

“The Red River”

Two teenagers, a boy and a girl, both high on drugs, make-out behind the local Drive-In, along the banks of the Red River. Left alone for a few minutes, the young girl is brutally murdered.

SEVEN YEARS LATER

RICK MACDONELL, a twenty-five year old former musician, is released from prison. We recognize him as the teenager we first met in the opening scene. Rick is picked up from prison by his older brother, AL, whom he idolizes. Al's stuck by his brother all these years. Rick returns to Brandon, the small town where he grew up, to live in a halfway house. He is bequeathed an abandoned family Drive-In by his late grandfather -the same Drive-In where the seventeen year old Rick was found holding the lifeless body of his teenage girlfriend. Though he claimed he was innocent being high on drugs left Rick always wondering himself if he did it or not.

After being released, Rick goes to work for Al in his used-car dealership. Al's marriage is on the rocks and so is his business. Al and his wife fear Rick's self-destructive behaviour. Rick is in a state of emotional pain. He's hated by virtually everyone in town, except for his brother and BOBBY, the goofy weatherman who is Rick's childhood friend. Rick's mother, EMMA, a piano teacher, has long ago turned to alcohol. She too is haunted by the ghosts of her past. Rick still has a gift for playing the piano, from classical to blues. Rick meets NATALIE, a social worker, originally from Quebec, at the halfway house. Natalie is older than Rick and is troubled herself.

However, both Rick and his older brother Al eventually fall in love with the vulnerable Natalie. Rick also meets ANNIE, a rebellious teenager with whom he shares a late-night tryst. We also meet JEFF, another sexual offender in the community. When Annie goes missing, both Rick and Jeff, the town 'creep,' are the two major suspects. We are never exactly sure about Rick. Still, Rick struggles to put his life back together. Despite offers to buy the Drive-In, he decides, against everyone's wishes, to resurrect the old Drive-In where the crime took place.

Through the help of his friend Bobby, and with Natalie's emotional support, Rick becomes convinced that forensics and DNA may help to exonerate him. He must go back into the past in order to have a future. But Rick's efforts to have the original samples retested are thwarted by the dead girl's brother who has now become the mayor of the town. He's also the man trying to buy the theatre. He's convinced of Rick's guilt and wants to see Rick dead. But Rick can't stop until he finds out the truth, even if it kills him. And it just might. Jeff, the local sex offender is arrested for the disappearance of Annie. But when he hangs himself in prison and the missing girl is still not found, things heat up even further for Rick. The grand-opening of the refurbished Drive-In arrives and so does a revelation which leads Rick to a final gut-wrenching confrontation at the back of the Drive-In.

