

A GOOD DAD

Written by

Joseph J. Caruso

7/20/2022

Email: jjcwn@verizon.net

Copyright (c) 2020 This screenplay may not be used or reproduced
for any purpose including educational purposes without the
expressed written permission of the author.

EXT. A TOWN NEAR LAKEWOOD NJ. MID 2018. 3:10 PM. SUNNY DAY,
TYPICAL AMERICAN TOWN.

Jack Korab, 50, 6'1, black hair 235 pounds, exits a gas
station with a Hot Dog and a small coffee.

Jack sits in his car, looking at the gas pump waiting for his
car to be filled. As he eats his hot dog, Jack sees his son
JASON, 15, across the street, walking between two boys. As he
looks closer it looks like his son, is being shoved back and
forth between each boy. Jason almost falls over during some
of the shoves.

Jack has a tear in his eye as he watches the assault of his
own son go on during the entire length of the street. When
the boys turn a corner, and out of sight, Jack gets out of
his car, takes the pump out of the gasoline tank, gets back
into his car and slams the door. He drives out of the
gasoline station.

INT. MOLLY WEINER, 70, GRAY HAIR, 5'1, JACK'S THERAPIST
OFFICE. 5:00 PM, THE NEXT DAY.

Jack sits across from Molly.

JACK
They were shoving him.

MOLLY
Shoving him how?

JACK
He was in between, and they were
both shoving him from either side,
into the other boy.

MOLLY
How did you feel?

JACK
I wanted to go over there, and stop
it. But I didn't.

MOLLY
Why not?

JACK
Long term, it could have made the
problem worse.

MOLLY
Have you talked to Jason yet?

JACK

No.

MOLLY

Will you?

JACK

Have to get my head around it. Figure out what to say. This. This happened to me when I was Rob's age.

MOLLY

Really?

JACK

Same situation. Two scum, who thought they might feel better about themselves, by torturing another boy. Two against one. Jason is 15, you don't know what to do. But 40 years later, you still think about it. Its stays with you, along with violent fantasies of what should have happened so long ago.

MOLLY

Bullying is worse now than 40 years ago. I have had two parents come in here, their kids talking about suicide. One boy actually did kill himself. Social media was not around 40 years ago. Even 20 years ago.

JACK

My God.

MOLLY

What do you think you will say to Jason?

JACK

What I do know is that it is time for him to learn how to fight.

MOLLY

Is violence the answer?

JACK

I have found over the years, that sometimes, with some people. It is the only answer.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

The only thing they understand.
Especially when you are a kid and
you don't have to worry about
losing your job.

MOLLY

But you do have to worry about
jail?

JACK

Which is why I am not there now.

MOLLY

How are your jobs going?

JACK

Horrible. I am tired all the time,
the hours are always bad and most
likely because of the stress, my
lower back is worse.

MOLLY

The Fed Ex truck loading job,
cannot be a good thing for the
back. Any depressing 5 day a week
job will make anyone tired Jack.
You have two.

JACK

I have three kids, they will need
to go to college. I want them to
have a decent childhood, unlike
mine. That costs money. Too much
money. Money I had in the good old
days.

MOLLY

Any incidents at Rahway State
Prison?

JACK

Not lately. Its supply, but still,
there is always something negative
going on. But no new fist fights in
the last few weeks. A few creeps on
the Fed Ex job too. One guy in
particular is getting on my last
nerve.

MOLLY

So 8 hours there, and then, the
loading job?

JACK

Its a 13-14 hour day, including the driving.

MOLLY

As I have said to you, several times. I have huge respect for you and what you do for your family.

Jack pauses, almost losing his composure.

JACK

A man's has to do.

MOLLY

But your health. I think you may be hurting your health.

JACK

I have no choice. I love my kids.

MOLLY

Your wife?

JACK

There are problems in all marriages.

MOLLY

Counseling. Its what I do. Aside from this.

JACK

Marriage counseling?

MOLLY

My specialty.

JACK

I have never made enough money. According to her.

MOLLY

The most common problem in marriages. Money.

JACK

As a man, I am doing my best.

(Pause.)

She should have married a rich guy. Money is all she seems to care about anyway.

MOLLY

I am sorry to hear that you feel that way Jack.

JACK

When we got married, I had a much better job and more money. Now 20 years and 3 kids later. Lets just say that things have not gone the way I thought they would have. The 2008 disaster really hurt us.

MOLLY

What ever does go the way you think?

JACK

This bad?

MOLLY

I think you should get a checkup. A Medical checkup.

JACK

Why?

MOLLY

You don't look right. Two jobs, stress, problems at home.

JACK

I will be going in next week.

MOLLY

Oh good. Long overdue.

JACK

I have not felt well for a while. I could lose 25 pounds. I get it. Life is tough.

MOLLY

That it is. But without your health. What is the point of all this.

JACK

I think about its the movie "Its a Wonderful Life" lately, when Potter tells George Baily, "You're worth more dead than alive".

MOLLY

Is that true?

JACK

In 2007 before the crash, we were in great shape. My commute was horrible to New York City, but the money was perfect. Problem is my wife spent at that level. We argue over money now. We argued then. Its what we do.

MOLLY

You are not alone Jack.

JACK

Its worse when you make it and then lose it. I think about the good times. All the IT jobs in my area are dried up and never came back. Now I work at UPS and Rahway State prison. In the supply room.

MOLLY

This is one of those times when there is nothing I can really say. It is part of life, and that old saying about money being the root of all evil. In my experience, the root of all misery is more accurate.

JACK

We were supposed to be married for love. Not money.

MOLLY

Reconsider counselling?

JACK

We tried that in 2009 and 2010, when things were snowballing down a huge hill into a ski-lodge. She blames me for the 2008 financial crisis.

MOLLY

Talk to her about coming in. I want to help you and that starts with your marriage.

JACK

I think it just may be too late. I don't know for sure, but she may be having an affair.

MOLLY

I hope that is not the case.

JACK

(Pause.)

Me too.

EXT. 2 PM. A BASKETBALL COURT IN JACK'S NEIGHBORHOOD. HIS SON JASON, 14, 5'8, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES IS PLAYING BASKETBALL BY HIMSELF.

Jason turns and hits a fade-away jump shot as Jack approaches him and surprises him as the shot goes in.

JACK

Nice shot!

JASON

Thanks Dad.

Jason and Jack hug.

JACK

Perfect weather for basketball. How long have you been out here?

JASON

Two hours? Maybe more.

JACK

Great, that is great exercise.

JASON

I am trying to grow.

JACK

Varsity?

JASON

I am going to try next year.

JACK

Great, keep practicing.

(pause)

Can I talk to you over here?

Jack points to an outdoor table and some chairs.

JASON

Sure.

They both sit across from each other.

JACK
Locust street?

JASON
Yes?

JACK
The Sunoco on the corner?

JASON
I know where that is.

JACK
A day ago. While getting gas. I saw you walking between two lowlife kids. They were pushing you back and forth into the other kid. I was not spying on you, I was just getting gas.

JASON
Oh that.

JACK
Yes, oh that.

JASON
It was nothing.

JACK
It looked like something to me. Has this happened before?

JASON
Once or twice.

JACK
That is not.
(pause)
Acceptable.

JASON
What do you want me to do, its two against one.

JACK
I don't know. All I know is that, shit like that will stay with you. For the rest of your life. That exact same thing happened to me when I was around your age.

JASON
It did. Why didn't you tell me?

JACK

I am telling you now. Same thing, some creep pushing me into some other asshole. Kids like that feed off of your fear. They enjoy making another person feel miserable, because they feel so bad about themselves. This kind of garbage follows you when you are an adult and working for a company. You are right to feel afraid about 2 against one. That is exactly how I felt.

JASON

So what can I do?

JACK

I will pay for self defense training, karate.

JASON

Dad, we don't have enough money now.

JACK

(somewhat angrily)
Don't bring up the money! I get enough of that from your mother.

JASON

Mary said you guys might get divorced.

JACK

No we are not getting divorced - one conversation at a time. Like I said would you like self defence training?

JASON

I don't think they will bother me again.

JACK

Why not?

JASON

Just a feeling.

JACK

Will you think about it? I cant stand the thought of you going through what I went through so long ago! It makes me very angry.

JASON

Are you and Mom OK?

JACK

Yes, don't worry. Will you think about this?

JASON

Yes. Yes I will.

JACK

Now I would challenge you to a game, but once again.

JASON

You're back is out?

JACK

My back is out.

JASON

Mary and I worry about you. 50 years old two jobs? One loading boxes on a truck? 14 hour days?

JACK

Other than my back. I feel OK.

Jason looks at his father like he doesn't believe him.

JASON

Really?

JACK

Yes. Really.

INT. 8:00 PM. FEDERAL EXPRESS WAREHOUSE. WEST WINDSOR NEW JERSEY.

Jack and a 5 other men are loading boxes into several trucks. Jack is doing the most work, grabbing the heaviest boxes and loading them one by one into the back of the truck. One good man is HERB REYNOLDS. Overweight, 5'9, brown hair, 52. The other is younger, MARK SMITH, 28, 6'1, brown hair, thin. WILLIAM HENDERSON, 54, slim.

JACK
Wow. That one hurt.

HERB
Your back again?

JACK
Yes. They say its because of stress. I say its because these fucking boxes are so heavy.

MARK
Its the job man.

JACK
Thanks for the education. I do my job, more than you that's for sure.

MARK
Like hell.

JACK
Look at the log. There are records. I load much more weight night after night than you.

MARK
I do my job.

JACK
Great. Then let me do mine.

MARK
Always complaining about your back.

HERB
Hey guys. We are on the job, lets chill out and get a coffee break.

JACK
Don't need a coffee break.

MARK
But what about your back?

JACK
There is an upper limit on just how much shit I will take from anyone. Unlucky for you, I don't know the point of no return.

MARK
Shaking man. Look at me.

JACK

I would rather not. I have enough pain in my back. Like I need more in my eyes.

MARK

And you are a pain in everybody's neck.

JACK

Have you asked them?

MARK

What?

JACK

Everybody who works here.

Jack looks at the 3 other men loading the trucks.

JACK (CONT'D)

You guys think I complain about my back too much? What about you?

Two men nod no, the other does not move.

GLEN

Hey man. Leave me out of this, I just work here. Keeps me off the streets.

Jack looks at Mark.

JACK

Seems you are the only asshole with a problem.

MARK

Calling me an asshole?

JACK

That is at least what you are. I haven't figured out the rest yet.

The men get face to face. Herb stands between them.

HERB

Come on guys. The supervisor is watching. Right over there.

Herb nods towards the far end of the warehouse. Dan White, the night manager is looking right at them.

JACK
This time. You got lucky.

MARK
I am not afraid of you.

JACK
More evidence of your stupidity.

HERB
For the last time. Break it up.
Lets finish this shit job and go
home. OK?

The men walk away from each other and continue the loading of the trucks. Bad looks are exchanged.

EXT. RAHWAY STATE PRISON. 8AM. NEXT MORNING.

Jack drives up to the side of the huge prison building, quickly leaves his car and walks up to the building. He shows his badge to several guards, who frisk him and walks down a long dark corridor to an open cubicle and office area. He makes a few lefts and a right and enters his cubicle. His boss, Jim Henderson sees Jack and walks to his cubicle.

JIM
Jack.

JACK
Yes?

JIM
Some more additions to the weekly report?

JACK
Expected. Happens every week.

JIM
This one is different, because of the two murders and 3 fights.

JACK
Figured that would happen.

JIM
Just more detail, follow the form for prison murder. Like last time.

JACK
Will do.

Down an adjacent isle walks JANICE RICHARDS, 43, 5'2. Brown hair. Jack's co-worker and friend.

JANICE

Jack.

JACK

Hi.

JANICE

How are you doing?

JACK

Well, I used to be a highly paid software developer and now I keep supply and personnel inventory in a Federal prison. My marriage is a disaster and. Oh, yes, I remember. I pack boxes into trucks at night.

Janice laughs Jack's typical rant.

JANICE

I will remember next time.

JACK

What?

JANICE

To not ask how you are doing.

Jack smiles.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Our supply meeting today has been moved to 3:00 PM. Any conflicts?

JACK

No. But I have to be out of here by 4:45, I have an earlier start today at Fed Ex.

JANICE

OK.

JACK

So how are you?

JANICE

The same. Nothing special. Still divorced a single mother of 2.

JACK

Yes, I heard the rumor.

Janice smiles.

JANICE
How is your back?

JACK
It is different every day. Its all about stress, and every day. Just say I am happy I can walk.

JANICE
That box loading job is not going to make it better. Chiropractor?

JACK
That always helps but never lasts. I have to make more money.

JANICE
If there was anyone I have known at work that I would wish would win the lottery. You are the guy.

JACK
I was thinking the same thing about you.

Janice, smiles at Jack and then turns to walk away.

JANICE
See you at the meeting.

INT. KORAB HOUSE, 5:10 PM. LATER, SAME DAY.

Jack walks into the kitchen, after finishing his first job at Rahway State Prison. His wife, ERIN, 49, 5'1, brown hair is rinsing plates in the kitchen sink. She does not turn to look at him and continues to rinse dishes. Erin is exceptionally good looking and knows it.

ERIN
We are late again. With the mortgage payment.

JACK
I know.

ERIN
You know.

JACK

I always know. When we had money, when we kind of had money. When we don't have enough money. I always know what is going on.

ERIN

Even this time?

JACK

Erin. I am on top of things. Do not worry. I am doing my best, despite our new real life.

ERIN

Which sucks.

JACK

Yes, it sucks. Two horrible jobs. Not enough money. What else is new.

ERIN

Latest on the job search?

JACK

Still too many catch 22 problems. They want experience, and you cannot get experience if you don't have the experience. Even with 25 years of previous experience.

ERIN

This is going on for too long. You said it would be.

JACK

That is what I thought a year ago. Obviously I was wrong.

ERIN

I am sick of always being worried.

JACK

Me too. Money is the root of all misery. If you don't have enough.

ERIN

And we don't.

JACK

How about your job? How about going full time?

ERIN

What?

JACK

More money?

ERIN

I don't want to go full time. I am miserable enough there.

JACK

And I am dancing in the park with my job loading boxes into trucks and working in a prison! 16 hour days on some days.

ERIN

So its my fault now?

JACK

I did not say that.

ERIN

You implied it.

JACK

When things were going well, I begged you to cut down on the spending.

ERIN

Now that is not even implying this is all my fault.

JACK

The part where we did not save enough IS your fault. That's a fact. When things are going well, never expect it to last. A Philosophy to live by.

ERIN

I want a man that makes enough money. I deserve at least that.

JACK

Why?

ERIN

Why what?

JACK

Why do you deserve an easy life,
free of the misery of being poor or
lower middle class.

ERIN

Look at me.

JACK

I am.

ERIN

You don't think I am worthy of a
rich man?

JACK

Looking good and money, are not
automatic. Not for anyone.

ERIN

I am getting sick of this marriage
and never having money.

JACK

You want out?

ERIN

I am thinking about it.

JACK

God knows, it would be cheaper for
me.

ERIN

Is that all you care about?

JACK

You know what love is? Love is,
for richer for poorer. Remember
that vow you took over 25 years
ago? Remember? If you really
believed in love this would be the
time when you were supportive. On
my side. Appreciated how hard I am
working to support this family. In
only a few hours I am back in my
car, driving to the box loading
job! Remember?

Erin, walks out of the kitchen. Rolling her eyes. Very angry.

INT. FED EX. 6 PM, AN HOUR LATER.

Jack is loading boxes with 3 other men. Jack enters the truck with Mark and they both look at each other and drop heavy boxes at the same time. Behind them is their supervisor DAN WHITE, 55, overweight, black hair, 6'2.

DAN

GUYS!

Mark and Jack look around startled.

MARK

What?

DAN (CONT'D)

What?

DAN (CONT'D)

I saw that little fucking show you guys put on the other day. It happens again, and here is some news. I can get anyone to do this job. You are both expendable.

JACK

This guy has been trying to get me to lose my temper from the day I started here.

MARK

All he does is complain and complain. Its bothering all of us.

Jack looks at Mark.

JACK

Bullshit.

Mark looks at Dan.

MARK

Ask the other guys.

DAN

I already did. You are the one making all the waves.

MARK

Now that is the real bullshit.

DAN

A bit of advice. Live and let live. We all have to make a living. Take care of our families. He has 3 kids, you don't. Coexist! Or you will be fired.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

If you two fight you are both gone.
Do not look at me like I am in
charge. Its the company rule.
Fighting will not be tolerated.

MARK

Is that all?

DAN

No, Herb will miss tonight. Some
medical issue.

JACK

What medical issue?

DAN

I don't know. When I hear I will
tell you.

Dan steps out of the back of the truck and walks away.

MARK

You stay out of my way, and I will
stay out of yours.

JACK

Been doing that from day 1.

MARK

Right.

JACK

Right. Glad you agree.
(Some advice.)
You do not want to fuck with me.

MARK

Right.

JACK

Right.

INT. LATE AT NIGHT, 12:00 AM. KORAB HOUSE

Jack walks into the house after his second job at Fed Ex. He looks very tired as he opens the front door. Jack puts his keys into a basket on the downstairs table and walks slowly upstairs. As Jack gets to the top of the stairs his youngest daughter MARY, comes out of her room. Mary is 5 years old and extremely cute.

Despite another day of great fatigue and depression, Jack looks thrilled to see his little girl and his other daughter LAUREN who is 12.

MARY

Daddy.

JACK

Yes Mary.

MARY

Can you come to my room. Lauren and I need to talk to you.

JACK

Wow. This seems serious.

MARY

It is.

Jack follows his daughter into her room, that she shares with her sister LAUREN who is 10 years old. Lauren is also, extremely cute.

JACK

What is going on?

Lauren sits up in bed and turns on the light on the table next to her bed. Jack slowly sits on a chair across from them. Jack winces slightly because of his lower back.

LAUREN

Are you and Mommy getting divorced?

JACK

What kind of question is that?

LAUREN

Mary heard you and Mommy arguing.

JACK

Lately, we are always arguing.

Jack looks at Mary who is sitting on her bed.

JACK (CONT'D)

What? What did you hear?

MARY

You said, do you want out to Mommy.

JACK

What?

MARY

And Mommy said, she is thinking about it.

JACK

You must have heard wrong.

MARY

No. I heard what you guys said.

Mary stands defiantly and Jack looks at her smiling at her amazing cuteness.

JACK

Mary, Lauren. Don't worry. Its just two parents. Having money arguments. It does not mean anything.

LAUREN

This sounds serious to us. We don't want you to get divorced.

JACK

We aren't.

LAUREN

How do you know?

JACK

Because I am 1/2 of the couple here. Things are going fine, don't worry.

MARY

But Dad. Mommy is sleeping on the couch again.

JACK

Its because of my back and moving around too much in bed. This is temporary. Now enough of this, time for bed.

Jack touches the tip of Mary's nose and puts her under the covers. He kisses her forehead, before turning to Lauren and doing the same with her. Jack stands up and starts to walk out of the room.

JACK (CONT'D)

Guys. Don't worry. It will all be fine. I promise.

MARY
Can you tell us another story?

JACK
Of course baby.

LAUREN
A new one.

JACK
A new one?

Jack thinks for a while.

JACK (CONT'D)
I never told you guys about the pig
did I?

MARY
The pig?

JACK
The pig was a cat we had when I was
about your age.

Jack looks at Lauren.

LAUREN
Why did you call your cat the pig?

JACK
She made pig noises all the time.
She had a shape like a pig, and
because. Because she was so happy
to be our cat. Her tail was always
curling at the tip. We called her
Kitty, but she was the pig to me.

MARY
Noises like a pig?

JACK
It was funny to hear. My sister and
I smothered her with so much
attention and love. That I think
she became super aware. Super
intelligent. A super hero cat.

MARY
Wow. What did she do?

JACK
One time, when my sister called
her, she did a little dance for us.

LAUREN
Cats cant dance daddy.

JACK
Kitty did. That one time. And we
have never forgotten it.

LAUREN
How long did she live?

JACK
14 years. In my heart and mind.
Forever.

Jack has difficulty telling this story.

JACK (CONT'D)
That is all for now girls. I will
tell you more another time. We sure
loved Kitty. Good Night.

MARY
I love you Daddy.

JACK
Your Daddy sure loves you Mary.

Jack sees a tear in Lauren and Mary's eyes.

MARY
Good Night Daddy.

LAUREN
Good Night Daddy.

JACK
Good Night.

Jack has a tear in his eye as he walks into the bedroom. He
looks at the empty bed is very depressed.

JACK (CONT'D)
(Whispers.)
Man. What a life.

Jack gets into bed and turns off the light.

EXT. RAHWAY STATE PRISON. 8AM.

Jack turns the corner towards Rahway State Prison, one hell
of an ominous, run down and dangerous looking buildings in
the world. Jack parks his car, which is a run down 2006
Volvo S6 and just sits.

Jack is having trouble breathing, so he closes his eyes and tries to rest, but he is too depressed angry and restless. Jack gets a call on his cell phone.

JACK
(into cell phone)
Hello?

On the phone is JAY TAYLOR, a private investigator, in his mid 60's and a former police officer.

JAY
Jack.

JACK
What have you found out?

JAY
She is screwing some fat guy, works at the Walmart near you.

JACK
Fat?

JAY
Fat. 300 pounds fat.

JACK
Why is she screwing a fat guy?

JAY
I see this all time. The wife is mad at the husband so she screws some guy way under her league. Just because she knows it will bother the hell out of her husband or boyfriend.

JACK
Jesus Christ. She cares nothing about our 3 kids. Only money and getting back at me.

JAY
I hear you. I sent you about 25 photos to your cell.

Jack starts scrolling through the pictures, stunned, depressed, angry, breathing heavy.

JACK
Fat? He is obese! I cannot believe what I am seeing.

JAY

Its always hard to accept when a spouse cheats, but it happens all the time. This is by far my #1 income source.

JACK

Jay, at this point, just send me the bill. No need to do more.

JAY

I already sent you the e-mail.

JACK

Thanks.

JAY

Thanks for your business. If this is any condolence I see this so often. Its more common than any other marriage problem. Cheating. Money problems. Try to hang in there.

JACK

Now we have the top two.

JAY

What are you going to do?

JACK

I don't know yet.

Jack gets out of the car and starts the long walk towards the supply building of the prison. Jack is greeted by some guards who smile and call out his name. One of them is ROLAND FRANKLIN, a black man, late 40s. They shake hands.

ROLAND

Jack.

JACK

Hey Roland.

ROLAND

Man, you do not look well.

JACK

I know. Two jobs, not enough sleep, not enough money, bad marriage.

ROLAND

Lunch today?

JACK

Lunch?

ROLAND

Yes, lunch. Lets talk.

Jack pauses and takes a long look at his friend Roland.

JACK

You are a good man Roland Franklin.

ROLAND

Take it easy today, OK?

JACK

I will. Thank you for caring. I will see you at lunch.

Roland watches Jack as he enters the supply side of the main building. Jack then follows a huge arrow that takes him to his work area. Roland notices that Jack is not walking well, because to his back problems. There is a tear in Roland's eye as he watches his friend walk away.

Jack enters the open area of cubicles and quickly finds his office, there is a yellow POSTIT on his computer screen. It says, "**Report has some problems, see me, JIM**". Jack takes the note and walks slowly to Jim's office.

JACK (CONT'D)

Jim, got your note.

JACK (CONT'D)

The report you sent me is all off.

JACK (CONT'D)

What do you mean off?

JIM

Wrong. Off. Fucked up. Syntax issues.

JACK

Oh fucked up. Now I get it.

JIM

I sent you an e-mail. This is twice now in 3 weeks?

JACK

Out of how many reports?

JIM

I don't count them.

JACK
I do, its 30. 2 out of 30.

JIM
OK, just fix the fucking thing OK?

Jack walks out of Jim's office and staggers towards his cubicle. He sits down, stands up and then falls to the floor. Janice rushes over and tries to revive Jack who has fainted.

JANICE
Jack! Jack!

JACK
I am OK. I think I am OK.

Janice stands up and looks over Jack's cubicle.

JANICE
Someone call medical. NOW! NOW!

Janice is frantic as she tries to revive Jack.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Are you breathing?

JACK
Yes. I am OK. Don't panic.

Janice stands up again and a crowd has gathered around Jack's cubicle.

Janice looks at Jim.

JANICE
Are they coming?

JIM
Yes, they are coming, I called them. Jack are you OK?

JACK
Yes. I just got a bad nights sleep is all.

JIM
If you need some medical time off, you can take it. Don't worry about the report.

JACK
Report. The report. Another report. I used to do stuff. Better than just. Reports.

JIM

You take care of yourself man.

The medical unit arrives and Jack is taken to the prison hospital in a stretcher. As they take Jack away, Janice looks at Jack. Their eyes meet and they hold hands. Jack smiles as he is wheeled away, Janice wipes a tear from her eye.

INT. RAHWAY STATE PRISON HOSPITAL, 9:30 AM

Jack is laying in a hospital bed, next to a table with his cell phone, in a rundown looking hospital room. In walks Jack's doctor with a nurse. The doctor is holding a white clipboard. The doctor is Doctor STEVEN REYNOLDS, who is 60 years old with white hair, 5'4. His nurse is ALICE WILLIS, in her mid 50's, with gray hair.

STEVEN

Jack?

JACK

I am sure I am fine doc.

STEVEN

I am Steven Reynolds, this is Alice, my nurse. I am one of the lead doctors here. I mainly deal with the working population at Rahway, not the prisoners. How are you?

JACK

I feel fine, really. I just had a very bad nights sleep is all.

STEVEN

How much sleep do you actually get every night?

JACK

It varies.

STEVEN

Varies. By how much?

JACK

4, 3. Six rarely. I have two jobs.

STEVEN

And considerable stress. Which is why you fainted from exhaustion.

JACK

So it was not a heart attack?

STEVEN

No. Not this time. Next time?
Considering your age, and being 20
pounds overweight, and two jobs.
Next time could be a heart attack.

JACK

I assume you have medication?

STEVEN

The good news is that your
cholesterol is in the acceptable
range. Your problems are external
not internal.

JACK

You got that right.

STEVEN

What do you mean?

JACK

My wife is cheating on me. Both of
my jobs suck, and we are running
out of money. One of the reasons
why Erin is cheating on me. And
with a big fat guy.

STEVEN

So how is this fat guy's heart?

Both Jack and the nurse laugh.

JACK

A 300 pound load. She is doing this
just despite me.

STEVEN

I can see from your comments how
agitated you are getting. You have
to learn how to calm down.

JACK

How do I do that?

STEVEN

Meditation, and I am going to
prescribe some aspirin every night
before you go to bed and XANAX.

JACK

XANAX?

STEVEN

Yes, believe me. Even half of one pill will calm you down. Do you work out?

JACK

I try to walk.

STEVEN

Try?

JACK

Time, I never have any time.

STEVEN

The solution is to walk at lunchtime.

JACK

Around this hell hole building?

STEVEN

Grab a sandwich, get in your car. Drive somewhere. It is essential that you get enough exercise and sleep. Do you have a friend you can walk with?

Jack looks like he is about to cry.

JACK

Roland.

STEVEN

Roland Franklin?

JACK

Yes.

STEVEN

I know him. The security guard. Why are you upset?

JACK

Roland. He actually cares about me. Nobody else does.

STEVEN

I am sure that is not true Jack. What about your wife. Your kids?

JACK

Like I said. Roland is the only one. My kids care, my wife could care less.

STEVEN

Well I care about you, and so does Alice.

Alice nods her head.

ALICE

We care about you.

STEVEN

You are lucky, you have a family and all you are right now is very run down. We can get you back to normal, just follow my instructions.

Steven hands Jack his instructions for his health.

JACK

Thanks Doc.

STEVEN

Steven.

JACK

Thanks Steven.

STEVEN

Start taking walks with Roland. OK?

JACK

OK.

Steven hands Jack the prescription for XANAX.

STEVEN

Take these when you feel stressed. At first do not take an entire pill. Cut them in half. If you need a full pill, then take it but only after experimenting for a few days with half.

JACK

OK. I feel better already.

STEVEN

You can go home now. My advice is take one day off. Relax. OK?

JACK

OK.

Both Steven and Alice leave. Jack gets a call on his cell phone, from Erin.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hello?

ERIN

I heard you collapsed.

JACK

I fainted, from lack of sleep.
Stress.

ERIN

You have to lose weight.

JACK

Thanks for asking if I am OK.

ERIN

I was going to.

JACK

Do not tell the kids about this.
This is no big deal. I don't want
the girls to worry. They worry
enough.

ERIN

What do you mean?

JACK

They heard us talking. Mary thinks
we are going to get divorced.

ERIN

The way things have been going.

JACK

Cheating on me with a blimp?

ERIN

That is my private business.

JACK

Come on Erin. I was going to find
out eventually.

ERIN

Again, none of your business.

JACK

You cheating on me is my business.
We are still married.

ERIN

That has no relevance on what I do
in my personal life.

JACK

Now that makes as much sense as
anything has since 2008.

ERIN

I have to go now.

JACK

Thanks so much for caring.

Jack hands up his cell phone and throws it on the table in disgust.

INT. UPS TRUCK LOADING STATION. 9:00 PM TWO DAYS LATER

Jack is sitting with 2 other workers, waiting for the delivery of boxes. Mark comes over to sit near them.

MARK

Hi guys.

WORKER #1

Hi.

MARK

Warm reception.

A forklift truck drives near them, drops about 15 boxes inside one of the two trucks for them to be arranged. Mark looks at Jack.

MARK (CONT'D)

How is your back?

JACK

Fine, how is your face?

MARK

What is that supposed to mean?

JACK

You can figure it out, your a good box arranger.

MARK
Same job as you.

JACK
No man, I have another job and
computer skills, remember?

MARK
So you think this is my only job?

JACK
Isn't it?

MARK
No.

JACK
I don't care enough about you to
ask. Lets pack these boxes.

Jack looks over to their boss, Dan who is walking over to
them.

DAN
Do I sense more tension between you
two?

JACK
No.

MARK
No.

DAN
We got more loads tonight, we are
going to need all of you for an
extra hour.

JACK
So much for hoping for more sleep
tonight.

MARK
OK Boss.

Jack glances at Mark.

DAN
Also, there is still tension
between you two. Make friends,
because if this escalates you are
both out of here. Those are the
rules.

(Pause.)
(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

Also Herb will not be in again tonight.

JACK

Is he OK? He has missed so many days lately.

DAN

As far as I know, and they don't tell me anything around here, he is OK. Should be in tomorrow.

Dan slaps his hands.

DAN (CONT'D)

OK, get to work.

As Dan walks away, Jack looks at him with disdain. Anger, Resentment.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. LARGE OFFICE BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY. DAY, 10:00 AM. SUMMER 2007.

Jack is sitting in his impressive office looking through some generated financial data. In walks two coworkers, Ryan and Joe, both about the same age as Jack.

RYAN

Jack.

JACK

What did you hear?

RYAN

I heard they were all impressed with what you did. Why were you not there?

JACK

Horrendous traffic and then a train fire.

JOE

That is too bad, it went great.

JACK

Man do I ever love it when things go well. Never something that is ever guaranteed with code this complicated.

RYAN

It was a home run, congratulations!
Sandy is coming up to talk to you.

JACK

Really?

JOE

Really.

In walks Sandy Weil, the CEO of the company, 70's white hair.

SANDY

Jack?

JACK

Yes.

Jack stands to shake Sandy's hand. They shake and Jack is beaming so proud of the work he pulled off.

SANDY

I think you pulled off a miracle
son. And I heard you worked
overnight?

JACK

Well, the good news is that the
couches around here are sleep-able.

SANDY

I don't think sleep-able is a word,
but who the hell cares.

Sandy and Jack shake hands again.

JACK

Thanks for the opportunity sir.

SANDY

Sandy.

JACK

Sandy.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. UPS WAREHOUSE, PRESENT DAY.

Jack whispers to himself.

JACK

Those. Those were the days.

EXT. JACKS HOUSE, AFTER WORK, 10:00 PM.

Jack drives up to his driveway and parks his car.

INT. JACK ENTERS HIS HOUSE.

As Jack walks into the kitchen he sees his entire family in the living room waiting for him.

JACK

Hello. Why are guys not in bed?
What is going on here?

ERIN

They are all worried.

JACK

About what?

ERIN

Your hospital visit.

JACK

The hospital visit that I asked
you. Begged you. Not to tell anyone
about.

MARY

Are you OK Daddy? I am worried.

Jack looks at Erin with anger. Then he looks at Mary and is about to cry.

JACK

I am OK Mary. I just was tired and
fainted. It is nothing. The doctor
just gave me aspirin and told me to
walk more. That is all.

JASON

Are you sure you are OK?

JACK

Yes. I said I am OK. This is why I
did not want Mommy to say anything.

ERIN

They are our children, they have a
right to know.

JACK

You know the longer I know you, the more I am amazed. You just could not keep your mouth shut.

ERIN

Once again, its all my fault.

JACK

This time, for sure.

LAUREN

Don't fight now. We all hate all the constant fighting.

Jack points at Erin.

JACK

Look no further than you mother. I could drive a UPS truck through your mouth.

ERIN

Be sure to be as nasty as possible in front of our kids.

Jack turns to go upstairs and Mary runs to him and hugs his leg. Jack starts to cry.

JACK

Mary please. Go to your mommy, I am OK I promise.

Mary continues to hug her fathers leg. Jack continues to cry.

JACK (CONT'D)

I can't take this anymore.

Jack lifts Mary and puts her on Erin's lap. Jack's family watch him climb the stairs. They are devastated. Mary and Lauren are crying.

INT. MOLLY WEINER, JACK'S THERAPIST OFFICE. 5:00 PM, THE NEXT DAY.

Jack sits on his chair trying to keep his composure.

JACK

I am. Hanging by a thread.

MOLLY

What do you mean?

JACK
Last night was not good.

MOLLY
What happened?

JACK
Erin told the kids about my hospital stay after I told her not to. Mary was very upset and I started to cry in front of the kids.

MOLLY
Why is that a bad thing?

JACK
I have never cried in front of my kids.

MOLLY
Did you consider. This could be a good thing?

JACK
No. Of course not.

MOLLY
Because you must always be the strong one?

JACK
Yes.

MOLLY
Why?

JACK
Because I am the man.

MOLLY
The one who brings in the money?

JACK
Yes.

MOLLY
You are both a man and a human being. Under tremendous pressure. And because of money, for a long time now because of an economic disaster that was not your fault. Things have been very hard.

JACK

I am tired all the time.

MOLLY

Depression and not enough sleep.
Then add two jobs.

JACK

The walking I am doing. It is not
helping. I am still a physical
wreck.

MOLLY

I think you may have to take some
time off. This is all wearing you
down.

JACK

Out of vacation days, both jobs.
Cant afford time off.

MOLLY

I am worried Jack. You don't look
well.

JACK

I cannot tell you. How many fucking
times I have heard that in the last
few months.

MOLLY

If your making money, and you will
die, because you are making money.
What good is making money?

JACK

What do you want me to do?

MOLLY

You need at least 2 weeks off to
recharge. To reset yourself.

JACK

For the box packing job, I risk
losing it.

MOLLY

Can you talk to your supervisor?
Your boss?

JACK

I know this guy, he could care less
about any of us.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

He has told me I am out the door along with Mark the scumbag if we fight, and man do I ever want to beat the shit out of that guy.

MOLLY

Mark is the source of your stress for this job. You have to get that resolved.

JACK

How. I have run into lowlife like this all my career? Some scum who just wants you gone.

MOLLY

If there is an HR department and I know there is. It seems that is your only option.

JACK

Believe it or not. For reasons, I do not understand. I never even thought of doing that. I will talk to them. Hopefully before I kill this guy.

MOLLY

I would think in this case. Doing those 2 things in order, is probably for the best.

JACK

Was that an attempt. At a joke?

MOLLY

Yes.

JACK

Really?

MOLLY

Yes.

JACK

Wow. All these sessions and a joke?

MOLLY

It seemed to be appropriate.

JACK

That it was.

MOLLY

What is the latest with Erin?

JACK

Erin is over. I did find out she is having an affair. Add that to her telling the kids, and it is time to move on. She only cares about money anyway. That much has been true for a very long time.

MOLLY

I would like you to bring her in for a session.

JACK

Why? Its a dead issue. Should we talk about what is like to have sex with a big fat load?

MOLLY

You don't think there is any saving this marriage?

JACK

No.

MOLLY

My advice to you is do nothing. A divorce and legal bills and possibly having to move out of your own house will be too much right now.

JACK

She will probably file.

MOLLY

Let her. And they delay as long as possible. My concern with you is more stress. You have had enough.

JACK

It is nice that you care. Anybody cares.

MOLLY

We have been talking every other week for 3 years now. I do care. Jack you are a good person.

JACK

Then why? All of this?

MOLLY

You know better than anyone. Life
does not work fairly or how we
think it should.

Molly looks at the clock on her wall.

JACK

I will talk to HR about this guy
tomorrow.

MOLLY

I don't see any other option.

JACK

Other than prison.

MOLLY

Two weeks?

JACK

Yes. Aside from Roland. You are all
I have right now.

Molly reaches out to Jack and they hold hands.

EXT. OUTSIDE RAHWAY STATE PRISON. 12:30 PM.

Roland and Jack are walking in a rundown area with some small businesses and houses. The weather is perfect. The huge depressing roof of the prison is visible from some 4 blocks away as they walk down the street.

ROLAND

Jack.

JACK

Yes?

ROLAND

Have you noticed improvement with all this walking we have been doing?

JACK

Some. I get more sleep thanks to the pills.

ROLAND

XANAX?

JACK

I cut them in half. They really knock me out. Better than booze in the middle of the night.

ROLAND

I for one find it harder to be very depressed after a good nights sleep.

JACK

I am not there yet.

ROLAND

I am getting divorced.

JACK

What?

ROLAND

25 years, 2 kids. Its ending.

JACK

Man. Sorry to hear. What happened?

ROLAND

Just normal, slowly over the years,
losing interest in one another. It
happens to most.

JACK

I know. Affair?

ROLAND

Not that I know of and if she is I
don't want to know. What is your
latest?

JACK

After the last thing she pulled,
telling the kids about my hospital
stay. Her affair with a blimp.

Roland laughs.

JACK (CONT'D)

Its going to happen, its a matter
of a few days. I will file or she
will file.

ROLAND

So sorry to hear that Jack.

JACK

Thanks man.

ROLAND

Janice?

JACK

A big maybe. How did you hear about
that?

ROLAND

People talk man.

JACK

That they do. I will let you know
if that happens. Roland I want to
thank you for being such a great
friend. I don't know if I would
have made it this far without you.

ROLAND

You would have done the same for
me.

JACK

You can count on it.

Roland and Jack turn towards each other. Shake hands, and then hug.

EXT. OUTSIDE A STRIP MALL KARATE STUDIO.

Jack exits his car and enters a rundown Karate studio.

INT. INSIDE A KARATE STUDIO.

Jack waves at his son who is doing kicks in a line with 6 other boys his age. This instructor is a Japanese man, DON LEE, 5'5 in his 50's.

DON
KICK! KICK! STRIKE! Lunge in!
PUNCH, PUNCH!

Jack smiles watching his son.

DON (CONT'D)
15 minute break! ONLY 15! NO LATE!

Jack's son Jason walks over to him.

JACK
How you doing buddy? You looked GREAT!

JASON
OK I guess.

JACK
You do not. Look that happy.

JASON
Dad. I told you I really didn't want to do this.

JACK
Son. Sit down.

Jason sits down on a chair, next to his father.

JACK (CONT'D)
If I could give you a damn pill.
That in an instant. Gave you huge confidence. Gave you Karate or Boxing skills. Gave you more muscles and athletic ability. I would give you that pill and my God! You would be set for life! But as you already know.
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

Life does not work that way. This Karate studio is about giving you self confidence. Courage. Ability that otherwise you would not have. Believe me kid. Getting bullied is something that you never get over. NEVER. Memories will come back to you. Sometimes out of nowhere. You will talk to yourself in your head. "I should have done this". "I should have done that". I should have kicked his ass! The point is. You cannot let the bullies win. You have to stand up for yourself. Whatever that takes.
(Pauses)
OK?

JASON

OK Dad. I will try hard for you.

JACK

Try hard for you OK?

JASON

OK.

Jack hugs his son. Almost losing his composure with one of his children again.

JACK

Let me get the hell out of here before they throw me out.

JASON

What about you and Mom?

JACK

Not a conversation for now, or a Karate studio.

Jack quickly gets up, waves goodbye to his son and leaves.

INT. JACKS HOUSE, 6:00 PM.

Jack looks through the mail as he arrives home. One letter is from a lawyer. Jack opens the yellow envelope. It reads, "Petition for the dissolution of marriage".

JACK

Wow. She actually did it. And she is cheating on me.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

I have seen it all now. Maybe that blimp is rich or something?

The front door opens and Mary and LAUREN walk in the front door. Jack hugs Mary closely.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hello baby.

MARY

Daddy, you look. You don't look happy.

JACK

Not enough happy around here the last few months.

LAUREN

You got that right.

JACK

Not a helpful comment. I would like to talk to you girls in the kitchen.

LAUREN

What's wrong?

JACK

Nothing.

They all walk into the kitchen where Lauren and Mary sit at the kitchen island.

JACK (CONT'D)

There is no easy way to say this. Mommy and I are getting divorced.

MARY

Nooooo! No, you cant. Our family!

JACK

Mary, we are always a family. We will always be a close family.

LAUREN

I knew it. I knew this would happen.

JACK

Things will change, but we will always be close. I will be visiting all the time.

LAUREN
Visiting?

MARY
What does that mean?

JACK
I don't know the details or the visitations yet. A Judge and a lawyer will have to figure that out.

MARY
Make up with Mommy!

JACK
We tried baby. I am sorry.

MARY
I will not stand for this!

Jack tries not to laugh at his unbelievably cute and defiant young lady.

JACK
Mary, in life, sometimes things don't work out. People just get divorced all the time.

Mary goes to Jack and hugs him and starts to cry.

JACK (CONT'D)
Oh my God. Don't do this to me. Please.

Lauren looks at her father, with tears in her eyes. Jack has tears forming in his eyes, barely able to hold his composure.

JACK (CONT'D)
It will all be OK. I promise. I promise.

LAUREN
How? How can you promise us, something like that? What does OK mean?

JACK
I honestly just do not know.

Mary continues to hug her father and cry.

MARY
I don't want my Daddy to go!

JACK
I am not going anywhere!

INT. UPS TRUCK LOADING STATION. 9PM TWO DAYS LATER

Jack enters the warehouse where several of his coworkers are standing around waiting for a new load of boxes. One the workers is William Henderson.

JACK
Hello.

SEVERAL WORKERS
Hi.

JACK
Anything new?

WILLIAM
We are waiting for Jim. He called a meeting.

JACK
Layoffs?

WILLIAM
Maybe. Don't know.

Off to the rear of the warehouse, Jack and the others see William come over to them. Then Mark arrives and climbs into the back of the truck.

JIM
Guys. I have some bad news. Herb Reynolds died of cancer last night. I was told it was colon.

JACK
Oh my God.

There are some noises of grief and talking in the background.

JIM
I am sorry to tell you this. His wife just called me, he was fighting this for 2 years.

JACK
Two years, he never told anyone.

MARK
Why would he tell you?

JACK
We were friends moron.

MARK
(To Jim)
You see? You see how he talks to me.

JACK
Cause and effect. Learn how to keep your mouth shut.

JIM
Again with you two assholes. I told you so many times. Stop this shit or you are both gone.

JACK
Tell him. He is the catalyst.

MARK
Catalyst? Big word.

JACK
Jim, talk to this guy, I am on my last nerve.

JIM
I will be moving you two to separate work groups starting tomorrow. This is not working out.

MARK
You got that right.

JACK
Just shut up moron.

JIM
Sorry about the horrible news. I posted some information about the funeral on the bulletin board.

Jim turns and walks away from the group.

WILLIAM
Herb. Herb was one hell of a good man. Good father, husband.

JACK
I could not agree more.

MARK
Like you?

JACK

Like me. Definitely not like you
asshole.

MARK

Fuck you.

JACK

Fuck you.

Mark stands up. Jack stands up. Its on. The inevitable fight. As Mark walks towards Jack, he gets hit with a jab right in the center of his face, he falls back and Jack goes to the body, then follows with right and left hooks. Mark falls back hits the back of his head on the wall of the truck and Jack finishes him off. Not much of a fight. Its over in a few seconds.

WILLIAM

Wow. Now that was no fight.
Impressive.

JACK

What is that expression? A man
among boys? This guy had a big
mouth and nothing to back it up.

WILLIAM

(Looking at Mark laying on
the floor of the truck.)
Is this guy still alive?

William goes over and taps Mark on the face and he wakes up.

JACK

Want some more?

MARK

Fuck you man.

JACK

Again, big mouth, followed by
nothing.

Jim comes over to the truck.

JIM

OK guys. Gather your things and GET
OUT of here. You are both FIRED!
You will be mailed your severance.

Jim claps his hands. NOW, GET THE FUCK out of here!

Mark and Jim exit the truck and walk in separate directions to leave the warehouse.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE UPS WAREHOUSE. A FEW MINUTES LATER.

Jack is walking briskly and angrily. Kicking the ground, dirt and stones as he walks. His hands are in his pockets as we walks. In a state of disbelief, at reality, at life, how unfair it has been for a decade. He crosses a street and then into a barren alleyway. As he turns another corner, he sees smoke from a house about 200 yards away. He walks faster, and gets closer to the house, as the smoke stream grows larger.

(O.S) Sounds of distant screaming. Jack starts to run as fast as he can. He gets closer and hears the sounds of two young girls trapped in a small house.

Jack goes to the front door, which is locked. The house is raised higher by cinder blocks, making the windows hard to reach.

Jack goes to the side of the house, as the smoke billows become more intense. He can hear the girls behind the walls screaming.

In a panic, Jack starts to ram his body into a dry wall. At first with no luck, he continues to ram his body, his shoulders, then punch holes in the walls, over and over again. Desperate, crying, frantic, Jack plunges his body into the wall, and breaks through, somehow, due to the run down and poorly constructed house, he breaks through. He goes into the house and by some miracle, grabs the two girls, who are 5 and 7 years old and holds each one of them under his arms and carries them outside to safety. They are both coughing as is Jack, who collapses with the girls on top of them.

In his peripheral vision, Jack seems people surround him and some are taping all that happened with their cell phones. Jack is coughing and can barely breath as he rolls over to check on the girls.

Other people, including one woman named JANE, in her 30's, who knows CPR starts to revive the girls.

JANE
(To Jack.)
Are you OK?

JACK

I think so. I am having trouble breathing.

JANE

Just stay relaxed, the ambulances are coming. You are a hero. You saved these 2 girls.

JACK

I had to, they were screaming. I had to. The screaming was. The screaming was killing me. Are they OK?

JANE

They seem to be OK.

The house is now completely on fire. Jack got them out of the house, just in time.

JACK

They are?

JANE

I think so.

JACK

Check them again.

JANE

They are breathing fine. They have to be checked for smoke inhalation at the hospital.

JACK

Thank God. Thank God. Thank God.

JANE

You are a hero. What is your name?

JACK

Jack. I would never be able to go on. I have to go to sleep now. I am so. I am so tired.

Jack passes out, as Jane looks at him. The sounds of several ambulances are in the background.

Jane looks at Jack's fists, cut and bleeding after the fight he just had.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM ONE DAY LATER. DAY.

Doctor Steven Reynolds and his nurse Alice are standing over Jack as he very slowly, starts to wake up. Jack looks at Steven.

JACK

Am I back at the prison?

STEVEN

No. We were called in to see you, we also work here.

JACK

The two girls?

STEVEN

They are both fine. Only because of you.

JACK

Thank God.

STEVEN

Just some smoke in the lungs. You got to them, just in time.

JACK

You should have heard the screaming.

STEVEN

It must have been horrible. You on the other hand, broke your hand, your collar bone, your leg, your foot. Smoke inhalation. You are lucky to be alive Jack.

JACK

Lucky? Being alive for me, in the last decade. Cannot be called lucky.

STEVEN

You will be here for a while, but you will be OK. The biggest problem was your lungs.

JACK

I feel fine, they must have given me some stuff?

STEVEN

Stuff. Yes. For the pain.

JACK
My lungs feel OK.

STEVEN
That's a good sign.

ALICE
You are famous!

JACK
What?

ALICE
The video has gone viral.

JACK
What video?

ALICE
Someone had a cell phone and filmed
the rescue.

JACK
Really? How famous?

Alice looks at her cell phone.

ALICE
In one day, its. 5 million hits.

JACK
Holy crap.

STEVEN
Holy crap is right.

JACK
Wow. Someone like me, famous? How
can that be?

STEVEN
It might blow over. By the way,
your family is waiting to see you
and some of your friends from the
prison.

JACK
OK.

STEVEN
Are you up to it?

JACK
Yes. Send them in.

Alice goes out to the hallway and then returns with Jack's two daughters, his son, Roland and Janice. Jack starts to cry as Mary climbs into the bed with him and hugs him.

MARY

Are you OK Daddy?

JACK

Yes of course baby.

Jack hugs his daughter, and struggles to not completely lose himself.

LAUREN

You are famous Daddy.

JASON

Its all over the internet.

JACK

Yes I heard.

JANICE

You are a hero Jack.

ROLAND

I am so proud of you man.

Roland puts out his hand and Jack shakes it.

JACK

Thanks for coming man.

ROLAND

There is no way I would not be here.

JACK

You are a good friend.

(Pause.)

To be honest. I am overwhelmed. I have never been this tired.

JANICE

Under the circumstances.

MARY

Are you sure you are OK Daddy?

JACK

Yes, baby. I am fine.

Jack hugs his extremely cute daughter.

JASON
What will happen now Dad?

JACK
I don't know.

JASON
Calls from the news? Talk shows.

JACK
I don't know if I want that.

MARY
I want my Daddy to be famous!

JACK
Why?

MARY
Because you are the greatest Daddy
ever!

Jack looks at Lauren and Mary with great emotion.

JACK
Where is your mother?

LAUREN
She is outside. She didn't think
you would want to see her.

JACK
She is right about that. Not now
anyway.

Jack holds hands with his kids as Janice and Roland look on.

EXT. OUTSIDE RAHWAY STATE PRISON. DAY. THREE DAYS LATER.

Jack leaves his car, and greets the guards and Roland.

GUARD #1
He man! Super Hero!

JACK
Thanks man, but I am a regular guy
just like you.

ROLAND
Hey man.

Roland and Jack hug.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
How do you feel?

JACK
Just OK. Very sore in my shoulder.
My lungs are a little sore.

ROLAND
You sure you're OK man?

JACK
I will make it. I am tough.

ROLAND
That you are.

GUARD #2
A super hero!

JACK
Careful, or that will stick.

Jack enters the office area, and walks through his familiar floor. When he arrives at his cubicle there are balloons and a welcome back Jack banner.

JACK (CONT'D)
Oh man what is this?

Janice arrives at Jack's cubicle. Welcome back Jack. Jack looks at the balloons and the big banner. I can see.

JANICE
A few guys in the office. Not big deal.

Jim walks over to Jack's cubicle.

JIM
Welcome back man.

JACK
Thanks.

JIM
The video. I don't know what to say to you. Many people search for meaning in this life. Many never find it. You saved the lives of two young girls. What did you do, is unbelievable.

JACK
Thank you. But I would rather
things just get back to normal.

Jim glances at Janice.

JIM
Can you two guys come to my office?

JANICE
Why?

JIM
Just come with me.

Janice and Jack walk to Jim's office. He closes the door
behind them.

JIM (CONT'D)
Take a seat.

Janice and Jack sit across from Jim.

JACK
What is up?

JIM
Brace yourself. I have been getting
calls from every local news outlet.
CNN, Bloomberg, CNBC, MSNBC, NBC,
ABC, CBS, Jimmy Fallon, Ellen
Degeneres. For 3 days now, my phone
will not stop ringing.

JACK
Why the hell are they calling you?

JIM
Somebody leaked that you work here,
and its easy to find me.

JACK
Jesus Christ. This is exactly what
I did not want to happen.

JANICE
Its too late now Jack. You are
famous. 10 million hits and
counting. You saved two young
girls.

JACK
But I don't want to be famous.

JANICE

Why not?

JACK

I don't know yet, but I fear for the worst.

JIM

Don't be so negative.

JACK

My life has been crap since 2008 ended. I cannot see anything good coming from this.

JANICE

What about a book deal?

JACK

A book deal?

JANICE

Why not? You can make big money.

JACK

Me writing a book?

JANICE

You can get help from a professional writer. Lots of people do this.

JACK

They do?

JANICE

Yes, they do.

JACK

I have not thought about that.

JIM

I already got a call from a book publisher.

Jim hands Jack the number.

JACK

Wow. I cannot believe this. I just cannot believe it.

JIM

What does your wife say about all of this?

JACK

Not a word. She dropped the kids off at the hospital and did not come in.

JIM

Looks like that ship has sailed.

JACK

Now its only a matter of paperwork. And then child custody.

JANICE

What about Ellen Degeneres?

JACK

My face all over the TV, no way.

JIM

Your face is already National Jack.

Jim pulls out a copy of USA Today. Jack's face is on page 3.

JACK

My God. What the hell is going on?

JANICE

It will be OK, you will get used to this. What you did was so amazing. Everybody has seen this.

JACK

I think I may have a nervous breakdown.

JANICE

Take your pills.

JACK

Lately nothing is helping. Not even that. Not even a full pill.

JIM

Check yourself into the hospital. Have them check you out again.

JACK

I think I will.

JIM

In the meantime, if you want. Take some more time off, you earned it.

JACK

I will see the doc, but after that.
I think being normal is the best
thing for me.

JANICE

You just might never be normal
again Jack.

EXT. OUTSIDE RAHWAY STATE PRISON. SOME HOURS LATER.

Jack walks out of the prison with Janice and as he turns the corner he is surrounded by at least 50 people with cameras. Some paparazzi, some reporters, some from local and national news. They are flashing their cameras and putting microphones in Jack's face. Jack waves some of the microphones away, as he tries to get past the crowd that is blocking his way.

JACK

Good God. What is all this?

REPORTER #1

You are a National Hero Jack! Do
you have any comments?

JACK

No, not really. Just want to go
home.

JANICE

He has already given several
statements. Just let us pass
please.

REPORTER #4

Is this your new girlfriend Jack
now that you are divorcing your
wife?

JACK

Get the hell away from me asshole.

REPORTER #2

What do you have to say about the
recent tweets that the whole thing
was staged?

JACK

What?

REPORTER #2

Staged. You staged the rescue to
get famous.

JACK
What tweet? Who tweeted that?

REPORTER #3
Several people have tweeted that Jack.

JACK
Well they are sick and stupid people. I was in the hospital for 3 days. I could have died, so could have the 2 girls.

Jack pushes past two reports who are standing too close, and walks into the parking lot.

JANICE
Let us pass! Let us pass! Its been a long day! Please, please!

Jack and Janice step into his car, and Jack tries to pull out but is blocked by some reporters.

JACK
Hey! Move aside! I am trying to back out! What is wrong with you people.

JANICE
Jack, stay calm.

JACK
I am trying. I am trying.

Jack pulls out of the parking lot and drives down the street.

JANICE
A little fast, slow down.

JACK
I can't.

JANICE
Lets not die today OK? Just ease up.

Jack slows down and then parks about 2 miles away at a Wawa parking lot.

JACK
Man. God, can you believe this. And they are saying. It was staged!

JANICE

Very few horrible people got on
Twitter. We all know that is not
true. Anyone who sees that video.

JACK

This is too much for me. I have had
enough of this.

JANICE

Have you taken a XANAX today?

JACK

Yes.

JANICE

Take another one. Take a deep
breath. This will all blow over.

Jack leans back and tries to take deep breaths.

JANICE (CONT'D)

That's it. Just breath. People
forget to breathe when they are
very stressed.

JACK

Well last Mary now has a famous
Daddy.

JANICE

That she does. And this might be
more than just 15 minutes of fame.

Jack leans back again and breathes deeply.

JACK

In 2008 things could not have been
better. Since then, the bad times
just seem to have no end.

Janice puts her hand on Jack's chest.

JANICE

You will get past this. I promise.

Jack looks at Janice and leans forward. They kiss, then kiss
again passionately.

INT. JACKS NEW GARBAGE APARTMENT, A FEW MILES FROM HIS HOME.

Jack is watching TV, while looking at his IPAD. He is looking at the recent articles about his hero rescue of the 2 girls.

There is a knock on his door.

Jack gets up to answer his door. Erin is standing on the front stairs.

JACK

Erin?

ERIN

Yes. Its me.

JACK

Why are you? Why did you come here?

ERIN

We are still married. Can't I come over to visit my still current husband?

JACK

In a few days, Erin you will.

ERIN

In a few days, we are divorced. I got the e-mail, the paperwork.

JACK

Paperwork that you started.

ERIN

For the record, I do not believe what people are saying.

JACK

What are people saying?

ERIN

That you staged that whole rescue. Of the 2 girls.

JACK

Bringing that up, is not a good idea.

ERIN

I am on your side.

JACK

You are?

ERIN

I have always been on your side.

JACK

Even when you went to the lawyer?
Slept with that blue whale?

ERIN

That is in the past.

JACK

What did he do, roll over on you
too many times?

Erin tries not to laugh.

ERIN

You know you could always make me
laugh.

JACK

None of that is relevant now. In a
few days we are over.

ERIN

I heard you got a book deal? Might
be on Ellen?

JACK

Is that why you are here? Fat guy
flattened your spine and you heard
there may be money coming in?

ERIN

No, that is not the reason.

JACK

Sure it is.

ERIN

Mary misses you. We have to get
back together for her.

JACK

I don't want that child hearing us
argue every day. Its better this
way. I see her every other day
anyway.

ERIN

She needs her Daddy.

JACK

When I married you. I thought I knew you. Integrity. Humanity. Decency. No signs of that now. Now your using our beautiful cute little child because of money?

ERIN

That is not true.

JACK

Yes it is. I can see it in your eyes.

ERIN

My eyes?

JACK

Always a dead giveaway.

Erin starts to walk out of the apartment.

ERIN

This place is a shit hole by the way..

JACK

Sure is. Its called DIVORCE Erin. Its part of the way it all goes down. Most of the time for men in this unfair lawyer driven world.

ERIN

The money you make is mine too.

JACK

The money from the marriage you have a claim to. Everything after is mine and the kids.

ERIN

That staged rescue was during our marriage.

JACK

Oh, now its a staged rescue. That is why there are lowlife lawyers to figure out this kind of disgusting shit. And still you say staged. You are a lowlife.

ERIN

I should have never married you.

JACK

Feel the same way about you. Just go back to trampoline boy. And leave Mary out of our arguments!

Erin leaves and slams the door hard.

JACK (CONT'D)

God. 25 years with that? I should have died of a stroke, 10 years ago.

INT. INSIDE STUDIOS, IN BURBANK CALIFORNIA. 10 AM, A TUESDAY MORNING, SOME TWO WEEKS LATER.

Jack is sitting in a makeup chair getting read to go on a taping of the Ellen Degeneres show. Jack's makeup woman is DIANE KIM, late 40's, 5'2. Sitting next to Jack is Janice, his girlfriend.

DIANE

There is nothing to worry about Jack. We have had many normal regular people on Ellen's show over the years.

JACK

What if I mess up?

Janice puts her hand on Jack's shoulder.

JANICE

You will be fine, I promise.

DIANE

This is a taping. We can edit out, re-shoot. Really, its no sweat.

Jack looks at Jane.

JACK

Really? I am so nervous.

Diane looks closely at Jack.

DIANE

Yes, Really. Trust me, this is no big deal. You will just be answering questions. And you are a big hero! You should be proud.

JACK

I never expected any of this. Even after the video went viral. Everybody has a damn cellphone nowadays.

JANICE

Like we talked about. All of this happened for a reason.

DIANE

Well, you might have a big book deal?

JACK

That is the rumor.

DIANE

Wow, that would be great. Big money!

JACK

I hope. It just might justify all that has happened. Its been 6 months now.

An assistant walks into the makeup room.

ASSISTANT

Diane. 10 minutes.

DIANE

Got it.

JACK

Do you guys give out nervous pills or something on these shows? I left mine at home, like an idiot.

DIANE

Contrary to rumor, no.

JACK

Can I have a drink to calm my nerves?

DIANE

So you want to be drunk going out there? Jack, its like riding a bike, once you get started, you will be OK. I promise.

JACK

OK, OK. Enough. I am ready. Send me out there.

Jack walks out of the makeup room and stands ready to enter the stage. Ellen comes back from commercial. She starts to read the Teleprompter.

ELLEN

About 6 months ago, a video, from a cell phone went viral. It showed a man, in his 50's trying to save two young girls in a dilapidated house in New Jersey that was on fire. Here is the video, which is a bit grainy.

The video shows Jack breaking down a wall, and pulling out two young girls and collapsing on the ground next to them.

There are some audible awe sounds in the crowd.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Wow. Jack is the father of 3, and works two jobs, one at Rahway State Prison and he used to work at UPS, loading boxes. Jack worked 2 difficult jobs, 14-16 hour days to support his family. That alone is impressive enough, long before he saved two young girls from a fire. Ladies and gentlemen, Jack Korab.

The audience applauds and stands up, as Jack slowly makes his way out onto the stage, clearly flustered looking at the crowd and the standing ovation. Jack goes over and hugs Ellen, and they both sit down.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

It is an honor to meet you Jack. What a video.

JACK

An honor?

ELLEN

Yes, that video. Reading about your life. You are something.

Jack looks out to the audience. Trying to adjust to being on a National Daytime talk show.

JACK

I am just a regular guy. Something amazing happened six months ago, and to be honest. I have still not adjusted to it.

ELLEN

That is normal. This kind of thing will take a while. However that video is one of the most amazing things I have ever seen.

JACK

I walk around most of the time, in disbelief. I can't believe any of this. On the Ellen show?

ELLEN

What you did, to save those girls. I don't think anybody has seen someone do that.

JACK

I didn't have a choice.

ELLEN

What do you mean?

JACK

If I didn't save them.

(Long Pause.)

I never would have slept again. I would have never gotten over it. I would have relived it over and over again. In my head. And.

ELLEN

And?

JACK

They were screaming.

Ellen and Jack are both visibly moved.

ELLEN

You knocked over a wall Jack, with your shoulder.

JACK

It was a drywall. There was water damage. But, sure enough, it was a wall. We were all lucky that day.

Ellen reaches over to hold Jack's hand.

ELLEN

You did it. You saved them.

Jack starts to tear up.

JACK

Thank God I did. And they were both OK. Not too much smoke. I visit them from time to time. Their parents. We gave dinner sometimes.

Some in the crowd start to slowly applaud.

ELLEN

You have 3 kids?

JACK

Yes, Mary who is 5, Jason who is 15 and Lauren who just turned 13.

Ellen shows a picture of Jack and his family to the audience, without his wife.

JACK (CONT'D)

I am getting divorced, which is why my wife is not in that photo.

ELLEN

Sorry to hear that. It happens. It happens more often than we would all like. I won't ask you about your divorce.

JACK

Probably a good idea.

Ellen looks at the picture again.

ELLEN

They are all beautiful. Mary is so adorable.

Jack is moved.

JACK

Yes. Yes she is.

ELLEN

How have they handled all of this?

JACK

OK for the most part. Some issues at school, some bullying. But lately its been OK.

ELLEN

How is the book deal?

JACK

I found out last week, that its going forward. I will be working with a guy they assigned.

ELLEN

You used to be on Wall Street?

JACK

Yes, back in the good old normal days, before the 2008 financial crash. Its been tough for a number of years. One of the main reasons for my divorce.

ELLEN

What is it like to work at Rahway State prison?

JACK

Well, I am in the supply office. Not directly in the prison. It has been depressing sometimes. I mean. Its a prison.

Some laughter in the audience.

ELLEN

You had two jobs?

JACK

I was packing boxes at the end of my prison shift. UPS. For close to 5 years.

ELLEN

Wow.

JACK

16 hour days, most of those years. Not now though. Six months ago I got into a fight and lost the UPS job. The same day of the house fire.

ELLEN

Did you win?

Some laughter in the audience.

JACK

Yes. Big time. He had it coming. It was worth losing that job over that fight.

More laughter.

JACK (CONT'D)

I don't advocate fighting at work, or anywhere. But this time around, I just had my limit.

ELLEN

Do you still have your job at the prison?

JACK

Its part time now, there is so much going on.

ELLEN

I am sure. You are famous. Everybody is still talking about this video.

JACK

Both good and bad. Some bad people have been saying things.

ELLEN

Don't let that get to you. We all see what you did. There will always be haters out there. With social media people can say anything with no consequences. Or so they think. Jack, it even has happened to me.

Some more laughter in the audience.

JACK

So I have been finding out the last 6 months.

Some subtle music starts to play in the background.

ELLEN

Jack, its been an honor and a privilege to meet you. I will be the first one to read your book.

The audience stands up and applauds again as Jack stands, shakes Ellen's hand and hugs her.

JACK
Thanks for having me on.

Jack stands up and starts to leave the stage, waving at the crowd as they still stand and applaud.

Jack walks to the back of the stage, greeted by several workers and Janice. They hug.

JANICE
Jack, that was great.

JACK
Really?

Janice smiles.

JANICE
Yes, Really.

JACK
I was so nervous I thought I would pass out, right on stage. God that would make the day of all the haters.

Jack looks at Janice closely.

JACK (CONT'D)
You know I feel something different. Like nothing will ever be the same.

JANICE
I do to. Finally turning the corner?

JACK
Its been so long. But yes. I think things are going in the right direction again.

Jack and Janice embrace, as Diane and several other Ellen staff members gather around and applaud.

JANICE
You know it.

INT. A PUBLISHERS OFFICE, SOMEWHERE IN NEW YORK CITY. ITS
1:00 PM.

Jack and Janice are sitting in the office waiting for the
publisher to come into the office.

In walks Ed Warden, 65, overweight, gray hair. He sits down
quickly at the desk.

ED

You know, in all my years I have
never seen a more relatable
everyman hero story than yours
Jack.

JACK

Thanks Ed.

ED

We will be assigning you a ghost
writer. He is good, George Stans.
He has ghosted for several
celebrities. Good personality,
hard and fast worker.

JACK

I have done some writing myself.

ED

Yes, but this kind of writing is a
speciality. Also, we would never
get the up front money and a bonus
for just you. This is the way the
process works. If this book is a
success, and I know it will be, you
can write your own second book.

Jack looks at Janice.

JACK

Wow, a second book.

JANICE

A little ahead of ourselves?

JACK

Way ahead.

Jack smiles at Janice.

Ed reaches into his desk and pulls out an invoice.

ED

So the numbers are standard for a first time coauthor, considering the extreme circumstances. 250,000 up front as a bonus. The back end money increases if the sales increase. The per book payment to you is also standard. However, get a lawyer to look this over.

Janice and Jack both look over the invoice.

ED (CONT'D)

You guys stand to make some serious money of things go your way with this.

JANICE

Wow, this is all too hard to believe.

JACK

When do we start work with this?

ED

George will come by your house tomorrow at 3. Its 3 hours a day just for the up front interviews and note taking. This could last 4 or 5 weeks, 5 days a week. Then he starts writing. Any documentation about your life, pictures, stories, you give that to George. That is what the interview process is all about.

JACK

Wow. This really sounds like something. And I am just me, a regular guy.

ED

You are not a regular guy any more Jack. You represent the working class out there. Those of us who do what they have to do to make a living. To support their families, like you did after all those difficult years. That is easy when times are good, but when they aren't. You did what you had to do.

Ed holds out his hand to Jack. Jack shakes his hand.

ED (CONT'D)
Congratulations.

JACK
Thank you.

ED
You are very welcome. Your new life starts today.

JACK
I sure hope its better than the old one.

INT. JACKS HOUSE, NEXT DAY, 11:00 AM

Jack is sitting at the kitchen bar with Mary, Lauren and Jason.

MARY
When did she say she was coming over Daddy?

JACK
About now little one.

Jack smiles at Mary and touches the tip of her nose with his index finger.

LAUREN
She is a little late.

JACK
Traffic and 10 minutes?

The front door bell rings. Jack goes to answer the door and hugs Janice.

JANICE
Hi!

JACK
Hello.

Janice and Jack embrace.

JANICE
(I miss our hugs.)
Jack looks into Janice's eyes.

JACK
Something we will do more of.

Jack and Janice walk into the kitchen and Janice is hugged and greeted by the 3 kids, she leans down to hug Mary.

MARY

Ya!

JANICE

You are just about the cutest.

They all gather at the kitchen table and the kitchen island.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Thanks for inviting me.

LAUREN

You are always welcome.

MARY

You are always welcome!

Janice gets a small tear in her eye.

JANICE

Thank you baby.

Jack stands up and approaches Janice.

JACK

As you already know, I always clear everything I do with my kids. Especially that little one over there.

Jack nods at Mary.

JACK (CONT'D)

You have been nothing but supportive during what has been months and now, almost a year of bad times. My incident, money problems, two bad jobs, and bad divorce, almost dying of a heart attack.

Jack pauses with emotion.

JACK (CONT'D)

I think the very first time I knew we were meant to be together when I almost died during my heart attack. The way you looked at me, the way you took care of business so quickly. Just like you always do.

Janice looks at Jack with great emotion.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well I think so and the kids agree,
that we think. We think its time we
get married.

(Pause.)

Will you marry me?

Jack holds out a wedding ring. Janice is overwhelmed looking
at the ring.

MARY

You sure better say yes!

They all laugh looking at Mary.

JANICE

Yes. Yes Jack! Yes

They embrace, and the 3 kids hug them.

MARY

So Happy! So happy for my Daddy.

Jack loses his composure and cries while hugging Janice.

JACK

Do you think. Finally. After a bad
life that has lasted over 10 years.

JANICE

I think you have earned it. Some
happiness. Some happy days, for a
change?

JACK

Earned it?

JANICE

Yes.

JACK

Does life really work that way?

JANICE

No. Not really, but one can hope.
Hope for something better? Maybe?

Jack and Janice hug, and his two girls and son come over and
hug them.

EXT. WEDDING CEREMONY SOME FOUR MONTHS LATER. DAY. 1PM. A PERFECT BRIGHT SUNNY DAY. IN FRONT OF THE WEDDING BUILDING.

Jack arrives with Janice, his two girls and son, wearing a tuxedo. This is an outdoor wedding, with a rented venue near Jack's house. Jack's x-wife was not invited, for good reasons. Jack and his family walk into a modest rented house, that doubles as a wedding venue.

Roland gets out of his car, with two other men who are in the venue's security team. They look around the outside of the building, checking things out for safety.

ROLAND

Guys, this whole area has to be checked and double checked. Jack had an issue with some insane jerk at UPS. Jacks x-wife is unstable, so God knows what can happen. I have his back, lets be careful here. Last thing we need is an incident during my friends wedding.

SECURITY GUARD #1

No problem man. These guys have hired us for years. We never had any issue.

SECURITY GUARD #2

One nutcase once tried to stop a wedding. He was in a police car in 5 minutes. We know what we are doing, don't worry.

ROLAND

OK. I feel better.

Roland starts to walk around the grounds with one of the security guards.

INT. JACK IS TRYING ON HIS BLACK WEDDING SUIT. HE IS TALKING TO THE TAYLOR, A FAMILY FRIEND, ALEX FARMER, 60.

JACK

Does this look good on me?

ALEX

This one is top of the line. Are you sure you just want to rent this thing?

JACK

Yes, its one time. Why do I want to lay out 2000 dollars for a suit I will wear once?

ALEX

For one, memories, for two, you can now afford it. The book is selling.

JACK

I cant break the habit of being cheap. It is who I am.

ALEX

Yes, I can see that. And I have known that for a long time. Are you sure? 150 for a one day rental? When you can own the suit?

JACK

OK, You talked me into it. Janice is worth it. Put it on my tab.

ALEX

You don't have a tab. Never had a tab.

JACK

Start a tab, and put me on the tab.

They both laugh.

ALEX

You got it.

Alex makes some final adjustments to the suit.

Mary walks in holding a tiny flower and hands it to Jack. Jack starts to lose his composure almost immediately.

MARY

Here Daddy.

JACK

Thank you baby. Where did you get that flower?

MARY

I found it out in the yard and picked it.

JACK
Oh, you picked. Oh, I see. Well
that is OK. Its very cute tiny
flower just like you baby.

Jack hugs his child and we see a tear well up in his eye.

From the outside of Jack's fitting room there are two knocks.

JACK (CONT'D)
Yes?

JANICE
Jack.

JACK
Yes. Come in?

JANICE
Should I come in?

JACK
Are you wearing your wedding dress.
If you are, no.

JANICE
Are you wearing your suit?

JACK
Yes.

JANICE
I think that is also bad luck.

JACK
No way.

JANICE
Really?

JACK
Yes, really. That is only for the
groom seeing the bride in the
wedding dress.

JANICE
OK.

Janice walks into the room.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Jack, that looks great on you.

JACK

Thanks. Its a bit tight in some areas, but I think I can stand it.

Janice hugs Jack and they embrace a long time. As they embrace, Jack looks out the window and notices some commotion with Roland and the two security guards. Along with Janice he walks to the window.

Roland is tackling and arresting Mark, the UPS worker that fought with Jack and the other two security guards are arresting Erin, Jack's x-wife.

Jack and Janice look on in amazement and awe and Roland and his friends take care of business.

JACK (CONT'D)

God knows what the hell they were planning.

(Pause.)

Not that it matters now.

JANICE

Looks like your friend Roland has your back. Again.

JACK

(Jack looks at Roland with deep emotion.)

Roland. Good old Roland. He always has my back.

JANICE

Not surprised she showed up. How the hell could you have married her?

JACK

I have no clue. How does that go. People are one way before you marry them and then, their true self eventually... and always reveals it self. She only cared about the money. I had it, then things went south, then I had nothing and now. Well, now the book, some fame. Money. Now she is out there sitting in a police car.

JANICE

Looks like all might be finally well?

JACK
Yes. It just might.

Janice and Jack kiss.

JANICE
Want to get married?

JACK
Sure why not?

EXT. OUTDOOR WEDDING CEREMONY. JACK IS STANDING AT THE ALTER AND JANICE IS WALKING DOWN THE ISLE ACCOMPANIED BY HER FATHER.

Janice walks up to Jack, hugs her father and stands by Jack's side.

The priest is standing there holding a bible.

Jack's 3 kids are all there standing near the alter, with unbelievably cute Mary holding some tiny flowers, with some flowers in her hair.

Janice and Jack look at Mary and smile.

Roland stands next to Jack, as his best man.

PRIEST
How is everybody today?

Some of the crowd make some noises and comments in response.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
We are all here today for a very special day. The marriage of Jack and Janice.

Some in the crowd applaud.

PRIEST (CONT'D)
We are all very happy for both of you. Are you ready to begin?

Jack and Janice both nod.

JANICE
Jack. We met at work. And at the time we met. Work for both of us, was Rahway State Prison. Just maybe the most unlikely place to find love. Maybe of all time? Especially at work?

(MORE)

JANICE (CONT'D)

It took us a while and you were always going through so much for so long. We were friend, and then. One day we were more. You are the love my entire life. I am so lucky to have met you.

JACK

We met and fell in love at Rahway State Prison. When I started on that bad job, things were not going well for me for a very long time. When I first saw you, there was a tiny part of me that thought maybe something good will happen after over a decade of some very bad times. It took a long time and so many things have changed since we first met. Now, I cannot believe our life this last year. I think I really knew it the first time I saw you. I was just too afraid for too long to say anything. Time lost for both of us. Where we are now, the miracles that have happened. You are also, the love of my life. I look forward to forever with you.

Jack and Janice embrace and Mary hugs Jack's leg along with her sister and brother.

Roland comes over to the group and Jack and he embrace.

JACK (CONT'D)

Man. Thanks for having my back.

ROLAND

Always. You know it. Forever.

THE END