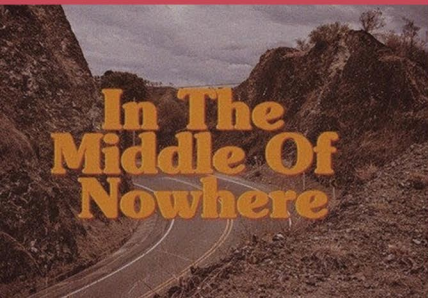
Edie's freedom is quickly hindered, however, when the Accord breaks down and hauled to a lonely gas station, which she hasn't a nickel to her name to pay for. It's here where Young Edie, who can generally fast talk her way out of anything, meets her match: Young Charlie.

Stepping in to save the day, Young Charlie offers Young Edie a lift with just a slight detour to Las Vegas...



Young Charlie & Young Edie

A LEFT-HAND TURN



Now, Edie Sawyer drinks herself into oblivion to numb out her reality. Edie's self-discovery journey begins when she makes a fool of herself at Charlie's very important, Rainbow Room business dinner. Although she appears to be a public menace, deep down, Edie's self-destructive nature is a cry for help from her younger self. Edie is trapped by societal forces which have left her with no agency, no money, and no self-worth.

Edie Sawyer



ACT ONE

TWENTY YEARS LATER



Alcohol-Induced Hallucinations
EDIE'S COPING MECHANISM





PARKER POSEY




MELANIE LYNKEY



WINONA RYDER

Casting
FOR EDIE

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie stands in an office. He has a serious expression. In the background, another man in a suit is visible, and there are office desks and shelves.

The slick and handsome (but slightly paunchy) Charlie Sawyer only has one problem in life: his wife. Edie used to be an asset Charlie could show off, but now, she's nothing to him but a nagging hag who is slowly becoming a liability to his new, shady, business ventures on Wall Street. With a multimillion-dollar deal on the horizon and a new hot piece on his arm, Charlie is willing to do anything to get rid of Edie.

Charlie Sawyer

Anna Sawyer is Edie and Charlie's blue-haired, multi-pierced, depressed and infuriated teenager who refuses to behave as a proper Upper East Side girl should. Anna knows her parent's relationship is dysfunctional (at best) and toxic (at worst) but is unable to see the true antagonist of her family. Although Anna turns her teen-angst rage against Edie, deep down, she wishes her mother would find the fire that once raged in Edie too, so they may both escape their disillusioned life.

Anna Sawyer



Chien Poof



The Sawyer family dog who is bedraggled, oafish, and so ugly that he's cute. Chien Poof is the purebred "froodle" who becomes Edie's only travel companion on the rough dusty road. As their journey together progresses, Chien Poof becomes Edie's lifeline, soul, and the only family member who treats her with real kindness. Like Edie, Chien Poof's travels lead to his own self-discovery...



A hardened nicotine-stained woman, Bobbie was thrown into life's permanent-press cycle. Edie's no-nonsense sister-in-law (married to Edie's late brother, Bryan) can see through the soul, so don't bother putting on airs.

Bobbie is proud to live an honest life after finding Jesus, remaining sober, having been an abuse survivor herself. Although she works at the Dollar Store, she owns her trailer and everything she has in this world.

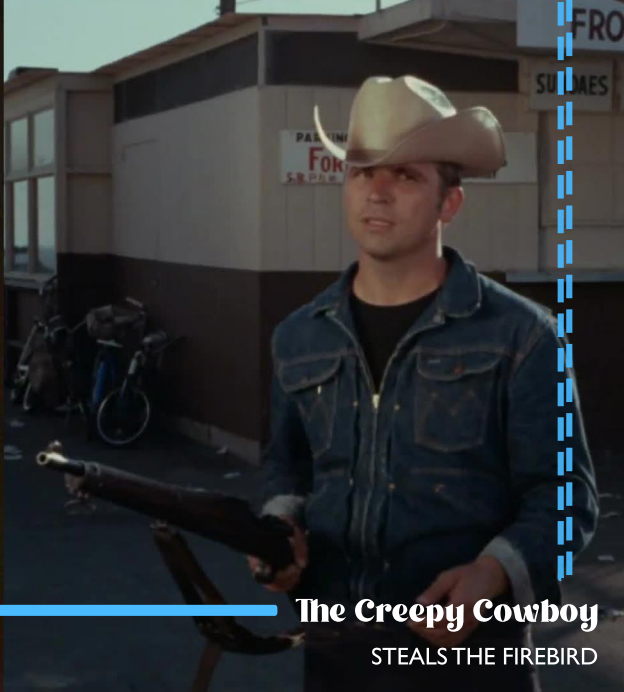
Bobbie detests the falsehood Edie represents and isn't about to give Edie a dime when she comes begging. Why should she? After all, Bobbie did it all on her goddamn own, why can't Edie?

Bobbie





EDIE'S TRAUMA EMERGES



The Creepy Cowboy

STEALS THE FIREBIRD

Marching Toward the Past

PENILESS & ON FOOT



Forces of Nature



EDIE'S INTERNAL & EXTERNAL CONFLICT

THE SEARCH FOR CHIEN

The Desert

ACT THREE



Lorraine

& THE STARDUST DINER

Edie can't believe her eyes when she stumbles upon The Stardust Diner, again. As if frozen in time, the diner has the same red leather booths and polished silverware as when Edie first stopped there, twenty years prior. It's like The Stardust was waiting for her, but this time around, it's more than a pitstop, it's her salvation. Edie, now completely homeless with both the Spitfire and Chien Poof gone, begs for a job at the diner.

Lorraine, a no nonsense waitress, also seems frozen in time and hasn't aged a day since Edie last saw her. Lorraine, wise and all knowing, doesn't take shit from anyone and knows herself unlike anyone else. Once an aspiring actress like Edie, Lorraine has made peace with her day-to-day small-town life and married Ned, the diner's cook. A true friend, Lorraine helps Edie by protecting her, understanding her pain, and providing an opportunity for Edie to get back on her own two feet.



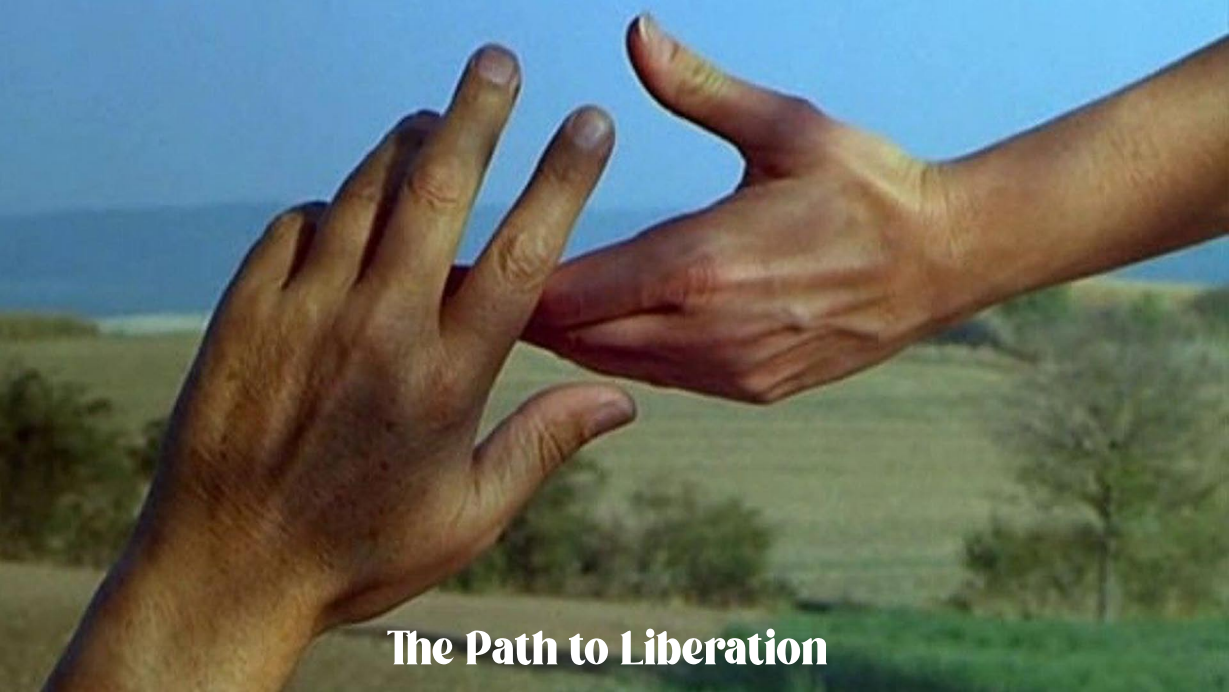
Another Man
ANOTHER DISTRACTION





Charlie: Snake in the Desert
A CLASSIC WESTERN SHOWDOWN





The Path to Liberation



Reuniting with Anna

ALONG FOR THE RIDE

Finding Chien Poof

FREEDOM TO ROAM





The End

& EDIE'S BEGINNING





----- Thank you.

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