

## J2140 JACKKNIFE (USA, 1989)

**Credits:** director, David Jones ; writer/play, Stephen Metcalfe.

**Cast:** Robert De Niro, Ed Harris, Kathy Baker.

**Summary:** Melodrama set in contemporary Connecticut. Dave (Harris), a Vietnam vet who lives with his sister Martha (Baker) in Connecticut, is haunted by the memory of a buddy's death and has become a drunk and a recluse. Then another friend from Vietnam arrives to take Dave up on a long discussed offer of a trout fishing trip. The friend, Joseph 'Megs' Megessey (De Niro), got his nickname 'Jackknife' in Vietnam where he drove trucks and had a propensity for accidents. Martha is at first bewildered and frightened by Megs, but he charms her into coming along on the trip. A spark is struck between them. Megs decides to stay in town working as an auto mechanic. Dave likes the idea of Megs dating his sister even less than he likes Megs, for he blames Megs for his buddy's death in Vietnam. Megs, however, has worked out his own conflicts about the war with a veterans' support group and nudges Dave into doing the same.

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