

SALVATION

FADE IN:

EXT. ERSKINE STATE PRISON - ESTABLISHING

Three large old buildings amalgamated together, surrounded by razor wire. Large watch towers also accompany the prison.

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

MANNY, 25, is seated on a small wooden chair carving a wooden figure. His cell is claustrophobically small, and all that accompanies it are two bunks, a toilet and a barred window where many carved animals are perched.

His face is matted with thick facial hair, and dark rings under his eyes suggest a severe lack of sleep. The TWANGING of bed springs causes Manny to flinch.

MANNY

You gave me a heart attack.

LAS VATION, 30, peeks his head from the top bunk. His shaved head signals a typical prison hair cut, but a kind look in his eyes suggests otherwise.

LAS VATION

Can't help it that your damn carpentry woke me up.

INT. SHOWER - DAY

Manny stands in a queue of people, much resembling that of a production line. One by one they get soaked with a hose. Manny is next. He shivers with the coldness of the water.

INT. LUNCH HALL - DAY

Manny sits at a table alone with Las Vation, the only fairly empty table in the hall. The BUZZ of conversation dominates most of the sound.

A meal consisting of mince sits in front of Manny which looks more like animal shit.

Three men a couple of tables away from them stare. THE BROTHERS.

DOMINIC, 30, muscular, black, angry looking.

CUBA, 30, muscular, black, angry looking.

NATION, 30, needs no introduction...

From the air of confidence Dominic possesses, he has the appearance of the leader of the group. Dominic throws an apple at Manny, who does not turn around.

LAS VATION

Ignore them.

Manny puts spoon to mouth...

Another apple flies at Manny and hits him in the back of the head.

He drops his spoon and sighs.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Many prisoners scattered around a small room with a TEACHER, 50, at a desk marking work.

Manny is seated at a desk, reading a piece of literature. "The Catcher in The Rye"...

Dominic is seated directly behind Manny. He kicks the back of his chair, causing Manny to lose his place, and turn around.

MANNY

You got a problem?

A half smile on Dominic's face shows this is exactly what he wanted.

DOMINIC

Yeah, I do got a fuckin' problem.

The blankness in Manny's eyes conveys he is contemplating what to do, but he turns around and gets on with his work.

DOMINIC (O.S.)

Child killer.

Manny raises his eyes from the book with a defeated look dominating his face.

INT. CAR - DREAM - NIGHT

A dark cloudless sky is result of the night. Manny yawns whilst driving. He is wearing a shirt and tie.

He turns on the radio which assists in trying to wake him up. The voices of talk show hosts filling the car.

Manny struggles to keep his eyes opened, and they close...

SECONDS LATER

INSERT - GIRL CROSSING ROAD

Manny tries to swerve to avoid the Girl crossing the road but can't.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Manny wakes up, sweat dripping from his forehead, tears in his eyes.

LAS VATION (O.S.)
Another nightmare?

MANNY
Yeah. Same one every night.

LAS VATION (O.S.)
That's fucked up man.

MANNY
Yeah.

Manny rises and approaches the toilet to take a piss.

MANNY
The brothers aren't helping.

LAS VATION
They're ass holes. No, I'll rephrase that, nigger ass holes.

Manny finishes and washes his hands.

MANNY
But can't do nothing about it.

LAS VATION
(a beat)
Your day is coming soon, Manny.

MANNY
What?

LAS VATION
I'm goin' back to sleep, don't have any more nightmares.

Las Vation turns in his bunk to face the wall.

Manny gets back into his bunk.

MANNY
One more thing Vation.

LAS VATION (O.S.)
What?

MANNY
You're name. I've never heard a
name like that before.

The laughing of Las Vation can be heard in his bunk.

LAS VATION (O.S.)
Think about it.
(a beat)
Get some sleep Manny.

Manny closes his eyes.

INT. LUNCH HALL - DAY

Manny is again seated eating his lunch with Las Vation,
the brothers a couple of tables away.

Dominic approaches and grabs a piece of bread from Manny's
plate. He then empties the remaining contents of food
onto the table.

Manny doesn't do a thing about it.

DOMINIC
Got somethin' to say?

MANNY
No.

Dominic walks back to his table laughing.

MANNY
That mother fucker.

LAS VATION
All in good time.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

All of the prisoners enter the room. Dominic whacks Manny's
books out his hands on the way by.

Manny opens his mouth to say something but no words come
to mouth.

SUPER: WEEKS PREVIOUS

EXT. COURT YARD - DAY

Prisoners play basketball, others are seated on benches. FINGERS, 30, flicks through a note pad on a bench. Manny approaches him and sits down.

FINGERS

Can I help you with something my friend?

MANNY

Yeah.

(a beat)

Would you be able to get me a small hammer?

FINGERS

Wait a minute, you're not planning a Shawshank Redemption are you?

Manny laughs.

MANNY

No, I mean like a hammer you would use to bind manuscripts. But I wanna use it for carpentry.

FINGERS

I'll see what I can do.

EXT. COURT YARD - DAY

Manny approaches Fingers again and sits down next to him. Fingers slides a small hammer across to him.

INT. PRISON CELL - PRESENT - NIGHT

Manny continues to carve an object out of a block of wood. However, it is still unclear what the object is.

Las Vation bounces a small ball off the wall.

LAS VATION

That thing's startin' to take shape.

MANNY

Still needs work.

LAS VATION

The real question is not how, but what.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Manny continues to read his novel. Dominic is a few seats away from him.

A slight turn of Manny's head triggers a ball of paper to be thrown at him, now lying on the floor.

Manny bends over to pick up. It reads...

"I'M ALWAYS GONNA MAKE YOUR LIFE HELL CHILD KILLER".

A troubled looking Manny scrunches the paper up and puts in his pocket.

INT. CAR - DREAM - NIGHT

Manny sits frozen as the dead Girl lies motionless on the side of the road. He puts his hands over his mouth.

He slowly gets out the car and approaches her body.

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Manny wakes up sweating profusely. He looks around the room as if confused about where he is but the realization in his eyes conveys this confusion has gone.

He rises from his bed, gets down on his knees and clasps his hands, praying. Tears stream from his eyes.

Manny now gets up and takes out the small wooden object from under his mattress. It can now be seen that the object resembles a blade. He twirls it around his fingers.

He starts to engrave something onto the blade. "SALVATION".

MANNY

Now I know what your name means,
Vation.

No answer.

MANNY

Vation?

No answer.

Manny turns and climbs up to Las Vation's bunk. He is gone, and his bed is perfectly made. Manny rubs his eyes and looks again.

Manny looks up at the ceiling, but through the thick cement, through the walls of this prison, to the sky.

INT. LUNCH HALL - DAY

Manny is seated alone eating. He takes out the wooden shard and looks at it.

Dominic throws a banana at him, causing him to turn. Manny gets up with the shard in his hand, but stops.

EXT. ROADSIDE - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

Manny is bent over and checks the Girl's pulse. Nothing. She is around 12 years old. She looks so innocent, so full of love.

Manny sobs as if this is the first time he has felt loss.

MANNY

I'm sorry, I'm so so sorry.

INT. LUNCH HALL - DAY

Manny is still stood.

DOMINIC

What you gonna do about it? You fuckin' murderer.

Dominic lets out a laugh as does the rest of the group.

LAS VATION (O.S.)

This is your day of reckoning,
will you do the honorable thing?

MANNY

(to Dominic)

Fuck you.

He sits back down and tucks the shard into the back of his pants.

SUPER: 1 YEAR LATER

EXT. GRAVE YARD - DAY

As the rays of the sun shine down on the grave yard, Manny in a shirt and tie looks at a grave stone. Girl's name can be made out as Marissa.

MANNY (V.O.)

You see the thing is, I killed a little girl, and I faced a choice. Do I kill again and take the easy way out? Or do I deal with life, however hard and painful? Because I knew that it would only be a matter of time before I could end what I had started, and begin my true journey of salvation.

He drops a bunch of lilies and slowly walks away from the grave.

FADE TO BLACK: