

THE SHAM

"Perfidy"
(PILOT)

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - DAY

A couple lays sound asleep in their bed.

Suddenly the ALARM goes off.

JAMES KELKER, (35), average build, in good shape, clean shave, awakes.

Besides him, GENE KELKER, (34), slender, toned body, night gown, is sound asleep.

He turns it off.

JAMES
Honey, rise and shine.

She lays quiet in her slumber.

JAMES
Honey the kids... School.

GENE
(waken)
It's your week to take them, I took them last week.

JAMES
Oh, right I forgot, gosh, I hate Mondays.

GENE
That's what co-parenting is all about.

JAMES
Fine
(shouts)
Kids are you up yet?

KENDALL (O.S)
Yes daddy!

GENE
Great, there goes my beauty sleep, what time is it?

James verifies the time on his phone.

JAMES
It's coming to 9.

GENE
I don't want to get up yet.

James leans over and kisses her.

JAMES

Well you have to, the store
remember?

. She locks him in her grip and pecks him fondly.

JAMES

Now am your captive? Huh?

James tickles her unexpectedly. She giggles.

GENE

That hurt.

JAMES

The price of hearing your beautiful
laughter.

KENDALL (O.S)

Daddy, we are almost ready.

JAMES

(shouts)

Coming!

He gives Gene the guilty look. She smiles.

James heads to the bathroom. Gene reaches for her phone.

GENE

Shit!

JAMES (O.S)

What's wrong?

GENE

I somehow forgot to charge my
phone.

JAMES (O.S)

Well do it now.

GENE

It's charging.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

RALF KELKER, (10), sits by the counter top eating toast.

KENDALL KELKER, (8), stands on a stool, operates the toast
maker.

James walks in, dressed in jeans, dress shirt and suit.

He leans over and pecks Ralf on the forehead.

RALF

Gross dad!

JAMES

You didn't say that when I bought you that xbox. What are we eating?

He grabs a bite.

RALF

Toast.

JAMES

Mmm, I see Chef Kendall is back on kitchen duty.

KENDALL

(looking busy)

You and mom were sleeping. I thought I'd make something.

James pecks her on the head.

JAMES

I know pumpkin, mommy had a busy day yesterday with the opening. But what did we say about cooking?

KENDALL

(grumpy)

No touching the electronics.

JAMES

Good girl, wait when you get older.

KENDALL

But how am I going to be a chef if I can't use the things that make the food.

JAMES

(laughing)

Give it time, dear, any toast for me?

KENDALL

(smiles)

Sure, and mom too...

She places four pieces of bread on a plate and hands it to him.

JAMES

(shocked)

Kendall, did you toast a whole loaf?

Kendall nods.

JAMES

Well, then you have to finish it.

RALF
I'll finish it.

JAMES
How about we pack it for lunch, ok?

KENDALL
Ok.

Gene makes her way in kitchen.

GENE
What is going on here?

JAMES
Your daughter made us toast.

GENE
Kendall, what did we say about
using appliances.

KENDALL
Yeah, yeah, am sorry.

GENE
Last warning. You guys are going to
be late for school.

JAMES
Yes, yes off we go.

James leads the kids out of the house.

He kisses Gene.

INT. CAR - DAY

The car pulls up to the school parking.

JAMES
Right on time.

RALF
See you later dad.

JAMES
Be good at school today champ.

RALF
I will.

Ralf exits the car with his bag.

JAMES
You too pumpkin.

KENDALL
Yes, daddy.

Kendall exits the car.

James starts the car to leave.

Ralf rushes back.

JAMES

Did you forget something.

RALF

Yes, the permission slip for the
zoo trip, did you sign it?

JAMES

Oh, where did I put it?

He darts around and reaches for the glove compartment.

JAMES

There it is.

He unfolds and signs it. Then hands it to Ralf.

JAMES

There you go buddy.

RALF

Thanks dad.

Ralf jets off.

James spots him in the distance, then drives off.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. KELKER OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

STACY, (22), petite, is by the reception desk.

JAMES

Morning. Any messages for me?

STACY

Morning, not at the moment.

JAMES

Great, I'll be in my office.

INT. KELKER OFFICE - DAY

James makes his way to the office. He lays his bag on the floor. Leans back in his chair for a while, then turns on his laptop.

He goes through his emails.

EXT. ZOO ENTRANCE - DAY

A school bus parks outside the entrance.

A lady, Ms.BROOKS, (39), walks out first with a clipboard.

MS.BROOKS

Alright children, out in a line,
all together now.

As the children step out, she ticks their names off the list. Ralf is in the middle of the pack.

The children, about 25 of them look excited.

MS.BROOKS

Everything looks in order. Now
remember, we all walk in a group,
any questions for the guide, raise
your hand, ok?

CHILDREN

Yes Ms. Brooks.

GUIDE MARTIN (O.S)

I guess that's my cue.

Ms. Brooks is slightly frightened. The children laugh.

MARTIN, (40), medium weight. Dressed like a camper, holds Ms. Brooks firmly.

GUIDE MARTIN (O.S)

Didn't mean to scare you there.

MS.BROOKS

Oh, it's no problem at all.

She signals him to address the children.

GUIDE MARTIN

My name's Martin and I'll be your
guide today, are we ready to see
some animals?

KID 1

Are they real animals?

MS.BROOKS

What did we say about about
questions?

Guilty, the GIRL raises her hand. The children laugh.

GUIDE MARTIN

Oh, they real alright. Shall we go
have a look.

CHILDREN

Yes!

GUIDE MARTIN

Alright follow me.

MS.BROOKS

In a group, no one leaves the
group.

Ms. Brooks struggles to keep them together like a school of
fish.

Ralf is in awe with the plants, trees and animals they pass
by.

The guide is seen explaining to the children but we can't
hear him, we are following Ralf.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

This is Kendall's class she's in the middle row.

They appear to be in a math lesson.

TEACHER (O.S)

3 times 4?

CHILDREN 2

(in unison)

12

TEACHER (O.S)

3 times 5

CHILDREN 2
(in unison)

15

TEACHER (O.S)
3 times 6

Kendall looks outside the window. Her attention is distracted for a while.

TEACHER (O.S)
Kendall? Kendall?

Kendall turns back to the teacher.

KENDALL
Sorry ma'am.

TEACHER (O.S)
3 times 6?

KENDALL
Oh, 18.

She smiles, knows her answer is spot on.

INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

Gene walks in dressed elegantly.

TEMMY, (24), slender, pretty, approaches her.

GENE
Morning Temmy, has the inventory arrived yet?

TEMMY
Not yet. I gave them a call, they said it would be here in a couple of minutes.

GENE
Alright then.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING - DAY

Parents pick up their children. Others head for the school bus.

Kendall is part of those walking to the school bus. She's accompanied by other kids.

INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

Gene arranges some clothes and directs the girls, when she suddenly looks at her watch.

GENE
(to herself)
Got to call the baby sitter.
(over phone)
Hi, Nancy, the kids will be home
any minute now, are you... Oh you
are? Great... I left something in
fridge just warm it up... Sure..
Thanks.

As she ends the call, the phone dies.

GENE
Just great, anybody got a charger?

TEMMY
I've got one right here.

GENE
Thanks a bunch.

She hands Temmy the phone which is placed behind the
counter.

We see the battery sign, indicates phone is charging.

EXT. ZOO ENTRANCE - DAY

The kids walk back to the school bus.

There is a lot of murmuring.

We follow Ralf to the bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

The kids take their seats.

Ralf approaches a KID by the window seat.

RALF
Could I sit next to the window?

The kid grunts.

KID 2
Fiiinnnnneeee.

He scoots over and Ralf takes his seat.

RALF
Thanks.

KID 2
Whatever.

Ralf smiles, peers through the window.

MS.BROOKS
(ticking names)
Alright, looks like everyone is
here, let's take these kids home.

The bus sets off.

INT. SCHOOL BUS 2 - DAY

Kendall sits at the window. She pulls out a food magazine and peruses through the pages.

She's made earlier notes with her marker, mostly recipes.

A victorious smile spreads across her face.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS (DRIVING)

A MAN, (45), scruffy beard, jeans, off-white vest, lamberjack shirt, appears intoxicated.

We confirm this by the beer can he picks up and gulps to the last drop.

His eyes slowly shut as he sleeps on the wheel. He swerves left and right, gains back control.

Turns on the manual radio, skips through channels.

Country love song plays, this must be his song.

He bobs his head to the music.

EXT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY (DRIVING)

The bus moves at a steady speed.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS (DRIVING)

MAN
Where's that beer of mine.

With one hand on the wheel, he looks down to search for an extra can.

At this point, his eyes are off the road and his hands slowly steer the car to the left side.

MAN
Where are you, darling? Papa needs
a sip.

HORN HOOTS.

He looks up, recognises it's a school bus coming up ahead.

MAN
Shit! Shit! Shit!

Without hesitation, he swerves to the right slightly misses the bus, landing in the corn field in the opposite direction. He crashes into a land post.

EXT. PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

He kicks the right door open, let's himself out. He's bleeding from his nose, shirt is stained.

Smoke from the totalled vehicle floats across his face.

He sits by the tyre. Pulls out his cigarette pack, lights one.

MAN

(while smoking)

Not today God, not today.

He exhales one satisfactory puff, looks up in the clouds.

In the distance, voices of children can be heard screaming.

MAN

(to himself)

Are those kids?

The screams get louder. It dawns on him now.

MAN

Those are kids, shit! The school bus!

He jumps up but is reminded by his fractured leg. He limps in a slight drunken stupor.

He looks over his car on the other side of the road, the school bus he missed flipped over and some kids are struggling to get the others out.

MAN

Shit! What did you do now BOBBY?!

He limp-runs over to the bus.

A car passing by pumps the brakes. An old LADY, (50), dashes out and heads to the scene. She meets Bobby on his way.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

The school bus has flipped to one end. Kids help each other to get out.

Ms. Brooks is disoriented.

OLD LADY

Ma'am, are you ok?

MS.BROOKS

I think so, what happened? The kids?

OLD LADY

You were in an accident, we are trying to get the children out.

MS.BROOKS

Children? Oh my God the children!

OLD LADY

Relax ma'am.

Bobby helps the kids hop out the bus. The driver appears to be unconscious.

Bobby turns to the old lady.

BOBBY

Call 911.

The old lady nods, as she pulls out her phone.

INT. KELKER OFFICE - DAY

James receives a call.

Caller ID: FABE

He shakes his head, smiles as he picks it up.

JAMES

(over phone)

Hey buddy, what's the problem now?

Stacy bursts in holding her phone. She signals James that it's urgent.

JAMES

(over phone)

Ok, you'll tell me about all this later, I have something to attend to.. bye

(to stacy)

What's the matter?

STACY

It's the hospital. There's been an accident!

JAMES

Gene?

Stacy shakes her head.

JAMES

The kids? Is it the kids?!

STACY

Yes.

James grabs his car keys, dashes out the office. Stacy follows.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

James paces though the lobby to the reception.

Stacy is behind trying to keep up.

JAMES

(panting)

Hi, there was an accident, my children were in that bus.

NURSE

What are your names?

JAMES

James, James Kelker, my daughter Kendall Kelker and my boy Ralf Kelker.

The nurse looks through her records on the computer.

JAMES

Are they here?

NURSE

A moment sir.

JAMES

(slams the desk)

I don't have a moment.

(turns to Stacy)

Have you called Gene?

STACY

I've been trying, her phone isn't going through.

INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

Gene is talking to customers.

The phone behind the counter is still charging.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

STACY

(on phone)

Still no answer.

James bows his head down in defeat.

KENDALL (O.S)

Daddy.

James turns to the source of the voice.

We can see the relief on his face. Kendall runs over to him.

Right behind her is Nancy.

JAMES

(crying)

Oh! Kendall, I thought you were on that bus.

KENDALL

No I wasn't, I was brought home and then Nancy told me we had to come to the hospital.

JAMES

Ralf.

Nancy waves to James and Stacy. James nods, Stacy approaches her.

STACY

Hi, have you tried calling Mrs. Gene?

NANCY

Her number isn't going through, I could try again.

James sits on the floor. Kendall holds his hand.

KENDALL

Is Ralf going to be ok?

JAMES

Ofcourse he will honey.

DR. SAM, (55), makes his way to the hospital.

DR. SAM

James Kelker?

Hearing his name he quickly gets up.

JAMES

That's me.

DR. SAM

Am Dr. Sam, are you Ralf's father?

JAMES

Yes, yes, I am , is he.. Ok?

DR. SAM

He's unconscious but we are trying to stablize his condition, he lost a lot of blood and the nearest

(MORE)

DR. SAM (cont'd)
blood bank is 15 minutes away, we
were hoping....

JAMES
You can have mine, that counts
right?

DR. SAM
Yes, that's what I was getting too.

JAMES
Let's get started right away.

DR. SAM
Follow me.

KENDALL
Can I come too daddy?

JAMES
Can she?

DR. SAM
Ofcourse.

Dr. Sam leads them to a room.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 1A - CONTINUOUS

DR. SAM
You can sit on the bed.

Kendall stands watching in amazement.

DR. SAM
We'll first have to make sure
you're the same blood group.

JAMES
(sniffles)
Ofcourse.

He rolls up his sleeves.

An injection is inserted and blood is drawn out.

Kendall is disgusted but she can't look away.

DR. SAM
I'll be right back.

Dr. Sam exits.

KENDALL
Did it hurt?

JAMES
(chuckles)

No.

KENDALL
(unconvinced)

Ok.

INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

Gene sees off a client. She looks to the counter and remembers her phone.

Plugs it from the cord and turns it on. She's bombarded by messages and missed calls.

She returns the call to stacy.

GENE
(over phone)
Yes, Stacy, sorry my phone was
charging, what's.... Ralf?
Accident? Oh my God! Where's James?
Alright.. Am on my way.

She throws her phone in her purse.

GENE
Temmy, I have to rush to the
hospital, Ralf has been involved in
an accident.

TEMMY
Is he ok?

GENE
I don't know, mind the shop while
am away.

TEMMY
Sure.

She dashes out. Gets in her car and drives off.

Temmy looks on with worry.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 1A - NIGHT

Dr. Sam returns. He has a grim look.

DR. SAM
James, could I have a word with you
outside.

JAMES
Ok
(to Kendall)
Stay here honey.

Kendall nods.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

DR. SAM

I don't know how to tell you this
so I'll just...

JAMES

What is it? Is it Ralf?

DR. SAM

The blood types didn't match.

JAMES

(baffled)

What does that mean?

DR. SAM

It means a number of things, one of
which is you can't give blood to
Ralf.

James almost collapses. Dr. Sam grabs him. He finds his
balance, snaps out of his stupor.

JAMES

(bemused)

James might not be my son?

Dr. Sam explains the situation to him but we hear nothing.
James is lost in thought.

CUT TO BLACK.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

DR. SAM

..... What we need right now is to
find another candidate to for Ralf.

JAMES

Yes... Blood...

KENDALL (O.S)

I can give him mine.

JAMES

(to the doctor)

Can she?

DR. SAM

Yes, I believe so, lets see.

James nods.

JAMES

(to kendall)

You'll be fine honey.

KENDALL

I know, you said it doesn't hurt.

Dr. Sam leads her to the room.

JAMES

I.. Umm.. Need some air, I'll be
back.

DR. SAM

Ok.

James walks through the lobby disoriented. Everything is in
slow motion.

MS.BROOKS (O.S)

Mr. Kelker? Mr. Kelker?

JAMES

Yes, Ms. Brooks, are you ok?

MS.BROOKS

Just a concussion, how's Ralf's
condition, is he ok?

JAMES

I don't know yet, they told me he
needs blood, what happened?

MS.BROOKS

This man drove on the wrong side of the road almost colliding with us, we missed him but flipped, the driver is in a coma as we speak but he did his best to save those children.

JAMES

I hope he gets well, his family need him.

MS.BROOKS

Me too. In fact there's the man right now.

She points to Bobby sitting in the lobby.

JAMES

(angry)

That's him?

MS.BROOKS

(concerned)

Yes..

James walks towards him.

Bobby is getting his trousers cut so that treatment is applied to the fractured leg.

JAMES (O.S)

You're the guy that caused this mess!

Bobby peers up. He's lifted from the frame by a pair of hands.

Thrust on the wall, repeatedly.

JAMES

You almost killed those kids!

BOBBY

Hey, look here now!

JAMES

Shut up! Why should you be walking while my son is fighting for his life!

BOBBY

Hey buddy, it was an accident! I can barely walk right.

James slams him against the wall.

He's surrounded by STAFF. Clinches his fist, angles it at his face.

GENE (O.S)

James don't!

He turns to her. He despises her. He looks back at Bobby, who's flinching.

He loosens his grip letting him go.

James walks away. Gene pats him on the shoulder.

He's not interested but turns to face her.

JAMES

Where were you? Everyone tried to call you.

GENE

Am sorry, my phone was charging.

James avoids eye contact.

GENE

Ralf?

JAMES

The doctor will let us know, they are....

KENDALL (O.S)

Mommy!

GENE

Kendall, honey. I got here as fast as I could.

Dr. Sam approaches them.

JAMES

What's the latest doctor?

DR. SAM

Am assuming you're Ms. Kelker.

GENE

Yes, I am, is Ralf going to be alright?

DR. SAM

We are giving him the....

JAMES

(interrupts)

Is he going to be fine?

DR. SAM

Yes, yes he will.

JAMES

When can we see him?

DR. SAM
Definitely not today, he needs
plenty of rest, but tomorrow is
fine.

JAMES
Good, we'll be here first thing in
the morning.

DR. SAM
Alright.

Dr. Sam walks off.

GENE
Aw, thank God.

JAMES
Guess we should go home now.
Kendall has school tomorrow.

They walk to the exist.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING - NIGHT

JAMES
You guys head home, I'll be right
behind. Take Kendall with you.

Gene can sense some tension as she opens the door for
Kendall.

GENE
Ok.

She gets in the car and drives off.

James is about to the open the car door when he hears Bobby
arguing nearby.

He is being dragged to a police vehicle by an OFFICER.

BOBBY
Come on now? I didn't do nothin'

OFFICER 1
You almost got school children
killed plus there's a man in a coma
cause of you. Now get in.

The Officer forces Bobby into the back and shuts the door
behind him.

James walks up to the car. He just stares at Bobby as the
officer gets in.

OFFICER 1

Don't you worry Mr. Kelker, I'll
make sure idiot over here faces the
law.

James nods. The officer nods back and drives off.

James walks back to his car. He then glances over his
shoulder, at the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SAM OFFICE - NIGHT

Dr. Sam is going through some files. He takes a drag on his
cigarette.

There is a knock at the door. He quickly puts it out,
squishing it in the ash tray.

DR. SAM

Come in.

Its James.

JAMES

Could I have a word?

DR. SAM

Huh, Mr. Kelker, sure sure please
do come in.

James makes his way to the chair.

Silence.

JAMES

I thought those were meant to be
bad for you.

DR. SAM

Pardon?

James points to the ash tray.

DR. SAM

Oh, that, old habit I guess, but
they are still bad for you.

Dr. Sam laughs but James doesn't join him.

Silence.

DR. SAM

Am assuming you're here to talk
about Ralf.

JAMES

Yes, what you said some hours back,
I just needed some clarification.

DR. SAM

Of course, well, we used a simple blood typing system called ABO typing. This helps identify the presence or absence of two genes, A and B. However in the question of paternity, this system is only used to exclude a man from being a father's child.

JAMES

What does that mean doctor?

DR. SAM

In simple terms, if you really want to want find out if Ralf and am assuming Kendall are yours, a paternity test would be the best way to know for sure.

JAMES

I see.

DR. SAM

Would you want to go ahead with it?

JAMES

You tell me Doctor, my wife just went from being my best friend to....

He can't make the words.

DR. SAM

It breaks a man, a situation like this.

Silence.

JAMES

What do I need to do this test.

DR. SAM

I'll get you a testing kit, how many people will you be testing.

JAMES

(sobbing)

Just me and my children.

Dr. Sam attempts to comfort him with a pat on back.

James breaks down.

DR. SAM

I'll be right back.

Dr. Sam leaves the office, James is left crying.

The phone rings. He tries to hold back his tears as he looks at it.

GENE CALLING. HER BEAUTIFUL PICTURE ON THE DISPLAY.

James cancels the call.

He navigates to text messages;

COMING HOME.

SENT. MESSAGE DELIVERED.

Dr. Sam returns.

DR. SAM

Ok, I have 3 kits for you. You fill in the person's name, gender and role, you know whether it's the father, son, daughter...

JAMES

I get it.

DR. SAM

Each kit has 3 cotton swabs, follow the instructions very carefully.

James nod. He is handed the kits.

JAMES

What happens after, all this? When do I get the.. Huh... Results?

DR. SAM

The very next day from when the samples are received.

JAMES

Right.

James turns to leave. He remembers something.

JAMES

One more thing, can we keep this between us?

DR. SAM

Of course, doctor-patient confidentiality. You can make the payment at the reception.

JAMES

Payment?

DR. SAM

For the kits.

JAMES

Oh, yes sure.

James exists.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - NIGHT

James enters the room.

Gene wakes up.

GENE

Hey, I didn't hear you coming in.

JAMES

(whispering)

It's ok, go back to sleep, am going to check on Kendall, see if she's tucked in.

GENE

Ok.

She drifts back to sleep.

James stands towering over her. He stares as so many thoughts go through his mind.

He turns to leave.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - KENDALL BEDROOM - NIGHT

The light is on. James peeps in. Kendall is asleep. He stretches to turn the lamp off.

KENDALL

Dad is that you?

JAMES

I thought you were sleeping.

KENDALL

I can smell you.

Kendall sits up in her bed.

James sits by the side next to the lamp.

JAMES

Am proud of you today pumpkin.

KENDALL

I know, Ralf would have done the same for me. Plus he is going to be ok, so all is well.

JAMES

Yes, all is well.

He can't bare to keep a positive face. He turns away.

KENDALL

Dad, are you ok?

JAMES

Yes, sweaty am fine, don't worry about me. Hey listen, about giving Ralf blood today, can we not tell mommy?

KENDALL

You mean you want me to keep a secret?

JAMES

Yes.

KENDALL

But you said we shouldn't keep secrets in this family.

JAMES

I know but mom's stressed, we don't want her worrying too much, now do we do we?

KENDALL

No we don't.

JAMES

So deal?

KENDALL

Can I make Ralf cookies?

JAMES

That's considered a bribe, you know?

KENDALL

Is it?

JAMES

Fine, you can make Ralf cookies. Deal.

KENDALL

Let's shake on it.

James realises the testing kits in his hand.

JAMES

Um, one more thing pumpkin.

He rips open one envelope. Hands the cotton swabs to Kendall.

JAMES

I.. Huh... Need some of your saliva
to take to the doc.. Dentist.

Kendall is confused holding the swabs.

His face is filled with guilt.

JAMES

Should I help you?

Kendall nods.

He takes out a cotton swab and scrapes inside her mouth, he
does this 3 times.

KENDALL

Why does the dentist need my
saliva?

JAMES

To see which bacterias are in your
mouth. So that he can give you the
right medicine.

KENDALL

Eeeewwww.

JAMES

Love you.

KENDALL

Love you too dad.

JAMES

Get some rest.

He kisses her on the head. Turns off the light and heads for
the door.

KENDALL

Dad?

JAMES

Yes?

KENDALL

Can I not go to school tomorrow, I
want to spend time with Ralf.

JAMES

Sure honey, am sure the school will
understand, one day won't hurt.

KENDALL

Thanks.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

James looks in the mirror. He can't comprehend his state of mind.

He snaps back. Pulls a pen from his pocket.

Scribbles on the envelope;

KENDALL KELKER

11 YRS

DAUGHTER

He tries to hold back his tears.

He opens another envelope.

Gets the cotton swabs and scapes inside his mouth with all 3.

Puts them in the container.

Scribbles on the envelope;

JAMES KELKER

35 YRS

FATHER

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - NIGHT

James tiptoes into the bedroom. Reaches for the bag and places the kits inside. Zips it.

Takes his jeans off and shirt and enters bed.

He tosses and turn. Finds a comfortable position looking at the ceiling.

Gene turns, still asleep, places her left arm on his chest.

He studies her thoughtfully.

James looks away. He spots Gene's phone.

He gently reaches for it. Taps it. LOCK CODE.

BATTERY INDICATES IT'S LOW.

He glances at it for a while then puts it on charge.

He closes his eyes and drifts off.

CUT TO BLACK.

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - DAY

Murmurs and giggles are heard outside the room.

Gene is woken up by it.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gene makes her way to the kitchen, in her night gown. She leans against the wall staring at James and Kendall.

GENE

You guys making breakfast?

JAMES

Kendall wanted to make Ralf something.

KENDALL

Morning mom.

GENE

Aren't you going to be late for school young lady?

James signals her that she isn't going.

GENE

Or.. Not.

James walks up to her, as Kendall breaks the eggs.

JAMES

She asked me if she could skip school today and spend time with Ralf.

GENE

I understand.

She studies his face, then pecks him.

She walks to the fridge to grab some orange juice.

GENE

Let me get dressed, then we'll leave.

JAMES

OK.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 4A - DAY

James, Gene and Kendall walk into the room.

Ralf lays by the bed. He's weak but awake.

Gene hugs him. James looks on, gritting his teeth.

GENE
How are you feeling honey?

RALF
I feel tired.

JAMES
Hey buddy.

RALF
Hey dad. Hey Kendall.

KENDALL
Hey, I brought you something.

She hands him the wrapping.

KENDALL
They are cookies, dad helped me
make them.

RALF
Thanks.

James takes them away from him, places them on the table
nearby.

JAMES
You can eat them later.

RALF
They told me I was in an accident.

GENE
That's true.

RALF
Was anyone else hurt?

GENE
I think, Tom and Janet but I spoke
to their moms, they will be fine.

RALF
That's good. When can I come back
home?

JAMES
When you feel better buddy.

RALF
What about school?

JAMES

Don't worry about that, ok? You just focus on getting better, school will always be there.

Ralf nods to him.

A NURSE walks in.

NURSE

It's time for little Ralf here to get his medication and some rest.

JAMES

See you later buddy.

They exist.

INT. KELKER OFFICE - DAY

James is going through some designs on his computer.

He gives quick glances at his bag.

He zips it open, revealing the envelopes.

Places them on the table. Tosses around in his chair, hands on his head.

Taps on desk with his pen. Rubs his face in frustration, throws the envelopes in his bag and gets up to leave.

INT. KELKER OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

Stacy is by the desk, working on her computer.

JAMES

Anyone calls, tell them I've gone out for a bit.

He storms out before Stacy can utter a word.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING - DAY

James pulls up to the hospital parking.

INT. CAR - DAY

He sits there for a while. Deep in thought. He bows his head.

PHONE RINGS.

FABE CALLING.

He answers it.

JAMES
(over phone)

Hi.

FABE (V.O)
Hey buddy, heard about the
accident. Hope Ralf is fine.

JAMES
(over phone)
He'll get better, he's just
recovering.

FABE (V.O)
That's good. You want to meet for
lunch, talk it over.

JAMES
(over phone)
Thanks but... You know what
actually, yeah, meet you at the
tavern, in 30 minutes.

FABE (V.O)
Last one there is buying.

James hangs up, shaking his head.

He leaves the car with the envelopes.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 4A - DAY

James slowly opens the door.

Ralf is asleep. He walks slowly towards him.

He glances at him for a while. He then slowly takes out the
last testing kit.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SAM OFFICE - DAY

There is a knock at the door.

Dr. Sam is interrupted reading his papers.

DR. SAM
Come in.

James reveals himself.

DR. SAM
Mr. Kelker, how are we today?

JAMES
Could be better.

DR. SAM
Am assuming you brought the
samples.

JAMES

Yes.

He hands them to him.

DR. SAM

Let me take these to the lab
immediately. I'll give you a call
tomorrow.

James nods then leaves.

INT. TAVERN BAR - DAY

FABE, (36), tall, medium weight, is sat in the corner
working on his laptop.

James walks in, he searches the room until he spots Fabe.

He walks towards him.

FABE

How you doing old friend?

JAMES

Am not complaining, is this your
new office?

FABE

You know in my line of work, I
can't afford those rental fees.

JAMES

Then work for a company that can.

FABE

Nope, am doing my own thing now.

JAMES

I see. What did you order?

FABE

Double cheese burger and a beer.

James signals the WAITRESS.

JAMES

Guess I'll have the same.

WAITRESS

Hi.

JAMES

Hi, Could I get the double cheese
burger, with fries...

The waitress notes it down. She turns to leave.

JAMES

Oh and a beer...

She nods.

FABE

So you seen Ralf?

JAMES

Yeah, actually just came from the hospital.

FABE

How's Gene and the other little one.

JAMES

They are fine, now that we know Ralf will be ok. It was surreal.

James rubs his hands.

JAMES

Still is.

FABE

These things happen.

JAMES

Tell me something, what would you do if you found out your wife kept a secret from you?

FABE

Well, I'd confront her so that we can find a way to move forward, obviously it wouldn't be easy, thank God am not married.

James looks pensive, slowly nods his head.

FABE

Is it Gene?

JAMES

Huh?....

FABE

Did you find out something.

JAMES

Am not yet sure, but I don't know what am going to do if my suspicions are proved right.

FABE

Sounds serious. Did she cheat?

JAMES
Technically yes.

FABE
Oh buddy...

James clears his throat.

JAMES
Ralf... Might not be my son.

Fabe freezes, his eyes study James' face.

James bows his head in shame.

FABE
How did you find out?

JAMES
Trying to give blood to my son, can you believe that?

FABE
Wow.

JAMES
We didn't match. The doctor advised me to do a paternity test.

FABE
Does she know?

JAMES
I haven't told her. Took samples from the kids. Waiting on the results.

FABE
Maybe something happened at the hospital, maybe they switched the baby at birth?

JAMES
Am in a state of disarray, my thought process is tangled.

FABE
What are you going to do if it turns out he isn't yours.

JAMES
I don't know, I'd want an explanation but I also fear she might lie straight to my face.

He thoughtfully looks at James.

JAMES

I'll leave her. If she knew about this, I'll leave her, but I need to find out the truth before I can confront her.

FABE

It certainly gives you the advantage.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Gene and Kendall are sharing a plate of fries.

Kendall is invested.

GENE

Should I get you another plate?

KENDALL

No, this is fine.

Gene smiles.

KENDALL

Dad said he's taking me to the dentist.

GENE

He did?

KENDALL

Yes, but he said the doctor has to first check what germs are in my mouth.

Gene looks at her confused.

GENE

Huh, well you're long overdue.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - NIGHT

Gene is in the living room. The light from the television flickers over her face.

James enters the living room.

He leans over to kiss her.

GENE

Welcome back. How was work? Any new buildings your drawing?

JAMES

Just demos at the moment, is Kendall sleeping?

GENE
She's out like a light.

JAMES
That's sorted.

He turns to leave.

GENE
Why don't you join me for a glass
of wine.

She holds up her glass.

James debates thoughtfully.

JAMES
Alright, just the one.

She observes him as he sits next to her. He pours himself a glass. Sips.

GENE
You've been distant lately.

JAMES
Have I?

GENE
Yes, you have.

JAMES
It's just the whole thing with
Ralf.

GENE
I know. Just thought I'd tell you.

James shrugs his shoulders. Gene observes him.

GENE
Am thinking we should do a barbeque
this weekend, nothing fancy just
friends.

JAMES
That's a good idea, Ralf is coming
back, it would fit like a welcome
back party.

GENE
Except, it's not a party.

James sinks in the couch. Gene rests her head on his lap. He is taken aback. He gently strokes her hair in intervals.

CUT TO BLACK.

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 4A - DAY

Gene and James sit besides Ralf's bed.

Dr. Sam makes an entrance.

DR. SAM

I see the young man is back on his feet.

RALF

I feel better now.

DR. SAM

(looking at his chart)

That's good.

JAMES

Can we take him home?

DR. SAM

I don't see any other reason why not. I'll leave you both to it.

Dr. Sam turns to leave.

James follows him. Gene looks on suspicious, she's distracted by Ralf.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

JAMES

Dr. Sam.

DR. SAM

Yes?

JAMES

The other thing we talked about, did the results come back?

DR. SAM

(looks at his watch)

I believe so. Follow me to my office.

They walk through lobby.

Gene comes out of the room and in a distance spots James entering Dr. Sam's office.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SAM OFFICE - DAY

DR. SAM
Have a seat.

Dr. Sam turns on his computer. He skims through his files.

DR. SAM
(to himself)
Kelker, James Kelker, huh, there we
are.

He switches his gaze between the computer and James.

JAMES
What does it say?

DR. SAM
Ralf isn't your son.

James sinks in his chair. A tear runs down his right cheek. He nods his head in acceptance of his fate.

JAMES
Maybe he was switched at birth or
something.

DR. SAM
That's highly unlikely.

JAMES
But it is possible.

DR. SAM
Yes, in some rare cases. The only
way to find out would be to test
your wife Mr. Kelker.

JAMES
Is there a non evasive way I can do
it?

DR. SAM
Yes, sure, hair, but we need a hair
sample from the root, so a combing
brush that only she uses would
suffice.

JAMES
I know just the one.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

James walks out the office. Gene is standing in the lobby. He wipes his tears as fast as he can.

GENE
Shall we go for lunch?

JAMES
I forgot something at the office.
Sorry, rain check?

GENE
That's fine.

Gene watches him leave.

EXT. KELKER HOUSE - DAY

James pulls up by the driveway. Dashes out the car and into the house.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - DAY

He stumbles in the bedroom. He sits by Gene's dressing table. Looks around.

There it is THE BRUSH.

He takes a picture of it. Then grabs it.

INT. MART - DAY

James walks by aisle in the hair section. He filters through the pictures he has taken of the brush compares them to the ones on display.

He finds a perfect match.

On his right, he spots Nancy. He turns away hoping she didn't spot him.

COUNTER.

James places the brush, chips, milk on the counter.

The TELLER gives him a suspicious look. He smiles back her.

NANCY
Mr. Kelker?

He's heard but hopes it's not her.

NANCY
Mr. Kelker, its Nancy.

JAMES
(acting surprised)
Oh, hey.

NANCY
Am good, how's Ralf?

She spots the brush being placed in the bag.

JAMES
He's good, coming back today.
You'll be able to see him.

NANCY
Cool. At the barbeque.

JAMES
What?

NANCY
Mrs. Kelker, she told me, about the
barbeque.

JAMES
Yes. Good. See you there.

He pays for his items and leaves.

Nancy spots him through the window driving off in a panic.

INT. TAVERN BAR - DAY

James is sat in the corner drinking a beer.

Fabe walks in.

FABE
What's the occasion?

JAMES
Am inviting you for a barbeque this
weekend.

FABE
I love me a barbeque, count me in.

JAMES
I want you to go through my wife's
laptop.

FABE
Oh, James, that's not a good idea.

JAMES
You're a hacker.

FABE
Am a software engineer.

JAMES
Same thing. Remember you changed
the results on those tests in
campus?

FABE
Almost got expelled for it.

JAMES
I need you your help.

FABE
What do you intend on finding?

JAMES
Anything that mentions Ralf, his
birth, who the father is. There has
to be a reason she would keep it a
secret all these years.

Silence.

Fabe appears to be going through all the options in his
mind.

FABE
Just ask her.

JAMES
Will you help me or not? Look, I'll
pay you for it.

FABE
Is it password protected?

JAMES
Knowing Gene, am guessing it is.

FABE
It's ok, I'll find a way. 500
upfront, the other 500 when I show
you what I find.

JAMES
You're kidding right?

FABE
Am risking my career here, wife or
no wife.

JAMES
Fine.

EXT. KELKER HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

There is a group of 15 people.

James works the grill. Kendall passes him the meat.

Gene steps out with Ralf. Everyone applauds him. He smiles
back.

Two small BOYS run up to Ralf and whisk him away.

Gene smiles looking on.

Nancy approaches her, they are deep in conversation. She turns to look at James, who's had his gaze on her since she came out.

She smiles at him, he smiles back, turns back to his grill. His smile fades. Kendall is eating the tomatoes.

GENE

(to Nancy)

It's actually pretty hot, excuse me for one moment, while I go get a hat.

NANCY

OK.

Gene walks back in the house.

Fabe makes his way to the backyard. He greets people as he walks towards James.

FABE

Quite the barbeque you got here.

JAMES

Almost thought you weren't going to come. Are you hungry?

FABE

Starving.

JAMES

Kendall, give Uncle Fabe here some ribs.

KENDALL

Here you go.

She hands him a whole plate.

FABE

Thanks doll.

KENDALL

Your welcome.

Ralf runs over to them.

RALF

Uncle Fabe.

FABE

Hey buddy, you looking good.

He yanks him with one hand. Ralf laughs as he is lifted in the air.

JAMES
Kendall, go play with Ralf and his
friends.

KENDALL
But the meat.

JAMES
I'll keep guard, me and Uncle Fabe
have something to talk about.

Kendall shrugs her shoulders as she leaves with Ralf.

JAMES
(to Fabe)
I see you didn't come with any
equipment.

Fabe shows him a usb drive.

FABE
All I need is this baby here. Once
I get in, transfer those files
wirelessly.

JAMES
Ok, her laptop is in the kitchen.

Fabe turns to go.

JAMES
First finish your food.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - DAY

Gene searches for her hat in the wardrobe. She wears it and
looks in the mirror. Something is off. It's the hair.

She places the hat on the dressing table and grabs the
brush.

She combs her hair. Pauses. Analyses the brush. It's not
hers.

She taps it against her hand. Deep in thought.

EXT. KELKER HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

FABE
(mouth full)
Let's do this.

James nods. Fabe walks off.

The phone rings, James receives the call.

JAMES
Dr. Sam.

DR. SAM (V.O)
Yes, Mr. Kelker, we compared the
samples from the hair you gave us.

JAMES
And?

DR. SAM (V.O)
Gene is indeed Ralf's mother.

James bows his head in disappointment. He just can't win.

DR. SAM (V.O)
The only good news I suppose I can
tell you is that both you and Gene
are Kendall's parents.

JAMES
OK Doctor. I'll talk to you later.

He hangs up.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Fabe looks around the kitchen, spots the laptop by the
kitchen counter next to the power socket.

He turns it on and is welcomed with a password request.

FABE
Had to be.

He takes out the usb and places it into the laptop.

The password writes itself and he presses enter.

FABE
Candy from a baby.

He goes through files, emails, folders, some password
protected, the whole desktop is flooded.

The TRANSFERRING FILES window POPS up.

COMPLETE.

He closes it.

GENE (O.S)
See anything you like?

FABE
(startled)
Oh! Gene! You scared me there.

Gene slowly walks towards him, holding her hat.

FABE

I... Um... Was checking my
facebook.

GENE

You were never a good liar Fabe.

FABE

Look James just wanted me to...

GENE

I don't need to know. Hand it over.

Fabe takes a second before he reluctantly gives her the
stick.

GENE

I love my husband and in time he
will understand.

FABE

Whose Ralf's....

GENE

If I told you, I'd have to kill
you. Now you're going to back out
there, and tell him you found
nothing.

Fabe avoids eyes contact.

GENE

Do you understand?

She forces a smile.

FABE

Of course.

He walks out. Gene glances at her laptop.

EXT. KELKER HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

James tosses and turns the burgers on the grill.

He spots Fabe leaving.

JAMES

Kendall? You're on guard duty.

Kendall runs to him, he hands her the tongs.

JAMES

Be careful ok?

KENDALL

I got this.

James races to Fabe.

JAMES (O.S)

Fabe!

He stops in his tracks.

JAMES

Did you find anything.

FABE

I sent them to my computer, I'll go through them and tell you what I find.

JAMES

OK then. You leaving early?

FABE

Something came, I'll see you later James.

Fabe leaves. James turns to the crowd of people enjoying themselves. Gene catches his eye, she waves. He hesitates for a while. Slowly waves back.

JAMES

(to himself)

Why wouldn't you tell me Gene?

Ralf jogs to him and grabs his finger. He lifts him up.

Studies his face not listening to what he says. His eyes get teary.

He walks back to the crowd.

THE END

FADE TO BLACK.