T4273 THAT WAS THEN ... THIS IS NOW (USA, 1985)

Credits: director, Christopher Cain; writer, Emilio Estevez; novel, S.E. Hinton.
Cast: Emilio Estevez, Craig Sheffer, Kim Delaney, Morgan Freeman.
Summary: Coming of age melodrama set in the contemporary U.S. Mark Jennings (Estevez), a troubled teenager whose father murdered his mother, has lived for nine years since the incident with the family of his best friend, Byron Douglas (Sheffer). Although the boys have been raised as brothers, they begin to grow apart as their time in high school comes to an end. Byron becomes more serious about life and gets a job and a more mature girl friend, Cathy (Delaney). Mark is jealous of Byron and reacts badly to these changes. He gets into gang fights and gives drugs to Cathy’s unstable younger brother. Mark and Byron try to patch things up at a local pool hall owned by Charlie Woods (Freeman), a black Vietnam vet who has taken a liking to them. When Woods is murdered by two pool hustlers, Mark is pushed over the brink and ends up in jail. Although the charge is minor, Mark seems unable to learn from his experiences and the prospect is that he will eventually wind up back behind bars.

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