10 Years of Separation

Screenplay by:

Jonah Sparks

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EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

We see what appears to be a breezy Pacific Northwest night we notice that there must be a party going on as we see a campfire and six small figures dancing around it with loud hip-hop music playing throughout the woods.

JAMES THOMAS, 18, average height and average build with short brown hair, ANDREW WILSON, 18, tall and lanky with medium blonde hair, DAVID CARTER, 18, short and stocky built with medium black hair, MIKE TAYLOR, 17, very muscular and athletic with dark skin and no hair, KEVIN RODRIGUEZ, 17 short and skinny with tan skin and of Hispanic decent and messy black hair, SCOTT LANGSTON, 17, average height and average build with spiky brown hair.

They are just innocent teenagers who are just wanting to have good time without a care in the world.

ANDREW

Anyone else want a beer?

EVERYONE (BUT MIKE)

Yes!

ANDREW (laughing) OK then. What about you Mike?

MIKE

Nah I think I'm good. I'm trying to keep my body in the best shape possible.

ANDREW Oh c'mon man stop being a pussy.

MIKE Dude I said I was good.

ANDREW Alright suit yourself.

JAMES

(whispering to Mike) Don't listen to him. He's drunk as fuck right now.

ANDREW

I heard that.

All Laughing.

MIKE You know one day that shit is going to kill you.

ANDREW Yeah, sure it will.

All goes quiet for a few seconds.

SCOTT Isn't this great. One final night before we go into the real world.

DAVID Why yes it is Mr. Matlock.

Everyone laughs, but Scott

SCOTT

Yeah you'll be saying something different when you're in trouble and need a good lawyer.

DAVID Me get in trouble? I think you need to have this talk with Kevin or Andrew seeing as they'll need it.

SCOTT Not if Andrew is dead by then.

ANDREW Why is everyone picking on me?

KEVIN Because you're the craziest one of us all.

ANDREW Speak for yourself.

KEVIN ((angrily)) What did you say?

ANDREW You heard me druggie!

Kevin quickly gets up with both fists tightened ready to fight Andrew. James and Mike immediately stop him as Daniel and Scott hold Andrew back. ANDREW ((to Kevin)) You wanna fight me then let's go. Right here, right now

DAVID ((to Both Andrew and Kevin)) Guys! Can't we all just get along

Andrew and Kevin stop resisting the pairs that are holding them back.

DAVID (CONT'D) Thank you. Now let's drink another beer.

All scream frantically like a Indian tribe getting ready for war.

MIKE I'm sure going to miss you guys.

JAMES We're gonna miss you too man. But don't worry when the big Allenville and Carter State game comes around we'll be there.

MIKE You guys better be there. I'm gonna run all over you.

JAMES Yeah, we'll see about that.

All give a small chuckle.

JAMES ((to Andrew)) Hey Andrew thanks so much for getting this alcohol for us.

ANDREW Don't mention it. If you want to thank anyone, thank my dad. He's the one who got it.

KEVIN I'd love to have a dad like yours. I mean to have your dad be the

I mean to have your dad be the chief of police is a special thing to have.

(CONTINUED)

MIKE He's not kidding. You've gotten away with a lot of stuff. You're very lucky.

ANDREW

Believe me I know. But sometimes I feel guilty because I've pretty much been protected by him.

SCOTT

It's nothing to be ashamed about. Be proud of who your dad is and what's he done for you.

ANDREW

Yeah, but still.

James then gets up and walks off into the distance. The group looks around and Daniel decides to go after him.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

James stares blankly off into the distance and just soon after Daniel walks up beside him.

DAVID What's on your mind man?

JAMES

((with a lump in his throat)) Nothing, just thinking about my mom.

DAVID Yeah, I know it's hard man. Cancer is a bitch, but listen we're all here for you.

JAMES I know. I honestly don't know what I would've done without you guys.

DAVID

Come here man.

Daniel and James embrace in a hug.

DAVID (CONT'D) Let's get back to the party.

James nods and they both head back towards the party.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

James and Daniel walk back to the campsite and find Andrew lying on the ground with the rest of the group surrounding him.

DAVID What the hell happened?

SCOTT I think he just passed out.

JAMES Doesn't surprise me.

DAVID I think it's time we head to bed.

KEVIN

Good call.

James and Mike both carry Andrew to his tent and the rest of the group all start to head towards their tents. They all tell each other good night and they all sleep the night away.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

All six wake up early in the morning to see the fog roll off of the lake and the sun shining brightly down upon them. James, Daniel, Mike, Scott and Kevin all crawl out of their tents around the same to time to begin packing up and going home. Soon after Andrew wakes up and crawls out of his tent as well.

> ANDREW What the fuck happened last night?

JAMES You passed out.

DAVID Yeah you were totally hammered.

ANDREW I feel like I've been beaten with a hammer.

MIKE Yeah it might be from that rock you hit. Mike points over to the specific rock. Andrew looks over his shoulder at the rock.

ANDREW That explains a lot.

Andrew then begins to take down his tent in order to catch up with everyone else.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

After the tents have been torn down, the fire put out and the garbage picked up, the group heads towards their cars in order to head home to prepare for their high school graduation.

> JAMES Well, I guess I'll see you all tonight then?

The rest of the group agrees.

ANDREW It's crazy to think the next time we actually hang out, we'll be in the real world.

DAVID

Yeah.

MIKE Let's all make a promise never to break apart.

SCOTT Yeah no matter what happens to us let's stay friends.

KEVIN And in 10 years or so we all come back to this very spot and do this all over again.

Everyone in the group agrees. They all say goodbye and get into their separate cars and head off into the distance not knowing what the future holds in store for them. SUPER: "10 YEARS LATER"

We see and messy and wrecked apartment. There are holes in the walls, an open suitcase with clothes spread all across the room and what appears to be a young woman in her early 20's lying naked in the bed.

We then hear a telephone ringing. Just soon after a toilet flushes and the bathroom door opens and out comes an unrecognizable figure. JAMES, 28, with short brown hair, chubby and has a beard.

He slowly walks to the phone and sits on the edge of the bed closest to the phone. Before picking it up he takes a deep breath and then answers the phone.

JAMES ((into the Phone)) Hello.

DAVID (V.O) Hello, is James there?

JAMES ((INTO THE PHONE)) This is him speaking. Who is this?

DAVID (V.O) It's David.

JAMES ((INTO THE PHONE)) David? Hey man how have you been?

DAVID (V.O) I have been pretty good man. How about you?

JAMES (INTO THE PHONE) To be honest man I haven't been so well. I live in a shitty apartment with absolutely no motivation to have a better life.

DAVID (V.O) I hate to hear that man.

There is a long pause before either one speaks again

DAVID (V.O)(CONT'D) Anyway man I hate make you even more depressed, but the reason why I called is because Andrew is dead.

JAMES ((INTO THE PHONE)) What? How and when?

DAVID (V.O) They found him in his car at the bottom of lake with a gunshot wound to the head. They are calling it a homicide.

James takes a long pause and tears start to roll down his face.

DAVID (V.O)(CONT'D) James? James are you there.

James takes a moment to pull himself together before answering the phone again.

JAMES (INTO THE PHONE) Yeah man I'm here.

DAVID (V.O) Well I just wanted to call and tell you. I know how you two left off and I didn't know if you're coming down for the funeral.

JAMES ((INTO THE PHONE)) Have you called the others yet?

DAVID (V.O) Yeah, I've called them and they are all coming down.

JAMES ((INTO THE PHONE)) Ok then, I'll be there.

DAVID (V.O) Alright man just call me when you get in and I'll give you some more details.

JAMES ((INTO THE PHONE)) Sounds good man. DAVID (V.O) OK man I'll talk to you later.

JAMES ((INTO THE PHONE)) Alright bye.

DAVID (V.O)

Bye

Both hang up the phone. James quietly sits on the edge of his bed and puts his hands in his face. After several moments, he slowly raises his head and looks into a mirror that sits across from him.

A bright light of the sun reflecting off of the mirror comes across the screen.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

EXT. FRONTYARD DELTA KAPPA EPSILON HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: "6 YEARS EARLIER"

We see a fraternity house with lights flashing through the windows. A mid-term party is being held by the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity at Allenville University.

Two figures are clamoring off in the distance as they get closer to the front door of the house.

JAMES, 22, average height and average build, BRANDY PENNINGTON, 21, shorter than the average girl and has long brown hair.

JAMES Whelp, we're here.

BRANDY I don't know if they'll like me.

JAMES Stop stressing babe. They will absolutely love you. If they don't who cares. All that matters is that I love you.

BRANDY

I love you too!

They embrace in a kiss. After a couple of minutes of kissing James rings the doorbell to the house. We can hear someone

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rushing through the house to answer the door. Both James and Brandy look at each other puzzled. ANDREW, 22, tall and average height with very short blonde hair with a beer in his right hand.

INT./EXT. DELTA KAPPA EPSILON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANDREW Well I'll be dammed. Look who it is.

They embrace in a bro hug.

JAMES Hey man it's good to see you.

INT. DELTA KAPPA EPSILON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ANDREW C'mon in and enjoy the party.

Both James and Brandy enter into the house and Andrew shuts the door behind them. Once inside the house DANIEL, 22, short in height and stocky build with short black hair, SCOTT, 21, average height and average build with medium brown hair and KEVIN, 21, short with tan skin and really short black hair, rush the front door to hug James. All five embrace in a group hug.

> DAVID ((to James)) Hey buddy what's up?

JAMES Not much just here to party.

SCOTT

I hear that.

James looks around and has a puzzling look on his face.

JAMES Where's Mike at?

Andrew, David, Kevin and Scott all just look at each other speechless.

DAVID Well he hasn't been the most sociable since the accident. JAMES Oh yeah the accident.

They all just pause for a moment.

KEVIN

Anyway, the party is just getting started. You want me to grab you a beer?

JAMES Yeah, Utah grab me two.

KEVIN Two? First off great Point Break reference, secondly did you say two?

JAMES Yeah one for me and one for her.

James points to Brandy.

SCOTT Who is this lovely lady?

JAMES Guys I'd like you all to meet Brandy.

EVERYONE Hi Brandy.

BRANDY Hi guys. It's nice to finally meet you all. James has told me everything about you all.

ANDREW Hopefully not everything.

All laugh.

DAVID So how did you all meet?

BRANDY

Well I was walking to my psychology class and he was walking to his communications class. We both happened to not be paying attention and we ran into each other. He helped me pick up my books and then (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRANDY (cont'd) he asked me out on a date to apologize.

JAMES Yeah at first I didn't think she'd accept, but sure enough she did and we just hit it off from there.

DAVID So it really was love at first sight?

JAMES Yeah I guess you could say it was something like that.

BRANDY And its all led to a wedding after graduation.

James and Brandy kiss while the rest of the group looks confusingly at them.

ANDREW Wait did you say wedding?

BRANDY Yeah we set the date for June 15th.

SCOTT So how long have you two been engaged?

BRANDY (To James) I think it's been about 5 months, right babe.

James nods nervously

KEVIN Well that's a surprise because James has never mentioned you until now.

Brandy quickly turns towards James and angrily stares at him.

BRANDY Is this true? JAMES

((stammering)) Some of it is. They've know for a while that we've been dating.

BRANDY

But you never thought to mention that we are engaged?

JAMES

It just never crossed my mind to tell them.

BRANDY It never crossed your mind?

JAMES Yeah I'm sorry I've just had a lot on my mind and I forgot.

BRANDY Well you can just forget me all you want to because we are through.

JAMES

What?

BRANDY

Don't what me. If you feel ashamed of me and want to hide me from your friends you can go ahead and do it because we are through.

JAMES

But babe.

BRANDY Don't babe me you selfish bastard.

Brandy slaps James across the face and we hear people clamoring in the background after witnessing the incident.

After the slap Brandy runs upstairs crying frantically.

Andrew, David, Scott and Kevin all go over to James to check on him.

ANDREW Are you alright?

JAMES James yeah I'm fine. I might need a minute though. James puts his head into his hands and begins sobbing while David puts his arm around him to console him.

> ANDREW Alright here's what we're going to do. I'm going to go upstairs and try to talk some sense into her while the guys are going to take you out back and get you to relax with a few beers. How does that sound?

James slowly looks at Andrew and nods his head.

ANDREW (CONT'D) Alright, let's make this happen.

Andrew walks away from the group and then head up the stairs

SCOTT C'mon, let's go relax and talk things out.

Daniel, Scott and Kevin all help James out to the back porch.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY DELTA KAPPA EPSILON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Andrew finally gets to the top of the stairs and begins looking through random bedrooms to find Brandy.

We hear and audible woman crying. Andrew stops and turns around to the bedroom and he knocks on the door.

BRANDY (O.S.) Just a second.

ANDREW Hey it's Andrew are you okay?

BRANDY (O.S.) Yeah just give me a minute.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew then opens the door and walks into the dimly lit room and he sees Brandy sitting on the edge of the bed.

> BRANDY What the fuck are you doing? I said I needed a minute.

ANDREW Well I guess that minute went by real quick.

BRANDY

You're weird.

ANDREW That's the best you can come up with?

The both give a small chuckle.

BRANDY Why are you up here?

ANDREW To come and see how you were doing.

BRANDY Well I'm doing good other than the fact that my fiance has been keeping me a secret for almost a

keeping me a secret for almost a year.

ANDREW Well to be fair he did talk about you just not about you.

She gives a confused look.

ANDREW Like he would describe you he just never mentioned your name and he never told us you two were engaged.

BRANDY That doesn't make me feel any better.

Andrew slowly walks over to the bed.

ANDREW Mind if I sit here?

Brandy gives a small nod and Andrew sits on the bed beside her.

ANDREW (CONT'D) I know it doesn't make it any better, but he didn't mean to hurt you. BRANDY He kept me a secret what would you do?

ANDREW Well you're right he did fuck up.

BRANDY

Yes he did.

ANDREW

Listen James has been through a lot and growing up he was never really been focused on anything but himself.

BRANDY You could say that again.

ANDREW

He's never been in a stable relationship before and to be perfectly honest, I think he was just trying to prove to himself that he could be in one and he's failed.

BRANDY I just want him to appreciate me.

ANDREW (CONT'D) Well I would appreciate you.

Brandy looks over to stare Andrew in the eyes as he does the same. Andrew slowly moves closer to Brandy and he gets to the point where the outside of their legs meet.

> ANDREW Has anyone ever told you how beautiful you are?

Brandy shakes her head no. Andrew slowly moves and he begins to kiss Brandy. The start to passionately kiss each other. Brandy stops.

> BRANDY This isn't right. We shouldn't be doing this. I mean you're James's best friend and I'm his fiance.

ANDREW Ex fiance. Nobody has to know anything. Just let it happen. They start kissing again and this time they begin to kiss passionately from the very beginning. They fall to the bed off screen.

EXT. BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

We see that James, David, Scott and Kevin are all outside on the back porch by themselves with audible hip-hop music playing in the background and red solo cups in each of their hands.

Daniel, Scott and Kevin are all standing while James is sitting in a plastic chair that looks as if it is getting ready to give away.

> DAVID How are you holding up?

James keeps his head down and doesn't say a word.

SCOTT C'mon talk to us.

KEVIN Yeah man, we're only here to help you.

DAVID And we can't help you unless you talk to us.

James lifts his head, takes a look at the trio and takes a sip of his drink.

JAMES I'm just so mad at myself.

DAVID Believe me we all understand what you are going through.

KEVIN Yeah we've all fucked up when it comes to relationships.

JAMES But those girls were nothing to you. Brandy is (pauses) was my fiance. SCOTT That's true, but still you gotta stop beating yourself up over her. You made a mistake.

JAMES But I've ruined the only thing in my life I have ever truly loved.

DAVID Well I don't know what else to tell you.

JAMES Well just leave me the fuck alone for a little while.

KEVIN You know we're not leaving you out here by yourself to mope around in your own self pity.

SCOTT Yeah we've had each others backs for awhile now and we're not leaving you behind.

All goes quiet outside for just a moment as James wipes the tears from his eyes and begins to chuckle

> JAMES You know I love you guys.

They all chuckle.

KEVIN

We know.

DAVID

Now here's what you're going to do. You're going to clean up and pull yourself together, you go find her and you apologize to her and work things out.

SCOTT We want you to be happy and if she's the one that does that for you then go get her.

James stand up.

JAMES Thanks guys, I really appreciate you all talking to me.

SCOTT Well stop talking to us and do what's right.

DAVID We'll be right behind you.

KEVIN Yeah after we get a few more beers.

They all laugh together.

JAMES I'll be back (mocking Arnold Schwarzneggar from The Terminator.)

James walks to the back door and leaves the group and enters the house.

INT. DELTA KAPPA EPSILON HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

James walks into the kitchen looking frantically for both Andrew and Brandy. He sees several different groups of people, but they are nowhere to be found.

> JAMES ((to random Partier)) Hey man have you seen Andrew?

FRAT GUY #1 Nah man I haven't seen him since I got here.

JAMES Alright thanks man.

James continues to go through the house trying to find Andrew and Brandy.

JAMES Have you seen Andrew?

FRAT GUY #2
 ((drunkenly))
Nope I hashen't sheen him. Have you
sheen my sues?

JAMES I can't say I have man.

FRAT GUY #2

Ok, thanks.

The frat guy falls over and passes out.

James finally decides to go upstairs. He looks around and he doesn't see them anywhere and he wonders where they are.

JAMES (To another Frat Guy) Have you seen Andrew? I've been looking for him everywhere.

FRAT GUY #3 I think I saw him go in that room.

The frat guys point in the direction of a random room.

JAMES

Thanks.

FRAT GUY #3 No problem man.

James walks over to the door and knocks. He hears loud rock music playing in the room.

JAMES Brandy? Andrew?

He puts his ear to the door and he hears some moaning in the room. He slowly opens the door and he sees Andrew and Brandy having sex.

JAMES WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON!

Brandy screams and Andrew quickly throws Brandy off of him.

BRANDY Baby it's not what it looks like.

JAMES What's it suppose to look like?

Brandy struggles to find the words to say. She begins to cry and mouths the words "I'm Sorry".

JAMES You're sorry?

ANDREW Dude just chill out for a second and let's talk this out.

JAMES You want me to chill out? You want to talk this out? I'll show you talking.

James runs over to Andrew and jumps on the bed and begins to punch Andrew in the face. He switches back and forth between right and left hooks.

The commotion is heard downstairs as David, Scott and Kevin all run into the room and they pull James off of Andrew and hold him back as he struggles to break free.

> JAMES Let me go. I'm not done with him yet.

Andrew moans. His face is bloody and beaten. He spits out blood and a few teeth onto the bedroom floor.

ANDREW Fucking asshole.

JAMES ((angrily))

Oh I'm the fucking asshole. You were fucking my fiance.

ANDREW It just happened.

BRANDY We didn't want to go this far.

JAMES Oh don't tell me that you bitch.

ANDREW (CONT'D) Hey man don't call her that.

James finally breaks free and immediately begins to beat Andrew to a pulp continuing with the same combination of right and left hooks he used before.

Daniel, Scott and Kevin quickly pull James off of Andrew again before he accidentally kills him.

ANDREW Dude stop it.

JAMES

I'm not your dude anymore. The next time I see you I will kill you. Do you understand me you sonofabitch. I will fucking kill you.

All of the commotion both downstairs and upstairs goes silent.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

INT. JAMES'S CAR- MORNING - PRESENT DAY

James, 28, now with a clean and shaved face enters the town of Helena Springs.

JAMES Home sweet home.

James drives right past the town's welcome sign which reads: "Welcome to Helena Springs. The Happiest Place on Earth".

James continues to drive through the town and then he sees something that catches his eye. He pulls off the side of the road.

James gets out of his 1996 Chrysler LeBaron.

EXT. HELENA'S BAR - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

He steps onto the sidewalk and stares up to look at the local bar. The sign reads: Helena's Bar, Home of the Best Beer in town.

He has a depressed look on his face. We hear a garbage can fall over and James quickly looks over to see a HOMELESS MAN dressed in a long and dirty trench coat.

> HOMELESS MAN You look familiar. Haven't I seen you around here before.

JAMES I don't believe so sir. HOMELESS MAN I could've sworn you were here last week.

JAMES I'm sorry sir you must have me confused with someone else.

HOMELESS MAN You calling me a liar boy?

JAMES

No sir.

The homeless man walks towards James

HOMELESS MAN I don't like being called a liar.

JAMES I didn't call you anything.

The homeless man begins to walk even faster towards James. James quickly gets in his car.

INT. JAMES'S CAR- MORNING - CONTINUOUS

As soon as James get's in his car and locks the door. He starts his car and stomps on the gas to speed away from the homeless man.

JAMES ((to himself)) Crazy fucker.

James continues to drive through the town eventually heading to a housing community just outside of town.

The community is full of beautiful and lavishing houses. They all have freshly cut grass and flowers blooming in the front yard.

James continues to drive through the community until he sees something that peeks his interest and he stops his car.

He sees his childhood home. It is the worst looking house on the block. Window shutters are hanging on by a thread, windows are busted out and grass that is so high that it would go to an average person's waist.

It appears as if no one has lived in the home since James graduated high school ten years ago.

JAMES ((TO HIMSELF)) I'm sorry Mom.

James then pulls in what is left of the driveway and turns around to exit the community.

He then drives to another housing community. This community is made up of big 1 floor houses and a street lined with trees.

He pulls into the driveway of random home. He shuts off the car and get's out of his car.

EXT./INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

James shuts the door to his car and walks the path the front door. He reaches the door and knocks three times.

He hears a wide variety of noises coming from inside the house.

VOICE ((from Inside the House)) Just a second.

Within a couple of seconds a man opens the door. It's David, 28, short and stocky build with a bald head.

JAMES

David?

DAVID James. My goodness you've gotten ugly.

JAMES Speak for yourself baldy.

Both laugh and embrace in a bro hug.

DAVID

What's going on man

JAMES

Ah not much just figured I'd stop by and see if you'd let me crash here tonight.

DAVID Hell man you don't have to ask. C'mon in man. Do you want a beer? JAMES Yeah sure just let me go and grab my stuff real quick.

DAVID Sounds good man.

Daniel shuts the door and James head back to his car to get his suitcase. After he gets his stuff, he walks back towards the house and enters.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON - LIVING ROOM

DAVID (O.S.) Go ahead and make yourself at home.

James looks around and observes the various decorations in the house. He looks over and sees a picture that catches his eye. He walks over to it and sees that it is a picture of the group all together at their graduation ceremony.

> DAVID (O.S.) Yeah that's my favorite picture. Back before all of this bullshit happened.

JAMES Those were simpler times.

DANIEL Yeah, here ya go man.

David hands James a beer.

JAMES Thanks man.

manno man.

DAVID

So what have you been up to?

David walks over to a couch and sits down.

DAVID

Have ya seat man.

James walks over to a recliner and sits down.

JAMES Not much man I've just been going through the motions, working a crappy job and living the life. DAVID

I know what you mean man.

JAMES

How about you man what have you been up to?

DAVID

Well since the last time we met I've started my own business.

JAMES

Oh really?

DAVID

Yeah after dad passed away I had to sell the restaurant to help pay for his funeral.

JAMES I'm sorry I wasn't there.

DAVID

It's alright don't worry about it. Anyway the next thing I did was that I got married to Kate.

JAMES Wait, you got married?

DAVID

Yeah man didn't you see the pictures?

JAMES Nah I didn't pay any attention. Why wasn't I invited.

DAVID

Well Andrew was in the wedding and I recall the last time you two saw each other you said you would fucking kill him.

JAMES

Yeah I did say that didn't I?

DAVID

Yeah so I figured that it wouldn't be good to have a bloodbath at my wedding. JAMES Smart thinking.

DAVID

Yeah, well after that as I said before got married to Kate and her dad is a big time CEO and he lent me the money to start my own business. I am now the owner of Lewis's Diner.

JAMES

That's your restaurant?

DAVID

Yes sir.

JAMES It's looks nice man. I'm really proud of you.

DAVID

Yeah, look if you want to move back here I can give you a job as head manager. My last guy just quit.

JAMES I appreciate it, but I can't come back here. Too many bad memories.

DAVID

I understand. Well the offer is always open.

JAMES Thanks man. I really appreciate it.

DAVID

Cheers.

JAMES So where is Kate.

DAVID

Oh shes over at the restaurant. Tonight is her night to manage. She probably has Lucas with her too.

JAMES

Lucas?

DAVID Oh yeah I forgot to tell you I have a 3 year-old son named Lucas.

JAMES Wow that's great.

DAVID Yeah he's a handful, but I love him to death.

JAMES

Well I'm glad to hear that. It seems you've got life all figured out.

DAVID

I guess you could say that, but I just wish dad was still here that way I could be off doing my own thing as a counselor.

JAMES Yeah it's tough. I haven't been the same guy since Mom died.

DAVID

Yeah.

JAMES At least we have each other.

DAVID

Amen to that.

They both raise their beers and then take a drink. They soon hear a knock at the door.

DAVID Who could that be.

They both get up an walk toward the door. David opens it.

EXT./INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

We see DETECTIVE DANIEL MITCHELL, 51, tall, lanky and a thin build and short black hair.

DAVID Hello detective how are you? DET. MITCHELL I'm doing fine Mr. Carter. How are you?

DAVID

Oh I'm doing pretty good. Detective Mitchell this is my good friend James Thomas, he's one of mine and Andrew's friends. James this is Detective Daniel Mitchell. He's the one leading the investigation on Andrew's murder.

JAMES Nice to meet you detective.

DET. MITCHELL Nice to meet you as well. May I come in?

DAVID

Yeah, sure come on in.

Detective Mitchell walks into the house and David shuts the door behind him.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DAVID Have a seat. Do you wanna beer?

DET. MITCHELL Nah I can't I'm on duty, but thank you though.

James and David both sit back down in the seats they were sitting in before and Det. Mitchell pulls a chair from a kitchen to the living room to sit across from both of them.

> DET. MITCHELL (CONT'D) So I guess you both want to know why I am here.

Both James and David look at each other and then back to Det. Mitchell and they nod their heads.

DET. MITCHELL (CONT'D) Well as you all know Andrew Wayne Wilson was found at the bottom of Helena Springs Lake in his 2012 Chevy Cruze in the passenger seat. He was found with a gunshot wound (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DET. MITCHELL (CONT'D) (cont'd) to the head. As of right now we do not have any leads.

JAMES Do you have any clues?

DET. MITCHELL

Not right now, but my team is working viciously to find out who did this and why.

DAVID That's good to hear.

JAMES I'm just curious as to why someone would do such a thing.

DAVID Really? You should know good and well why someone would want to kill him.

DAVID (CONT'D) (to Det. Mitchell)

Andrew made a lot of enemies throughout his life so there are plenty of people who would want to.

DET. MITCHELL Believe me Mr. Carter I worked with him. I know what he's done.

JAMES What do you mean work with him?

Both David and Det. Mitchell give James a very strange look.

JAMES

Sorry I'm asking so many dumb questions. This is my first time back in town over the past ten years.

DET. MITCHELL

I see. Well Andrew has been apart of the police force for about 6 years. He was just recently given Chief of Police after his father stepped down.

JAMES

Oh wow.

DET. MITCHELL

Yeah, a lot of people were in shock including Andrew. Whelp gentlemen I Just wanted to come by and give a quick update on the situation,

DAVID We appreciate it detective. Will you be at the funeral tomorrow?

DET. MITCHELL I don't know yet. I've got a lot of things to do including solving this case. But if I'm not there, then please give everyone my condolences.

DAVID Will do. Thanks for stopping by.

JAMES It was nice to meet you detective.

DET. MITCHELL Nice to meet you as well. So long fellas.

JAMES

Bye.

DAVID

See ya.

Det. Mitchell walks out the front door and heads towards his car and David shuts the door behind him.

Both David and James take deep breaths almost as if they are relieved Det. Mitchell is gone.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - A FEW HOURS LATER

James and David sit on the couch watching a re-run episode of some random cartoon show as they await the arrival of David's wife Kate.

> DAVID You want another beer?

JAMES I think I'm good man. I've reached my limit.

DAVID Alright suit yourself.

David gets up to get him another beer, but as he gets up he realizes that he too has reached his limit.

DAVID (CONT'D) I think I may be right with you.

They both give a soft chuckle.

Just as they stop laughing a pair of headlights beam thought the living room window as someone has just pulled into the driveway.

DAVID (CONT'D) That must be Kate.

Both get up an head towards the door to greet Kate.

KATE CARTER, 26, short with muscular tone with long black hair. She opens the door.

KATE Dave are you home?

DAVID Yeah hun I'm right here.

KATE I'm so glad to see you.

DAVID

Me too.

They kiss while in the background James rolls his eyes.

KATE Honey who is this?

DAVID

Oh I forgot. Kate this is James. We've been friends since childhood. James this is my lovely wife Kate.

They both extend arms to shake each others hands.

JAMES It's nice to meet you.

KATE It's nice to meet you as well.

DAVID

James is going to be staying with us until the funeral is over. Is that OK?

KATE

Yeah that's fine. I just hope he doesn't object to sleeping in here. We can't put you in Lucas's room. His bed won't fit you.

JAMES Yeah I'm fine with staying in here.

DAVID

Alright then. ((To Kate) Speaking of Lucas... where is the little rascal?

KATE

Well he was being impatient at the restaurant so I called my mom and she came and got him. He's going to stay there tonight and she is going to drop him off before the funeral tomorrow.

DAVID OK then that sounds great.

David yawns.

DAVID (CONT'D) I'm killed I think I'm heading to bed.

KATE I shall join you.

DAVID

((TO JAMES)) Hey let me get a few things for you and I'll come back and set you up. JAMES Alright sounds good.

DAVID

OK then.

KATE We'll see you in the morning James.

James waves to Kate as she heads toward her and David's bedroom.

After being out of the room for a few minutes, David comes back into the room with a blanket and two pillows.

DAVID Will this hold you over or do you need more.

JAMES

Nah I'm good man. I really appreciate you letting me stay here.

DAVID

Anytime man.

JAMES I just wish we were meeting under different circumstances.

DAVID

Me too man, me too. Anyway goodnight bro. I'll see you in the morning.

JAMES Alright see ya then man.

David leaves the room.

James situates the pillows and blanket the way he wants them.

He sits on the couch, then lays down and pulls the blanket over his body. He stares at the ceiling for just a few moments before he falls fast asleep. James wakes up after the bright beams of the sun flash into his eyes.

He opens his eyes and rolls over to the edge of the couch.

He then sees LUCAS CARTER, 3 , normal size for a child with curly blonde hair, staring at him.

JAMES You must be Lucas.

Lucas continues to stare at James.

JAMES Well I'm James. I'm friends with your daddy.

Lucas continues to stare at James.

As James stars to get up, Lucas immediately runs away and heads towards David who happens to be walking down the hall. David picks him up.

> DAVID ((to Lucas)) Hey sport. I missed you so much. Daddy wants to introduce you to someone.

David (with Lucas) walks over to James.

DAVID James this is my son Lucas. Lucas this is daddy's friend James. Can you say Hi James?

Lucas continues to stare at James.

DAVID Must not be talkative today. Usually he won't shut up. I'll be back in a second.

As David walks back towards his bedroom James rubs his eyes.

David goes towards his and Kate's bedroom and lays him down with her.

He then walks back to the living room.

DAVID You want breakfast?

JAMES Yeah I could go for some breakfast.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

We David has finished cooking breakfast which includes the basic eggs, biscuit & gravy, bacon and sausage.

DAVID

Dig in.

They both start filling their plates with the various items of food. As soon as both fill their plates they begin to scarf down the food as if they haven't eaten in 3 days.

> JAMES This is really good dude.

DAVID Why thank you.

JAMES Where did you learn to cook.

DAVID Well dad taught me a few things and then I just read cookbooks and watched Rachel Ray while I was home.

James stops eating for a moment and begins to laugh.

DAVID

What?

JAMES You're so weird dude.

They both begin to laugh very hard and they each nearly choke on the food in their mouths.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING - BATHROOM - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

We see James in the bathroom. He is dressed up in a suit with no tie.

He looks into the mirror and takes one final look at himself.

He nods in satisfaction and walks out of the bathroom.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

James walks into the living room to wait on everyone else.

DAVID (O.S.) Hey James! Are you ready to go?

JAMES Yeah I'm just waiting on you all.

DAVID Alright give me five minutes.

JAMES Sounds good.

INT. DAVID'S CAR - NOON

We David and James in one care, while Kate and Lucas are in the car behind them.

Both James and David are dressed in black with sunglasses on.

DAVID This is going to be tough.

JAMES I know. I'm a little nervous.

DAVID Why are you nervous for. It's just a funeral.

JAMES

It's not that. It's seeing everyone for the first time in a long time.

DAVID I understand. But I haven't seen the guys in years either.

JAMES I haven't seen them since that night. I haven't seen Mike since... well you know when. DAVID

Yeah I know.

Both exhale deeply.

EXT. HELENA SPRINGS CEMETERY PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

We see the local cemetery off in the distance with a large group of people walking towards a tent over top of a casket.

David's car pulls into the parking lot and they find a spot surprisingly close to the grave site.

David and James get out of the car. KATE, 28 wearing a black dress and LUCAS, 3, wearing a black tuxedo, walk towards them as they parked far away from them.

David takes a deep breath.

DAVID You ready for this?

JAMES Ready as I'll ever be.

The group begins to walk towards the grave site.

EXT. HELENA SPRINGS CEMETERY - ANDREW'S GRAVE - CONTINUOUS

James and David find two open seats at near the casket. Kate and Lucas choose to stand towards the back.

As they take their seats FATHER BRADFORD COMBS, 65, short with grey hair and wearing a black clergy uniform.

FATHER BRADFORD COMBS Thank you all for coming on this beautiful Saturday morning that the lord has blessed us with as we lay to rest Andrew Wayne Wilson.

He pauses for a moment to catch his breath.

FATHER BRADFORD COMBS (CONT'D) Andrew was a role model in the community. He was the head of our local police force, he and his wife Brandy have done numerous charity events.

Father Bradford Combs continues talks off-screen and we don't hear what he is saying.

We see James with puzzled look on his face and he turns to Daniel as if he were getting ready to say something, but decides not say anything.

We focus back onto Father Bradford Combs as he finishes his eulogy.

FATHER BRADFORD COMBS (CONT'D) In conclusion Andrew was taken from this world too early, but he is in the lord's hands for all of eternity. Let us pray.

Everyone stands and bows there heads. As Father Bradford Combs prays people begin to life their heads and walk by Andrew's casket to pay their final respects.

EXT. HELENA SPRINGS CEMETERY PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

After the funeral is over the people head over to the parking lot and they begin to converse with each other.

KATE I thought that that was beautiful

DAVID

That was rough.

JAMES

No kidding. I mean I know that we didn't end our friendship on the best of terms, but he was still like a brother to me.

DAVID

I understand completely. He was family to me so it's pretty tough right now.

KATE

(to David) I'm going to take Lucas to car and we're going to head to the church to start prepping for the meal.

DAVID Alright we'll be there as soon as we can.

David and Kate kiss.

KATE

I love you.

DAVID I love you too.

Kate walks away from David and Lucas.

JAMES Bye Kate. Bye Lucas.

Both Kate and Lucas wave goodbye.

As James and David stand by David's car with no words between them.

SCOTT (O.S.) Who let you two out of the zoo.

Both look over and they see SCOTT, 27, with short brown hair and goatee, wearing a black suit.

JAMES

Hey, man.

Scott and James embrace in a hug.

DAVID

What's up?

Scott and David embrace in a hug.

SCOTT

Not much, just came here to pay my respects. What have you all been into?

JAMES Nothing just doing the same as you.

SCOTT Well I'm glad to see you all. It's been a long time.

DAVID It has been a long time.

KEVIN (O.S.) James? David? Scott?

All three look over and they see Kevin, 27, with semi-long black hair wearing a black suit.

JAMES Is that Kevin Rodriguez?

KEVIN Yes it most certainly is.

Kevin and James embrace in a hug. Kevin and David embrace in a bro hug as do Kevin and Scott.

KEVIN (CONT'D) Good lord you all look like shit.

DAVID Look in the mirror buddy.

All laugh.

The group stops laughing as they hear a screeching noise and they look over to see MIKE, 27, bald with a black suit and he is sitting in a wheelchair.

SCOTT

Mike?

MIKE Yes Scott it's me.

JAMES It's been a long time.

MIKE Yeah 8 years is a pretty long time.

DAVID

I've tried calling you over the years and I've never gotten a hold of you until the other day.

MIKE I've been busy since the accident.

SCOTT

We told you if you needed anything then all you had to do was let us know and we would've been there in a heartbeat.

MIKE

Well if you had been there on that night then maybe I wouldn't be in this wheelchair. JAMES Don't get mad at us.

MIKE If I could get up out of this chair then I would come over there and break my foot off in your ass.

James starts to move towards Mike as if he's going to hit him.

MIKE (CONT'D) What? Are you afraid to hit a cripple. Go ahead and hit me and see what happens.

James stops and puts his fist down.

MIKE (CONT'D) That's what I thought.

There is an awkward moment of silence before someone comes over and breaks the ice.

DET. MITCHELL

Hello

Everyone looks over to see DET. DANIEL MITCHELL, 51, in a black suit with a cup of coffee in his right hand.

DAVID Hello detective I'm glad to see that you could make it. How are you?

David and Det. Mitchell shake hands.

DET. MITCHELL I'm good Mr. Carter. I hope I'm not interrupting anything.

DAVID

Oh no you're not interrupting anything. Just a friendly argument.

DET. MITCHELL

I see.

DAVID

Um Detective I'd like to introduce you some of my friends. Of course you already know James.

James and Det. Mitchell shake hands.

DAVID (CONT'D) (Pointing to the rest of the group) This is Scott, Kevin and Mike.

Det. Mitchell shakes all of their hands.

DET. MITCHELL Nice to meet you all.

DAVID Guys Det. Mitchell is the one overseeing the investigation of Andrew's murder.

DET. MITCHELL Oh I wanted to talk you about that.

JAMES What did you find out detective.

DET. MITCHELL Well James we found some fingerprints earlier and I just got the call that we may have found the murder weapon.

SCOTT Have you come up with any suspects?

DET. MITCHELL Not yet, but we're working on it.

DAIVD Well thank you for the update detective.

DET. MITCHELL No problem. We'll call you if we find anything new.

JAMES That sounds great.

DET. MITCHELL Well I have to get back to work so I will see you all later.

DAVID Goodbye detective DET. MITCHELL Bye guys.

Det. Mitchell walks off towards his car as the group reconvene themselves.

JAMES Well that was interesting.

KEVIN Hearing about Andrew dying didn't really sink in until he came over and talked about the investigation.

MIKE I still hate the bastard.

SCOTT Oh c'mon man get over it.

MIKE Don't tell me what to do.

Mike and Scott continue to argue in the background.

James looks over and catches a glimpse of the woman he saw earlier and he begins to walk towards her.

JAMES

Excuse me miss.

The woman turns around and it's BRANDY, 27, short with long blonde hair with sunglasses on to hide the suns glare.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Brandy?

BRANDY

James?

Both just blankly stare at each other for a second.

JAMES

Um....

BOTH (TOGETHER) How have you been?

They both giggle a little.

JAMES I've been pretty good despite the circumstances.

BRANDY I know what you mean.

JAMES Yeah. So how have you been?

BRANDY I've been pretty good other this whole ordeal.

JAMES How long has it been since we talked to each other?

BRANDY

The last time I remember seeing you, you were yelling at me and kicking the shit out of Andrew.

JAMES Oh, it's been that long.

BRANDY

Yep.

JAMES

So what have you been doing since that night.

BRANDY

Well after that night, I stayed in school and finished up my degree. Then Andrew got in touch with me and we had dinner. Then we started dating and about 2 years ago he purposed, I said yes and we were married for a year and a half.

James has a shocked look on his face.

BRANDY (CONT'D) What's wrong?

JAMES Nothing I'm just shocked you got married. Especially to him. BRANDY What's the big deal. He was there for me when you weren't.

JAMES

The only reason why I wasn't there for you is because you were fucking my bestfriend while we were dating and tried to defend him.

BRANDY Well if you hadn't kept me a secret, then...

James interrupts her mid-sentence.

JAMES (ANGRILY) I didn't keep you secret from anyone.

Brandy looks at him with a scared look one her face.

She then begins to grab her stomach in pain.

JAMES (CONT'D) Hey are you alright?

Brandy looks up at him and nods her head.

BRANDY

Yeah, it's just little Hunter. He kicks really hard.

JAMES Wait, your pregnant?

BRANDY Yeah, I told Andrew the night he was murdered.

JAMES Oh my. What did he say?

BRANDY

Well the night I told him the news he was drunk. He got a little abusive and as he was walking out the door, I told him just so he would stay. He just looked at me and laughed. That was the last time I saw him alive. JAMES That sonofabitch. Did you tell the cops?

BRANDY

No.

JAMES Why in god's name would you not tell anyone?

BRANDY

Because I knew he was a good person and I loved him.

JAMES That's what everyone else says. You know what generally happens to people who don't say anything. They end up dead.

Both pause.

JAMES Listen, I'm sorry for everything and if you need me then let me know and I'll be right there for you.

Brandy nods.

JAMES (CONT'D) C'mon, let's head over to your car.

They both walk over to Brandy's car a 2004 Ford Explorer.

James opens the door for her and Brandy slowly get's in.

JAMES (CONT'D) Bye Brandy.

Brandy waves goodbye, starts her car and drives off.

James stands in the same place and watches her drive away from him.

James then begins to walk back over to the group.

DAVID Hey man, we've come up with a really great idea. JAMES Oh lord what is it?

SCOTT Well since we're all together.

MIKE Minus Andrew.

Scott looks over at Mike and just slowly shakes his head.

SCOTT Yes minus Andrew. How about we all hold to our end of our agreement we made 10 years ago.

JAMES You mean go back to the campsite and maybe drink a few beers.

KEVIN Yeah why not? It'd be great for everyone to chit chat and catch up on how everyone's been.

JAMES I don't know man.

DAVID C'mon man it'll be fun.

JAMES I just don't want to bring up old memories.

SCOTT Look that's all in the past now. We as a group of friends have been separated for 10 years... 10 years. That's way too long. I know how you are feeling, I'm feeling it too. Let's just go have fun and reconnect.

James takes a deep breath.

JAMES Alright, fine let's do it.

DAVID

That's my guy.

They all cheer and celebrate.

We see DET. DANIEL MITCHELL sitting at his desk working on his computer typing frantically.

He is looking through Andrew's files to look up his history.

His partner LT. LARRY HOLMES, 55, short and fat with a bald head.

LT. HOLMES What are you doing Dan?

DET. MITCHELL I am going through Chief Wilson's records.

LT. HOLMES I thought we already went through them.

DET. MITCHELL We did. I've just had a hunch here lately.

LT. HOLMES Look I know you want to solve this case just as bad as I do, but you can't keep going over repeated information.

DET. MITCHELL I know what I'm doing Larry.

LT. HOLMES I hope you do? Because you know what happened the last time you digging around in something you shouldn't have been in.

DET. MITCHELL Larry shut up! I know what I'm doing.

Lt. Holmes has a look of disbelief on his face and just slowly walks away from Det. Mitchell.

DET. MITCHELL (CONT'D) OK Chief, what have you been hiding?

He continues to stare at his computer and it appears he has come across something that has peaked his interest. DET. MITCHELL (CONT'D) Well look at we have here.

His phone immediately rings. He looks at his phone and hesitates before finally picking it up.

DET. MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Hello?

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

We see a fire lighting up the entire woodland area with James, David, Scott, Kevin and Mike all getting ready to take their seats around the fire.

They have several beers sitting around them that are unopened as they don't want to have to get up to get another one in the near future.

> JAMES This is great.

He looks around at the rest of group.

JAMES (CONT'D) Us all being together for the first time in 10 years.

DAVID I know. This is cheering me up a little bit.

SCOTT Everybody stand up.

Mike looks up at him and Scott looks back at him

SCOTT (CONT'D Or you can sit too.

The rest of the group besides Mike finally stands up.

Scott raises his bottle of bear up.

SCOTT (CONT'D) Let's have a toast. To our friendship and everything it's been through over the years. And to out friend who is no longer with us, mat he rest in peace. ALL TOGETHER

Cheers.

They all touch bottles and take a drink. After they take a drink they all sit down in their original seats.

JAMES So just to go ahead and break the ice. What's everyone been up to over the years?

They all pause for a few moments.

JAMES (CONT'D) C'mon guys we didn't come back here to just sit around and drink a few beers.

SCOTT Fine I'll get the ball rolling.

He stands up.

SCOTT (CONT'D) Well as you all know, my initial plans went up in smoke and I had to find a backup plan quickly.

He takes a drink.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

No law firm would hire me, so I had to look elsewhere. I got help from my brother Mark and he was able to get me a job at the corporate FedEx office as a customer service associate. I ended up marrying Rachel you all remember Rachel from high school

The group nods in agreement.

SCOTT (CONT'D) And we are actually expecting our first child in November.

KEVIN That's great man.

JAMES I'm really happy for you. DAVID Having a child is a special thing.

Scott hangs his head trying not to blush front of them.

SCOTT

Thanks guys.

Mike scoffs at Scott.

MIKE At least you can have kids.

SCOTT Mike, I didn't mean anything towards you.

MIKE It's all the same. You have no idea what it's been like for me.

Everyone pauses.

MIKE (CONT'D) I had it all. A full ride, a beautiful girl and a chance to make myself a better person.

Mike begins to tear up.

MIKE (CONT'D) (CRYING)

Now look at me. I'm stuck at some High School teaching history to a bunch of kids who could fucking care less about what I'm teaching them. I should be in the league right now making millions, but instead I'm sitting here in a damn wheelchair around a campfire with a bunch of guys who haven't called me to checkup on how I was doing.

Everyone continues to be silent.

MIKE (CONT'D) (CONTINUING TO CRY) You know, I've never told anyone this before, but You all don't know how close I've come to ending it all.

Everyone gasps and has a shocked look on their face.

JAMES

What?

MIKE You fucking heard me.

DAVID I never would've thought of you being the type to do that.

MIKE Why's that?

DAVID

Because I remember you being the toughest sonofabitch in school and for you to do go and try to commit suicide makes you the biggest bitch in the world. Your not the same Mike I used to know.

Mike begins to cry and Scott comes over and wraps his arm around him to consul him.

KEVIN

Mike.

Mike raises his head up.

KEVIN (CONT'D) If it wasn't for you I wouldn't be here. I mean not many people are going to hire a convicted felon especially a drug dealer.

Mike shakes his head.

KEVIN (CONT'D) But because you vouched for me, I was able to get a job. Now being a janitor wasn't my dream job, but it's still something and I can never repay you.

Kevin walks over and gives Mike a big hug.

JAMES I know my life isn't is bad as yours Mike, but I mean after that party, my life just went away.

He takes a drink.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I had my whole life planned out with Brandy and after she was gone I just went to the only thing I knew much about. I didn't finish college and the bottle became my bestfriend.

Everyone stares at James intently.

JAMES (CONT'D) I wanted to be able to help people who had cancer just so they didn't end up like my mom and now I'm a fucking case file manager at some stupid law firm working for shitty pay and shitty people.

James begins to choke up.

JAMES (CONT'D) And to think that because of one person my life turned out to be just a complete wreck.

Everyone hangs there heads.

SCOTT

I have ever explained the entire situation on how I got kicked out of school.

DAVID Yeah, you said that you cheated on an exam. We were shocked because you were the smart one.

Scott shakes his head.

SCOTT Well that's not necessarily what happened.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. FELTNER HALL - ROOM 310 - ALLENVIEW UNIVERSITY - DAY

SUPER: "6 YEARS EARLIER"

We see Scott, 21, average height and average build with medium brown hair sitting at his desk working very hard on his senior thesis.

He hears a knock on his door.

SCOTT

Come in.

In walks Andrew, 22, tall and average height with very short blonde hair enter the room.

SCOTT (CONT'D) Hey man what's up?

ANDREW Not much just came by to talk to you.

SCOTT Alright what do you want to talk about?

ANDREW First off have you talked to James?

SCOTT Nah I haven't seen or heard from him since the party.

ANDREW Damn, I really need to talk to him. I need to apologize.

SCOTT Yeah you definitely do.

ANDREW Anyway I had something else to talk to you about.

SCOOT

Ok shoot.

ANDREW Well you know me I'm the slacker type.

SCOTT Yes I know this.

ANDREW

Well I've been holding off on taking this history class and I'm not doing do good. If I don't get at least a C on my next exam then I fail the class and I don't graduate. SCOTT Ok I'll help you study. It's no big deal.

ANDREW Well the test is tomorrow and I'm not prepared and I was wondering if you would take the test for me.

SCOTT

What?

ANDREW I need you to take the test for me.

SCOTT Do you realize what you're asking me to do?

Andrew tries to speak but is cutoff before he can begin.

SCOTT (CONT'D) I mean if I were to do this I'm taking a huge risk. If I get caught then I'm expelled and I'm three weeks away from going into law school.

Scott walks over to his window.

ANDREW I know, but I'm willing to do whatever you want me to do or get you anything you want.

Scott takes a deep breath before turning back towards Andrew.

SCOTT

Anything?

ANDREW

Anything.

SCOTT Alright I'll do it.

ANDREW Sweet thank you so...

SCOTT On one condition. ANDREW What's that? SCOTT If I get caught. You go down with me.

ANDREW

Deal.

They both shake hands.

SCOTT Where do I need to be and when do I need to be there?

ANDREW Tomorrow at 1:00pm at the Anderson building room 345. I've got the study guide right here.

SCOTT Ok, I'll get to work on this.

They both shake hands and Andrew leaves the room.

INT. ANDERSON BUILDING - ROOM 345 - ALLENVIEW UNIVERSITY - AFTERNOON

We see Scott sitting in room 345 taking the test. THE PROFESSOR, 46, tall with a bald head and wearing a sweater vest and a pair of glasses is walking around the room to check on the students to make sure they aren't cheating.

He comes to Scott and he stops and taps him on the shoulder.

PROFESSOR Excuse me I don't think I've ever seen you in here before.

SCOTT I'm sorry, but I've been in this class since day one.

PROFESSOR What's your name?

SCOTT Andrew Wilson. PROFESSOR Can I see your student ID?

SCOTT

Yeah sure.

Scott reaches into his back pocket to get his wallet.

He pulls out his student ID and hands it to the professor. The professor looks at it with a puzzled look on his face.

> PROFESSOR Stay right here. I'll be right back.

Scott watches the professor walk away to his desk.

The professor gets his cellphone and makes a call.

As he is making the call he is looking directly at Scott.

INT. ANDERSON BUILDING - ROOM 345 - ALLENVIEW UNIVERSITY - AFTERNOON - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

A little times passes and Scott continues to sit in his chair and take the test.

We hear a knock at the door and the professor walks over and opens the door and in walks in the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, 54, tall and very thin with short cheery blonde hair.

> PROFESSOR Mr. Wilson.

Scott looks up.

PROFESSOR The Executive Director of Academic Integrity would like to speak with you.

Scott gathers his things and walks towards the door and exits the classroom.

INT. FELTNER HALL - ROOM 310 - ALLENVIEW UNIVERSITY - AFTERNOON

We see Scott packing up his possessions and we then hear a knock at the door.

SCOTT

It's open.

In comes Andrew.

ANDREW Hey how'd it go? Wait why are you packing up your stuff?

SCOTT

I got caught.

ANDREW

What?

SCOTT

Your professor caught me taking your test. I had a meeting with the Executive Director of Academic Integrity and she told me I was expelled from school.

ANDREW Oh man I hate to hear that.

SCOTT Yeah. I can't believe I did it. I threw away all of my dreams just to help you.

Andrew looks away from Scott.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Are you going to keep up your end of the bargain and try to get me out of this jam.

ANDREW

About that. See my dad found out about this and he talked with a few people and I'm got off without anything being put on my record.

SCOTT

What?

ANDREW I'm off the hook.

SCOTT And what am I supposed to do?

ANDREW I don't know, but next time don't do something for me.

SCOTT You motherfucker!

Scott walks towards Andrew and punches him in the face.

ANDREW

Dick.

SCOTT

You just ruined me. What did I do to deserve this? I was your friend and you stab me in the back just for your own personal gain.

ANDREW

I'm sorry.

SCOTT You listen to me. If I ever see you again you better hope your dead because I will beat the living shit out of you.

Scott walks out of his room before he begins to hurt Andrew even more.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

SCOTT After that I went the down the road I'm on right now and it's all because of that selfish bastard.

Everyone pauses for just a moment to take in this information.

JAMES I'm glad you told us that. SCOTT

I've just never felt comfortable talking about it to anyone before. You guys are the only people I can talk to about this because we are the ones who knew Andrew the best.

KEVIN

Well since we are having story time I think I need to tell you how I got to prison.

DAVID You got busted for drugs man. What else is their to explain?

KEVIN There's more to it.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: "4 YEARS EARLIER"

We see Kevin, 23, with short black hair and raggedy clothes, jeans with tears and Led Zeppelin t-shirt. The room is pretty dark and loud music playing in the background.

He has a metal pan in front of him with a line of cocaine on it. Kevin reaches down with a piece of a plastic straw in his hand and he puts it to his nose and snorts the cocaine.

> KEVIN (TO HIMSELF) That hit the spot.

We then hear a knock at the front door of the house.

KEVIN

Just a minute.

He begins to clean up his room and starts to hid the drugs, the straw and the metal pan. He turns down the music and walks out of the bedroom.

He then goes to his front door and opens it. Standing in front of the door is ANDREW, 24, tall, has an average weight and has medium blonde hair.

KEVIN Hey buddy, how have you been?

They embrace in a bro hug.

ANDREW I've been pretty good, how about yourself?

KEVIN I'm doing about the same. C'mon on in and have ya a seat, Do you want anything to drink?

Kevin walks over to his refrigerator as Andrew enters the house and swivels his head as he looks around the living room. He then sees a seat and sits down in it.

> ANDREW I'm good. I'm on call tonight.

Kevin peeks his head over the refrigerator door.

KEVIN I see. Is the hospital keeping you pretty busy.

Andrew gives him a dissatisfied and confused look while Kevin continues to look in the fridge.

> ANDREW Yeah they do keep me busy. I'm on call just about every night.

Again Kevin peeks his head over the refrigerator door.

KEVIN Well at least your earning an honest living unlike me. All I do is sell drugs to all the crazy junkies in town.

Kevin finally finds something to eat in the form of a 3 day old piece of chicken that is still cold. He sits down opposite of Andrew.

> ANDREW Aren't you going to heat that up?

Kevin looks at Andrew confused.

KEVIN What are you talking about? It is heated up.

ANDREW

I see.

Kevin stops eating.

KEVIN Hey man I just got some serious weed the other day. Do you want to take a hit?

ANDREW Yea sure. Why not?

KEVIN Alright give me a sec I'll be right back.

Kevin jumps out of his chair and races back to his room.

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Kevin burst out of his room with the newly acquired weed in one hand and a bong in the other.

> KEVIN Sorry it took so long, but I finally found

Kevin stops before he can finish. Andrew is nowhere to be found. Kevin lowers his head in disappointment.

KEVIN (CONT'D) Fucking asshole.

As Kevin begins to prepare his bong for a smoke, a bright light flashes into the house. Kevin is blinded by the light and group of police officers break down his door with their guns pointed at him. Three of them walk over to Kevin to help restrain him.

Then walks in a dark mysterious figure to put the handcuffs on him. It's ANDREW, 24, tall, average weight with medium blonde hair and in a police uniform.

> ANDREW Kevin Rodriguez.

Kevin looks up and sees Andrew now standing in front of him.

KEVIN

You're a cop?

ANDREW

Yea I have been for a while now. But you wouldn't know about that since you head hasn't been right since college, right druggie?

Kevin gives Andrew and evil look and then he spits in his face.

Andrew wipes the spit off in disgust. As Andrew begins to read Kevin his rights, Kevin becomes hostile and starts to resist the officers holding him down.

ANDREW

Kevin Rodriguez. You are under arrest by the Helena Springs Police Department. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say or do will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, then the court will provide you one. Do you understand these rights that have been read to you?

KEVIN

You fucking prick. I'll get you back for this you sonofabitch. Just wait til I get out.

ANDREW I think that's enough boys. Take him out to the car.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

KEVIN

After that night the judge let me off easy and I got three years in prison. After I got out I found out that my parents were murdered by a gang in upstate New York and to be honest I could care less about them. I tired to find a job, but nobody wants to hire a convicted felon. Then Mike called me and said (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN (cont'd)

that he explained my situation to the superintendent and they hired me on as a janitor. That's where I've been ever sense.

SCOTT I fucking hate that little cocksucker.

DAVID Hey man watch what you say.

SCOTT

Why should I. Is it because he's dead or is it because you're his cousin and you're taking up for him after everything he's done.

DAVID

That's part of it. You just didn't know him like I did.

SCOTT

I knew him just as well as you. He's a pathetic excuse for a human being that never once had to pay for the damage that he caused to everyone he came in contact with.

JAMES

Guys just calm down.

SCOTT

Don't tell me what to do. You've been telling me what to do for 28 years.

JAMES And I'm telling you to just drop it.

MIKE (O.S.) Would you all just shut the fuck up for one damn minute.

Everyone looks over at Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D) You all act like your life was ruined by him. Oh he got me kicked out of school, he stole my fiance or he got me in prison. Mike pauses for a minute.

MIKE (CONT'D)(SCREAMING AND CRYING) I CAN'T WALK BECAUSE OF HIM. I LOST MY CHANCE AT THE NFL BECAUSE OF HIM. I CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN BECAUSE OF HIM. I'VE LOST MORE THAN ANYONE CAN IMAGINE.

Mike continues to cry. James gets up, walks over to him and puts his arm around him.

Mike resists at first, but then he just let's it happen.

MIKE (CONT'D) Has anyone ever told you what happened that night?

Everyone shakes their head no.

Mike takes a deep breath.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT./INT. MIKE'S CAR - NIGHT

SUPER: "10 YEARS EARLIER"

We see a car zooming through the countryside at approximately 80 MPH. Inside the car is MIKE, 18,very muscular and athletic with dark skin and no hair in the driver's seat. In the passenger seat sits ANDREW, 18, tall and lanky with medium blonde hair.

hey are both jamming out to Drake's album If You're Reading This It's Too Late, until the music stops unexpectedly.

> MIKE Man what the fuck are you doing.

ANDREW I just want to change the tune.

MIKE It's my car and I say what gets played on the radio.

ANDREW Oh hush, I'm taking control. MIKE Alright fine, but we better not listen to that hillbilly bullshit you listen to all the time.

ANDREW Trust me, you'll love this.

Andrew hooks up his iPhone to the auxiliary cord and he searches through his song list until he comes to the perfect song.

Danger Zone by Kenny Loggins begins to play.

ANDREW (CONT'D) WOOOOOOOO this gets me going.

Mike looks over at him and gives him a puzzling look.

MIKE What in God's name is this.

ANDREW Have you never seen Top Gun.

MIKE

No.

ANDREW Oh man you're missing out. It's like the greatest movie ever.

MIKE

Who's in it.

ANDREW Tom Cruise and I can't think of the other guys name.

MIKE All you had to say was Tom Cruise. I'm in man.

They continue to drive on towards their destination with the music playing in the background.

EXT. LUCK OF THE IRISH PUB - NIGHT

Mike and Andrew pull into the parking lot of an old Irish pub. The place is packed with patrons.

Mike and Andrew both look at each other and just nod their heads in excitement. They get out of the car and begin to head towards the front door.

> MIKE You think this will work?

ANDREW Trust me man it will. This is a full proof plan.

MIKE

I sure hope so. If not then this isn't going to look good with my coach tomorrow.

ANDREW Have I ever let you down before?

Andrew continues to walk until he goes off screen.

MIKE If you only knew.

INT. LUCK OF THE IRISH PUB - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

They both walk into the pub and everyone in the pub is having a good time talking and drinking their beers.

They scope out the scene. Andrew points towards the bar and they both go grab two empty seats. A lovely BARTENDER, mid-30's with long blonde hair and an small body frame.

BARTENDER What can I get you boys?

ANDREW Um I'll have a Guinness.

BARTENDER And what about you stud?

MIKE I'll just take a Bud Light.

BARTENDER Alright then. Can I see your ID's please.

ANDREW Oh yeah I about forgot. They both hand over their fake ID's to the bartender. She examines them closely. she then looks up at both of them and hands the ID's back over.

BARTENDER I'll be right back with your drinks.

Andrew and Mike both breathe a sigh of relief.

INT. LUCK OF THE IRISH PUB - NIGHT - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

After a few drinks Andrew and Mike are clearly drunk. They start to slur their words and have lost some of their balance.

BARTENDER Do you all need a cab?

ANDREW NO. We've gosh this.

MIKE

What she said.

Mike burps loudly and they both look at each other and laugh.

BARTENDER

I'm sorry guys I'm going to call a cab. You all are too drunk to drive.

ANDREW Nope, we're to drive to drink. Goodbye pretty lady.

BARTENDER

Wait!

They both stumble out of the bar and the bartender uses to phone to make a call.

EXT. LUCK OF THE IRISH PUB - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

As they exit the bar they head towards Mike's car and they can't decide who should drive.

ANDREW I'll drives us back. MIKE NO. It's my crash and I'm driving.

ANDREW C'mon let me drive.

MIKE Ok fine, but if there is one scratch on it, I'll kill you.

Andrew holds his right arm up as if he is being sworn in.

ANDREW I promise I'll scratch it.

MIKE

Ok then.

They both get in the car and after a few minutes they finally exit the parking lot.

As they are driving home, they are swerving back and forth all across the road. Mike has fallen asleep in the passenger seat.

Andrew begins to doze off, but every time he gets close to falling asleep something unexpectedly wakes him up.

As they come around a sharp curve Andrew swerves to miss a deer and they collide head on with a tree and both are knocked unconscious.

As Andrew wakes up he sees flashing lights from police cars, firefighters and ambulances.

Andrew is pulled from the car with what appears to be no major injuries, but just a couple of cuts and bruises with a couple broken bones.

Mike on the other hand is unresponsive and is quickly rushed to the hospital.

INT. HELENA SPRINGS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - MORNING

We see Andrew wake up and quickly looks around to see where he is at. He gets out of his bed and walks down the hall to find Mike.

He finally gets to Mike's room where he is sleeping.

Andrew walks over to wake him up.

ANDREW Mike are you awake.

MIKE

Go away man.

ANDREW What happened last night.

MIKE You know what happened.

ANDREW No I seriously don't

MIKE

We got drunk last night and you decided to drive. I fell asleep for a few moments until I woke up and the last thing I remember seeing was the tree we hit last night.

ANDREW

Oh wow.

MIKE Yea, and that's not even the worst part of it.

ANDREW

What is.

MIKE I can't feel my legs.

ANDREW

What?

MIKE

I can't feel my legs. The doctor came in earlier here a few hours ago and told me everything. I'll never walk again.

ANDREW

Oh my God dude, I'm so sorry.

MIKE

No you're not, you know why? You're not the one that lost everything. Because of your daddy, nothing is going to happen to you, but I'm the one stuck with no legs. ANDREW I don't know what to say I had no idea.

MIKE

I'll say it for you. Go fuck yourself and your family. The next time I see you, I will beat the living shit out of you. And if you don't die from that beating, then I'll give you another one and another and another until to you die. I don't want to hear or see from you again. Now get the fuck out of my room and don't come back.

Andrew stares blankly at Mike and is at a loss for words.

MIKE (CONT'D) ARE YOU DEAF MOTHERFUCKER? I SAID GET THE FUCK OUT OF MY ROOM.

Andrew leaves the room quietly.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

MIKE

That was the last time I saw that motherfucker alive. I'm glad I never got to see him again. My life in some cases has changed for the better without him.

JAMES I never knew Andrew was with you that night.

MIKE Well now you do.

DAVID Dude, I'm so sorry for you.

MIKE You don't have to be sorry.

DAVID Yea I do. I've always taken up for him and now I look like a fool. JAMES

Listen, we didn't expect anything else from you. You two are family and you need to look after your family.

SCOTT

We'd expect the same treatment and for the most part I've treated you all equally for 20 years.

KEVIN

You know I was struggling trying to get through my sentence. But the thought of never seeing you all again just didn't sit well with me so I made the best of it and kept going.

They all shake their heads in agreement.

SCOTT Cheers everyone!

They all raise their glasses and take a drink. After a long pause James begins to talk.

JAMES Guys I haven't been completely honest with you.

KEVIN

How so?

JAMES Well I lied about me not coming back here before this weekend.

MIKE

What do you mean.

JAMES

I mean I was with Andrew the night he was murdered.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

INT. JAMES'S CAR- AFTERNOON

SUPER: "1 WEEK EARLIER"

We see JAMES, 28, with a clean shaved face and short brown hair, who is driving in his car as he enters into Helena Springs.

He passes all of the familiar spots that he recognizes and nods his head as if he is happy to be back.

He pulls into a driveway and honks his horn repeatedly. After a while he leans over to get something out of his glove box and someone opens his passenger door. It's ANDREW, 28, tall and chubby with a bald head. He then gets into the car.

> ANDREW How ya doing buddy?

JAMES I'm doing pretty good. How about yourself?

ANDREW I've been about the same.

JAMES Well that's good to hear.

They both pause for a moment.

ANDREW

Listen I'm glad you decided to do this. I know I've been a dick in the past and after the way everything ended I just want to make it right.

JAMES

Listen dude it's all in the past. I'm over it and let's just move forward with our lives.

ANDREW I'm glad to hear that.

JAMES Yea. Now let's go hit the town.

ANDREW I like the way you think. James backs out of the driveway and they head towards their destination.

EXT. HELENA'S BAR - NIGHT -

We see James's car pull into the parking lot and once they come to a stop they get out of the car.

ANDREW (CONT'D) This is going to be fun.

JAMES Haha let's go on in man.

They both walk into the bar and a timelapse occurs.

EXT. HELENA'S BAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

We see Andrew stumble out of the bar with James not far behind.

JAMES C'mon man let's get you in the car.

ANDREW Hey, I don't needs your help. I'm perfectly fine.

JAMES Whatever you say.

James finally gets Andrew into the passenger seat. He shuts the door and walks over to the other side and gets in the car. He starts it and drives off.

EXT. HELENA SPRINGS LAKE - NIGHT

James takes his car and pulls into the parking lot on a hill just above and looking over at Helena Springs Lake.

He stops the car and begins to wake Andrew up.

JAMES Andrew, wake up.

ANDREW

What?

JAMES We're at the lake.

ANDREW Why are we at the lake?

JAMES

I don't know I just wanted to sit here and talk before I head home.

ANDREW

Yea, talking that sounds great.

JAMES Listen you know how much I use to love you.

ANDREW Yea we were like brothers.

JAMES We were brothers until you fucked me over.

ANDREW How many times do I have to say I'm sorry for you to forgive me.

JAMES

I should never of had to say sorry. You stabbed me int he back and took away the love of my life.

ANDREW

I'M FUCKING SORRY. I know I'm not the best person in the world, but if you think I'm a spoiled kid that was given everything then you don't know me very well.

JAMES I don't you know you very well.

Andrew pauses for a moment.

ANDREW I'm so fucked up dude.

JAMES

Yea you are.

They both get quiet for a moment.

JAMES

I know.

ANDREW You know what?

JAMES

I know about everything. How you were the one with Mike, you're the one who got Scott kicked out of school and you're the reason why Kevin was put in prison.

ANDREW How did you find that out?

JAMES

I've always known. That's just who you are. You are the reason for everyone's lives being so miserable.

ANDREW

I know.

They both begin to cry a little.

JAMES You what I have to do.

ANDREW Yea I do. That's why we're out here right?

JAMES

Yea.

ANDREW Listen before you do it, I just want you to know that I'm....

Before Andrew can finish the sentence, James pulls out his .45 caliber pistol and shoots Andre in the head.

He wipes his fingerprints off of the gun, puts the car in neutral,gets out of the car, throws the gun back in the car and begins to head towards the rear of the car.

James takes one last look at the car.

JAMES I'm sorry Andrew. He then pushes the car until it begins to roll down the hill and into the lake where it begins to sink.

James stares at the car for a few moments and then walks away.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

JAMES

So I'm the one that killed Andrew.

Everyone stare at James with a shocked look on their faces, speechless with nothing to say.

Mike shakes his head in disbelief, Kevin just stares at the ground and Scott has put his face into his hands. David however is giving James an evil look.

DAVID You sonofabitch.

JAMES I'm sorry David.

DAVID

You're sorry? YOU'RE SORRY! How can you be sorry. You murdered one of our friends. You murdered a married man who was getting ready to have a child.

David gets up and walks over to James who just sits and stares at David as he gets closer. David punches him in the face.

Scott and Kevin both walk over to check on James. Mike continues to stare into the fire

DAVID (CONT'D) I'm calling g Detective Mitchell and I'm telling him everything.

SCOTT

David wait.

But it's too late David has pulled out his cellphone, but he gets upset that there is no signal.

DAVID FUCK! No signal. Well that's fine, I'll just head back to town and let him know in person.

David walks away.

SCOTT David come back.

JAMES Let him go. He's just doing what's right.

KEVIN Are you alright?

JAMES Yea I'm fine. Can you help me up.

Both Kevin and Scott help James get back to his feet. Afterwards they both head back to their seats. James then looks over at Mike.

> JAMES Mike are you ok?

MIKE Yea I'm fine. I'm just in shock.

JAMES

I know you are. I know you all are. But it had to be done. I couldn't let him go on hurting people anymore. He's a menace and he needed to be dealt with.

All goes quiet for a moment.

KEVIN I'm actually pissed off.

JAMES Join the club.

KEVIN Not because you killed him.

JAMES

What?

KEVIN

I'm mad you got to him before I could. I've been waiting for 5 years to kill him. It was main motivation to get out of prison. But you beat me to it. Now I can live in piece knowing that the person who took away 3 years of my life is dead.

JAMES Kevin I had no idea.

SCOTT He's not the only one.

JAMES

Scott.

SCOTT

You did the right thing. He took away everything I ever wanted. It's partially my fault I'll take the blame for it, but for him to get off clean as a whistle, no. That just doesn't sit well with me. I would've done the same thing as you.

MIKE (OFF SCREEN) Me three.

They all look over at Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D) I know that night I made a lot of terrible choices and I've regretted them ever since. But like Scott said for him to get away with everything that he's done just isn't right. I'm glad you did it because I would've done worse to him.

Tears begin to roll down James's face. He wipes them away quickly.

MIKE Thank you James. SCOTT Thank you.

KEVIN Yea thanks. They all go over to James and give him a hug. JAMES I'm glad you all think that way. Just one question? SCOTT Yea what is it? JAMES Promise not to say a word? KEVIN Dude, would you tell anyone if we did it? JAMES Good point. They chuckle. JAMES Now I've gotta convince someone else to do the same. SCOTT How? He's long gone by now. JAMES No he isn't KEVIN How do you know?

> JAMES I'm just that good.

INT. HELENA SPRINGS POLICE STATION - NIGHT

We see DETECTIVE DAVID MITCHELL, 51, sitting at his desk hard at work.

ROOKIE POLICE OFFICER (OFF SCREEN) Detective.

Det. Mitchell turns around and see one of his rookie cops standing behind him.

81.

DET. MITCHELL What is it?

ROOKIE POLICE OFFICER Those fingerprints came back.

DET. MITCHELL Really? Let me see.

The rookie cop hands over the file to detective Mitchell. He begins to read it and looks up to see that the rookie cop is still standing in front of him.

> DET. MITCHELL What the fuck are you still doing here?

The rookie cop runs off without saying a word.

Detective Mitchell continues to read the file until he see the name of the murderer.

He then thinks to himself and reflects in thought.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. HELENA SPRINGS POLICE STATION - MID-AFTERNOON

We see SGT. DANIEL MITCHELL, 48, tall with a mustache and short black hair and is wearing a police officer's uniform. standing along a wall looking up to stage.

Standing next to him is ANDREW, 25, tall with short blonde hair and is also wearing a police officer's uniform.

Both are standing next to a stage in front of a group of cadets who are being sworn into the force.

ANDREW Weird isn't it.

SGT. MITCHELL Why do you say that?

ANDREW Well this is Dad's retirement speech and he is promoting someone today.

SGT. MITCHELL Yea that is a little weird. ANDREW I think you'll get it. You've been friends with him since you all were at the academy together.

SGT. MITCHELL You're not supposed to play favorites in this line of business.

ANDREW So it's still obvious.

SGT. MITCHELL Hush your dad is getting ready to talk.

Both get quiet as we see Chief WAYNE WILSON, 50, tall with a bald head and a grey mustache, walk up to the podium on stage.

CHIEF WILSON Good afternoon cadets. Today is a special day here at the Helena Springs Police Department. I myself have a special day as well. Today is my last day as Chief of Police. I have to promote somebody to my position. So let's stop wasting everyone's time and name th new chief of police.

He pauses for a moment.

CHIEF WILSON My son Andrew Wilson.

Everyone stands and cheers except for Sgt. Mitchell. Andrew walks to the podium and gets a hug from his dad.

Andrew is sworn in and Chief Wilson walks off the stage and towards his office. SGT. Mitchell gets up an follows him. He stops him before he can get to his office.

> SGT. MITCHELL Wayne, wait up for a moment

CHIEF WILSON What is it Daniel?

SGT. MITCHELL What was that?

CHIEF WILSON What was what?

SGT. MITCHELL

That

(POINTING AT ANDREW)

CHIEF WILSON I had to chose someone and I chose my son.

SGT. MITCHELL Yea, but don't you think that's a little fishy?

CHIEF WILSON Why would it? He's just as qualified as you.

SGT. MITCHELL Bullshit. He hasn't done half of the stuff that me and you have done together.

CHIEF WILSON His undercover work is unparalleled to anyone else. I'm sorry it's my decision and it's final.

SGT. MITCHELL But Wayne.

CHIEF WILSON Stop. If you keep going I'll give you your walking papers right now.

Sgt. Mitchell stops talking and just lowers his head.

CHIEF WILSON Good. Now get out there and congratulate my son.

SGT. MITCHELL

Yes sir.

Chief Wilson walks into his office and slams the door. Sgt. Mitchell begins to walk away and stops in his tracks and begins to cry.

END FLASHBACK

We see Det. Mitchell still staring at the file and he is crying.

He wipes away his tears, grabs his coat and walks out of the building without anyone noticing.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

We see David standing next to his car looking around the woods to take in all of it's beauty.

James begins to walk towards him.

JAMES

Hey.

David just nods.

JAMES (CONT'D) Look I know you're mad at me, but I'm sorry. I did everything you told me to do.

DAVID It's fine man. I just thought for a second you were going to blow the whole thing.

JAMES When do I blow things early?

DAVID I didn't know you blew things at all.

JAMES

Shut up.

James walks over and stands next to David.

JAMES (CONT'D) So you never told me why did it.

David takes a deep breath.

DAVID Well let's see. Back when my dad was sick, he sent me on an out of town business trip to attend a conference about managing (MORE) DAVID (cont'd) businesses since he was going to give me the restraint after he passed.

David coughs.

DAVID (CONT'D) Sorry I'm getting choked up here.

JAMES It's fine. Take your time.

DAVID Anyway I get a call from Andrew saying that he doesn't have long to live and that I need to be back ASAP. I wold him I would and we hung up.

David pauses for a moment.

DAVID (CONT'D) On my flight back I got a call from him saying that Dad had passed away. I was a blubbering idiot on the plane.

David wipes away his tears.

DAVID (CONT'D) So I get back and do everything I need to do to and I went to the hospital because I was going to sue them for falsely telling me my dad was going to live a little longer after I got back. So I would've seen him as soon as I got back and once I said goodbye I would tell them to pull the plug.

David starts to become angry.

DAVID (CONT'D) Come to find out Andrew told them that I said to pull the plug. Since he was the closest of kin there they went ahead and did it without my permission.

JAMES

Oh wow.

DAVID Yea. That bastard lied to them and pulled the plug on my dad.

David begins to cry.

DAVID (CONT'D) I never got to tell my dad goodbye.

James begins to hug David like he's never hugged somebody before. After a while they stop hugging.

DAVID So I did the only sensible thing to do. Does that make me a monster?

JAMES No. It makes you human.

They both shake their heads in agreement.

JAMES C'mon lets head back to the group.

David nods in agreement and they walk back.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

They make it back to the group and they see that they are all packing up. David and James's stuff has already been packed.

> JAMES What the fuck are you all doing?

> SCOTT Well we talked it over and we thought it would be best to just head on home.

> > DAVID

Why?

KEVIN It's been a long day and we think that coming back just brought up to many bad memories.

JAMES But we were just getting started. MIKE Well now we're finished.

JAMES You all know I didn't want the night to end like this.

SCOTT We know, but it has to end like this.

They all nod in agreement.

KEVIN So david I see that you aren't gone yet.

DAVID I had a change of heart. I mat not agree with it, but it had to be done.

JAMES Well I guess if everyone is ready to go then we better go.

They all agree and begin to walk away from their famed spot.

They all start to get in our cars.

DAVID

Guys!

They all look at him.

DAVID Before we go let's make a deal. One, that we don't fuck each other over ever again because I don't want to bury you all. Secondly let's not make this a 10 year thing.

JAMES I agree.

-

SCOTT Me too.

KEVIN

Me three.

They nod in agreement and get into their separate cars and drive away from there.

INT./EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We David and James's cars pull into the driveway of Andrew's house. They both look at each other.

DAVID You ready man.

JAMES I'm always ready.

DAVID How do you think she'll take it?

JAMES I don't know, but it can be as good as the guys took it.

DAVID

I agree.

They walk to the front door and David rings the doorbell.

The door opens and Brandie, 27, short with her long blonde hair put up in a bun and has two black eyes from what appears to be beating she took from Andrew, is there waiting for them.

> BRANDY What are you two doing here?

JAMES We need talk to you about something.

DAVID It's pretty important.

BRANDY

Come on in.

They both enter the house.

BRANDY So how did the guys take it.

JAMES They took it pretty well.

BRANDY Good. Will they tell anyone?

DAVID Nah. They all promised and I trust those guys with my life.

BRANDY Thank you all so much for doing this.

JAMES It's no problem.

They doorbell rings.

BRANDY I wonder who that is.

Both James and David look at each other and shrug their shoulders.

Brandy walks over to the door and Det. Mitchell is waiting outside.

BRANDY Hello detective.

DET. MITCHELL Hello Ms. Wilson

BRANDY Would you like to come it? I think two men need to talk to you about something.

DET. MITCHELL

Yea sure.

Detective Mitchell walks into the house and Brandy shuts the door behind them.

Both James and David look at Detective Mitchell with a blank look.

Detective Mitchell reaches behind his back as if he is going to get out his cuffs and arrest one of them. Instead he pulls out the file from his office and he hands it to David.

90.

DET. MITCHELL There ya go. You all are clear and nobody knows about it but me.

JAMES Thank you detective.

DET. MITCHELL No problem. I'm glad I could help. I have to go, but next time don't involve me.

DAVID

Yes sir.

Det. Mitchell walks out the door and heads towards his car.

BRANDY Well what are we going to do now?

JAMES I think it's best if I get away for a while. Maybe I'll come back, maybe I won't.

DAVID Are you sure man? You can stay here and start over.

JAMES I think it's best if I get out of town. I need to think things through.

BRANDY Well whenever you come back give me a call. This baby needs its daddy.

JAMES

I know.

James gives her a kiss. he looks over at David.

DAVID Don't even think about it.

James chuckles

JAMES

Alright.

They hug and then James heads towards the door.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Bye.

DAVID AND BRANDY (TOGETHER) Bye.

James walks out the door, closes it behind him and heads towards his car.

He gets in and backs out of the driveway.

INT. JAMES'S CAR - EARLY MORNING

As James drives along he looks around and the town he is leaving behind for the time being. reflecting on everything that has went and as he heads over the hill the sun shines brightly into his eyes and he smiles

FADE TO BLACK

END