

A JUNKIE'S PROMISE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - NIGHT

It is small, dirty, and dim. It's in a state of disarray, with cardboard boxes and clothes scattered about.

YOUNG WILL DORMER, 19, scurries around the apartment putting clothes into a bag, lamps and appliances into a box.

Laying lethargically on a ratty couch is YOUNG SHANNON DORMER, 20, and beautiful.

SHANNON

Will! Get over here and tie me off!

WILL

Right now? Can't it wait til we get on the road?

SHANNON

I can't wait. I need it now!

Will continues packing up the room.

WILL

Help me pack and then we'll do it.

SHANNON

Where is it!?! I can't wait any longer.

WILL

Jesus Christ. O.K hold on.

Will throws down the garbage bag and clothes he was holding and walks over to a DRESSER. He opens a draw and pulls out a SMALL WOODEN BOX.

As Will comes over with the SMALL BOX, Shannon sits up quickly on the couch. Her sleeve is already up and her arm is noosed before we can blink.

SHANNON

Come on. Hurry!

WILL

I'm going as fast as I can.

Will opens the box and reveals a SYRINGE KIT and a SMALL BAG OF POWDER.

Shannon grabs the bag from his fingers aggressively.

SHANNON

This is it!?! This is all we have?

WILL

Yeah, that's it. It'll last.

SHANNON

Are you fucking kidding? This won't last us til Delaware never mind all the way down.

WILL

It will last. Do you want to do this or not?

SHANNON

What do you think?

Will takes the bag of powder and empties some of it onto a SPOON. He quickly lights it and they both watch eagerly as it liquefies. He then takes a SYRINGE off the counter and draws up the liquid.

Shannon puts out her arm, and Will quickly finds her vein.

SHANNON (CONT'D)

Come on.

He pushes the hammer down, and the shot enters her arm. Her face goes from agitation to pure ecstasy. She falls back onto the couch and as soon she is about to hit the backrest we

CUT TO:

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

The sun is shining over a big, glistening SWIMMING POOL surrounded by finely trimmed grass.

Shannon continues her fall, as if from an invisible platform suspended an inch above the water. With her eyes closed, she lays back peacefully into the water. She falls under the water, staying there for a few seconds and then slowly her head pops out. She floats peacefully in the water with only her face peering out.

Suddenly, WILL falls back right next to her. Shannon opens her eyes and watches as he goes under the water for a moment and then his head pops out. Their heads are side by side, they look at each other for a moment and then close their eyes to enjoy the peaceful, effortless floating.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

They sit back on the couch, finally calm. Shannon smiles.

She slowly reaches out her hand and puts it tenderly onto Will's leg. She pats it.

SHANNON  
Thank you honey...

Will nods.

SHANNON (CONT'D)  
But we still need more. We can make  
a stop at George's on the way.

Will looks straight ahead, he is high as a kite. Shannon leans over and kisses him sensually on the lips...

WILL  
O.K. We can stop.

They sit back on the couch, enjoying their high.

Will is startled by the sound of a BABY CRYING.

BABY KRISTINA (O.S.)  
Wahhhh. Wahhh.

Will snaps out of his stupor, and stands up. He heads toward the sounds.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT/BEDROOM

He opens the door and BABY KRISTINA, no more than a few months old is crying in her crib. Will tenderly, and very lovingly picks her up out of the crib and brings her close.

WILL  
Come here honey.

He kisses her on the head.

WILL (CONT'D)  
Shhhh...

Rocking her in his arms, she begins to calm down and stops crying. He loves her, she is his prize.

WILL (CONT'D)  
This is all for you my love.

Will turns around with the baby in his arms and heads back out to the main room.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT

Will holds the baby in his arms and approaches Shannon.

WILL

I think she's ready to go. Are you?

Shannon groggily gets up off the couch and stretches.

SHANNON

What about the rest of the stuff?

WILL

Leave it.

Shannon looks around.

SHANNON

Ok lets go.

Will puts the baby into a carrier and grabs two garbage bags filled with belongings and heads out of the door.

Shannon has some LUGGAGE piled in the corner of the room, she grabs it and follows Will. She stops right before exiting and, opens one of the SUITCASES and ruffles through it's contents. Her hand stops on something and she pulls out a 9MM PISTOL and proceeds to slowly place it into her PURSE, then she walks out the door.

FADE OUT.

EXT. ELMIRA STATE PRISON - DAY

AERIAL SHOT focusing on the dense Appalachian Forrest surrounding the prison.

SUPER: 17 YEARS LATER

Establishing shots of the prison. High walls, barbed wire, armed officers in towers, etc.

INT. ELMIRA STATE PRISON/COMMON ROOM - DAY

Inmates are scattered about the large room. Officers watch over the inmates who play cards, dominos, and converse, from the corners of the room and from above on top of the tiers.

INT. ELMIRA STATE PRISON/BATHROOM - DAY

We hear the awful, resonant sounds of someone violently throwing up into a toilet echoing throughout the empty white room.

We turn and see into an open stall. WILL DORMER in prison orange, now 36 years old, stern, aged and currently very sickly looking sits on the ground between the toilet and the wall.

INT. NEW YORK STATE PRISON/COMMON ROOM - DAY

We move through the crowded room to a table of inmates playing cards. There are 3 middle aged black inmates and one white inmate, MIKE WILSON, who, although in his early 30s, has the smiley deviant disposition of someone much younger.

Mike is CHEWING GUM and DEALING 5 card draw.

MIKE

(anxiously)

Alright come on come on who's up?

TATTOOED INMATE

Slow down cowboy I'm thinking.

MIKE

Cowboy? Me? No I think you've got me mistaken for Johnny over there.

JOHNNY is a huge, black, and intimidating inmate sitting to his right.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(To Tattooed Inmate)

Wasn't it him who I saw riding your dick in the shower like a Texan buckaroo?

Johnny gives him a death stare but doesn't say a word.

Mike seems un-fazed.

TATTOOED INMATE

Better watch your fucking tone little guy.

MIKE

One of you play a fucking hand quickly; because we all know I'm going to win and I have shit to do. Let's go.

## TATTOOED INMATE

Calm down. And what shit do you have to do that cant wait? You have 3 years left on your bid, you got nothing but time man.

Mike looks around laughing to the other inmates, who are not in on the joke, and then addresses Johnny.

## MIKE

Look at that. I knew he plowed it, but does he stick his nose up your ass as well?

(To inmate 1)

If you have to know, it's Dormer's parole hearing later and I have to give him a little going away present...Speaking of, have any of you gents seen him?

Johnny looks furious.

## WIRY INMATE

Why the fuck would any of us know where that Irish mother fucker be at? I'm out.

He folds his cards.

## INT. PRISON BATHROOM - DAY

Will is looking in the mirror at his reflection wistfully; he looks very pale and sick. He splashes water on his face and then pats it dry with paper towels.

## INT. COMMON ROOM

## CARD GAME

Tattooed Inmate shows his hand confidently, thinking he won.

Johnny smiles.

## MIKE

That's not going to cut it.

## TATTOOED INMATE

(To Johnny)

What the fuck do you have?

Johnny turns over his cards smugly.

JOHNNY

Straight.

MIKE

Seriously? That's it?

BATHROOM DOOR

Will exits the bathroom rubbing his head in pain.

CARD GAME

Mike shows his cards, 3 ACES and TWO JACKS and everyone clearly sees that he won.

TATTOOED INMATE

Get the fuck out of here. How'd you pull that out.

Johnny is even more furious now.

MIKE

I had a blast playing with you gents, if you ever want to lose everything you have ever again you know where to find me.

JOHNNY INMATE

Keep talking, and you'll lose your tongue.

Mike scoops up sugar packets into his hands that they use in place of chips.

MIKE

(Smiling)  
I doubt that.

Will walks by looking like death, Mike notices him, he scrapes up the rest of his winnings and hurries after him.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Will! Hold up.

The 3 inmates at the table look at each other with indignation.

JOHNNY slams the table in anger.

JOHNNY

Lucky bastard!

Wiry Inmate notices something on the floor after the table stops shaking.

He reaches his hand under the table and picks up TWO PLAYING CARDS. Johnny and inmate 2 watch as he turns them over and pulls off a piece of CHEWED GUM that was stuck to them.

TATTOOED INMATE  
That cheating fuck.

All three of them turn and look at the backs of Mike and Will walking through the common room.

The Johnny Inmate pulls a SHANK from his pants and grips it firmly in his hand.

INT. COMMON ROOM

Will and Mike walk side by side.

MIKE  
Geez you look like shit.

WILL  
I'm aware. I don't know if I can last much longer.

MIKE  
You'll be fine, don't you worry.

WILL  
Yeah, hopefully.

MIKE  
So you ready for this?

WILL  
I think so. It better go off without a hitch.

MIKE  
It will trust me. They don't have room for the rats in this place. As long as you don't fuck up in the next 24 hours, they can't touch you, you'll be out of here by tomorrow morning.

WILL  
I hope so.

We see the 3 BLACK INMATES, start to creep behind Mike and Will.

MIKE

So what's the first piece of ass  
your gunna tap when you get out of  
here?

WILL

I can't even think about that right  
now, I can barely take a step  
without losing my lunch.

MIKE

That wouldn't stop me.

WILL

(Smiling)

I know.

The 3 inmates have crept up behind them and prepare for an  
attack.

Two of them grab Mike by the shoulders and violently turn him  
around. Will watches stunned as they PUNCH Mike in the head  
and he falls to the ground.

The common room erupts into chaos. Inmates rush over to see  
what's happening. CHEERING, HOLLERING, etc...

Mike is able to jump back up onto his feet with lightning  
quick speed. His face is crazed. He loves this.

MIKE

Come on you fuckers...

The two inmates move in to strike again.

Will quickly moves in to help his friend. He grabs one of the  
inmates by the shoulder but as soon as he makes contact he is  
SLAMMED with a punch to the side of his face by the Wiry  
Inmate. He falls to the ground dazed.

Mike is curled up on the floor getting beat on by the two  
inmates with kicks and punches.

Will wakes up from his daze. The Wiry inmate is standing over  
him with the shank in his hand. He drops to his knees and is  
about to stab Will.

TWO GUARDS who were talking in the far corner finally notice  
the chaos and sound the alarm, and they rush over.

Mike sees that Will is in trouble and is able to fight his  
way out of the beating he is taking.

Right as the inmate is about to stab Will. Mike connects with a kick directly to the jaw of the inmate and he and the SHANK go flying.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(To Will)

Get the fuck out of here man. You can't get caught.

Will doesn't want to leave. He wants to help his friend but after glancing over at the approaching guards knows he's right.

Mike is then ripped away by the two inmates to continue there beating of him.

Will is able to CRAWL into the crowd of inmates and get lost in the chaos.

He watches from his knees as a swarm of guards rush in and break up the fight. Mike and the two other inmates get dragged in opposite directions by guards. Mike is screaming, with blood gushing down his face. He smiles devilishly: Looking like a mad man.

INT. STATE PRISON/DORMER'S CELL - NIGHT

Will is in the process of packing up his cell, bare spots on the wall are slightly visible from where posters, until just recently, hung. He puts a deck of cards and a few hand fulls of books into a large crate.

Taped to a small corkboard surrounded by GREETING CARDS made of construction paper is an old WORN BABIES BOOTIE. He looks at it intently for a second before very carefully placing it in a plastic bag. Then he places in a PICTURE of his daughter Kristina when she was about 7.

A guard walks up to the cell.

GUARD

(Into radio)

Open 6.

Will's steel cell door slides open.

Mike is let in. Will is surprised to see him.

WILL

What the hell man? Are you alright?

Mike is a little banged up sporting a black eye, some bruising, and bandages on his face and hands.

MIKE

I'm fine man. Just some scratches.  
Guys were pussy.

WILL

You got lucky dude. They could have  
killed both of us...Wait I thought  
you'd be holed up for at least 30,  
how'd you get out?

MIKE

Guards up there owed me a couple of  
favors, they let me out for the  
night, so I could see you off.

WILL

Your a wily guy man.

MIKE

Don't I know it...So I got you a  
little going away present.

Mike pulls out a DIME BAG containing brownish powder from his  
shorts.

Will's eyes light up at the sight of it.

WILL

Mike, I mean I appreciate it, but  
you know I have my hearing tonight  
and I have to be clean when I get  
out of here.

MIKE

Nah trust me you're not going to  
have to report to your P.O. for at  
least 48 hours after you get out.

WILL

You think so?

MIKE

Yes trust me they always give you a  
few days to adjust...and besides do  
you really want to be jonsing  
during the hearing?

Will thinks for a beat.

WILL

That shit looked dark

Mike smiles a big smile, then opens the bag and shows it to  
Will.

MIKE

New shipment, just came in via Marko's wife's asshole. Purest shit this pen has seen in years.

WILL

Is that right?

Mike reaches behind his bed and procures a PAPER BAG.

MIKE

I got you another little something too since you know it's a special occasion and all.

From the paper bag Mike pulls out a SYRINGE KIT in plastic casing.

Will gets very excited.

WILL

Fresh works? Where did you get em?

MIKE

The freshest. Snatched em when I went to the infirmary last week for my gout.

Beat.

WILL

Fuck it, let's do it.

Mike smiles.

Will looks around cautiously and then takes his belt off and wraps it around his arm. His arm is covered with SCARS and TRACK MARKS, and there is a small tattoo of a cross on his wrist.

INT. NEW YORK STATE PRISON/PAROLE HEARING ROOM - DAY

The room is large and drab, with bare white concrete walls, and no windows.

At one end of a large wooden table sits a professional looking woman of about 45, the WARDEN, with a man in a suit seated on either side of her. She reads from a file on the table; while simultaneously the man to her left begins taking notes.

WARDEN

Mr. Dormer.

Across from her is Will, seated in a wooden chair and looking very high and moon faced.

WARDEN (CONT'D)

You have been a disease to society since the day you started walking. And you became a burden of the state by the time you entered grade school; in and out of Juvenile hall for minor offenses; and then finally as an adult, you made it here to the state penitentiary.

The man to the right of warden is the PRISON PSYCHIATRIST, academic, 50s, glasses.

PRISON PYSCHIATRIST

Your life before prison was plagued by addiction, violence, and crime. Do you feel you have been successfully rehabilitated by the state and are ready to be readmitted into the real world?

Dormer hesitates before responding.

FLASH BACK

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Rain hammers down on the roof of the one story, cheap motel. From the parking lot we see a figure sitting at the top of an outdoor stairwell. He has his head stooped between his legs, and over his left shoulder light peaks out from an open room.

END FLASH BACK

INT. PAROLE HEARING ROOM

He wipes his nose, and then slowly answers.

DORMER

Yes.

PRISON PYSCHIATRIST

Do you feel you will be able to stay away from the very things that have ruined your life, and landed you in a place such as this?

DORMER  
(Groggily)  
Yes I do.

WARDEN  
You know the things he means don't  
you?

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Very dark, Garbage cans and graffiti line the alleyway.

WARDEN (V.O.)  
The drugs...

A small wiry looking man comes up and cops drugs from a tall  
tough dealer in a winter coat and hat.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

A white trash house party is in full swing. Sweaty, grungy  
girls dance on top of a table, and equally grungy looking men  
drink and watch.

WARDEN (V.O.)  
The partying...

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

A small party is going on in a hotel room. Will sits on a bed  
and snorts cocaine off of a silver tray.

WARDEN (V.O.)  
The violence...

He looks up smiling, as if responding to the sound of the  
warden's distant voice. Then suddenly his face turns grim, as  
one of the men in the room is SMASHED over the head with a  
DESK LAMP and gushes blood.

Will is left speechless and rigid as the man bleeds out on  
the floor motionless.

FADE TO:

INT. PAROLE HEARING ROOM - DAY

Will, again slowly answers.

DORMER  
I think I do.

PRISON PYSCHIATRIST  
Yes I hope that you do.

WARDEN  
It says here you have a daughter  
Mr. Dormer, is that accurate?

Will hesitates and then finally seems to slip out of his  
narcotic induced stupor.

WILL  
It is

WARDEN  
And when was the last time you saw  
her?

WILL  
It has been years warden.

The warden responds with a touch of sympathy in her voice.

WARDEN  
As a parent I know how difficult  
that must be.

WILL  
(Sincerely)  
It's the hardest thing in the  
world.

WARDEN  
Do you plan to see her when you are  
released?

WILL  
It will be the first thing I do.

WARDEN  
Then for her sake I hope you are  
able to stay away from the very  
things that distanced you from her  
in the first place.

WILL  
As do I.

Will looks wistfully beyond the warden.

She moves on briskly to the next topic.

WARDEN

How about employment? What will you do for work?

DORMER

I will find something.

WARDEN

I hopes so. You are to be assigned to Officer Cartmell, and as happenstance would have it he is here with us today so the two of you may get acquainted early.

She looks in the direction of a black man of about 55, sitting in a chair by the door, this is MR. CARTMELL, a parole officer. He looks up and nods at Will, who doesn't return the gesture.

WARDEN (CONT'D)

Due to the violent nature of your crime, and your history of dependence on drugs I am hesitant to allow you to reenter society, and if it were up to me, you would never leave this place. Unfortunately it is not, and your 17th year here will be your last... Fortunately however, recidivism statistics are very well documented and accurate, so I'm sure we will be seeing each other before to long and you will have another chance to burden the state while completing your full sentence.

She packs up her folder and begins to stand up.

Will sits looking indifferent.

FADE OUT.

EXT. STATE PRISON - DAY

It is very early morning, the sun is about to rise.

Will walks out of the prison with nothing more than the clothes on his back and a small drawstring bag slung over his shoulder.

INT. GREY HOUND BUS - TRAVELING - DAY

Will sits with his head leaning on the glass staring out the window at the grey sky, and rolling upstate New York terrain.

SUPER: A Junkie's Promise

WILL'S POINT OF VIEW

Credits roll as we cruise along looking out the window. We see shots of Mountains, hills, farms, ETC...

We see the ALBANY EXIT and the bus veers off the thruway.

EXT. ALBANY NEW YORK/WASHINGTON ST. AND QUAIL ST. - DAY

A soft rain comes down on a dark, gloomy deserted corner.

Will walks across the street as the greyhound bus pulls away behind him.

WILL (V.O.)

In the mind of the junkie there are really only three states of being. Scoring. Feeling. Then withdrawing...

Will walks by rundown houses, people hang out under awnings looking helpless and mean.

WILL (V.O.)

This city has been in a perpetual state of withdrawal for as long as I have been alive.

We see young men in hooded sweat shirts walking down the street and giving Will dirty looks.

We see very young children smoking cigarettes on their stoop.

WILL (V.O.)

It has had some minor scores in the past but the big one has always eluded it. So it slowly withers away under the pains and suffering of withdrawal.

We see, for a split second, college looking kids walking gayly, and business men smiling.

WILL (V.O.)

Most do not even know the struggle that lies here;  
(MORE)

WILL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 the suffering is masked by the old  
 colonial buildings and politics of  
 down town, and the concrete mega  
 structure of the SUNY Campus.

EXT. WILL'S GRAND MOTHERS HOUSE - NIGHT

A skinny two story house on an old Albany street. The top two windows are boarded up and paint has chipped off everywhere.

The door opens and WILL'S GRANDMOTHER answers the door in a nightgown. She lets Will in.

INT. WILL'S GRAND MOTHER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Will wipes off his feet as his grand mother walks further into the dirty unkept house.

GRANDMOTHER  
 Oh George, I feel like I haven't  
 seen you in years.

She sounds a bit out of touch with reality.

WILL  
 It's *Will* Grandma, and you haven't.  
 But thank you for letting me stay.

GRANDMOTHER  
 Oh don't be silly.

They go into the kitchen, where she has fixed him a plate of food. We hear the TELEVISION at full volume coming from the den.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)  
 Come, come eat.

Will sits and eats uncomfortably at the table, while she moves slowly toward her old burgundy chair directly in front of the television.

He watches the TELEVISION as the newscaster relays a current story.

ON TELEVISION

NEWSCASTER  
 Police report another death from  
 tainted drugs.  
 (MORE)

## NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

Chris Johnson, a recreational drug user, only 27 years old, was found dead in an alley off of Quail Street about 4 AM this morning. This is the fourth reported account of accidental death due to what police dub as "Hot shots" in the last 2 months. It's terrible, it really is. There should be something done to help these people with there addictions...

Camera changes focus to the female anchor.

## FEMALE NEWSCASTER

Absolutely John. But sometimes people need to be responsible for their own actions. As they say "if you dance with the devil, you will get burned"...Alright when we come back we are talking about the Governor's most recent blunder. Stay tuned.

Will stares at the TV...

FADE OUT.

## EXT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

An attractive looking 2 story colonial outside the city. Finely trimmed lawn, nicely painted; a perfect suburban house.

Will walks up the brick pathway to the front door.

## EXT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The door opens, and after a beat he is let in.

## INT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Will sits on a leather couch, across from a professional upper middle class couple, CARL and LINDA JENKINS, his ex wife's sister and her husband.

They all look pretty awkward and uncomfortable.

Linda talks like someone who made it out of the inner city and moved to the suburbs but still has a hint of the old neighborhood inside of her.

JULIE  
So I heard you just got out.

WILL  
This morning.

Will is looking sickly again and is starting to perspire.

JULIE  
And you came here?

WILL  
I figured you might know where  
Shannon is.

CARL  
We haven't seen her.

WILL  
I thought you would still see her  
occasionally?

JULIE  
She disappeared about 5 years ago.

WILL  
Disappeared?

JULIE  
Yup, one day she picked up and  
left. You know how she can be...

Julie rubs her fingers together searching for the right word.

CARL  
Transient.

JULIE  
I was going to say an inconsiderate  
prick. Only thinking of her self  
and leaving me to clean up the  
mess. But I guess that works.

WILL  
Well what about Kris? Is my  
daughter with her?

CARL  
You see about that...

Linda interrupts him and they begin to have a side argument  
in a muffled whisper.

JULIE

(To Carl)

I don't think it's the best idea.

CARL

He's her father Linda he has a right to know.

JULIE

I still don't think it's necessary.

Will becomes impatient.

WILL

Where is she?

CARL

He's going to find out sooner or later. Better to be from us.

Linda reluctantly gives in to her husbands requests and turns to address Will.

JULIE

(To Will)

When Shannon disappeared, she left by herself...

(Deep breathe)

Kristina has been living with us ever since.

Will gets overly excited.

WILL

(emphatically)

She's here?

JULIE

She lives here yes.

Will stands up, and although in a shaky state he looks ready to scour the house as if they are hiding his daughter.

WILL

Where is she?

JULIE

She's at work tonight Will. Relax. Please take a seat.

WILL

Where does she work?

CARL  
You know we can't let you see her.

WILL  
And why not?

JULIE  
Look at the state of you!

CARL  
You're still using, it's obvious  
Will.

JULIE  
The last thing Kristina needs in  
her life right now is another bad  
influence.

WILL  
This is *my* daughter. I don't need  
your permission to see her.

JULIE  
Actually you do.

Will is getting more angry and perspiring more and more.

WILL  
What do you mean?

CARL  
When Shannon left we obtained  
custody of Kris.

WILL  
You got custody? How? I don't care  
I am not leaving this house until I  
see her.

JULIE  
This is our house Will, this is our  
life. I only let you step inside  
the door to tell you, and I'm only  
going to tell you this once. I want  
you to stay away from Kris, stay  
away from her and certainly don't  
come anywhere near this house.

WILL  
(Yelling)  
It's my daughter!!

At Will's loud exclamation, Carl and Linda's daughter MISSY, 6 years old, slowly descends the stair case; awoken by the loud voices.

MISSY  
(Groggily)  
Mommy what's wrong?

They all look over toward her.

Carl jumps up off his chair and hurries over to the staircase.

CARL  
(to daughter)  
Nothing honey, lets go back up stairs.

MISSY  
I heard yelling.

CARL  
It's fine honey, lets go.

He ushers her up the stairs and out of sight.

JULIE  
(Stern)  
If you don't leave now I am going to call the police. Do you want to go back to prison?

WILL  
This is bullshit!

JULIE  
We just want what's best for this family. We can't have a good for nothing drug addict around our house.

She picks up the phone and starts dialing.

Will is torn, he doesn't know what to do.

WILL  
You can't do this to me. She is my daughter!

We hear the operator through the phone.

JULIE  
Be smart Will. Leave. Don't come back.

OPERATOR (V.O.)  
Emergency. How can I assist you?

Linda gives Will a long inquisitive look.

Will realizes that she is right, but he's not going to down quietly. He rushes out the door and slams it behind him.

OPERATOR (V.O.)  
Hello...

Linda hangs up the phone.

EXT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Will marches down the pathway, fuming mad.

Behind him the door to the house opens and Carl comes jogging out.

CARL  
Will...

Will turns around quickly, ready for a confrontation. He his perspiring heavily now and looking very pale and sickly.

Carl jogs over to him and hands him a folded up slip of paper.

Will opens it aggressively only to have his face soften after realizing what information it contains.

CARL (CONT'D)  
(Sincerely)  
Get yourself cleaned up first,  
don't let her see you like this.

Carl turns and goes back to the house.

Will looks like complete shit and he knows it. He is extremely pale and sick looking.

EXT. ALBANY STREET - RAINING - NIGHT

Rain falls hard from the sky and dives into puddles scattered randomly like craters on the surface of the moon.

Will walks, slumped, toward us in the middle of the road with rain beating down on him.

WILL (V.O.)  
The rain never stops in Albany. It  
is relentless.

EXT. ALBANY STREET/FACADE OF BUILDING - RAINING - NIGHT

Will looks like hell again and sits down on the sidewalk the road leaning against a red brick building, the withdrawal symptoms are really kicking in now. Rain still beats down on his face and body.

WILL (V.O.)  
When your aching and hurting from  
jonsing, The rain actually soothes  
the symptoms. With each drop  
spreading out across your body like  
needles from the hands of a natural  
acupuncturist.

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - RAINING - NIGHT

Will staggers through the parking lot.

WILL (V.O.)  
It rains 250 days a year here. Like  
this city was built for junkies.

He comes up to a restaurant with large glass windows which reach down to the floor, allowing him to see inside. He stands motionless outside, his figure obscured by the rain.

We see inside that the night is winding down; there is only one table left, occupied by an elderly couple.

The waitress comes into frame, it is Will's daughter KRISTINA, now 17 but looks a little older, very beautiful, sporting dark make up and hair.

Will appears to be in a trance like state as he looks at her. He has waited so long for this.

She says something to the couple with a feigned smile and then turns away and instantly frowns, sad, but beautiful.

Will looks as if he is going to cry. He wants to touch her.

She walks by the window again, stops, and strains her eyes to see outside through the rain. We move in closer, past the rain and hold on her for a moment. She looks innocent. She breaks her gaze and goes back to her table.

Will is frozen watching her.

WILL (V.O.)  
But, the vicious fangs of the beast  
of withdrawal always cut deep and  
eventually prevail.

The symptoms violently kick in again and he cringes grabbing his stomach in pain.

EXT. ALBANY STREET - RAINING

Will stumbles on the side walk, trying to stay under the awnings of closed down shops.

On a nearby stoop a man sits under an awning. A junkie comes up to him and quickly and smoothly buys drugs. He smiles at Will as he passes.

About 4 doors down Will goes into a corner store.

EXT. ALBANY STREET/CORNER STORE - RAINING

Will comes out of the store with TWO BAGS of groceries.

INT. GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE/BASEMENT - NIGHT

Will rummages through a cluttered dark basement.

He finds what he was looking for in an old wooden crate, he pulls out a PADLOCK and CHAINS.

INT. GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Will has put the padlock and chain on the doorknob connected to a makeshift post on the wall with wood and nails.

He is slowly instructing his grandmother on how to lock the padlock when he goes inside.

He gives her the key.

WILL  
Now, no matter how hard I yell or  
scream, don't open the door until  
Wednesday morning.

She nods understanding. He pats her on the back and ushers her toward the den.

Will takes his two huge water jugs, some ice cream, and some canned food into his room and closes the door behind him.

She locks the door, completely oblivious to the depth of the situation, and goes immediately back over to sit down in front of the T.V.

INT. WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Will lies in bed looking completely sick, pale, and withdrawing hard.

INT. WILL'S ROOM - LATER

Will has ripped off all the sheets and is on the bare mattress. He shifts around uncontrollably and sweats profusely.

WILL (V.O.)  
It is the worst pain in the world.  
One that I wouldn't wish on  
anybody.

WILL  
(Holding his stomach)  
Aaaaaahhhh...

INT. HALLWAY

We see his Grandmother still watching T.V. At full volume. We hear a loud BANG on Will's bedroom door.

WILL (O.S.)  
Aahhhh.. Fuck...

She doesn't hear it and continues to watch T.V.

INT. WILL'S ROOM - LATER

Will looks worse than he ever has. He tosses and turns and then stops. Thinking of something...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

YOUNG Will and YOUNG Shannon lay in bed late at night. Shannon is asleep and PREGNANT. Will is wide awake, he slowly slides down the bed till his face is adjacent to her belly.

WILL

(Whisper to belly)

I promise you won't have the life I did. Your's will be beautiful and easy and full. We will get away from all of this. I promise.

He lays his head on her stomach and rests.

END FLASHBACK

INT. WILL'S ROOM

Will suddenly snaps out of the flashback and violently goes into another one.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Same rundown cheap motel we saw earlier. From the parking lot we move in, through the rain and see that the figure is Younger Will.

He has his sleeve rolled up and a noose around his muscle as well as a needle sticking out of his arm, which he holds flimsily in his trembling fingers.

He looks up as tears form in his eyes.

END FLASHBACK

INT. WILL'S GRAND MOTHERS HOUSE/WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

He snaps out of the flash back and curls up into the fetal position and desperately tries to sleep.

FADE OUT.

INT. PAROLE OFFICE - DAY

A nice professional looking office, with pictures of Cartmell and his family, a framed picture of him graduating from the police academy, along with various framed work related awards.

Will sits across from Officer Cartmell who seems indifferent, looking through his files on a large wooden desk.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Alright Will, you already made it further than most guys do once they get paroled. Most get out, go on a bender, skip their first meeting and wind up getting scooped up in a couple of weeks and sent back to finish their bid. Now that doesn't mean you're not a scum bag, just a punctual scumbag.

WILL

It's how I define myself sir.

OFFICER CARTMELL

A clever one too. Great.

He gives Will a long looking over before speaking again.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)

Well you actually look alright. Which can only mean 1 of 2 things. You managed to stay clean, or you're higher than the amazon canopy right now.

He reaches into a draw in his desk and produces a PLASTIC CUP.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)

Only one way to find out for sure. Bathrooms out to the left. Give your sample to Mrs. Sanders outside there before you come back in.

INT. PAROLE OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Officer Cartmell reads the paper while Will sits, both in silence.

They sit.

MRS. SANDERS, 40, comes in and she hands officer Cartmell a SMALL ENVELOPE.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Thank you.

She leaves.

He slowly opens the envelope and then reads it's contents thoroughly.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)  
(unenthusiastically)  
Congratulations you're not a drug  
addict.

Will is not amused.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)  
So heres how this works. You come  
here twice a week, or anytime I  
call you and tell you to come down  
here. You miss one meeting, you get  
a warning; You miss two meetings  
then I file a report with the state  
and you'll be back in prison in a  
week. Do you understand?

WILL  
Yes.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
If you get picked up by the police  
at any point, you're going back to  
prison, if you leave the state, you  
go back to prison. If you  
congregate with any convicted  
felons, well you get the idea. You  
pretty much can't do anything for  
the next year except go to work,  
that is assuming you find a job, go  
home and go to sleep and then wake  
up and do the same thing the next  
day. So for recreation I recommend  
just sitting in your room and  
playing with your dick.

WILL  
Doesn't sound much different than  
prison.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
There is a major difference.  
Choice. Out here you can *choose* to  
follow the rules. Do that with me  
and you will gain my trust. If  
after a year you have gained my  
trust you will be moved down to  
level two parole, which means no  
more drug tests, no more bi-weekly  
visits, you'll essentially be a  
free man.

(MORE)

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)

It is under my desecration however and I do not send a parolee out into the world unless I completely trust that they are ready. Do you understand?

WILL

Yes.

OFFICER CARTMELL

The next, and probably most important step towards you readjusting to the outside world is finding employment. Do you possess any degrees of higher education that may give you an advantage in an application process?

WILL

I have a GED.

Officer Cartmell checks off a box on a form.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Do you have any connections with family members or friends who may be able to help you find a job?

WILL

No.

He checks off another box.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Ok...Do you possess any particular set of skills that would give you the necessary experience to obtain employment? Plumbing, electrical work, construction background? Anything like that?

WILL

Not really...I used to work on cars some, as a mechanics assistant.

OFFICER CARTMELL

O.K. Mechanical work.

He writes on the form.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)

We can start there, I'll see what I can find.

He looks at his watch.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)  
 Alright we are going to have to cut  
 it short today, I have to pick up  
 my wife, from yoga. Same time on  
 Friday.

Will, nods and gets up off his chair and begins to leave.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)  
 Wait Mr. Dormer. In the governors  
 infinite wisdom, us parole officers  
 are now supposed to be more  
 concerned with the psychological  
 well being of our parolees.  
 (slightly uncomfortably)  
 So um... how are you feeling?

Will from over his shoulder shoots him a glance that says  
 "none of your business."

WILL  
 Grand.

He walks out the door.

INT. WILL'S GRAND MOTHERS HOUSE/DEN - NIGHT

Will irons a shirt and smokes a cigarette while his  
 grandmother watches the T.V.

He looks at the tv and watches as bloody attacks in Syria  
 flash across the screen and then takes a long drag on his  
 cigarette.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

He pauses to check himself out in the reflective glass before  
 entering. In his reflection we see that he is nicely dressed  
 and cleaned up.

He takes a deep breath, and then enters.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It is fairly busy. The normal sounds of a restaurant are  
 heard; chatter, chewing, clinking of imitation sterling  
 silver on fake porcelain plates.

Will sits at a table by himself. He looks around at all the people. A table with a couple, a table with a group of friends, and then finally his eyes rest on a table of a family. A husband and a wife and two kids. They look happy, he holds his gaze for a moment.

The waitress comes up to him, it is Kristina.

KRISTINA  
Can I start you off with anything  
to drink sir?

She doesn't recognize her own father. Will is silently heartbroken.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)  
Excuse me. Sir?

WILL  
No thanks.

KRISTINA  
Would you like to hear the  
specials?

WILL  
(Teary eyed)  
Yeah sure. Definitely.

KRISTINA  
(unenthusiastically)  
For our entrees we have...and our  
soup of the day is Seafood  
Bisque...so what will it be?

At the end of her spiel She takes a better look at him, and finally realizes who he is.

WILL  
(Through tears)  
Hello Kristina.

Kristina becomes incredibly emotional.

KRISTINA  
What are you?...How did you?...

Will jumps up out of his chair and gives her a hug.

WILL  
How are you?

She pulls away from the embrace.

KRISTINA

What are you doing here Will?

WILL

What do you think? I came to see you.

KRISTINA

I'm not sure what possessed you to do that. Do you need money or something?

WILL

(Surprised)

No, no it's nothing like that I thought maybe we could hang out or something.

KRISTINA

Hang out? Are you insane? Are you going to order something? If not you can get out.

WILL

Can't you sit for a couple of minutes so we can talk?

KRISTINA

It's the middle of my shift.

WILL

If not now maybe after work then?

KRISTINA

Listen I don't have time for this, I have a lot of other tables tonight so what do you want?

WILL

Alright sorry...Alright I'll have the bisque.

KRISTINA

Great.

She writes it down on her pad and then walks away. Will sits anxious.

INT. RESTAURANT - NARROW HALLWAY

Kristina leans against the back wall in the narrow hallway between the kitchen and the bathrooms. She is trying to hold back sobs and tears.

Then suddenly she rips her apron off and throws it on the ground and without hesitation walks out the back door.

INT. RESTAURANT - TABLE

Will sits anxiously playing with his napkin. He looks around some more, and then sees OUTSIDE in the parking lot, KRISTINA walking quickly towards the street.

He drops his napkin, grabs his jacket off the chair, and hurries out after her.

EXT. RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT

Kristina is walking on the sidewalk away from the restaurant with her CELL PHONE at her ear.

Will comes rushing out the door.

WILL  
Kris! Wait.

KRISTINA  
(Into Phone)  
Can you come get me?...Yeah over by work...Thanks.

She hangs up.

WILL  
Come on, it doesn't have to be like this.

KRISTINA  
(Without turning)  
It doesn't have to be like anything.

Will goes into a jog and catches up to her putting his hand on her shoulder.

WILL  
Come on. Talk to me.

She turns around angry.

KRISTINA  
I have nothing to say to you.

WILL  
Nothing to say to your father after not seeing him for almost a decade?

KRISTINA

I am fine. I have always been fine.  
I don't need you in my life right  
now.

WILL

I only wanted to see you.

KRISTINA

You have. Now move on...Howd you  
get out anyway?

WILL

Good time.

KRISTINA

Fantastic.

WILL

Just slow down.

Kristina turns abruptly and faces Will.

KRISTINA

Listen. I don't need you. I don't  
want to talk to you, I don't want  
to see you at all. It's as simple  
as that. You choose to leave me and  
mom and be away from your family,  
not me, and now I don't need it.

Will grimaces.

WILL

Yeah, well where's your mother now?

Kristina is upset by the comment.

A car pulls up to the curb, fast, in front of Kristina,  
blasting music.

From the drivers side VICTOR, 20, grungy, gets out and leans  
across the roof.

VICTOR

Hey come on.

Kristina walks toward the car before turning around.

KRISTINA

Still such an asshole.

VICTOR

Is everything ok?

KRISTINA  
(Over her shoulder)  
Yes everything is fine.

She turns around walks toward the car.

VICTOR  
Who was that?

KRISTINA  
Nobody. Lets go. Just get in the  
car.

WILL  
Wait! I'm sorry.

They get in the car and they quickly drive away.

Will is left deflated on the sidewalk. Angry.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

A fast forwarded sequence of a destitute man copping drugs from a dealer, and then leaning on a brick wall next to a dumpster. He is grimy and disgusting but high and content.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT

Will is torn and angry, his countenance is frustrated. He begins to walk briskly away.

CUT TO:

INT. WILL'S GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

He slams the door shut behind him. He goes directly to the liquor cabinet and grabs a bottle of dusty liquor. He immediately slugs it.

INT. WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Will reads at a desk. He seems distracted and unable to concentrate. After a discontented moment he slams the book down.

He reaches across the desk and takes a gulp from a bottle of wine. He gets a few drops before realizing it's empty.

WILL

Fuck!

EXT. 7-11 - NIGHT

Will walks to the entrance. We see a GROUP OF KIDS, mostly teenage guys, hanging out to the left of the store.

EXT. 7-11 - NIGHT

Will walks out eating a hotdog with a case of beer under his arm. He stands finishing his meal.

We see that, KRISTINA is among the teens congregated by the store.

She looks glossy eyed, maybe high, maybe drunk, maybe both.

GROUP

Go...Go...

Her friends encourage her towards oblivious Will and she reluctantly abides.

KRISTINA

Hey.

Will turns and sees who it is.

WILL

Oh. Hey. What's up?

She turns around towards her friends, and they encourage her with hand gestures and smiles.

KRISTINA

Nothing really. So this is awkward...but sorry for yelling at you before or whatever.

WILL

Don't worry about it seriously. I get it. It's my fault. I shouldn't have just showed up like that, it was inconsiderate.

KRISTINA

I guess so.

Awkward beat.

WILL  
So what's up?

KRISTINA  
Alright well... this is even more awkward but I was wondering if maybe you could buy me and my friends some beer?

WILL  
I don't know about that.

KRISTINA  
If not, it's whatever, we'll get it someplace else.

WILL  
It's just not a good idea. I could go back to prison for that.

KRISTINA  
Your going to go back to prison for buying a little beer? I thought you'd be some kind of bad ass hardened criminal after all these years inside.

Will then sees a chance to bond with Kristina and reluctantly gives in.

WILL  
Alright, alright fine. What do you want?

Kristina smiles. Her friends smile and laugh behind her. Will heads back into the store.

EXT. 7-11/BACK OF STORE - NIGHT

A crew of about 5 guys, two girls and Will hang out in the back of the store drinking beers. Some standing and smoking, others laughing, joking, etc..

Will and Kristina sit on stacks of milk crates a little out of the group. They each hold a beer, and awkwardly sip it. Kristina seems very uncomfortable and angry.

WILL  
(Timidly)  
So...Are You ok?

KRISTINA

(Edgy)

I don't know.

WILL

Can we talk?

KRISTINA

Yeah. I guess.

WILL

Ok. Good.

KRISTINA

So...I'm sorry about blowing up earlier.

WILL

No it's ok. I really do get it. You even talking to me after all of this means so much.

KRISTINA

It's just so weird to see you now not through a glass window.

WILL

I know. It's weird to be out. After being in for so long that kind of becomes normal for you. You forget that *this* is normal.

KRISTINA

I bet.

WILL

I can't believe I'm actually here next to you, it's so surreal.

KRISTINA

I was almost getting used to the thought that I would never see you again.

WILL

I never gave up hope. Except when I would lie awake at night and think about this moment, it was never quite like this.

KRISTINA

You mean it wasn't in the back of a convenient store drinking cheap beer?

WILL  
 (Laughing)  
 Yeah not exactly. It feels  
 different than I thought.

KRISTINA  
 What do you mean?

WILL  
 I'm not exactly sure, I thought I  
 would be scared to see you for some  
 reason, you know. That I would feel  
 bad that I let you down and was  
 never there for you. But I don't  
 feel miserable, or guilty, all I  
 can feel is elation. Like I never  
 want to be more than a foot away  
 from you for the rest of my life.  
 That we have a chance as some kind  
 of family however fucked up.

KRISTINA  
 (Sarcastically)  
 Wow...That's sentimental.

WILL  
 I know, I know. I just don't want  
 to lose you again.

Kristina's friends rumble around in the background as a BLACK  
 SUV pulls up.

FRIEND (O.S.)  
 Jordan's here...let's go Kris.

Kristina swivels her head around to see her friends piling  
 into the truck.

KRISTINA  
 (To friends)  
 I'm coming.  
 (to Will)  
 Look I gotta go. Thanks for the  
 beer.

WILL  
 Wait...Can I see you again?

Kristina walks away and turns around to this comment.

KRISTINA  
 I'm not sure.

Right before she is about to get into the car she turns around again and walks back to him.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)

Maybe.

Will jumps up off the crate. He stops Kristina, and pulls a CELL PHONE out of his pocket.

WILL

Hey, so I got this um cell phone thing. I'm not really sure how you work it. Maybe I could put your number in it? I think it does that. Right?

Will fumbles around with the phone.

KRISTINA

Why don't you just call the house, you have the number right?

WILL

I'm not so sure Julie want's me calling the house.

KRISTINA

Yeah I heard she's not to thrilled at you being home like. Alright fine. It's 5-8-1...

Will fumbles around with the phone trying to figure out how to program a number into it.

WILL

Wait, Wait. 5-8 what?

He continues fumbling...

FRIENDS (O.S.)

Kris come on...

KRISTINA

Here just give me it.

She grabs the phone and quickly programs it in.

WILL

First time you know.

She laughs and hands him back the phone.

KRISTINA

Don't make me regret that.

She turns and goes toward the truck.

WILL  
You won't. Bye. Have fun...

Will smiles and watches her go.

INT. PAROLE OFFICE - DAY

Will sits across from Officer Cartmell they both seem to be unsettled.

Beat.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Listen Will, I don't like this  
anymore than you do. But we can't  
move on unless we talk about this.

Will is silent.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)  
Come on.

WILL  
About what?

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Life in prison. How you are  
adjusting to the outside. Anything.  
We have to talk.

WILL  
(agitated)  
Listen I'm coming here to these  
"meetings", I'm taking the drug  
tests, I'm doing all the bullshit  
to stay out of jail. But I'm not  
going to sit here and confess my  
feelings to a guy on a garbage  
man's salary pretending to be a  
shrink.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
I make more than a I garbage man  
Will. What about your case? Let's  
talk about that.

WILL'S FACE

FLASH BACK

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The door is open and we hear the rain beat down from outside. We see a BLOODY MAN lying on the floor. DRUGS are evident nearby in a plastic bag. Will holds a gun in his right hand and there are spatters of blood on his shirt. He looks extremely shaken up.

Next to him lying on the floor is an obviously strung out Young Shannon, still very beautiful, with dark make up running down her face.

END FLASH BACK

INT. PAROLE OFFICE

WILL

What's to talk about? You have the file right there don't you?

OFFICER CARTMELL

I do but it still might help to talk about it.

WILL

I doubt it.

OFFICER CARTMELL

You don't feel you need to find any sort of retribution for your crimes?

FLASHBACK

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Will sits in jailhouse orange and handcuffs, next to a standing Public Defender. It is his trial.

JUDGE

Mr. Dormer you have chosen to accept the plea bargain, is that correct?

Will looks at his PUBLIC DEFENDER standing next to him, who nods yes, and then Will follows suit.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Do you understand the details of the bargain?

Will nods yes.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

That instead of being tried for Murder in the 1st Degree you will plead guilty to Felony Murder and be sentenced to the maximum sentence allowed by the state for that charge?

WILL

I understand.

Will looks over and sees SHANNON in the crowd, holding Baby Kristina in her arms.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PAROLE OFFICE

WILL

I paid my price. Now I would like to move on and finally live a real life.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Ok. Ok that is admirable.

WILL

Fantastic. Can we move on?

OFFICER CARTMELL

Yes for now...I have lined up some interviews for you.

WILL

That's great.

OFFICER CARTMELL

And since you don't want to talk to me I have something I would like you to attend that I think might be beneficial for you.

WILL

Don't even say it.

OFFICER CARTMELL

I really think it might help you let out some of your emotions in a more relaxed atmosphere than here.

WILL

I'm not going to an NA meeting. They are a waste of time.

OFFICER CARTMELL

It's run by a very nice woman, Mrs. Dashwood. She is a very nice woman, and happens to be a friend of mine, so she will let me now if you are attending or not.

WILL

You have got to be kidding me.

OFFICER CARTMELL

It's at 6 pm. Have fun.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING - NIGHT

People sit in a small auditorium on metal fold up chairs facing a podium.

Will sits in the back row looking agitated.

WILL (V.O.)

There is nothing worse than an NA meeting...

A MIDDLE AGED MAN is at the podium. He looks very weak, prematurely aged, from many years of drug use, bad hygiene and nutrition.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

I've been up here many times. Many many times.

Rumbling from the crowd of scraggly looking people.

MIDDLE AGED MAN (CONT'D)

(Sad chuckle)

At this point I come mostly in hopes of providing an example of what not to do.

Some laughs from the crowd.

WILL (V.O.)

They are like television...

MIDDLE AGED MAN

Drugs and alcohol have ruined my life...I've lost every job I've ever held. My parents stopped speaking to me a long time ago.

(MORE)

MIDDLE AGED MAN (CONT'D)

My wife and kids pass by me strung  
out in the streets and quickly look  
the other way, pretending they  
don't know see. Hoping if they  
close they're eyes tight enough  
I'll disappear.

WILL is not sympathetic.

MIDDLE AGED MAN (CONT'D)

(Tearing up)

I hope I can be an inspiration to  
someone out there, even if my life  
is over. Don't end up like me. Get  
clean. Stay clean. Make the choice.

MRS. DASHWOOD, 30, graduate student, who is running the  
meeting stands up out of her chair which is next to the  
podium and moves to console the man.

MRS. DASHWOOD

O.K. It's alright Charles. It's  
fine.

She pats him on the back.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

(Crying)

Thank you...

MRS. DASHWOOD

(To audience)

Everyone give it up for him, that  
wasn't easy.

(To him)

I have this for you Charles.

She grabs a key chain from the table and hands it to him.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)

One day sober. Congratulations.  
You're you've taken the most  
important step towards recovery.  
The first one.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

Thank you. Thank you.

He grabs her hand and shakes it, and then Will watches as he  
slowly and weakly makes his way to his seat.

A small applause from the crowd. Will doesn't make a sound  
and doesn't change his expression.

MRS. DASHWOOD

That's very powerful stuff. Now is there any other new members out there today who want to come up and say a few words and get there first key chain.

Will looks around the room at the other addicts. They are looking old and weak.

WILL (V.O.)

It's for weak people who will never change but need something to pass the time until they one way or another inevitably kill themselves...

MRS. DASHWOOD

Anybody?

Will gets up abruptly and heads for the exit.

EXT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE - DAY

There is a dark grey overcast as Will walks up the driveway carrying a SMALL GIFT BAG. He hears an (O.S) ARGUMENT coming from inside the house.

KRISTINA exits the house slamming the door on her way out, and not noticing Will immediately sits down on the pathway and lights a cigarette.

Will walks up to her.

WILL

Hey.

KRISTINA

Hey.

She wipes some tears from her chin

WILL

You alright?

She shrugs.

WILL (CONT'D)

Want to go for a walk?

KRISTINA

Yeah sure. Anything to get out away from here.

She gets up and they leave.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Will and Kristina walk slowly on the sidewalk. Kristina plays with her hair.

WILL  
Julie giving you a hard time?

KRISTINA  
Yeah she always is.

WILL  
I think she means well.

Kristina shrugs.

KRISTINA  
I don't know, I think all she cares about is how the lawn is mowed and how the topiary looks. She's more concerned with what the neighbors think about the troubled adopted girl than she is about how I'm actually feeling or anything.

WILL  
I think she just wants what's best for you...Or maybe she just wants you to keep your cigarette butts out of the Dilalahs.

Kristina chuckles.

KRISTINA  
Maybe...

The conversation wains.

WILL  
So I tried calling you but I'm not even sure I was doing it right.

KRISTINA  
You were, I was just busy.

WILL  
Oh alright...

Will is hurt.

KRISTINA

(Re: Will)

I was gunna call you eventually  
don't worry you big baby.

WILL

No I'm fine.

KRISTINA

Yeah.

WILL

Anyway so I want to know about you.  
What have you been up to? I've  
missed so much in your life, fill  
me in.

KRISTINA

You haven't missed to much  
honestly. I've just been living my  
life. Working a little, going to  
school some.

WILL

How's school going?

KRISTINA

It's high school, so it's  
miserable.

WILL

Yeah I wasn't too keen on school  
either. But you're smarter than me,  
you have to keep up with your work.

KRISTINA

Yeah I try.

WILL

That's good, all anyone can ask of  
you. So have you thought at all  
about what you want to do after you  
graduate, you know, with your  
future?

KRISTINA

I hate that question!

WILL

Oh I'm sorry I was just asking  
if...

KRISTINA

No it's just like, why can't I enjoy my life right now. While I'm young and still have a little bit of a soul. Why do I have to think about that other stuff right now?

WILL

Alright I'm sorry, no one said you had to.

KRISTINA

It's annoying though.

WILL

I'm sorry...Are we okay?

She begins to settle down.

KRISTINA

Yeah it's fine, I just hate that question that's all. Sorry for getting upset.

She turns to Will with an apologetic smile.

WILL

So aren't you going to ask what's in the bag?

KRISTINA

I was afraid to.

WILL

Why?

KRISTINA

Because it looks like a present...and you always had some pretty, well let's just say *interesting* presents.

WILL

Well what do you expect. I tried the best I could, if you remember there wasn't exactly a local Walmart I could have went to where I was...Here just take it.

He hands her the bag.

KRISTINA

What is it?

He motions for her to open it up.

She does and pulls out a small stuffed PONY BEANIE BABY.

WILL  
So? Do you like?

KRISTINA  
I guess?

Will is disappointed.

WILL  
What I thought you loved horses?

KRISTINA  
I did...when I was 9.

Will is a little hurt.

WILL  
Well I haven't seen much of you  
since then.

She notices his downer mood and attempts to cheer him up.

KRISTINA  
No, No. I like it, he's actually  
kind of cute. Thank you.

WILL  
Thanks for the sympathy.

They both laugh.

KRISTINA  
No problem.

They have made it around the block and are returning to the house from the opposite direction and Will notices over Kristina's shoulder Julie and Carl fighting in the window.

WILL  
So are we ever going to be able to  
hang out? Like do some father and  
daughter stuff?

KRISTINA  
(Laughing)  
Father daughter stuff? What exactly  
did you have in mind?

WILL

I don't know like bowling or something.

KRISTINA

Is that what fathers and daughters do together?

WILL

I don't know anything, I only want to see you sometime.

KRISTINA

That sounds alright I guess. Were just going to have to get approval from her over there.

He turns around and we see JULIE peering angrily through the window.

WILL

I think I can manage that...she's really starting to warm up to me I think.

Julie bursts out of the front door and comes storming onto the path.

JULIE

Kristina get up here, right now.

Kristina turns around.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(To Will)

And I thought I told you to stay the fuck away from this house. Next time you lay a toe on our property I'm calling the police.

We can see CARL in the window too nervous to intervene.

Kristina turns back to Will and laughs.

KRISTINA

Later.

Then turns and walks briskly toward the house.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)

(To Julie)

I'm coming, Christ.

Will waves to Kristina and Julie.

INT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE/KRISTINA'S ROOM - DAY

A fairly normal rebellious teen room. Sonic Youth and Brand New posters line the walls. A Quay Brothers print hangs by her bed.

Kristina comes in and slams the door behind her. She walks over to her bed and lays down. She lays for a moment, and then seems uneasy. She sits up and reaches under her bed and pulls out a SMALL KEEPSAKE BOX. She turns around, kneels down and opens it on the bed.

The box is filled with hand written LETTERS and various makeshift objects, including a Toilet Papier-mâché HORSE and a rather crude DRAWING of her and Shannon(presents from Will).

She picks up one of the LETTERS and reads it.

ON LETTER

We don't get a chance to read the whole thing because she merely skims through it. We can see that it is signed "Love Daddy" at the bottom.

When she finishes, she puts it back into the box along with her new BEANIE BABY PONY. She moves over some more letters and reveals a SYRINGE KIT and HEROIN. She takes it out and looks at it hesitantly before beginning to set it up...

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Busy upscale restaurant, filled with patrons in suits and woman in chic dresses.

Will sits at a table by himself.

From the rain, in comes Julie and Carl. They see Will and walk over to his table.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

Carl and Julie sit across from Will. Julie looks upset as usual, and Carl seems to be his upbeat reasonable self.

JULIE

So? What do you want from us? I wouldn't even have come here if Carl hadn't of dragged me.

WILL

Don't you want to order first?

JULIE

Not particularly. I would just like to get this over with.

CARL

Let's hear what he has to say hun.

Julie shoots him a look of contempt.

WILL

Ok.

Will goes into his bag and places a SMALL PLASTIC CUP filled with YELLOW LIQUID and a TEST KIT on the table.

Julie is disgusted.

JULIE

What the hell is that?

WILL

It's my urine.

JULIE

What the fuck. Why is it here? Lets get out of here Carl.

CARL

(Uneasily)  
Hear him out.

WILL

This is my urine and this is a drug analysis test next to it. I tested it before I came, and I was negative for all drugs. You can see by the lines here. It even tests for alcohol and says I barely even drink anymore.

JULIE

Ok?

WILL

And I brought an extra cup if you would like me to go into the bathroom and produce a fresh sample just in case you thought I could have gotten this on the street or something.

CARL

I don't think that will be necessary.

JULIE

What is the point of this?

WILL

I want to show you that I am taking steps to improve my life, and ultimately I would like to see my daughter with out having to sneak behind your back like a teenager with a crush.

JULIE

Congratulations you quit drugs. You're still just an ex junkie convict with no job and no future.

WILL

While I can't deny your first two points I am working on getting a job which should ultimately give me better chances for a positive future. It's just hard out there right now to find anywhere that will hire me.

JULIE

I'm surprised, Nobody wants to hire someone who has been in prison for half their life?

CARL

O.K. Easy. Maybe we can compromise. I mean 2 out of 4 isn't bad hun is it? How about if he gets a job we let him occasionally see Kristina.  
(To Julie)  
Is that fair hun?

JULIE

Maybe...I still don't want you lurking around the house.

WILL

That's fine. I have other places to lurk.

Carl smiles as he successfully mediated another heated battle.

CARL

Alright good. So he can come and pick her up and they can go out. No more lurking. Everyone is happy. Right? Now who's ready to order?

INT. WILL'S GRAND MOTHERS HOUSE/DEN - NIGHT

Will sits at the table with the newspaper's CLASSIFIED section in front of him. He circles some various jobs in the paper and writes on loose-leaf paper in a MANILA FOLDER lying next to it.

EXT. BUSINESS PARK - RAINING - DAY

Will is dressed appropriately, albeit a little out of date, for an interview. He runs through the parking lot with a newspaper over his head guarding his hair from the rain.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A small office. A secretary sits at her desk and types.

Will comes in from the rain.

SECRETARY

Hello, how can I help you?

Will pushes the rain off of his clothes, and walks over to the desk.

WILL

Hi my name is Will Dormer I'm here for a follow up interview with Mr. Lamar.

SECRETARY

Oh good timing he just got back from a meeting. His office is right over there.

She points behind Will.

WILL

Oh thank you.

INT. MR. LAMAR'S OFFICE - DAY

Will knocks and then enters the room.

MR. LAMAR, 40s, sits at his desk diligently working. He does not look up when Will enters.

MR. LAMAR

Come in. Please hurry.

Will walks over and they shake hands but Mr. Lamar does so without looking up from his work.

WILL

Hello sir how are? My names is Will Dormer.

Mr. Lamar sits at his desk not really paying any attention to will but rather ruffling through papers and staring at his computer.

MR. LAMAR

Hi, how are you? Sit, take a seat. I don't have much time, I am very busy.

WILL

Fine sir, thank you. This wont take long.

Will sits solicitously.

MR. LAMAR

So what can I do for you?

WILL

Well I just came into follow up on a resume that I faxed you guys a few weeks ago.

MR. LAMAR

That's very ambitious of you but we get many applications and they all go through the same process.

WILL

I understand that. I just wanted to speak with you directly, because I didn't think you would be able to get a true picture of me from my resume.

MR. LAMAR

How so?

WILL

Well I don't have much experience in the field, but I am highly ambitious, intelligent, and enthusiastic, and I really think I could help this company out in many different ways.

MR. LAMAR

Again, it all sounds really good, but I'm afraid you're going to have to go through the same screening process as everyone else. If I gave every applicant this type of attention we wouldn't have time for any real business around here. So we will be in contact with you at the appropriate time.

Will gets up out of his chair to exit.

WILL

I understand sir. "Time is the scarcest resource and unless it is managed nothing else can be managed."

MR. LAMAR

Alright take care now.

Mr. Lamar processes what Will just said and looks up at him for the first time.

WILL

You too sir.

MR. LAMAR

Wait what was that?

WILL

I said "You too sir"

MR. LAMAR

No, no before that. Was that Drucker?

WILL

Yes I believe so sir.

MR. LAMAR

You've read Drucker?

WILL

Yes a few of his works.

Mr. Lamar becomes excited after this.

MR. LAMAR

I can't believe it, he's actually kind of one of my heros you know.

WILL

As well he should be. He was a brilliant writer.

MR. LAMAR

Hey take seat. Let me bring up your file, see what I could do here, maybe I could move you up the list a little bit.

Will returns to his seat as Lamar looks at his computer screen.

WILL

That's great. Thank you.

MR. LAMAR

Wow. So Drucker. Have you read *The Effective Executive*?

WILL

I have actually. One of his most influential works.

MR. LAMAR

Yes, yes, it certainly was. It's great to get someone in here who has read some decent literature. I work with all these nit-wits around here, who think dribble like *Twilight* is an enlightening read. Now economic theory, that is fine literature!

(RE: Computer screen)

OK, ah, here you are. Will Dormer.

He reads down the file.

MR. LAMAR (CONT'D)

Well you weren't joking when you said you didn't have much experience... In fact it seems you haven't worked in years. What have you been doing? School? Self employed no doubt?

WILL

I have been... Well lets just say I have been preparing myself for the real world.

MR. LAMAR

Is that right? Working towards an economic degree?

WILL  
Something like that.

He scrolls down to something on the resume and then stops abruptly.

MR. LAMAR  
This can't be right. It says here you were convicted of a felony?

WILL  
Unfortunately it is correct. That's part of the reason I came down, I would like to explain it.

MR. LAMAR  
Well it was nice to meet you, I don't think this is going to work out.

WILL  
Could I explain sir?

MR. LAMAR  
Hey you seem like an alright guy and everything, but you have to understand my position here. I can't have a criminal working here.

WILL  
I think if I broke down the circumstances for you I could better relay my situation and how I could be a valuable asset to this company regardless of my past.

Mr. Lamar, stands up, and rather nervously picks up a plastic bag of his desk.

MR. LAMAR  
You know what they say "One egg, spoils them all." Or something like that...Take care I have lunch.

He walks out the door and closes it behind him. Will watches him go.

EXT. BUSINESS PARK - LATER

Will Looks defeated. He puts his umbrella up and then proceeds to open a MANILA FOLDER, check something off with a pen and then closes it, puts it in his case and goes into the rain.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The floor of a busy warehouse. Workers are moving boxes around, driving fork lifts etc..

We look into an office with a large glass window.

Will and the WAREHOUSE MANAGER are in mid conversation. There is no audio but we can see the manager mouth something to the effect of "I'm sorry, I just cant do it." He hands Will back his resume.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Will sits and drinks a cup of coffee. He pulls out the MANILA FOLDER again and checks of something. He again looks defeated.

EXT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY

From outside in the rain we see Will talking to the FAST FOOD MANAGER. Again with no audio we see something to the effect of "I'm sorry, I can't", mouthed from him. Will walks away after little resistance.

We hear a BANG as Will burst through the door and out onto the street. He takes out his UMBRELLA and breaks it over his knee viciously. Then he pulls the MANILA FOLDER from his case again throws it viciously onto the sidewalk, sending papers flying.

He walks away down the sidewalk into the rain.

INT. BUS - TRAVELING - DAY

We travel on a main road, filled with all types of businesses, car dealerships, office buildings, etc.

Will rests his head on the glass looking out the window wistfully. Until we pass a AUTO MECHANIC REPAIR SHOP, Will jumps up and pulls the cord to stop the bus.

EXT. STREET - RAINING - DAY

Will is waiting to cross the street as the BUS pulls away in front of him. We see the REPAIR SHOP across the street.

INT. AUTO REPAIR SHOP - DAY

Will is standing in the front office. There is no one around. He sees some movement through an open door that leads into the garage. He goes in to investigate further.

Mechanics are working on cars. He sees a man in his 40s, who is way to over dressed for the greased up environment, pass by, and looks like he is in charge.

WILL  
Hey Ronnie!

He turns, it is RONNIE HILL.

RONNIE  
Hello?

Will walks over to him and shakes his hand.

WILL  
It's Will Dormer.

Ronnie runs through his memories real quick and than remembers.

RONNIE  
Holy shit.

He brings Will into a handshake hug and then releases.

RONNIE (CONT'D)  
Will Dormer. What the fuck man; I haven't seen you in years.

WILL  
17 years 44 days.

RONNIE  
Yeah, well I guess so if you want to be that exact. What are you doing around here?

WILL  
I wanted to see if I could get my old job back.

RONNIE  
Well, that job was filled about 17 years ago. But come with me...

They begin to walk around the shop and talk. We see the aspects of the garage, cars, men working etc...

RONNIE (CONT'D)

This shop is my life. It was my fathers life before mine, and now it is mine. I have reduced cost and almost doubled profits since I took over 10 years ago. Even in these harsh economic times we continue to thrive.

They walk by a guy doing metal work with a blow torch and sparks fly.

WILL

That's real impressive.

RONNIE

It is. And I would like to continue to increase our prosperity here. You were always a good worker. So I would like to give you a chance.

WILL

Ron, there is something you should know though. About where I've been these last years.

Ronnie cuts him off.

RONNIE

I heard all about it, it's a small town. I know where you have been and I don't care. Not another word about it.

WILL

You don't care?

RONNIE

No, not at all. I believe bad things happen to good people. I also believe in second chances. And I would like to give you one.

They walk by a SHADY LOOKING GUY in a hooded sweatshirt who stares at Will sinisterly and then walks into a back room.

WILL

That's great.

RONNIE

So show up on Monday at 9 am. Just promise me to work hard, and show up every day and you'll have a job.

WILL

I'll be here...Thanks Ron I really appreciate this, seriously.

He waves it off like it was nothing.

RONNIE

I gotta go. See ya Monday.

He walks into the back room where the shady looking guy went. Will is elated.

EXT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE - DAY

Will is standing outside the house KNOCKING on the door.

Kristina answers the door.

WILL

You ready?

KRISTINA

Yeah let's go.

JULIE is watching from the window. Will smiles and waves to her, she is not as amused as him and shuts the blinds in a tiff.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

They *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*. Will looks over at his daughter sitting next to him who eats popcorn and watches the film intently.

ON SCREEN

The scene at the end of the film where Jesse James is about to be killed by Robert Ford.

EXT. WASHINGTON PARK - DAY

They walk through the park. Just strolling along. They seem to be very happy.

KRISTINA

So did you, you know?

WILL

What?

KRISTINA

While you were you in Prison did you, you know?

She makes a little gesture with her hips.

WILL

Oh no! You don't mean. No way.

KRISTINA

Come on. You're telling me you never took it in the keester? Not even once? It's ok if you did.

WILL

Are you kidding me?

KRISTINA

No seriously. You can tell me if you did. I won't think any different of you.

WILL

No I didn't. It's not really like how it's portrayed in movies and the media. Guys aren't just walking around raping each other and having massive orgies on a daily basis. I mean pretty much if you kept to yourself, didn't get into any trouble with the gangs, or debt, people would leave you to it.

KRISTINA

(Nervously)

But still you never got a little curious?...

WILL

No never!

KRISTINA

Ok. Ok. I believe you, no need to get insecure about your sexuality...So do you regret what you did?

Will becomes very uncomfortable.

Beat.

WILL

I do. A day doesn't go by where I don't wish I could take back what happened. Lets not talk about that.

KRISTINA

Alright fine. So how were the showers?

Will laughs.

INT. MECHANIC - DAY

Will is working on a car. He jokes around with another mechanic and laughs. He is in high spirits.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Will is being shown a small apartment by a landlord. The landlord points to the ceilings, the cabinets etc..

Will shakes hands with him.

INT. WILL'S GRAND MOTHERS HOUSE - NIGHT

Will gives his grandmother a hug. He tells her thank you and if she ever needs anything to give him a call. She goes back to the tv.

EXT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will pats through his pockets.

WILL

Fuck...

INT. BUS - TRAVELING

Will sits looking out the window.

EXT. MECHANIC - NIGHT

He is at the front door. He KNOCKS on the door and PEERS through the glass. It is dark inside and silent.

He hears some faint TALKING and BANGING of metal from the back of the shop. He goes to investigate.

He then sees the SHADY GUY from earlier walk around the back of the shop. He considering for a moment and then follows him.

EXT. MECHANIC - BACK OF SHOP

There are many people working hard and running around. Some pulling up in cars, others quickly ripping license plates off and unscrewing tires, others wheeling parts away in carts. It looks like a NASCAR pit stop working in reverse. We notice some of the mechanics from Will's job.

The FLOOR MANAGER sees WILL and walks over to him.

FLOOR MANAGER

I was wondering when you were going to show up...I'll put you to work in a minute...

WILL

What is going on here?

3 YOUNG HOODLUMS walks up to the floor manager.

FLOOR MANAGER

(To them)

We need Japanese. Mitsubishi, Honda, anything Japanese.

He gives them some money up front out of his pocket, and they walk away silently.

FLOOR MANAGER (CONT'D)

(To Will)

Seriously?

Will looks around and processes the situation.

FLOOR MANAGER (CONT'D)

Let's start you off easy. Go help Rico with tire duty.

WILL

I don't know Chris. Does Ronnie know about all of this?

FLOOR MANAGER

(Laughing)

How do you think he makes all of his money?

WILL

I don't know man...can I just have the keys to the shop I forgot my apartment keys at my station.

He grabs the keys out of his pocket and throws them to Will.

FLOOR MANAGER

Well if you ever need some extra money just come by we could use another hand.

WILL

Thanks but, I'll pass I'm trying to stay straight.

FLOOR MANAGER

Suit yourself.

He immediately goes back to directing traffic and telling people what to do, waving cars this way, pointing that ways.

Will looks shaken by the scene.

EXT. JENKINS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Will and Kristina walk up to the house.

WILL

I'm really glad that we can hang out a little, You know?

KRISTINA

Yeah it's nice.

WILL

So we can keep doing it?

KRISTINA

Yeah I'd like that.

Victor's black car from the earlier pulls into Kristina's driveway.

WILL

Are you going out?

KRISTINA

What does it matter to you?

WILL

Don't you have school?

KRISTINA  
Playing daddy a little to hard.

WILL  
No no, you'll be fine.

KRISTINA  
I know.

The car BEEPS.

Julie comes outside.

JULIE  
Kristina! Let's go.

KRISTINA  
Go fuck your self.

JULIE  
Kristina! Get over here.

Kristina gets into the car and leaves. She waves and smiles to Will from the car.

INT. PAROLE OFFICE - DAY

The two of them sit in their usual spots. Usual faces on.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
So Will. I am exceedingly impressed with your progress so far.

WILL  
I'm so glad.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Well you should be. 8 months and not one slip up.

WILL  
I'm trying my best.

Will gets up and walks around.

WILL (CONT'D)  
So when can I stop coming here?

OFFICER CARTMELL  
I don't trust you that much yet.

Beat as Will walks around looking at the various things in the office.

He picks up a PICTURE OF A GIRL, about 13 years old.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)

(Re Picture)

My daughter. That's when she was  
sweet and innocent though.

WILL

How old is she now?

OFFICER CARTMELL

20. She's in her last year at UVM.

WILL

Very nice.

OFFICER CARTMELL

How are things with your daughter?

WILL

Actually going pretty well.

OFFICER CARTMELL

That's good. Real good.

WILL

It is.

OFFICER CARTMELL

So Will. I think it's time we talk  
about your past a little bit.

WILL

My past? What does it matter? I'm  
looking towards the future, and for  
the first time in my life it  
actually looks manageable.

OFFICER CARTMELL

It's important to look into the  
past so as to understand yourself,  
and to try to keep yourself away  
from of the things that hurt you  
and your family.

Will is reluctant but gives in.

WILL

Alright. Alright.

OFFICER CARTMELL

I want to talk about Shannon.

WILL  
Shannon? What does she have to do  
with anything?

OFFICER CARTMELL  
She's the mother of your daughter  
and your wife.

WILL  
Ex. Ex-wife.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Right. Well I'd still like to talk  
about it.

WILL  
Fine.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
How did you two meet?

WILL  
In school. I had a crush on her for  
most of my life.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
She didn't reciprocate your  
feelings?

WILL  
Not at first. Not till we got to  
high school. I really don't see  
what this has to do with anything.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Go on. Humor me. Why do you think  
she didn't feel the same way about  
you?

WILL  
I wasn't exactly cool in early  
years. I didn't really find my  
stride until the last couple of  
years of school.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
What was cool?

WILL  
Same thing that is cool in every  
high school. If you couldn't play  
football than you either had to be  
a model or be into drugs;

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

and I wasn't much prettier when I was 17 than I am now.

OFFICER CARTMELL

So you turned to drugs to fit in?

WILL

It maybe had something to do with that. But there was more to it I think. I wasn't till I was high that I actually felt anything, if that makes sense.

OFFICER CARTMELL

How so?

WILL

I don't know. What is the point of this?

Will shifts uncomfortably in his chair.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Try, it might help.

WILL

Well...I never felt anything really from my friends, or from Kristina until I started using. Then I always wanted that feeling, so I kept using, and it got to the point where I couldn't stop.

OFFICER CARTMELL

That's interesting.

WILL

Yeah.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Have you ever considered trying to contact Shannon again?

WILL

No! I never want to see her again.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Why?

WILL

Why do you think? The bitch ruined my life.

OFFICER CARTMELL

I don't think it's fair to blame everything that has gone bad in your life on her.

WILL

I'm done talking about this. Can I go? I have to go back to work.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Fine. But this won't be the last time we speak of this.

INT. MECHANIC - DAY

Will works under a car.

FLOOR MANAGER

Will, someone here to see you.

Will slides out from under the car.

He stands up looking normal as this happens with clients regularly.

Then across the garage he sees MIKE WILSON flirting with a FEMALE CUSTOMER.

They lock EYES

MIKE

Will!

Will is stunned.

They walk up to each other.

WILL

Holy shit!

They hug hard and hold it for awhile before breaking apart.

WILL (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing out?

Mike looks around suspiciously and then puts his arm around Will and directs him, into a quiet corner.

MIKE

(Whisper)

Remember I told you about that loose concrete in the kitchen, that led directly to the sewage pipes.

WILL

No you fucking didn't? Are you crazy? Why would you come here?

MIKE

I just wanted to say bye before I hightailed it to Mexico.

WILL

(Deathly serious)

We have to get you out of here. They're going to be looking for you. There going to think I was in on it. Lets go.

Mike stands there chuckling

WILL (CONT'D)

What?...

He continues to laugh

WILL (CONT'D)

Oh you asshole

MIKE

I couldn't help myself.

WILL

You fuck. I almost ran out of here.

MIKE

I got out on appeal you idiot. They took two and half years off, and I might even make something in civil court.

WILL

You lucky bastard. I can't believe you're out.

MIKE

I know me either. It looks like you're doing well though here? I'm proud of you.

WILL

Yeah it's a pretty nice set up I got.

MIKE

Good good.

WILL

Enough about that man. You're fucking out. We gotta go celebrate.

MIKE

That's what I'm talking about.

WILL

Let me just finish up here then we're out, drinks on me.

Will puts his arm around Mike's shoulder and starts walking out.

MIKE

I got you there didn't I?

WILL

I almost shit myself.

They walk out of the room.

INT. LOCAL DIVE BAR - NIGHT

The bar is small and dingy with a pool table, jukebox, and an older crowd. It is a typical Irish Dive bar.

Will and Mike sit at the bar.

MIKE

Cheers brother.

They take a SHOT OF WHISKEY off the bar, cheers and drink it.

Will puts the drink down and stumbles a little bit when he tries to stand up; he is getting drunk.

WILL

I can't believe this man. I can't believe you're back, I thought it was just gunna be me out here against the world...Come here man.

Will pulls Mike in and gives him a hug.

MIKE

It's good to be home man...come on  
lets take another one.

WILL

Not right now. I need I minute, I  
have to go drain the garden hose.

He pats Mike on the back and heads for the rest room.

MIKE

Fine I'll take one myself you light  
weight.

He takes his shot. Then Sipping a drink, he looks to his left  
and stares at a MIDDLE AGED WOMAN sitting a few stools down.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Did anyone ever tell you that you  
look like Julia Roberts?

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

(Blushing)

Well actually yeah, quite a few  
people.

She looks nothing like her and Mike laughs and then slides  
down the bar into the seat next to her.

MIKE

Well you do. You have a certain  
similar distinguished beauty.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

Oh stop.

MIKE

I'm serious.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

You're cute.

MIKE

Why thank you.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

You're quite welcome.

MIKE

Can I buy you a drink?

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN

I don't know if I should. I think  
I've had enough.

MIKE

Come on, you could always use one more.

Her BIKER BOYFRIEND comes up behind him.

BIKER

Can I help you with something?

MIKE

Nah man, we're just talking here.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(To girl)

So what are you drinking?

The biker gets closer.

BIKER

That's my girl you're talking to asshole.

Mike turns around unfazed.

MIKE

Listen man. I've been inside for 5 years. That means I haven't had a fuck in 5 years. So let me tell you what I'm going to do, I'm going to buy this lady here a drink and then I'm going to take her back to my motel and put 5 years of pent up sexual energy into my junk, resulting in the best, albeit quickest, fuck of my, and probably her life; and you're not going to do shit about it because you're fat and you're slow.

The biker becomes fuming mad.

We see Will come out of the bathroom, and he notices the situation and heads over to them.

BIKER

Fuck you.

He draws his fist back to throw a punch at Mike.

Mike smiles, he wanted this, he quickly grabs his arm and slams his face down HARD onto the bar. He maliciously picks up his head by the hair and slams his head down repeatedly; the biker eventually falls limply to the ground after numerous slams.

Will has made it over to them and looks at what Mike did.

WILL  
Jesus, Mike. What the fuck is wrong  
with you?  
(To bartender)  
Here take this, keep you're mouth  
shut.

He throws him some bills.

WILL (CONT'D)  
We gotta get out of here, come on.

Mike is very amped up and excited.

MIKE  
(To woman)  
Rain check on that drink.

The girl is picking up the Biker off the ground.

MIDDLE AGED WOMAN  
Fuck you asshole!

People begin crowding around.

WILL  
Mike! Now!

He laughs and hurries out of the bar.

EXT. STREET - RAINING - NIGHT

Mike and Will run from around a corner and find cover under an awning. Mike is very excited and seems to be having a great time.

MIKE  
(Laughing)  
Did you see that guys face when I  
reversed that shit.

Will is not as amused.

WILL  
Yeah I saw it.

Mike Laughs as they walk a few more steps and then realizes that Will is not in high-spirits.

MIKE  
Oh what? What the fuck man?

They stop and Mike throws his arms up in the air.

WILL

I just don't think you should be doing that shit on your first day out. I mean I know you're not going to stay completely out of trouble, but come on. You didn't have to do that.

MIKE

What can I say, I needed some pussy.

WILL

We could have went down to Quail if you wanted pussy.

MIKE

Hey I never pay for it man. I stick to my principals.

WILL

Principals! That girl looked like our high school principal.

MIKE

She did actually. Mrs. Rivers right? I think she always had a thing for me.

WILL

She was 70.

MIKE

Still, not bad looking for 70... Here, hold up a second.

They walk up to a pita vendor cart. Mike orders one.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You want one?

WILL

Nah.

MIKE

So what do you want to do now?

He gives the guy money and gets the pita and they walk on down the street.

WILL

I don't know it's getting pretty late I was thinking about heading home soon. I'm supposed to go to Saratoga with Kristina in the morning.

MIKE

Christ. That's sweet and all you hanging with you daughter. But Your best buds first night back and you're ready to go home at  
(Checks watch)  
12:30?

WILL

God fine, what do you want to do.

MIKE

I know about this party.

WILL

A party? Like a house party?

MIKE

Yeah.

WILL

Wow we really are back in high school.

MIKE

Come on it'll be fun.

WILL

Alright, fuck it lets go. Not to late though.

MIKE

There we go!

EXT. PARTY - NIGHT

Will and Mike stand outside of a huge colonial house much like the Jenkins's.

WILL

So how do you know this girl?

MIKE

I met her in county rehab before I went up state. Real sweet girl.

WILL

I bet.

They walk in and the sights and sounds of a party emerge from inside.

INT. PARTY - NIGHT

Will and Mike stand against a wall checking out the scene. It is a classic crowded party, people drinking from red cups, music, dancing etc. The crowd is about 25 and grungy.

In a low voice Mike turns to Will and says

MIKE

So I need to talk to you about something.

WILL

What about?

MIKE

How are you for money?

WILL

How do you think? I barely make minimum wage over there.

MIKE

That's what I figured.

WILL

So?

MIKE

So. I got wind of a job that would be perfect for 2 people, make some quick cash, set us up real nicely for awhile.

WILL

You want to go back that bad don't you?

MIKE

Trust me, it's an easy squeeze, no chance of getting caught.

WILL

Just like the one that sent you away right?

MIKE

This is different, trust me.

WILL

I don't know man, I got something kind of good going with Kristina I don't want to mess it up.

Over comes CINDY, 26, good looking but grungy, who plants a kiss on Mike's lips before saying anything.

MIKE

Hello to you too honey. Cindy, this is Will.

She looks very HIGH and MOONFACED.

CINDY

That's nice.

WILL

(To Mike)  
Sweet girl.

Will is not impressed.

CINDY

(Seductively)  
Michael I have to show you something.

Mike knows what she is insinuating.

MIKE

(to Will)  
You'll be alright right? I gotta take care of this.

WILL

Yeah go do your thing.

MIKE

But stay close, we have to talk more about that thing later.

WILL

I'm not going anywhere don't worry.

Will leans against the wall, takes a sip of his drink and watches as Cindy leads Mike into a nearby bedroom.

INT. PARTY - DEN - NIGHT

Will sits with a few other people at a glass coffee table.

PARTY GOER 1  
So have you heard about the  
conspiracy?

WILL  
Can't say that I have man.

PARTY GOER 2  
You should read the papers man.

WILL  
I do.

PARTY GOER 1  
No, You have to read in between the  
lines man.

WILL  
Alright, whatever you say.

PARTY GOER 1  
There's about to be a war. A huge  
one.

Party goer 2 whips out a tray of cocaine and starts chopping  
it up.

PARTY GOER 2  
Between the lines man, get it?

PARTY GOER 1  
Oh shit! I didn't even mean that.  
That's crazy.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL - NIGHT

FAST MOTION shot of Will shooting up.

CUT TO:

INT. PARTY - DEN - SECOND LATER

Will stares at the COCAINE with a watchful eye. They offer  
him some.

WILL  
No thanks man.

Will anxiously gets up and walks away.

PARTY GOER 2  
Between the lines man, you'll see  
about the war. It's coming. Trust.

WILL  
(Over his shoulder)  
Yeah dude.

Will quickly and frantically goes over to the bar. He pours  
him self a big shot of whiskey. He quickly slugs it down.  
Then looks around.

PAN RIGHT

We see a GROUP OF PEOPLE smoking weed. More people doing COKE  
on a CD CASE. The guys DOING COKE from earlier.

Will, drunk, and anxious starts pacing around.

WILL (CONT'D)  
I need to get the fuck out of here.

He walks down the long hallway.

WILL (CONT'D)  
Mike.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Will opens the door quickly.

WILL  
Mike. Let's go.

Three people, TWO GUYS, and ONE GIRL are having sex on a bed.

GUY  
No room man, get the fuck out.

Will closes the door quickly.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Will opens another door.

WILL  
Mike lets go.

He looks over to his left and sees Mike on the floor leaning on the edge of the bed, shooting up a big fat shot into his pulsing vein. Cindy laying next to him, just popped off seconds before.

FLASH BACK

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

Sun is shining. Same swimming pool from earlier. He floats peacefully.

END FLASHBACK

WILL  
Fucking hell.

MIKE  
(Slowly, high)  
Will wait...don't go.

He goes back to shooting up.

EXT. PARTY - RAINING - NIGHT

Will runs out of the house quickly and frantically. He is breathing very hard as the rain pours down on his head. He made it out, but barely. He walks down the driveway without looking back.

We see a GROUP OF PEOPLE walking toward him. He doesn't even look at them, then,

KRISTINA  
Will?

Will turns around, drunk, frantic.

WILL  
Kristina? What the hell are you doing here?

KRISTINA  
Um just seeing some friends. What are you doing here?

WILL  
I don't know I'm leaving, come with me, you shouldn't be at a place like this.

KRISTINA

(laughs)

You sound like Julie. Go get on the bus. I'll see you tomorrow.

WILL

Kristina. Come with me now!

KRISTINA

Good night. Bye.

She turns and catches up with her friends.

WILL

Kris...

Will stands upset, distraught, drunk.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING - NIGHT

Will sits in the same seat he sat in at the last meeting. He reads a book completely oblivious to Mrs. Dashwood speaking at the podium.

MRS. DASHWOOD

Now would any newcomers like to stand up and say a few words. Anyone?

She looks around the room and no hands are raised.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)

I guess we don't have too many eager orators tonight but I do see some fresh faces about so...

Her eyes fall on Will, who sits still reading, not listening.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)

How about you Will?

Will snaps his head up at the utterance of his name.

WILL

Excuse me?

MRS. DASHWOOD

That is your name right? Will Dormer?

WILL

Well yeah.

MRS. DASHWOOD  
Why don't you come up and say a few words.

WILL  
I don't think so.

Will looks toward the door nervously and Mrs. Dashwood catches his glance.

MRS. DASHWOOD  
Come on you're not going to run away this time.

She leaves the podium and walks down the aisle towards him.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)  
Mr. Cartmell will be very glad to hear that one of his star pupils decided to help me out tonight.

WILL  
I don't think I want to.

MRS. DASHWOOD  
Come now.

Will stands up, and she begins shooing him toward the podium. She pats him on the back tenderly as they walk down the aisle.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)  
You'll do fine.

He gets to the podium. He stands nervously, unsure of what to say. Mrs. Dashwood sits back down in her chair, and encouragingly motions for him to proceed.

WILL  
Ok. Um. My name is Will. I grew up here, in this city, only a few blocks from here actually. I am 37 years old. And... I don't know I like to drink black coffee.

He looks over at Mrs. Dashwood scornfully.

WILL (CONT'D)  
What is the point of this?

MRS. DASHWOOD  
Please continue.

He turns back to the audience.

WILL

Well I guess what you all want to hear is. That yes, I am an addict. I have been for most of my life, and it has ruined just about everything I have ever had.

(Aggressively)

And this meeting, and me crying about it isn't going to get me back anything that I lost.

MRS. DASHWOOD

That maybe be true, but it may help you for the rest of your life. Reflection is very important for growth.

WILL

I can reflect by myself, at my house in my bathtub, I don't need a room full of pity to reflect.

MRS. DASHWOOD

That may be so, but relation is also a very important part of growth. Don't you want to see how the people in your life may view you? Your family? Your friends?

WILL

I'm not sure. But I do know that I'm done with this.

He leaves the podium and heads toward the exit.

MRS. DASHWOOD

Alright everyone give it up for Will. Good job.

The crowd gives a forced clap.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)

Wait Will.

Will is about to leave through the door way, but turns around.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)

Good job today.

She THROWS something through the air.

Will catches it and looks at a ONE DAY KEY CHAIN lying in his hands.

He looks back at her, before putting it in his pocket and exiting the room.

EXT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE - DAY

Will walks up the street towards the house. We HEAR yelling off screen.

Julie and Kristina are in the middle of a fight. Julie is throwing all of Kristina's belongings out onto the front lawn, while Kristina scurries around to pick them up.

JULIE

(Crying)

Get the fuck out of here. Just like your mother. So needy for attention you don't care whose lives you have to ruin to get it.

She throws a SUITCASE and CLOTHES onto a pile of other belongings.

KRISTINA

You crazy fucking bitch. Be careful with those.

As Julie throws a pair of high heels onto the pile.

Will runs over to the scene.

JULIE

Take your shit, come on, get your junkie ass off of my property. You're not going to ruin this family.

KRISTINA

You're fucking crazy.

Will runs across the lawn towards her.

JULIE

Oh great another one.

Will is now next to the them.

WILL

What the hell is going on? Julie, what are you doing?

He begins helping Kristina pick up her stuff.

JULIE  
Get all of it out!

Julie runs into the house and out of sight.

Will turns frantically to Kristina who is now crying as well.

WILL  
What the fuck is going on?

KRISTINA  
She's a damn psycho that's what's  
going on.

Will runs into the house after Julie.

INT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE/KRISTINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Will finds Julie rummaging through Kristina's belongings.

WILL  
Julie! What the fuck! You can't  
just do this.

JULIE  
Why not? I can do what ever the  
fuck I want in my own house.

WILL  
But what happened? I know you two  
have had your differences but I'm  
sure you can work it out.

JULIE  
Oh yeah. How are we going to do  
that. I found this.

She procures a PLASTIC ZIPLOCK BAG with a SYRINGE and EMPTY  
BAGGIES in it.

She marches out of the door with an armful of clothes and  
says from over her shoulder.

LINDA  
I did work it out, and this is what  
I came up with. You're a junkie.  
You're wife was a no good junkie,  
and you two produced a no good  
junkie daughter.

Will grips the bag, hard, he is upset.

WILL

Fuck...

EXT. THE JENKINS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie throws another armful of clothes out onto the porch.

JULIE

I have my own daughter to think  
about, I can't worry about a lost  
cause...

Then she slams the door, while Kristina and Will look on and pick up the belongings.

Kristina picks up a SHOE and wings it at the closed FRONT DOOR.

KRISTINA

Fuck you! You crazy bitch!

WILL

Come on stop. I'm sure we can talk  
to her. Make her change her mind.

KRISTINA

There's not going to be any  
talking, I'm done with her. I  
haven't been welcome here in a long  
time.

WILL

It will blow over don't worry.

KRISTINA

I'm done. I'm out. I don't want  
anything to do with her.

She picks up her cell phone to make a call.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)

I'm gunna stay with Victor. I  
should have done this months ago.

Will stands and watches her dial and put the phone to her ear. He squeezes the syringe in his hand.

WILL

Wait. Come stay with me.

KRISTINA

With you?

WILL

Yeah come on it will be great...I have an extra room. I wont bother you or anything.

KRISTINA

I don't know. It might be weird.

WILL

Weird? Why would it be weird? I'm your father.

KRISTINA

Exactly.

WILL

Come on...

Kristina looks around for a second and then hangs up the phone.

KRISTINA

Alright, but just for a little while. At least until this asshole answers his phone.

WILL

Yeah that's fine. Whatever you need. Lets clean this up. Come on.

They begin picking up the clothes and belongings and packing them up.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will walks in followed by Kristina.

WILL

Well it's not much, but this is it.

They take a look around at the lonely bare apartment.

KRISTINA

It's not bad. Really it's not. Could use some minor alterations though.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT/KRISTINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

They are PAINTING Kristina's room. Kristina is painting a small design in the corner of the room.

Will is painting on the far wall. She turns and looks what he has just made. It is a massive, crudely painted BROWN HORSE.

She looks playfully pissed off. Will laughs. She comes over and puts a large white strike in it with a paint roller.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will sits at a computer with reading glasses on. He is sitting with his face an inch away from the screen, and Kristina is leaning over his shoulder directing him.

KRISTINA

Back up an inch you're going fry  
your retinas.

WILL

Oh right.

He backs away a little bit.

KRISTINA

Now do you see that little icon  
there?

She points at the screen.

WILL

Where?

KRISTINA

That little blue thing.

WILL

Oh yeah I got it.

KRISTINA

Click that. Now you can set up an  
email.

WILL

Who's going to send stuff to me  
though?

KRISTINA

Well no one I don't think, because  
you don't have any friends.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will sits on the couch reading a book. Kristina reads sitting on the floor.

A KNOCK at the door. Both of them look up from their books.  
Another LOUD KNOCK.

Will gets up and heads to the door.

WILL  
Who is it?

MIKE  
Open up.

WILL  
Who?

MIKE (O.S.)  
It's the police open up.

WILL  
What?

MIKE  
It's Mike, open up shit head.

Will opens the door and Mike bursts in and instantly heads  
for the kitchen. He grabs some goldfish and eats as he talks.

Will is clearly uncomfortable with Mike being there.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
What's up dude. Have I got a story  
to tell you. That Cindy chick is a  
freak! So we were...

Will gives Mike a look that says "Hold you're tongue."

MIKE (CONT'D)  
What...

He turns around and sees Kristina.

KRISTINA  
Hey uncle Mike.

MIKE  
Holy shit. Kristina. Is that you?

He brings her in a for a huge hug.

KRISTINA  
Where have you been?

MIKE  
I've been around. But look at you.  
You're all grown up.  
(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

I remember you when you were this little thing. Now you're like some big Sasquatch or something.

KRISTINA

(Laughing)

Hey, shut up.

WILL

So Mike what's up?

MIKE

I wanted to see if you wanted to head down to Billies for a couple of beers.

WILL

It's like 2 in the afternoon.

MIKE

Who cares man I need some brew. But if you guys are busy it's no big deal we could meet up later.

KRISTINA

No you can go Will, I don't mind, really.

WILL

I think I'm just going to hang here, I wanna finish this chapter.

MIKE

That's cool, I'll catch up with you later than.

Mike goes over and gives Kristina a nuggie. She playfully slaps his hand away.

KRISTINA

Get off.

MIKE

Take care you big Sasquatch.

WILL

Bye Mike.

MIKE

(Whisper)

Hey Will can I talk to you for a minute.

He motions for outside.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT BUILDING/HALLWAY - DAY

Will and Mike exit the formers apartment, and are out in the hallway.

MIKE

So you remember that thing we started talking about the other day?

WILL

Yeah.

MIKE

So what do you think?

WILL

I don't know man.

MIKE

Come on it's easy money.

WILL

It's not a good idea for me right now.

MIKE

Are you sure? It will be like the old days.

WILL

I have to be honest with you man. I think I'm done.

MIKE

Alright fine. We'll find something else don't worry.

WILL

No you don't understand man. I'm done with it all. I don't want it anymore. The drugs, the partying. I just don't need it.

MIKE

Are you serious?

WILL

I think so. I mean I have Kris now to think about. I'm sorry man.

MIKE

No it's alright. I get it. You have to think about your family first.

Mike is actually hurt, he is trying to play it cool but he knows he is really losing his best friend.

WILL

We can still hang though.

MIKE

I'm sure we will. Stay healthy man. I'll see you around.

They bring it in for a hug.

WILL

Take care of yourself. Stay out of trouble.

MIKE

You know I won't.

He heads down the stairs.

WILL

I know.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will sits in his apartment reading.

He nervously looks up at the clock and it reads 2:15 AM.

We hear LAUGHING and WALKING coming from (O.S.) Outside the apartment door.

Will instantly stands up when he hears it.

Through the door stumbles Kristina with Victor's arms wrapped around her. They both appear to be very HIGH and don't notice Will.

KRISTINA

Get in here.

She rips him inside and presses him against the wall and then starts voraciously making out with him.

Will is all the while standing silently watching in disgust.

They break apart and turn to go towards the bedroom. Finally she notices Will standing there staring at them scornfully.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)

What?

WILL

Do you know what time it is?

KRISTINA

Does it matter?

WILL

You have school tomorrow.

KRISTINA

You have got to be kidding me.

WILL

I just can't keep having this all the time. If you're going to be living here you have got respect my rules a little bit.

KRISTINA

Your rules?

VICTOR

Yeah man, fuck your rules.

WILL

(To Kristina)

Can you get this moron out of my house please.

KRISTINA

He stays with me.

VICTOR

Nah it's alright, I know when I'm not wanted, I'll step outside for a moment.

WILL

Thank you.

Victor exits the apartment.

WILL (CONT'D)

Kris we need to talk. I think you are going down a bad path.

KRISTINA

What does that mean?

WILL

It means you're starting to scare me. Staying out late, missing school.

KRISTINA

I'm fine. Who are you to say anything about that you fucking hypocrite.

WILL

I know it seems like that, but I've been down the path. I've seen a lot of people go down it. It's going to ruin your life.

KRISTINA

Stop it I'm fine. I'm just living. I'm only 17.

WILL

(Beat)

I know why you got kicked out of Julie's.

KRISTINA

(Caught)

What do you mean?

Will reaching into his desk, and pulls out Kristina's SYRINGE KIT.

WILL

She gave me this. You have to listen to me. We can get you through this. I've been there, I know I can help you.

KRISTINA

Oh shut up. You don't know anything. Why would I take advice from you, you fuck up.

Victor comes in through the door.

VICTOR

Kris, come on, lets just go back to my place.

KRISTINA

I'm coming.

She begins to follow him out.

WILL  
Please, honey, wait.

Will goes to grab Kristina's arm rather aggressively.

KRISTINA  
Ouch!

Victor intercedes and tries to push Will away. Will becomes furious.

He grabs Victor by the THROAT and throws him up against the wall.

WILL  
Get the fuck out of my house.

KRISTINA  
Get off of him! You psycho.

Will realizes he is being harsh and lets him go.

VICTOR  
That's right.

Will is very frustrated.

WILL  
Yeah go. Ruin your life. Just like your mother!

KRISTINA  
Fuck you!

Kristina and Victor leave the room. Will slams the door behind them furiously.

He then leans against the wall and slides down to the floor. He throws the syringe he was holding across the room.

INT. MECHANIC - DAY

It is pouring rain outside. Will sits pondering over a transmission. He cant seem to focus. He looks over at a PICTURE of HIS DAUGHTER on his little desk. He throws his wrench down on the floor, mentally exhausted.

From his left RONNIE walks over.

RONNIE  
Hey, Dormer. Can I see you in my office for a second?

He drops his wrench and follows his boss.

WILL  
Yeah. You got it.

INT. RONNIE'S OFFICE - DAY

The manager is sitting behind his big desk. Will comes in closing the door behind him.

WILL  
So what's up?

RONNIE  
Alright Will. I know you know what's going on here. You're a smart guy.

WILL  
I'm not sure what we're talking about?

RONNIE  
Joey told me that you came by after hours a few weeks ago. That you didn't want to help out, something about you turning your life around or some bullshit.

WILL  
Well yeah.

RONNIE  
I respect the fact that you are trying, but we need team players here.

WILL  
Well, I'm not going to say anything to anyone sir if that's what you're getting at.

RONNIE  
I don't think you will either, 17 years inside must have at least of taught you to keep your mouth shut.

WILL  
It did among other things.

RONNIE  
But to be sure, here's what we're going to do.

(MORE)

RONNIE (CONT'D)

You're going to pay me 3,000  
dollars every third Friday of the  
month.

WILL

(Chuckling)

The fuck I am.

RONNIE

Let me finish. Or! I am going to  
take this card I have right here...

He picks up a BUSINESS CARD off of his desk and holds it up

RONNIE (CONT'D)

That has detective Anderson's  
number on it. He's in the grand  
larceny division over at APD. I'll  
give him a call and tell him that I  
think some of the less reputable  
boys I have working for me over  
hear may be chopping cars...

Will in realizing the situation he is furious, ready to  
pounce.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Who do you think he'll come after  
first? I'm not positive, but my  
best guess would be on the ex-con  
on parole, fresh out of state on a  
murder bid.

WILL

This is bullshit. Extortion.

RONNIE

Exactly!

Will is furious, but then seems to have an idea.

WILL

Fuck it, I quit.

He begins to stand up and leave. He turns around at the sound  
of Ronnie's voice.

RONNIE

I'm sorry, that's not really going  
to work either because you see, I'm  
going to keep you on the payroll as  
what some might call a *scapegoat*.

(MORE)

RONNIE (CONT'D)  
 Punch you in every single day just  
 in case the police come knocking  
 one day.

Will is furious, speechless.

WILL  
 You wont get away with this.

RONNIE  
 (Smiling)  
 I think I will...because no one  
 gives a shit about an ex junkie  
 convict.

Will in a rage flips over a the chair on his way out. Right  
 as Will is about to go through the open door...

RONNIE(CONT'D)  
 Oh and Will...it's already the 3rd  
 Wednesday of the month.

WILL  
 I'm aware.

Furiously Will slams the door. Ronnie sits back in his chair  
 proud of himself...

RONNIE  
 (loudly)  
 Two days...

EXT. VICTOR'S APRTMENT - NIGHT

Will knocks on the door. Victor answers, pale, groggy and  
 high.

VICTOR  
 Hello?

WILL  
 Where's my daughter?

VICTOR  
 Oh right...she doesn't want to see  
 you.

He smirks and then closes the door. Before he does we see  
 KRISTINA passed out on the floor. Looking like her and  
 Victor's drug use has increased.

Will tries to break the door down.

WILL  
Fuck...Kristina...You can come  
back, we can get you help!

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

He sits at his desk drinking. He is tense.

WILL  
Fuck it.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Mike is at the bar in the middle of telling a story to a  
small crowd of listeners.

Will bursts in, notices him immediately and heads over to the  
bar.

WILL  
(To listeners)  
It turned out it was a dude. A  
tranny.

MIKE  
What the fuck man, I love that  
story.

Will puts his hands on Mike's shoulders.

WILL  
(To listeners)  
Sorry I have to steal him for a  
minute.

They walk over to a corner booth where it is a little more  
secluded and sit down.

MIKE  
What the fuck man? Where have you  
been?

WILL  
I've been busy. My daughter and  
everything.

MIKE  
No time for your best friend  
anymore?

WILL  
I've been meaning to call you.

MIKE

I bet...So what's up. I know you need something or you wouldn't be slumming down here with me.

WILL

Remember that job you started telling me about. Did you ever pull it off?

MIKE

Nah I never found the right crew.

WILL

How much is the take looking like?

MIKE

At least 5 or 6 thou a man.

WILL

Well I'm in.

MIKE

You're in?

WILL

Yeah.

MIKE

Are you sure?

WILL

Yeah I'm sure. I need this.

MIKE

What about the whole turning over the leaf thing.

WILL

Turns out the other side is smeared with shit as well.

Mike laughs...

MIKE

Alright let's do this.

WILL

How's it going to work?

MIKE

Come on I'll show you.

They get up to leave, and we see a bus pass by outside.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

A small "coffee joint" restaurant.

Will and Mike sit at a table, next to large glass windows looking out into the street, drinking coffee.

WILL  
So what's the plan?

MIKE  
You see that store across the street?

Out the window there is a CONVENIENT STORE.

WILL  
Yeah? That's the big plan. A fucking 7-11?

MIKE  
Look two doors down...

Through the window we see TWO LARGE BLACK MEN in jackets standing and talking to each other.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
You see them?

WILL  
Yeah and?

MIKE  
You think they're standing there guarding the fucking sidewalk? Upstairs in that building is the biggest card game in the city. All suits, big time players, which means big time money.

WILL  
Really? Here?

MIKE  
Yup. Right down town, no one would ever expect it. 100 feet from the state building and right next to where the governor gets his shoes shined.

WILL  
That's why the muscle is so light.

MIKE

Exactly.

WILL

Still how would we get past them;  
you know they're strapped.

MIKE

I know the girl who works the night  
shift at the bar up there. She will  
get us right in through the front  
door, she'll have the guns with her  
and then we'll leave through the  
back.

WILL

A lot of this seems to be counting  
on her. You trust her?

MIKE

Yeah I do. It was pretty much her  
idea actually.

WILL

Alright good. Can I meet her?

MIKE

That's where it gets a little  
complicated.

WILL

Why?

MIKE

Let's just say that she comes with  
a little baggage.

WILL

Why who is she?

MIKE

Don't freak out.

Mike picks up his phone and dials.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Alright, come in.

Beat.

WILL

Well where is she, I gotta go, I  
have to see my P.O. tonight.

Mike takes a sip of his coffee and laughs.

WILL (CONT'D)  
What the fuck is going on?

From behind him we see SHANNON come in the door. She looks older, tired, strung out but still obviously very beautiful.

She comes over to the table. Will turns and is instantly stunned.

WILL (CONT'D)  
You have got to be fucking kidding me. I'm out. Good try Mike, good luck you two.

He then storms out of the dinner. Shannon smiles and watches him leave.

EXT. DINNER - NIGHT

Will speed walks furious down a side street with Mike hot on his tail.

MIKE  
Will wait up man...

He catches up to him and turns him around. Will throws him against the wall.

WILL  
Are you out of your mind? Do you actually think I would fucking go for this.

As this happens we see Shannon slowly, indifferently walking towards them smoking a cigarette. She is not fazed.

MIKE  
Lets just calm down.

Will notices Shannon approaching.

WILL  
Do you remember what happened the last time we pulled a brilliant fucking heist together? I do! I ended up rotting in a cell for almost two decades.

MIKE  
Easy Will. Come on, that was a long time ago.

WILL

(To Shannon)

I cant believe you even have the  
nerve to show your face to me.

To Shannon who is now leaning on a brick wall smoking.

SHANNON

Can you really not?

WILL

How long have you been in town? You  
haven't even thought to see your  
daughter?

SHANNON

I've only been back for a few  
months...and I wanted to but I  
figured you would freak out like  
this...

WILL

I cant believe you.

SHANNON

Come on Will. You need this. We all  
need this. You know it's a good  
plan, it'll work.

WILL

I'm fucking out of here.

He storms off down the street.

Shannon and Mike watch him go and then turn to each other.

MIKE

Can you talk some sense into him?

SHANNON

Maybe we should just let him go...

MIKE

You have to try. We need this.

SHANNON

I guess I could try. I'll go over  
there later.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A KNOCK at the door interrupts Will sitting and reading. He gets up suspiciously and heads to the door. He puts his ear to the door.

WILL  
Who is it?

SHANNON (O.S.)  
It's me Will. Let me in please.

WILL  
What do you want? I told you guys  
I'm out. I'll figure out another  
way to get the money.

SHANNON (O.S.)  
Can't we talk for a minute.

Will contemplates...

SHANNON (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Please Will. It's freezing out  
here.

Will gives in, he unlocks the door and lets her in. Shannon comes in out of the cold rubbing her hands together.

SHANNON (CONT'D)  
Thank you...

Will walks back to the couch and takes a seat.

WILL  
Yeah don't mention it. Just get on  
with your spiel, warm up, and then  
you can get out of here.

SHANNON  
There's no spiel. I only came to  
talk to you. I miss you.

WILL  
I'm sure you do.

SHANNON  
I do. I've been thinking a lot  
about you, and us lately. I miss  
what we had.

WILL

You miss me so much that you haven't even taken the time to write, or call, or visit or anything in almost 10 years.

SHANNON

It's been hard, real hard. Things come up you know.

WILL

Things come up? What kind of bullshit is that? You took my daughter away from me when you stopped visiting. Do know how much that hurt? Do know what that does to a father? Probably not actually, considering you don't give a shit about your daughter...

SHANNON

Don't say that. I do care about her, I love her with everything I have.

WILL

You cared so much that you left her on your sister's door step 5 years ago?

SHANNON

I just couldn't do it alone. I needed help. I needed you to be there.

WILL

Well that would have been pretty difficult now wouldn't it, considering you know, my circumstances.

SHANNON

I'm sorry it turned out the way it did, I really am. But I think we can have another chance at it.

WILL

What are you talking about?

Shannon moves from the chair on to the couch next to Will.

SHANNON

Listen. We can do this job. Take the money and go down to Jacksonville, and forget about everything that's happened in this shit hole city.

WILL

And have the same thing happen as last time, with me ending up in prison? I don't think so.

SHANNON

It won't be like last time, this is an easy take, fool proof.

WILL

There's no way I'm doing it. It's madness.

Shannon scoots over closer to him and puts her hand on his leg sensually. Will looks uncomfortable.

SHANNON

We can be a family again Will... You, me, and Kris can be together again.

She moves closer, Will is now interested. Shannon moves in and plants a long sensual kiss on Will's lips.

When they release, Will stares into her eyes.

SHANNON (CONT'D)

I promise, It will be like before. We can be together again.

Will hesitates and then goes in for kiss. They kiss sensually and roll around a little bit.

FADE OUT.

INT. PAROLE OFFICE

Will sits across from officer Cartmell.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Will So you know I used to be a detective right? With APD?

WILL

Yeah...

Will knows what is coming.

OFFICER CARTMELL

So I assume that you would be aware that I still congregate with my some of my old colleges outside of work right?

WILL

I suppose so.

Will looks tense, like he's ready to run.

We see DETECTIVE ANDERSON'S CARD on his desk. Cartmell is fingering HANDCUFFS nervously in his hand.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Well I had an interesting chat the other day with one of them...But we can get to that later...I'd like to talk about your case a little.

He stops playing with the HANDCUFFS.

WILL

Again with this? What do you want to know?

OFFICER CARTMELL

I did a little detective work and looked through the transcripts and the confession and some things just don't add up.

WILL

Is that right?

OFFICER CARTMELL

It is. In your confession you said that you "bought the gun on the street." However evidence shows that the gun was actually purchased at a pawn shop on Pearl St. By a Mrs. Shannon Brightly. Also known as Shannon Dormer. I think you need to talk. Tell me what actually happened.

WILL

A coincidence I'm sure.

OFFICER CARTMELL

Come on Will. This is your last chance to come clean.

WILL  
I don't know...

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Why are you protecting her? Tell me  
what happened.

WILL  
What good is it going to do now?

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Maybe we could work on getting you  
a pardon.

WILL  
A pardon? You honestly think the  
state would give me, a lowlife, a  
scoundrel, a pardon? I don't think  
so.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
You might be right. But at the very  
least it might be beneficial to get  
the truth off of your chest. And  
besides what harm can it do now?

WILL  
I doubt it.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
I'll tell you what, if you tell me  
I'll let you skip your last N.A.  
meeting.

WILL  
I guess it can't hurt.

FLASHBACK

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will is packing up the apartment. All belongings are going in  
whatever bags they have.

WILL (V.O.)  
We were going down to Jacksonville  
to kick and start over at her  
cousin's house...But Shannon  
insisted on scoring one more time  
for the ride....

INT. CAR - RAINING - NIGHT

Will sits in the car outside the MOTEL. Baby Kristina is sitting in her car seat in the back. He checks his watch. He leans into the back seat and kisses the baby, before exiting the vehicle.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

He is right outside room 247 where Shannon is. We hear YELLING and ARGUING.

WILL (V.O.)

By the time I got there it was too late.

We HEAR a LOUD GUNSHOT and then another, Will is startled and runs into the room.

WILL (V.O.)

One hit was never enough for her. She was never going to stop until she had the whole world pumped into her arm. I knew it. But I still couldn't leave her.

INT. MOTEL ROOM

Will sprints in, looks around frantically. He sees Shannon sitting on the ground with a LARGE BAG OF DRUGS on her lap and a GUN in her hand.

Will scurries over to her and hugs her.

WILL

(Frantically)

Are you ok?

She is crying and nods in the affirmative.

He looks to his left and sees the DEALER, laying sprawled out on the bed, DEAD, shot through his chest.

WILL (CONT'D)

Christ! What the Fuck!

SHANNON

(Crying)

I Don't Know. I thought I could just rob him, he came at me.

Will thinks for a second...We HEAR SIRENS in the distance...

WILL

Just go...Take the car and  
Kristina...don't stop...leave the  
gun.

Shannon looks up at him unsure...

She then quickly makes her up mind. She grabs the drugs and  
the KEYS from Will and darts out the door.

Will is left with the body of the dead man. He picks up the  
GUN and wipes it down thoroughly, with a Handkerchief. He  
then places it in his hand and points it at the dealer

He fires another one off, then drops the gun.

He slowly walks towards the door...

EXT. MOTEL - RAINING - NIGHT

Will sits on the steps, and pulls out WORKS from his pocket.  
He cooks up real quick with a lighter and then shoots up on  
the steps. It is the same scene from earlier just a different  
angle.

This time as his hands fall and he dozes a HALF DOZEN POLICE  
CARS roll up with their sirens blaring.

WILL (V.O.)

And that was that...

END FLASHBACK

INT. PAROLE OFFICE

OFFICER CARTMELL

Why didn't you go with her?

WILL

I knew they would have found us  
eventually...Better to let mother  
be with daughter.

OFFICER CARTMELL

I can't believe that Will...Half  
your life gone...And you never said  
a word...that is one of the noblest  
things I've ever heard.

WILL  
Yeah real noble, she didn't even  
appreciate it...So are you ready to  
do this?

Searching Beat.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
I think it can wait...

EXT. CARD ROOM - NIGHT

Will and Mike stand against a brick wall on the side of the  
building.

MIKE  
You ready?

Will is putting on leather gloves. Replies after a deep  
breath.

WILL  
I guess.

Mike puts his arm around Will.

MIKE  
We go in, do the job quick and then  
we are out. It'll be that easy.  
Trust me.

WILL  
Alright.

MIKE  
Lets do this.

They turn the corner and we follow.

They stop in front of SECURITY GUARD 1 and SECURITY 2. One of  
them puts their hand out indicating for our boys to stop.  
They do. Other one points up at a CAMERA looking directly at  
them.

Will and Mike look right into the camera.

INT. CARD ROOM

Shannon behind the bar. SECURITY GUARD 3 looks at a series of  
screens. He looks over to SHANNON who looks at the screen.

ON SECURITY CAMERA

In black and white MIKE and WILL looking up.

Shannon nods to Security Guard 3. He speaks into a radio.

SECURITY GUARD 3  
(Into Radio)  
Alright...they're good.

On the screen we see MIKE and WILL let in.

Mike and Will appear a few seconds later. Mike stands at the top of the stairs smiling at 3 full tables of poker players. Most of whom are dressed in suits.

MIKE  
Who's ready to play some fucking  
cards...

The three tables of players look up from the game.

Then all of the sudden SHANNON drops her tray of drinks, reaches into a compartment behind the bar and TOSSES a PISTOL to Mike and one to WILL, and pulls out one of her own which she points at the players.

Mike points it at the security guy watching the cameras who was about to pull his piece.

Mike goes over to the table and starts making them empty their pockets into a bag. He then PUSHES the CARD DEALERS out of their chairs and rips the MONEY BOXES off the table and dumps them into a bag.

WILL  
(To Shannon)  
Where's the safe?

SHANNON  
Behind the bar.

Will runs over behind the bar and tries to rip off the SAFE which is bolted to the wall.

WILL  
It's bolted!

MIKE  
Keep trying. It'll give.

There is a HERO in the crowd, he lunges for Mike. They roll around on the floor fighting. Mike is able to fight him off but accidentally FIRES A SHOT in the process.

It luckily MISSES everyone and SHATTERS a WINDOW, but it insights chaos and the players start to run frantically around trying for the exits.

On the SECURITY CAMERAS we see the two guards down stairs getting alerted. They turn toward the door.

The SECURITY GUY 3 tackles WILL and they land in the middle of the room.

SHANNON gets scared and puts her gun down. She is ready to run.

SHANNON

Come on lets go, we got enough.

She turns.

MIKE

Will come on!

WILL is wrestling trying to break free from a vicious sleeper hold.

Mike looks at the security screen and the two security guys running up the stairs. They reach the door but can't get in because the second door is locked. They try to break the door down.

The two guys are about to burst through the door.

Mike looks at Will and the security guy fighting one more time before he picks up the BAG of MONEY and sprints out the back door following SHANNON.

Will is still fighting the guy off. He eventually grabs his gun and hits him in the face with it and breaks free. He quickly jumps to his feet heads out the back door just as the two security guys break down the second door and run up the stairs.

Will heads out the back door. Furious and exhausted. From the back window we see him get to the bottom of the stairs and run down a side street.

The security guards try to chase them out the back door but are obstructed by the chaos still ensuing in the card room.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will sits on the floor icing his black eye. He takes a slug of whiskey, not the first one he has taken. He drunkenly passes out.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Will is passed out on the floor. Shannon creeps in through the unlocked front door.

She sees Will lying on the floor passed out. Her FOOTSTEPS arouse Will. He wakes up swiftly and grabs a BAT to protect himself.

He then realizes who it is and drops the bat.

SHANNON

Hello Will.

He sits up.

WILL

You have a lot of balls coming here.

SHANNON

I just wanted to see if you were alright...They got you...

She goes to touch his bruised face. Will quickly swats her hand away.

WILL

Get the fuck out of here.

SHANNON

Listen to me Will. You need to get leave.

WILL

Why?

SHANNON

They're going to be looking for you. Come with us.

WILL

Is that snake shit outside. I swear to god if I see his face I'm going to kill him.

SHANNON

Come with us.

WILL

You both left me there to die.

SHANNON

I had no choice. Just get in the car. Come with me. It will be like it was before you went away. I promise.

Will hesitates, you can tell he still loves her, he almost caves.

He catches himself.

WILL

Get the fuck out. If I see either of you again I'm going to kill you.

SHANNON

If that's what you want.

She reaches into her purse and brings out a BUNDLE OF CASH.

SHANNON (CONT'D)

Here. Your cut.

She throws it on the floor next to Will.

WILL

Get out...

She turns to leave sheepishly. Right before the door she turns around.

SHANNON

How is she?

WILL

She's fucked like the rest of us.

SHANNON

Tell her I love her...Good bye Will.

Will doesn't respond, he scornfully watches her go.

She turns and exits.

FADE OUT.

INT. MECHANIC- DAY

Will walks in and goes straight to the managers office.

WILL

Here you go, you vile bastard.

Will throws the money on the table in a brown paper bag.

RONNIE

Wow, I have to say Dormer I'm impressed. I didn't think you'd be able to pull this together so quickly...

(Laughing)

You didn't do anything illegal now did you?

WILL

This is my last day.

RONNIE

Well this will ensure your freedom for exactly one month. Hopefully you find a high paying job.

WILL

Fuck you.

Ronnie Laughs. Will exits.

INT. MECHANIC

Will works on a car without much enthusiasm.

Outside the window we see police cars roll up.

WILL

That lying fuck!

Will is about to make a run for it, but then he sees more police coming from the back.

They BURST in through the doors. Will sits waiting for the inevitable. But it never comes. The police go right by him and into the managers office. They arrest RONNIE, the FLOOR MANAGER and a few other guys.

Will sits idly by just watching.

DETECTIVE ANDERSON walks up to Will and puts his hand on his shoulder.

DETECTIVE ANDERSON

What's your name son?

WILL

Will. Will Dormer.

DETECTIVE ANDERSON

ID?

Will produces his ID from his wallet, and the detective looks it over.

DETECTIVE ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Alright...You can go. Get your things and get out of here. Your lucky you have a good friend.

WILL

Yes, thank you sir.

Will gathers up his few belongings and heads for the door.

We see RONNIE struggling, in handcuffs, getting thrown into the cruiser.

Will SMILES at him as he leaves.

INT. BUS - TRAVELING - NIGHT

Will rides the bus.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Will climbs the stairs with intent in his eyes. He goes up to Victor's apartment. He looks like he is ready to break down the door and rip Kristina out.

No need. The DOOR is OPEN.

KRISTINA (O.S.)

(Crying, weeping)

WILL

Kris! What's wrong!

He barges through the door.

INT. VICTOR'S APRTMENT - NIGHT

Kristina sits on the floor crying, and sickly looking. On the floor next to her and the cause of her crying is VICTOR. He is DEAD with A SYRINGE still sticking out of his arm.

KRISTINA

Daddy.

WILL  
What happened?

KRISTINA  
(Through tears)  
Bad dope. Shit was laced. He always  
tried it first.

WILL  
Jesus.

KRISTINA  
The bastards killed him.

WILL  
Give me your phone.

KRISTINA  
Fucking bad dope.

WILL  
Give it to me.

She reaches into her bag and gives it to him.

WILL (CONT'D)  
Come on we need to get out of here.

KRISTINA  
I'm not leaving him.

WILL  
Let's go now!

Will picks her up and SLINGS her over his shoulder.

He dials on the phone then puts it to his ear.

WILL (CONT'D)  
(Into phone)  
15 Ontario. Overdose.

They exit without closing the door.

EXT. STREET - RAINING - NIGHT

Will puts Kristina down and they continue to walk briskly.  
She holds her stomach.

KRISTINA  
Dad wait!

WILL  
What is it?

KRISTINA  
We need to stop and get something.

WILL  
What?

KRISTINA  
What do you think?

WILL  
No absolutely not.

She sits down and leans against the wall holding her stomach.

KRISTINA  
I'm jonsing real bad please.

WILL  
No. Come on. We have to keep going.

Will picks her up again and carries her.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kristina lies on the bed looking deathly ill. She is shaking and sweating profusely. Will has made her some TEA and brings it over to her.

He moves over to the chair and watches her intently over a cup of his own.

She squirms and moans.

KRISTINA  
Dad! Please!!!!

Will is heartbroken to see his little girl suffer this much.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)  
Dad don't do this to me!!!Please  
Help me...Arghhhh

Will puts his head in his hands. Kristina THROWS UP violently and Will attempts to catch it in a pot he has placed beside her bed.

WILL  
It's OK honey you can get through  
it.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN

Will is standing at the counter.

KRISTINA (O.S.)  
 Arghhhh....

Will kicks the counter and then grabs his head, thinking, debating what to do.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - HOURS LATER

Kristina has ripped every cover and pillow off the bed and is convulsing. She turns and looks directly at Will who is reading a book by her bed.

KRISTINA  
 (Innocently)  
 Arghhhh....Daddy Please...help..

Will looks hurt, not knowing what to do. She ROLLS off the bed onto the floor after a violent convulsion.

Will drops his book and jumps off his chair, rushes over to her, and puts his arms around her to console her.

WILL  
 Honey, are you ok?

She looks up at him with a face that screams despair and pain.

KRISTINA  
 Daddy please...Just one hit, I need one...

WILL  
 I can't honey, I can't do it...

KRISTINA  
 ...I promise only one, then in the morning we can go where ever you want. We can leave for ever...one hit, that's all.

Will can't stand her suffering anymore.

WILL  
 (Tearing)  
 Alright...Alright don't worry I'll be right back.

Kristina is in too much pain to even be relieved.

KRISTINA  
Hurry...Arghhhh...

Will gets up and leaves.

EXT. STREET - RAINING - NIGHT

WILL (V.O.)  
Late night runs were always the worst. Worrying about getting ripped off or picked up by the cops raced through your mind after every step.

Will crosses a main street and goes off onto a side street.

WILL (V.O.)  
Luckily there was always someone holding not to far away.

Will goes into an alley where someone is slinging. It is the guy from earlier in the film.

Will goes up to him and cops like he just did it yesterday never skipping a beat. He turns and crosses back over the street.

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Will comes in through the front door. Dripping wet and looking very distraught. He goes into the bedroom. KRISTINA notices him and seems to be given some new life.

She is able to sit up and reaches for the bag.

KRISTINA  
My p-p-purse...

Will reaches over and grabs her RED PURSE. He reaches inside and pulls out her works.

Will starts cooking up the powder, all the while looking at his daughter. This is the hardest thing he has ever had to do.

He retracts the needle back and sucks up the liquid. Kristina reaches for it desperately but slowly.

WILL  
Wait. Let me go first...It may be scagged.

Kristina reluctantly agrees.

He hits it. It's not scag its the good stuff. He sits back against the wall. High as he has ever been.

She hits it desperately. She then leans back onto will. She rests her head on his chest and then hugs him. WILL's face is blank. He can't believe what he has just done. But he embraces her touch.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. WILL'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - MORNING

The sun is shining. It flies across Will's face which rests on a pillow on the floor and wakes him up.

He gets up and goes over to Kristina who is asleep on the bed.

WILL

Kris. I have to go hun.

She wakes up and looks at him groggily.

WILL (CONT'D)

I have to go...But when I get back we need to talk.

KRISTINA

(Groggily)

O.K.

He leaves.

INT. PAROLE OFFICE - DAY

Will sits across from Cartmell. The sun shines in through the open window.

WILL

It was you wasn't it?

OFFICER CARTMELL

What was me?

WILL

You got me off the hook over at the garage.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
I told you I have powerful friends.

WILL  
Well thank you.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Don't even mention it. You're not  
such a bad guy Will you didn't  
deserve it.

WILL  
I never thought I was at least.

Beat.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
So are you ready for this?

WILL  
What?

OFFICER CARTMELL  
It's September 24.

WILL  
And?

OFFICER CARTMELL  
You have been under my supervision  
for exactly 1 year. Today is your  
last day at level one. After today  
you are to be let out into the  
world and left to your own devices.

He procures a URINE SAMPLE CUP.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)  
Your last test. Do me proud.

Will looks stunned. He has forgotten all about this. He gets  
up and anxiously picks up the cup. He thinks this is it. He's  
done for.

WILL  
Hey. After the days over, your not  
such a bad guy yourself...

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Been trying to tell you so.

Will exits.

INT. PAROLE OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Will and Cartmell sit across from one another in silence.

Mrs. Sanders comes in the room and hands Cartmell a SMALL ENVELOPE.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Thank you Mrs. Sanders.

She exits.

He takes the envelope and begins to open it before suddenly stopping.

Will looks extremely nervous, expecting the worst.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)  
You know what.

He puts the envelope down on the desk.

OFFICER CARTMELL (CONT'D)  
I trust you Will. I know you're going to go out into the world and be a good man, and there's nothing that this test could tell me that would change my mind. So, why don't you take this one...You know as a souvenir.

He slides the cup across the desk to Will. He doesn't look at the results.

Will is stunned.

WILL  
Thank you sir.

He gets up and goes over to him. Officer Cartmell stands up. They shake hands.

OFFICER CARTMELL  
Good luck out there Will.

WILL  
Thank you. You too.

He walks out the door.

INT. NACOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING - NIGHT

Will sits in the audience. Kristina is at the podium.

KRISTINA

I can't believe I made it this far. I always thought that I would never trust anyone. I think that's why I used. I trusted that a bag was always right around the corner, and that it would always give me that same feeling every time. Now I realize that you have to let other people in. They have to trust in you before you can trust them. Now all of you feel like my family and I trust you with everything I have.

Will listens in the audience, gleaming with overwhelming pride at his daughters words.

MRS. DASHWOOD

That is very insightful Kristina, thank you for sharing that. Now I have something for you.

She picks up a KEY CHAIN.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)

This is for 60 days of sobriety. You have been very strong. Here you go, we are all very proud of you.

She hands Kristina the key chain, and the crowd gives a heartfelt clap.

KRISTINA

Thank you very much. But I really owe everything to one person in particular. Someone who has been there with me since day one. My father. He's sitting right over there.

Will's face is flushed with delight, in the crowd.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)

He means everything to me and I couldn't have done it without him. So thank you dad.

The crowd claps again, as does Mrs. Dashwood. Will is embarrassed but very happy.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING - NIGHT

Kristina and Mrs. Dashwood stand outside smoking cigarettes and talking.

Will comes out the door. He shakes hands with a couple of people on the way out.

WILL

Alright take care Joe, I'll see you next week bud.

He descends the stairs, and joins Kristina and Mrs. Dashwoon.

WILL (CONT'D)

Hello.

MRS. DASHWOOD

Hello Will. You should be very proud of your daughter here. She is very bright.

WILL

She is very bright indeed. She started taking classes at the University. She's going to be a nurse.

Will gives her a hug.

MRS. DASHWOOD

Oh well, congratulations that is awesome.

KRISTINA

Thanks. It's hard work but I really want to do something to help, you know?

MRS. DASHWOOD

Of course.

Kristina realizes that there is something in the air between the two of them.

KRISTINA

Alright I'm going to start walking.

WILL

O.K Hun. I'll catch up.

She turns and walks down the road. Will turns back toward Mrs. Dashwoon when Kristina is out of ear shot.

WILL (CONT'D)

So, I was wondering. Is there a Mr. Dashwood?

MRS. DASHWOOD

Come on. That is inappropriate.

WILL

I was just wondering.

MRS. DASHWOOD

But no, there isn't. I only use the prefix to avoid situations such as these.

WILL

Oh very clever. Do you think maybe I could take you out? To dinner one night or something?

MRS. DASHWOOD

I don't know Will. I really have a lot of work for school and stuff. Plus I can't date someone from the class.

WILL

I get it.

MRS. DASHWOOD

...But maybe I could make an exception this time.

WILL

Really? That's great! Alright you want to walk with us?

MRS. DASHWOOD

Yeah sure, why not.

They begin walking, we can see Kristina in the distance.

MRS. DASHWOOD (CONT'D)

(Playfully)

So where are you going to take me?

WILL

I'm not sure. I hadn't thought that far in advance, I wasn't expecting a yes.

They laugh and walk down the sidewalk.

THE END.

(CONT'D)

