

OUT OF THE DITCH

Written by

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EXT. LATE AFTERNOON, 2019, THREE MILES OUTSIDE OF AMITE,  
LOUISIANA. IN THE WOODS, BORDERING BIG CREEK.

An old cabin on pilings, with a weathered deck and scattered  
old furniture. A teenage boy, HANK, rides into the yard on a  
bicycle. He stops at the bottom of the steps.

HANK

Hello. Mom? Mr. Odis? Everything  
okay?

There is no response. Hank goes up the steps. ODIS HOBBS, a  
cranky, old man, drinking a beer appears at the opened screen  
door.

ODIS

What the hell you want?

HANK

I'm coming home.

ODIS

Not anymore.

HANK

What do you mean?

ODIS

You on your own.

HANK

Since when?

ODIS

Since right now.

HANK

Where's mom?

ODIS

Jail.

HANK

What?

ODIS

Damned drugs again. Those rehabs  
taught her nothing.

HANK

When?

ODIS

I was having my morning beer and they just 'bout knocked the door down. She was still in bed. Had some woman deputy watched her dress. Found stuff on her, handcuffed her and away she went.

HANK

What did they find?

ODIS

How the hell should I know. I don't do that shit.

HANK

You're kicking me out.

ODIS

You ain't my real grandchild. She and Junior never married and he's dead so I ain't gotta worry 'bout you no more.

HANK

I never asked you to worry about me. I've always taken care of myself. Never asked you for anything.

ODIS

Yeah, maybe. But ya' momma's got a sister, Lucy. Nice girl. She should be feeding ya'. Ya' better off with her.

HANK

Can I get my stuff?

ODIS

(thinks) I guess. But I'm gonna check everything.

HANK

Just like the woman deputy huh?

ODIS

That's right. You got a problem with that?

HANK

No. I don't want anything that's not mine.

INT. PRISON WARD

Hank's mom MACY, with a black eye, lays on the top bunk in an open cell. An older black inmate, ALICE, enters.

ALICE  
Got tested already huh?

MACY  
Fuck 'em.

ALICE  
Good to have a chip on your shoulder. Got some bad bitches in here. But, I hear this ain't your first rodeo.

MACY  
I ain't putting up with shit from nobody.

ALICE  
Oh, tough girl. My name is Alice. I hear yours is Macy.

MACY  
Bitches sure run their mouths.

ALICE  
Not a lot more to do in here. I try and stay clear of it. But it ain't easy.

MACY  
You gonna give me shit too.

ALICE  
Not as long as you keep drugs out of this cell.

MACY  
Who made you the queen bitch?

ALICE  
Ask anybody in here if they fuck with me, see what they tell ya'. But like I said. I stay to myself. When I'm not doing what they tell me to do I read.

MACY  
Oh, so you're saying your smart.

ALICE

If I was smart I wouldn't be in here.

EXT. NIGHT.

A small rent house in older part of Amite. Outside porch light is on. Hank knocks on the door. The front door opens, stopped by a security chain. A twelve year-old girl, DAKOTA, looks through the gap.

HANK

Hey Dakota. It's me Hank.

DAKOTA

I know.

HANK

Is Aunt Lucy here?

DAKOTA

She's in the shower.

HANK

Oh. That means I can't come in?

DAKOTA

She made me swear not to let anybody in while she was in the shower.

HANK

That's probably a good thing. Can I wait out here until she gets out?

DAKOTA

If you want. You got a cigarette?

HANK

I don't smoke.

DAKOTA

You vape?

HANK

Don't do there either.

DAKOTA

What do you for fun?

HANK

Not much. Work at the BurgerTown, and like to read.

DAKOTA  
What do you read?

HANK  
I like murder mysteries.

DAKOTA  
You thinking about killing  
somebody?

A voice belonging to Dakota's mother, LUCY, calls out.

LUCY (V.O.)  
Who are you talking to Dakota?

DAKOTA  
Come see.

Lucy, with wet hair and in a white robe, appears behind Dakota.

LUCY  
Hank. What are you doing here? Open  
the door Dakota.

She opens the door.

HANK  
Sorry to bother you. But, I got a  
problem.

LUCY  
Macy got arrested again?

HANK  
Yeah. And my so-called grandpa  
threw me out.

LUCY  
Never liked that old fart.

HANK  
I was hoping I could stay for a  
while.

LUCY  
Sure you can. It's small, one  
bathroom you got to share with two  
females. That's not an easy task.

HANK  
Thank you Aunt Lucy.

LUCY

You'll have to sleep on the couch and don't thank me yet. Give it a week or two.

HANK

Okay. Where can I put my stuff?

LUCY

I don't know. We'll need to figure that out. You hungry?

HANK

Yes ma'm.

LUCY

We got some left over meatloaf and mashed potatoes Dakota cooked. Sound good?

HANK

Perfect. Thanks.

LUVY

What do you know about your mom?

HANK

Just what Mr. Odis said. Drugs again.

LUCY

Damn. How are you feeling?

HANK

Mixture. Worried about her. But also tired of it.

EXT. MORNING. ODIS' CABIN.

RICK HOOKER, early 30s, tattooed, and muscled, goes up the steps of Odis' cabin and knocks on the door. From inside the cabin we hear...

ODIS

Who is it? What do you want?

RICK

Open the damn door Odis.

The door opens. Odis is drinking a beer.

ODIS

She's gone. Got arrested.

RICK

I heard. She leave my money and stuff.

ODIS

She's got no money. Never paid me a penny of rent. I don't know nothing 'bout her stuff, except police took some stuff she had.

RICK

I wouldn't pay rent for this shithole either.

ODIS

Well, then just get your ass off my shithole.

RICK

What kind of stuff did they get?

ODIS

How the hell should I know.

Rick slaps the beer out of Odis' hand.

RICK

I know it's easy for you to play stupid, but I ain't in the mood. \$500 and my stuff. Where is it?

ODIS

I ain't got your damn stuff or drug money. Either she pissed it away or that boy of hers got it.

Rick pushes Odis against the cabin with a hand around Odis's throat.

RICK

You better hope you not lying to me old man.

ODIS

I ain't and get your fucking hands off me.

Rick smiles and releases him.

RICK

Where's her son?

ODIS

School, I guess.

RICK  
It's Saturday.

ODIS  
Oh. Well, I guess at work or his  
aunt's place. I don't know. I run  
him off.

RICK  
Why?

ODIS  
'Cause he's not mine. My boy never  
married Macy. He ain't my blood.

RICK  
You a real sweetheart Odis.

ODIS  
It's my home and I feed who I want  
to feed.

RICK  
You talking about Lucy Matheny.

ODIS  
You know damn well who is it.

RICK  
Where does he work?

ODIS  
BurgerTown.

RICK  
If he ain't got it. I'm coming back  
'cause that will mean you lied to  
Rick and Rick don't like to be  
fucked.

EXT. AFTERNOON. BACK OF BURGERTOWN.

Rick gets out of his Jeep. He walks to the backdoor, takes  
out a lock-pick tool kit but the door is unlocked and he  
enters. A man with Downs Syndrome, LOUIS, sees Rick standing  
at the back door.

LOUIS  
Hey. Excuse me. What're you doing  
here?

RICK  
Looking for Hank. He here?

LOUIS  
Whose asking?

                  RICK  
Friend of his momma's.

                  LOUIS  
I'll get him but stay there.

                  RICK  
You got it.

Rick waits. Hank enters.

                  RICK (CONT'D)  
Hello Hank. Remember me?

                  HANK  
Yeah.

                  RICK  
I got a problem. You know what that  
problem is?

                  HANK  
Probably has something to do with  
my mom.

                  RICK  
Smart fella'. So, where is it?

                  HANK  
What?

                  RICK  
Okay. You going that route. (beat)  
Your mom owes me \$500 and she's got  
stuff that belongs to me.

                  HANK  
That's between you are her.

                  RICK  
Well, talking to her is kind of  
difficult right now.

                  HANK  
I don't have anything to do with my  
mom's...problem.

RICK

That's not what she told me. She said you were her little angel who took care of everythin' for her. So, where's the money?

HANK

I don't have it.

RICK

You know a smart kid like you could make some good money and quit this shithole if you became my partner.

HANK

That's not happening. I got to get back to work.

The manager, MR. CRAWFORD, enters.

MR. CRAWFORD

Hank. I need you back on the grill.

HANK

Yes sir.

Hank leaves.

MR. CRAWFORD

Who are you and how did you get in here?

RICK

Friend of his mother's and your back door was unlocked. That's not safe for your employees.

Rick leaves.

EXT. DAY. BEHIND A SALON.

Lucy is behind the hair salon where she works, smoking a cigarette. Her cell phone rings. She does not recognize the number

The POV cuts back and forth on the cellphone call.

LUCY

Hello.

MACY

Lucy. Macy.

LUCY  
Damn girl. When are you gonna  
learn?

MACY  
I know. I feel terrible.

LUCY  
Heard it all before Mace.

MACY  
I know. I don't have a good track  
record.

LUCY  
Oh, you got a record alright. Just  
not the kind you want.

MACY  
Hey. I feel bad alright. I don't  
need you beat me up.

LUCY  
Okay.

MACY  
How's Hank?

LUCY  
He moved in with me and Dakota.

MACY  
Why? I mean that's good, thanks,  
but why?

LUCY  
The old fart threw him out. Said he  
wasn't his. Sent him to me.

MACY  
That bastard.

LUCY  
What did you expect from him,  
warmth and kindness, just like  
Junior had.

MACY  
Thanks for making me feel so good  
'bout how I fucked up my life.

LUCY  
What do you want?

MACY

I need bail money. \$500.

LUCY

Macy. I told you the last time I wasn't doing that again. Plus I don't have that much free until the end of the week.

MACY

Hank's got it. Get it from him. When can you get me out of here?

LUCY

Where did Hank get \$500?

MACY

You really want to know?

LUCY

(beat) No.

MACY

Just find Hank and tell him I said so. When can you come?

LUCY

I got no appointments after 2. If no one walks in, I'll come after then.

MACY

Thanks Lucy. I owe you, again.

LUCY

Damn right you do. And for your own good this really is the last time.

Lucy puts out her cigarette. Squirts breath freshener in her mouth and sprays a little perfume on her hands.

Rick enters.

RICK

Hello Lucy.

LUCY

Ahhh! Shit Rick. Make some noise. You scared me.

RICK

You talkin' to Macy.

LUCY  
I don't think who I talk to is any  
of your business.

RICK  
Whoa. Defensive. Dead give away.

LUCY  
I need to get back to work.

She starts to enter. He grabs her by the arm.

RICK  
I hope you're not fuckin' with me.

LUCY  
Take your Goddamn hands off me.

RICK  
You remember how sweet I can be?

Lucy says nothing.

RICK (CONT'D)  
You also know what uh asshole I can  
be especially when people owe me  
money.

Rick release her arm. She returns to work. Rick takes out a menthol cigarette, lights it. Takes a long puff. He takes out his cell phone, dials a number.

RICK (CONT'D)  
She post bail yet? (beat) Okay.  
(beat) Yeah. Soon as she does.

Rick takes a long drag from his cigarette. Thinks. Then he walks away.

INT. BURGETOWN

Hank is working the grill. His phone beeps that he has a text. The name on cell reads Aunt Lucy. The text reads:

TEXT: I'm at the back door. Come talk to me.

Hank finishes grilling the hamburger, passes it to Louis to be dressed and served.

HANK  
Finish that up for me Lou? My aunt  
is at the back door. Might be about  
my mom.

LOUIS  
Don't take long or let Crawford see  
you.

Hank goes to the back door and opens it. Louis watches him.

HANK  
Hey Aunt Lucy. What's up?

LUCY  
Your mom called.

HANK  
She wants the money for bail.

LUCY  
Yeah. That asshole Rick came by  
today and threatened me.

HANK  
Came here too. She made me swear  
not to say anything. You need it  
now?

LUCY  
I frankly think she should stay in  
there longer, maybe scare some  
sense into her.

HANK  
It hasn't yet.

LUCY  
I told her this was the last time  
I'd help bail her out.

HANK  
She promised me it wouldn't happen  
again. I got to get back in there.

Hank takes off his left shoe. He takes out five one hundred  
dollar bills.

HANK (CONT'D)  
That enough?

LUCY  
You got more?

HANK  
Two hundred in the other shoe.

LUCY  
Yours or hers?

HANK  
Mine.

LUCY  
Then hell no.

Mr. Crawford sticks his head out the back door. He knows Lucy.

MR. CRAWFORD  
Hey Lucy. Hank. Too many interruptions today.

LUCY  
My fault Paul. Family problems.

MR. CRAWFORD  
He's a good worker but I don't pay him to visit with everyone who comes by.

LUCY  
Okay Paul. Sorry to interrupt. See ya' Hank.

MR. CRAWFORD  
Can we get back to work now? Or do you have more family issues to solve?

INT. LUCY'S CAR.

Lucy and Macy are riding in Lucy's car. Both are smoking.

LUCY  
I don't like going there.

MACY  
I got all my stuff there. 'Sides the bastard is less likely to a be bigger asshole if someone else is there. Plus, Odis always liked you.

LUCY  
What? That's gross.

MACY  
Maybe. But it's true. Always asking 'bout you. Was you ever coming to see your baby sister?

LUCY  
Just stop right there.

MACY  
Okay. But you'll see.

LUCY  
I'm waiting in the car.

MACY  
I was hoping you'd say that.

LUCY  
What? Why?

MACY  
'Cause he'll come to the car to see  
you, offer you a beer and he won't  
follow me when I get my stuff. He  
doesn't trust nobody.

LUCY  
So, I'm the bait, like a goat tied  
to a stick to attract the tiger.

MACY  
More like old pussy hound.

LUCY  
I should have left you in jail.

MACY  
Lucy. I want to thank you. I have  
really had my troubles. I know I've  
said this shit before, but I've got  
to get out of this ditch. Do rehab  
again, something. Get a real job.  
The judge said at my bail sometime  
in the next 10 days I'll have a  
random drug test. If I fail, I'm  
gone for at least five years. I  
can't do that to Hank no more. It's  
amazing he doesn't hate me.

LUCY  
He should. He's the one damn  
positive in your life and you are  
about to screw that up.

MACY  
He mad at me?

LUCY

Don't you think he has a right to be?

MACY

Yeah. But I swear this time it's gonna be different. (beat) My God. I haven't even asked about Dakota. Sorry. How is she?

LUCY

Twelve going on 20. You think we grew up fast. She started getting her period already. Scares me.

MACY

She doing well in school?

LUCY

Yeah. I'll give her that. All comes natural to her right now. Has been in zero trouble at school. I think she thinks herself above all that middle school crap.

They arrive at Odis cabin.

EXT. DECK.

Odis is on the old deck, grilling chicken and drinking beer. Macy gets out of the car.

ODIS

Well, look what the cat drug up. Just 'bout to burn all your stuff. Thought they would send you up the river for good. Who is that in the car?

MACY

Lucy.

ODIS

Is that a fact? Hello there Lucy! Get on out and have a beer with me. Got plenty.

LUCY

I'm good.

ODIS

I'll bring you one.

He reaches down in an ice chest and grabs a beer, wipes it off with a paper towel, wraps another paper towel around it and brings it to Lucy.

ODIS (CONT'D)

Here you go. How you been doing?

LUCY

Just fine Odis. Thank you.

ODIS

You know people tell me I cook the best chicken thighs in the parish. You want to give one a try?

LUCY

No. My daughter, Dakota, is cooking supper. I would not want to hurt her feelings.

INT. CABIN.

Macy enters the cabin, takes a butter knife and two plastic black garbage bags to her room. The room is as messy as it was after the police searched it. She starts putting her stuff in a garbage bag. After a moment, she stops, listens. She goes into the kitchen, opens cabinet door under the sink, using the butter knife wedges up a fake floor, revealing cash, marijuana and a bottle of pills. She stuffs the cash in her pocket and the drugs one of the garbage bags. She puts the floor back, closes the cabinet, puts the butter knife back, goes into the bathroom and gets her personal hygiene stuff. She exits the cabin.

EXT. AT THE CAR.

ODIS

I need to look in those bags.

LUCY

Odis.

ODIS

Yeah?

LUCY

We really don't have time. Thank you so much for the beer. And your chicken smells heavenly.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

Wish I could stay but like I said, my daughter said she was cooking her special spaghetti sauce for her Aunt Macy. Okay?

ODIS

Sure. Sure. Don't want to disappoint your child. You're a good mother. Not like others I know. Come back some time and have a beer with me.

LUCY

Thank you Odis.

ODIS

Sure you don't want a piece for the road.

LUCY

Very sweet. But no thank you.

ODIS

Okay. Wish your daughter my best.

LUCY

Bye Odis.

ODIS

Bye Lucy.

Macy has put her stuff in the car and gets in. Lucy cranks up her car, rolls up the window, smiling. She and Macy drive away. Odis is in the rear view mirror holding up his beer to her.

LUCY

You get everything?

MACY

Yeah.

LUCY

What's wrong?

MACY

Rick has his spies everywhere. He probably knows I'm out. Maybe you should take me to a motel for the night. Please tell Hank I'm sorry. I've changed and it won't happen again.

LUCY  
He's heard it before. And, that's  
something you should say. Not me.

MACY  
You're right.

LUCY  
You got money for a motel?

MACY  
Odis did.

LUCY  
You stole from him?

MACY  
It's not as bad as stealing his  
heart.

EXT. NIGHT.

Lucy drives up to her house. She is alone.

INT. LUCY'S HOUSE.

She enters the house. Dakota is draining spaghetti.

DAKOTA  
Hey. Where's Aunt Macy?

LUCY  
We thought it best she stay in a  
motel tonight.

DAKOTA  
Why?

LUCY  
Let her have some alone time to  
think.

DAKOTA  
That's bullshit.

LUCY  
Watch your language.

DAKOTA  
I cooked this spaghetti for her.  
You smell like barbeque. Y'all eat  
already?

LUCY

No. We had to go to Odis' to get her stuff. He was cooking chicken.

DAKOTA

He still creepy?

LUCY

Creeps don't get better with age. Hank home yet?

DAKOTA

No. He called and said he was working over to make some extra cash.

LUCY

That's good.

MACY

So why is Aunt Macy really not here?

LUCY

A real jerk is looking for her. Says she owes him money. She thought he might show up here and it would be better for us if she wasn't here.

MACY

Who is the jerk?

LUCY

Can we just eat? I'm starved and it all smells so good. Thank you so much for cooking. We'll save some for Aunt Macy. She'll love it.

Lucy and Dakota start serving themselves.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I just love your spaghetti. You should think about being a chef. Look. You grated cheese. Oh, it's like powder...

Dakota sees Rick looking at them.

DAKOTA

Mom. I think the jerk is here.

LUCY

What?

Dakota points. Lucy turns.

LUCY (CONT'D)

How the hell did you get in here?

RICK

(smiles) No lock is Rick proof.

LUCY

Get the hell out of my house Rick.

RICK

Tell me where she is.

LUCY

She's not here.

RICK

My patience is 'bout gone. I can't have people not payin' me their debts and holdin' out on me. Word'll can't get 'round I'm a pussy.

LUCY

Watch your language. My daughter is twelve.

Lucy points and turns to Dakota who is pointing a vintage Colt 45 Peacemaker revolver at Rick.

DAKOTA

Leave asshole.

RICK

And you're worried 'bout my language 'round her.

LUCY

Dakota. Put that down.

DAKOTA

Not until he behaves and leaves.

RICK

That's a Colt 45 Peacemaker. Where did you get that old thing? It's a collector's item.

LUCY

It was my father's.

RICK  
And you leave it laying 'round  
where a child can get it.

LUCY  
I forgot it was there.

RICK  
That thing has a hell of a kick  
little girl.

DAKOTA  
I know. But you only have to worry  
about the first shot.

Dakota cocks the revolver.

RICK  
You're gonna shoot me?

DAKOTA  
The way I figure it the police will  
think I shot a known drug dealer  
who broke into our house and see it  
as self-defense. Or, at worst  
they'll send me to juvie for about  
90 days. But I'll be alive and  
you'll be dead.

RICK  
I'm gonna get my money and property  
owed me.

Rick turns and leaves. Lucy looks at her daughter. Then, she  
rushes to the door, relocks it, turns deadbolt and puts the  
security chain on the door. She comes back to the kitchen.  
The Peacemaker is on the table. Dakota is eating.

LUCY  
Where the hell did that come from?

DAKOTA  
I don't know. It worked. But he'll  
be back. Think we should call the  
police? This garlic bread is great.

INT. NIGHT. MOTEL ROOM.

Macy is in the motel room. There is a knock on the door. She  
looks through the peep hole and sees Jesus. She opens the  
door. JESUS enters.

MACY  
How you been Jesus?

JESUS

Oh, the same. Work a little, work some more. Sell some stuff, buy some stuff, then sell it. You know the circle.

MACY

Yeah, the circle. Look. I got some marijuana and Oxie I want to sell. I want nothing to do with this shit anymore Jesus. So, I figure on the street it's probably worth couple thousand easy. Just give me a thousand and I'm walking away, going clean.

JESUS

I don't know Macy. Is this stuff come from Rick?

MACY

Just drive somewhere else and sell it. He'll never know. He probably thinks the police took it all.

JESUS

He's not foolish.

MACY

You got friends in other towns, right? This place is Rick's circle. Go out of the circle. Make some quick dollars and have a party or buy your girlfriend something she'll like and she'll be good to you.

He thinks.

JESUS

Okay. I can do this. Let me see it.

She shows him.

MACY

See. Couple thousand worth, right?

JESUS

Yes. Maybe little more. It's good deal. Here is the money.

MACY

Thanks Jesus.

JESUS

Yes. Well. I better go or my girlfriend will think I have a girlfriend.

They laugh. She walks him to the door and opens it. Rick is standing there.

RICK

Hello Macy. Hand me the stuff.  
Jesus.

Jesus does.

RICK (CONT'D)

You can go now.

JESUS

Sorry Macy. But I live in Rick's circle. He makes things bad for me if I cheat him.

Rick closes and locks the door. Puts on the security chain.

RICK

Why you want to do that to me Macy?  
I've been nice to you.

MACY

Bullshit. Look Rick. There's your money and more. You got your drugs so just leave me alone. I'm gonna go to rehab and leave all this behind.

RICK

Rehab. You tried twice already. You like this stuff too much. Plus, I got some really sweet blow here. I'll let you be the first to taste it. Would you like that?

MACY

No Rick. I don't. I want to be a better mother to my son. Please call it even and leave.

RICK

How much more cash you got?

MACY

That's all of it.

RICK  
Why don't I believe you?

MACY  
We're more than even Rick.

RICK  
No. You tried to steal from me.  
We're not even. Where is the rest  
of your cash?

Macy pulls out a draw, turns it over and un-tapes a thousand dollars.

MACY  
That's all of it. Every penny I  
got. Now, please leave.

Rick takes the cash. Smiles. He grabs Macy by the throat, put his hand over her mouth and takes her to the toilet. He grabs her by the hair, lifts the toilet lid with his foot and stuffs her face into the toilet. He holds her under. Lifts her up. Then pushes her down again. Repeats it a third time. He pulls her head up.

RICK  
Like your bath?

MACY  
Fuck you.

He stuffs her head back into the toilet. He flushes it. She fights. He holds her head underwater. He jerks her by her hair out of the toilet and tosses her on the bathroom floor. He sits on top of her, his knees on her arms.

RICK  
You know. I think you really do  
want a taste. Think of it as my way  
of saying I'm sorry. Even though  
I'm not.

He takes a pinch of cocaine, forces open her mouth and drops it in. He closes her mouth, making her swallow.

RICK (CONT'D)  
That's a good girl. No. No need to  
thank me. Just enjoy. Rehab my ass.  
You're a junkie Macy. Accept it.  
Good luck peeing in a cup.

Rick exits the motel room. Macy lays on the bathroom floor. She crawls to the bed and reaches for the phone. It falls. She dials her sister.

MACY

Lucy. Help me. (beat) Rick found me.

She hangs up. Macy drags herself back into the bathroom. Off camera, she gags, throw up.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM.

Macy is cleaned-up and in the bed asleep. Dakota sits near the bed, earbuds and listening to music and playing a game on her cell phone. Macy wakes-up. She looks around the room. Dakota notices her. Dakota takes out her earbuds.

DAKOTA

Hey, Aunt Macy. Good to see you awake.

MACY

How long have I been out?

DAKOTA

Long time. About four hours, I guess.

MACY

Where's your mom and Hank?

DAKOTA

Mom's in the kitchen making soup for you. Hank went out.

MACY

Where?

DAKOTA

I don't know. You'd have to ask mom.

Macy tries to sit-up.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Take it easy. No need to get up.

MACY

Can I borrow your phone? I want to talk to Hank.

DAKOTA

Sure.

Macy enters Hank's number into Dakota's phone.

EXT. DAY. PARK.

Hank is sitting in a park, his back to a tree, sunglasses and a ball cap pulled low. He sees Dakota's name on the ID. He answers. The POV switches back and forth from the park to Macy sitting on the bed.

HANK  
Hey.

MACY  
Hank?

HANK  
Mom?

MACY  
Yeah. Where are you?

HANK  
At work. Outside taking a break.

MACY  
What time are you getting off?

HANK  
Couple hours probably.

MACY  
Please come to Aunt Lucy's right after work. I really need to talk with you. I'm so sorry.

HANK  
I will. But I've heard it before mom.

MACY  
I know. But please let's talk.

HANK  
Okay, but you need to do more than talk. You broke a promise. You feeling better?

MACY  
I'm getting there. I love you son.

HANK  
I love you too but that's not the problem.

EXT. PARK. He hangs up the phone. He peeks around the tree. Rick is sitting on a blanket with a beautiful blonde girl from Hank's high school.

INT. BEDROOM.

MACY

Can you go ask your mother if you can do a favor for me?

DAKOTA

Sure. What is it?

MACY

I want you to go see if Hank is at work.

EXT. DAY. OUTSIDE OF HOUSE.

Dakota is texting Hank.

The text reads: Ur mom wants me to see if u r at work. I don't want to be a liar.

Hank reads text. He gets up, gets on his bicycle and leaves.

The high school girl notices him leaving.

INT. DAY. BURGERTOWN.

Dakota is sitting at a table texting Macy.

The text reads: He's here. Both coming home soon.

Dakota and Hank are sitting at table together.

HANK

We should probably wait a few minutes.

DAKOTA

Are you up to something?

HANK

No. Why?

DAKOTA

Just got a feeling. I'd be pissed if someone did shit like that my mom. I should have shot him.

INT. DAY. MACY IS ON LUCY'S COUCH.

Lucy comes from the kitchen with a hot cup of tea.

LUCY

Here. Green tea. They say its good for you.

MACY

Thank you.

LUCY

You should have let me call the police.

MACY

No. Me having the drugs would have come out and I'd be put away for a long time.

LUCY

What an asshole.

MACY

I'm an addict Lucy and I've hit rock bottom. I need to climb out this ditch for myself and for Hank. Rick's an asshole but I've done this to myself.

LUCY

You have. Question is, is this it?

MACY

It's got to be. I'll be dead and not be here for Hank if I don't change.

LUCY

I'm willing to help but this is it. You understand?

MACY

Yes. You've done so much already. But I'm gonna need more. I hate to ask you.

LUCY

What do you mean?

MACY

Court order said I've got to pee in a cup sometime in the next 10 days.

(MORE)

MACY (CONT'D)

It'll take four or five days for that cocaine to get out my system. If they call in next couple days I've got to figure out a way to beat it or they will put me away.

LUCY

How do we do that?

MACY

I've heard of a couple ways. Nothing is fool proof.

LUCY

I'll help. But, I can't have this kind of stuff around Dakota. I thought she was going to shoot Rick. If it would have been me with the gun I would have been happy to shoot him. But I just can't have people like him around Dakota.

MACY

I'm done with it Lucy. Done with Rick too. Although I would like to cut his balls off.

LUCY

Can't blame you. What a waste. He was so good looking and a ton of fun in high school. Big time athlete. Just wasted that football scholarship selling drugs.

There is a knock of the door. Lucy and Macy look at each other. Lucy goes to the door. She asks through the door.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Who is it?

ODIS (O.S.)

It's me Odis. Can I come in? I need to speak with Macy. I don't want no trouble.

Lucy looks at Macy. Macy nods okay. Lucy unlocks the door.

LUCY

Hello Odis.

ODIS

Thanks for opening the door.

LUCY

Come in.

Odis enters and sees Macy on the sofa.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Please sit. You feeling alright?

ODIS

As good as I'm gonna get.

Odis sits in a chair.

LUCY

I don't have beer. Would you like some tea, or I can make coffee?

ODIS

Very nice of you but no.

There is a pause. Lucy sits.

ODIS (CONT'D)

You don't look so good Macy. Not being a smartass or anything. You sick?

LUCY

She had a run-in with Rick.

ODIS

Someone needs to shoot that bastard. Maybe I'll get lucky and do it 'fore I go.

There is a pause. Odis is nervous.

ODIS (CONT'D)

I got a lot to say so just let me say it. (beat) Macy, I ain't been nice to you or Hank last couple years. Wasn't ya' fault Junior got murdered 'cause of that crap. And I shouldn't've thrown Hank out, though he's probably better here than with an old fart like me. I know I been a real shit sometimes but I want to make up for it. (beat) I got the pancreas cancer. Doc says I ain't got much good time left. I been kind of angry 'bout it. Guess that's part of the reason I tossed out Hank. Anyway. I got me a lawyer and did a will.

(MORE)

ODIS (CONT'D)

I wasn't gonna tell ya' but I'm leaving my place to you and Hank. It ain't much I know and there's a little money, not enough to live on. And my old truck. With Donna and Junior gone I got no family left. Probably best now that my old goat Billy Boy ran off years ago. I'd hated to had to bury him too. (beat) It's just kind of my way of saying I'm sorry for all the shit I gave ya'. I know it ain't much but me and Donna always loved that place. Walked down to the creek and picnic when Junior was a chap. Now, 'fore you say anything, you gotta both promise me you ain't saying nothing to no one 'bout my cancer. You both swear!?

MACY

I do. Odis. I am so moved. It's so kind. Thank you.

She gets up from the couch and hugs him. Lucy also hugs him.

LUCY

You want to stay for supper Odis?

ODIS

(wiping away a tear) Nah. I'm gonna go.

LUCY

You gonna be home tomorrow?

ODIS

Got no where else to go.

LUCY

Can I come over and drink a beer with you? I'm off tomorrow. I'll get us a pizza. That'd be okay.

ODIS

Be like heaven. Thank you. Alright I'm gonna go.

Odis walks to the door. Lucy follows.

LUCY

See you tomorrow Odis.

Lucy closes and locks the door.

MACY

(tears) That was so sweet. I didn't think he had that kind of kindness in him. I feel so bad for him. He must have known he was dying for some time and never said anything 'bout it.

LUCY

What kind of pizza does he like? I didn't ask him.

MACY

I don't think he cares with you there. That is sweet of you too.

LUCY

Some people are just not what they seem. Except Rick.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY.

Hank is at his locker. The attractive girl, FALLON, from the park walks up to him.

FALLON

Hey.

HANK

Hey.

FALLON

You stalking me?

HANK

No.

FALLON

Cut the crap. I saw you behind the tree in the park yesterday.

HANK

I was there. But, I wasn't stalking you. I don't do that.

FALLON

You looked like you were trying not to be seen.

HANK

Anybody else see me?

FALLON  
You mean like Rick?

HANK  
Can I ask you something that's none  
of my business?

FALLON  
Okay.

HANK  
Why are you hanging around with  
Rick? He is bad news top to bottom.

FALLON  
No shit and I wasn't hanging with  
him. I was there with my sister. He  
showed up. She went to get us  
something to eat. He's been trying  
to hit on her. Soon as she left he  
was hitting on me. Real prick.

HANK  
You don't look like his type. I  
mean you're real smart.

FALLON  
I'm not and thanks. How do you know  
him and why are you watching him?

HANK  
I didn't say I was watching him.

FALLON  
No, you didn't but if you weren't  
stalking me, you must have been  
watching him or you're just real a  
weird park guy.

There is a pause.

HANK  
He hurt my mom.

FALLON  
What do you mean hurt? Like broken  
heart hurt or what?

HANK  
Physically.

FALLON  
Why was she dating him?

HANK

She wasn't dating him. They just know each other. She had something he thought was his so he hurt her to get it.

FALLON

If I were you, whatever you're thinking I would forget it.

HANK

If somebody hurt your mother that's what you would say?

FALLON

No. But that guy is capable of bad stuff. I told my sister he's nothing but walking shit.

HANK

She better listen.

FALLON

Don't you work at BurgerTown after school?

HANK

Yeah, most days. Saturdays too.

FALLON

Can customers talk to you?

EXT. NEXT DAY ON ODIS'S DECK.

Odis and Lucy are eating pizza and drinking beer.

ODIS

Then the wife says, My Uncle, I thought he was your Uncle.

Lucy laughs so hard beer comes out of her nose..

ODIS (CONT'D)

Got ya' on that one. Here's a paper towel.

LUCY

That's hilarious Odis.

She wipes her face and eyes from the big laughter.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
I never knew you were such a joke  
teller. You're very good.

ODIS  
Well, guess I haven't been in a  
good mood for a few years.

Odis drinks some beer. He pauses.

ODIS (CONT'D)  
I'm sure glad you came for a visit.

LUCY  
I'm having a great time.

ODIS  
Nice to make a woman smile.

LUCY  
Well, you're doing a wonderful job.

ODIS  
Thanks.

LUCY  
I get the feeling you're really not  
an old fart.

ODIS  
Nah. Just a blowhard. (beat)  
Truthfully. After I lost my Donna  
to that stroke and then my son got  
murdered. I guess you could say  
things just spiraled down right  
before my eyes. Hell, even my goat  
Billy Boy got tired of me and  
runoff.

LUCY  
I can't imagine how hard that must  
have been.

ODIS  
It hangs around. You think 'bout  
'em both every day. Wish you could  
flush it all away but I ain't been  
able to.

LUCY  
You want to tell me about Donna?

ODIS

I don't know how she put up with me for forty years. She sure could have done better for herself.

LUCY

Oh, you're probably being hard on yourself. You seem like a perfect date right now.

ODIS

That's 'bout the nicest thing anyone has said since my Donna died.

A white SUV with a state logo pulls up to the cabin.

ODIS (CONT'D)

Who the hell is this?

MRS. STERLING, a 50ish, attractive, professionally dressed woman wearing stilettos, with a large purse and brief case gets out of the SUV. She walks up to the deck.

ODIS (CONT'D)

Afternoon. You don't look like ya' here for beer and pizza.

MRS. STERLING

No sir. You would be right.

ODIS

What can I do for you?

MRS. STERLING

I'm looking for Macy Evers. Would that be you ma'm?

ODIS

It's not. She's my date. I wouldn't date my daughter-in-law.

MRS. STERLING

Then I take it you are Odis Hobbs?

ODIS

I think you've forgotten something. (beat) Who the hell are you?

MRS. STERLING

My name is Rowena Sterling. I'm with Social Services.

(She hands her card to Odis.)

ODIS  
What do you want?

MRS. STERLING  
I need to speak with Macy Evers.

ODIS  
She don't live here no more.

MRS. STERLING  
This is the last address she filed  
with us.

ODIS  
Well, you can un-file it.

MRS. STERLING  
Well, do you know where I can find  
her. I'm aware she has been bailed  
out of jail. I need to check on the  
well-being of her son Hank.

LUCY  
He's fine.

MRS. STERLING  
And you are, if I may ask?

LUCY  
Her sister.

MRS. STERLING  
Do you know where I might find your  
sister?

LUCY  
She's been out looking for a job  
and checking into a possible rehab  
center.

MRS. STERLING  
That's nice to hear, but I still  
need to speak with her.

LUCY  
She dropped me off here and took my  
car. I'm not sure when she will get  
back.

MRS. STERLING  
Is her cell number 1-985-555-1518?

LUCY

It is or was. I think she's out of minutes.

MRS. STERLING

Can you tell me where she is living?

LUCY

With me.

MRS. STERLING

And Hank?

LUCY

Him too.

MRS. STERLING

May I have your address?

LUCY

2421 Camille Street.

MRS. STERLING

Thank you. Please tell her I'll be stopping by to see her. If she wishes she can call me. But for Hank's sake, I need to speak with her within the next 24 hours.

LUCY

Why is that?

MRS. STERLING

State law requires it. She's a repeat offender. (beat) Well. Enjoy your pizza and beer.

Mrs. Sterling turns to leave.

LUCY

(to Odis) Odis. For Macy I need to break your confidence.

He nods.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Mrs. Sterling.

Lucy comes down off the deck.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Before you write something negative in your report about us drinking beer in the middle of the day...Mr. Odis is dying of cancer of the pancreas. He doesn't have much time. This is my day off. I came here to make him smile. My sister has had her problems that is true but Hank is a wonderful young man. Honor roll student. Macy's made a list of jobs from yesterday's paper and is making the rounds. She is really trying to turn her life around.

Mrs. Sterling thinks for a moment.

MRS. STERLING

I'm sorry for Mr. Hobbs and it is kind of you to do this. But the state says I need to speak with Ms. Evers.

Mrs. Sterling gets in her car and drives away. Lucy returns to the deck. Drinks her beer.

ODIS

I don't think she would be fun at a barbeque.

INT. DAY. SMALL, CLUTTERED OFFICE FOR HOUSE AND OFFICE CLEANING BUSINESS.

Behind an old wooden desk sits, MRS. SANCHEZ, a 50ish Hispanic with an expensive black wig and is vaping. She is studying a sheet of paper. Macy sits on the other side of the desk.

MRS. SANCHEZ

This is really not much of a resume Miss. Evers.

MACY

Yes ma'm. I know.

MRS. SANCHEZ

My girls need to be dependable. If my girls don't clean a house or office properly I hear about it, often loudly.

MACY

Yes ma'm.

MRS. SANCHEZ

This your first stop today.

MACY

No ma'm. My fifth. I went to six places yesterday.

MRS. SANCHEZ

Let me guess. Your record is the problem.

MACY

Most of them don't say it, But, yeah. I think that's it.

MRS. SANCHEZ

I've hired ex-cons before. Most have worked out 'cause they don't want to go back to that hell.

MACY

Give me a chance Mrs. Sanchez and I'll show you. I told you everything. Like I said, I'm on bail. If I'm not dependable, I go back to that hell. I don't want that. I have a son. I want to make him proud of me. I would appreciate the chance.

Mrs. Sanchez puts the sheet down on her desk. She puffs her vape, looks out a window, then looks at Macy.

MRS. SANCHEZ

One screw up, mess with drugs and your gone. Understand?

MACY

Thank you!

MRS. SANCHEZ

Come with me and I'll give you a shirt. The second one will cost you \$10. If you stay six months, I'll reimburse you and give you another one. Get you some khakis.

MACY

Sounds fair. Yes ma'm.

They leave the office.

EXT. ODIS' CABIN

Macy drives up to Odis'. Odis is sound asleep on the deck. There is blanket over him. Lucy is drinking water and reading a book on her Kindle. When she sees Macy, she gently brushes Odis's head, comes down from the deck, goes to the car and gets in.

MACY

How is he?

LUCY

We had a delightful time. You look happy.

MACY

I got a job. Didn't think I was beginning to get really worried but Mrs. Sanchez took a chance on me. I'm going to bust my ass.

LUCY

Great. Where?

MACY

Sanchez Janitorial Services. Cleaning houses and offices. Not much, but it's a fresh start.

LUCY

Here.

She hands Macy Mrs. Sterling's card.

MACY

Social Services?

LUCY

She wants to check on Hank's well-being.

MACY

You mean make sure I'm a fit mother.

LUCY

If they spend five minutes with Hank they will see what a wonderful young man he is.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)  
 He's upset with you right now but  
 he is the least of your worries.  
 She said you had to call in the  
 next 24 hours.

MACY  
 Just call?

LUCY  
 For now.

Lucy has picked up a white bag on the passenger's seat and  
 looks in it. She pulls out a box of condoms.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
 You have a date with someone?

MACY  
 Yeah. You.

LUCY  
 Uh, excuse me.

MACY  
 Plan B for pee.

INT. LUCY'S HOUSE. NEXT MORNING.

Macy is on the phone talking with Mrs. Sterling.

MACY  
 Yes ma'm. Sanchez Janitorial  
 Services. I start tomorrow night.  
 (beat) I understand. So, you're  
 coming here just for an interview?  
 (beat) No. My sister does not mind.  
 (beat) I need to be at work at  
 5:30. (beat) Yes. 3 would be fine.  
 (beat) Well, if you want to talk  
 with Hank, I need to ask him what  
 time he can get home, or get him to  
 check out. (beat) He usually goes  
 straight to work after school. But,  
 if his boss let's me, I'll ask him  
 and call you back. (beat) Yes ma'm.  
 (beat) Okay. Bye.

LUCY  
 How did she seem?

MACY  
 By the book. But I don't think I'll  
 be peeing in a cup tomorrow.

LUCY

Good. I got the same impression about her. Pretty tightly wound.

MACY

People like her make me nervous.

LUCY

Don't let her intimidate you. You've been swearing your turning this around. Right?

MACY

Damn right I am.

LUCY

I'm glad you got the job, but what happen to rehab?

MACY

I thought work was more important. I've been to rehab twice. They were good people. I know the drill. Self-discipline. Believe in yourself. Be worthy. I'm going forward without it. (beat) Shit. Look at the time. Can I borrow your car again? I want to catch Hank before he gets to work.

LUCY

Sure. But, when you get back, we're talking about this condom thing.

MACY

Yeah. Put them somewhere where Dakota doesn't see them.

LUCY

No shit.

EXT. DAY. BACK OF BURGERTOWN.

Macy waits for Hank. In her rearview mirror she sees a small red sedan arrive with a bicycle in the trunk. Hank and a girl she does not know get out of the car.

MACY

Hey Hank.

HANK

Mom? Why are you here? Something wrong?

MACY

Not at all. I got a job.

HANK

Great. When do you start?

MACY

Tomorrow. A janitorial services company. Working evenings mostly. Doing offices. (to the girl) Hey. I'm Hank's mom.

FALLON

Yes ma'm. I'm Fallon. Nice to meet you.

HANK

Something else?

MACY

Fallon. Please don't be offended. But could you give us a minute?

FALLON

Sure. No problem. I'll wait inside. Nice to meet you. Bye.

Fallon goes inside BurgerTown.

MACY

Seems like a nice girl.

HANK

Yeah. We started visiting the other day for the first time. Didn't think she knew my name. She's smart too.

MACY

That's good. You've put up with a lot from me. In some ways I've been a terrible mom. I don't blame you if you don't trust me. (beat) But, listen. Tomorrow, a lady with Social Services wants to talk with us about my situation and check on your well-being.

HANK

My well-being? I'm fine.

MACY

I know you are sweetheart. And I don't know how.

(MORE)

MACY (CONT'D)

But I give you my word, I'm changing. Anyway. She wants to come to Aunt Lucy's house at 3. I need to be at work for 5:30. She said it wouldn't take long. Can you make it?

HANK

I'll have to check out before 2. They don't let anyone check out after that. Can you write me a note?

MACY

(pleased) Yeah. I can do that.

She hugs Hank.

MACY (CONT'D)

I'm going to earn your trust again. Tell Fallon bye for me.

She leaves. Hank enters BurgerTown.

INT. NEXT DAY. LUCY'S LIVING ROOM

Macy and Hank are waiting.

HANK

You nervous mom?

MACY

Yeah. These people are cold. There is not much bend in them.

HANK

Relax. I talked with Fallon about my feelings.

MACY

You told her about me?

HANK

Yeah. I was really hurt and angry the last week when they took you again. You lied to me about using.

MACY

I know. I'm sorry. What did she say?

HANK

It was okay to be hurt, but being angry solves nothing. She said she had a feeling you were headed to a good place. I said I thought that before too.

There is a knock on the door. Macy goes to the door. She opens the door. Mrs. Sterling is there.

MRS. STERLING

The door bell must not work.

MACY

No. Sorry. Hope you didn't wait long?

MRS. STERLING

No. I didn't hear anything, so I knocked.

MACY

Please come in. Would you like some coffee. Water?

MRS. STERLING

No. I'm good.

MACY

Where would you like to sit?

MRS. STERLING

The table if you don't mind.

MACY

Certainly. Hank can you join us. (beat) Mrs. Sterling. This is my son Hank. He's a senior. Honor roll.

MRS. STERLING

I know. Nice to meet you Hank.

HANK

Yes ma'm. Same to you.

Mrs. Sterling takes papers from her brief case and organizes them on the table.

MRS. STERLING

May I begin?

MACY

Yes ma'm.

MRS. STERLING

Hank. How old were you when your mother first went to jail on drug charges.

HANK

11.

MRS. STERLING

And where were you living then?

HANK

With Mr. Odis and his son.

MRS. STERLING

Odis Jr., is the one who was murdered, right?

HANK

Yes ma'm.

MRS. STERLING

How did that make you feel?

HANK

Well, I wasn't happy about it. He was nice to me. When mom went away he took me to little league practice and games. Came to school for different events, like parent meetings. Nice to me. No complaints.

MRS. STERLING

Did he use drugs?

HANK

Yes ma'm.

MRS. STERLING

He ever offer you drugs?

HANK

No.

MRS. STERLING

And he wasn't your real father?

HANK

No ma'm.

MRS. STERLING

How did you feel about your mother being in jail and not being there for your school events?

HANK

Embarrassed.

MS. STERLING

Where is your real dad?

HANK

Don't know and don't remember him.

MACY

Took off when Hank was two. Got a birthday card for Hank from him postmarked Juno, Alaska for his fourth birthday. Since then. Nothing.

MRS. STERLING

And Mr. Odis Hobbs? How was he?

HANK

Mr. Odis is Mr. Odis. He's acts like a grizzly bear but underneath he's not a bad man.

MRS. STERLING

And after his son was murdered? How did he treat you?

HANK

He was hurt. Devastated. His son was dead. He already lost his wife and this goat we all loved disappeared. How do you think he felt?

MRS. STERLING

These are questions I have to ask.

HANK

Ma'm. I know you have a job to do, but I'm fine. Some of these things that have happened around me have been hard but they have not left me scarred. I'm going to college. Hopefully pre-law.

MRS. STERLING

How do yo plan on paying for it?

HANK

Loans. I've researched it.

MRS. STERLING

You're birthday is May third and you'll be 18. Correct?

HANK

Yes ma'm.

MRS. STERLING

Miss Evers. Until Hank turns 18 he is a minor under Louisiana law. If you go back to jail before his 18th birthday, it's possible that he becomes a ward of the state which means possible foster care. Do you understand that?

MACY

Yes. But that's not going to happen.

MRS. STERLING

Again. Under the law I have to explain this to you. I have seen it. Well-intentions do not always work out. People often land right back in jail and you must be aware of the consequences.

MACY

I'm aware.

MRS. STERLING

Good. You said on the phone you have job.

MACY

Yes. Cleaning offices.

MRS. STERLING

We will need a letter from your employer saying you are employed. When can you get that?

MACY

I'll call the owner soon as you leave.

MRS. STERLING

Good. Thank you. Why did you leave Mr. Hobbs' home Hank?

HANK

He said with mom back in jail I would be better off here with my Aunt Lucy.

Mrs. Sterling makes a note, reviews her questions and organizes her papers.

MRS. STERLING

Have you had your drug screening yet?

MACY

No ma'm.

MRS. STERLING

I hope you are clean.

MACY

I am.

MRS. STERLING

Well, you weren't when you were booked. Do either of you have a question or questions?

They both shake their head no.

MRS. STERLING (CONT'D)

Well, I guess we are done here then. Thank you.

Mrs. Sterling puts her papers in her brief case, stands and offers her hand to Macy.

MRS. STERLING (CONT'D)

Good luck with the new job.

MACY

Thank you.

MRS. STERLING

I'll see myself out. Remember. Drug testing is random and you have failed before.

Mrs. Sterling leaves. We hear the door close. Macy and Hank look at each other for a moment.

MACY

I think she enjoys her work.

HANK

Intoxicated by it would be better.

Dakota enters, carrying her book sack.

DAKOTA

Who was that? I spoke and she pretended she didn't see me.

MACY

Part of her job. Probably a rule by the state.

DAKOTA

What does that mean?

MACY

She's with Social Services. Wanted to make sure I knew if I fail my drug test I go back to jail and she wanted to make sure I knew that Hank could be taken and put in foster care.

DAKOTA

Was she a bitch about it?

MACY

Dakota. That kind of language...(beat) Excuse me.

Macy goes into the bathroom.

DAKOTA

Well, was she?

HANK

It was there but subtle.

DAKOTA

I wish I would have been here.

HANK

It would have not been a good idea to point the Colt at her.

DAKOTA

Worked good with Rick.

EXT. LATE AFTERNOON. BACK OF A COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

Macy enters a security code to enter a building, her first night. A sign notes the building as Louisiana Social Services, Tangipahoa Parish. There is a montage of scenes of Macy cleaning the building. She grabs a door handle that is locked but the door is not closed.

She starts to knock, when she hears a grunt or moan. She eases the door open. She sees Mrs. Sterling in chair straddling Rick, having sex. Rick sees Macy and smiles. Mrs. Sterling, her back to Macy, is in a fit of passion and does not notice Macy, who quietly closes the door. She goes back to her job. Later, she is cleaning an office, turns and Rick is standing there.

RICK

Remember when we did that?

MACY

I have work I need to do.

RICK

You can do better than this bullshit. I think you learned your lesson. You can make whole lot more money for Hank's college than this shit. Plus, think of all those goodies you love.

MACY

Get out of my life Rick.

RICK

You be sweet and I can be sweet to you?

Mrs. Sterling voice is heard outside the door.

MRS. STERLING (V.O.)

Mr. Hooker...

She enters the room and see Rick and Macy.

MRS. STERLING

Oh. Hello. Miss Evers. Where's the regular cleaning lady?

MACY

I don't know.

MRS. STERLING

Mr. Hooker I must lock up. Would you please leave with me now.

RICK

Certainly. Nice to meet you Miss Evers.

Rick leaves. Mrs. Sterling watches him leave.

MRS. STERLING

Mr. Hooker is a client. Sometimes this job means working late. It's not always pleasant but it must be done.

MACY

Yes ma'm.

Mrs. Sterling leaves. Macy takes a breath and goes back to work.

INT. NEXT MORNING. LUCY'S.

Macy is asleep on Lucy's couch. Lucy is in the kitchen. She walks to the couch.

LUCY

Macy. Macy.

MACY

...what?

LUCY

I'm getting ready to go to work. Odis is going to be here in an hour to take you to his lawyer.

MACY

Okay. Thanks. Oh my goodness. Happy Birthday.

LUCY

Thanks. But that was last Thursday.

MACY

I missed it. I'm so sorry. My world has been spinning. I feel bad.

LUCY

Get over it. How was your first night?

MACY

Oh. Interesting.

LUCY

Good.

MACY

I saw Rick fucking my social worker or should I say she was fucking him.

LUCY  
Say that again!

MACY  
Sex Lucy. Remember what that is.  
They sure did.

LUCY  
In her office?

MACY  
Yep.

LUCY  
Did they see you?

MACY  
Rick did.

LUCY  
She didn't?

MACY  
She was too busy working up to her  
orgasm.

LUCY  
Are you going to say anything?

MACY  
To who?

LUCY  
(beat) I see your point.

INT. SHOWER.

Macy is taking a shower, rinsing her hair. The shower curtain is flung back and Rick is standing there.

RICK  
Want some company?

Macy grabs the shower curtain in attempt to cover herself.

MACY  
Get the fuck out of her Rick.

RICK  
Just want to make sure you keep  
your mouth shut about last night.

MACY

I don't care who you fuck.

RICK

Good. Oh. I looked around but I didn't see that old Colt Lucy's little cunt pointed at me. You know where it is?

MACY

No. Leave Rick.

RICK

Okay. (beat) Bye. Have a nice day.

Macy is sitting on the couch, mirror in hand, finishing up her makeup. There is a knock on the door. She goes to the door. She calls out through the door...

MACY

Odis? Is that you?

ODIS

Yeah.

Macy undoes the dead bolt, door lock and security chain. She opens the door.

ODIS (CONT'D)

Ya' ready?

MACY

Let me get my purse.

Odis waits. She comes right back.

ODIS

You okay?

MACY

Yeah. This is kind of you Odis.

ODIS

Yeah. Kind of surprising myself. Something I want to show you after.

MACY

Okay.

EXT. DAY. OUTSIDE OF LAWYER'S OFFICE.

Odis and Macy exit a lawyer's office. They get into Odis's truck.

ODIS  
Well, when I'm past, it's all  
yours.

MACY  
I'm in no hurry.

ODIS  
Might be better just to sell it.

MACY  
It's not that bad Odis.

ODIS  
So, you got yourself a real job.

MACY  
Yeah. Last night was my first  
night.

ODIS  
Good for you. You like it?

MACY  
Yeah. Interesting first night.

ODIS  
You got time for me to show you  
something?

MACY  
Where?

ODIS  
My place...or should I say your  
place.

MACY  
Sure.

EXT. ODIS'S CABIN.

Odis stops his truck at his cabin. He and Macy get out.

ODIS  
Billy Boy!! Billy Boy!! Where are  
you?

MACY  
Odis...are you okay? He's been  
gone...

ODIS

Look.

An old goat comes from behind the cabin. The goat walks right up to Macy and rubs his head on her thigh.

MACY

Oh my God! Billy Boy. You're back.  
When did he come back?

ODIS

Yesterday. Started to call you and Hank and tell you but thought I just let you see him.

MACY

Where in the hell have you been Billy Boy?

Billy Boy likes being petted by Macy.

ODIS

God only knows. It's been at almost seven years. He run off right after Donna died. Thought maybe he had a broken heart like me. I think he keeps looking for Junior and Hank.

MACY

What a sight you are Billy Boy. Lord knows what you've been through.

ODIS

I got him when he was about half a year old. Thought he'd help keep the grass down. He did some but then he became like big ole dog. Remember?

MACY

He would ram the door to be let in.

ODIS

Hell, you had to fight him for the couch. He forgot he was a goat.

ODIS (CONT'D)

I got somebody coming out tomorrow to build me a fence and put a house in there for him.

MACY

Think he'll like that?

ODIS

Probably not. But...I don't want him to run off again. I want you to promise me something Macy.

MACY

You don't even have to say it. I'll take care of him.

ODIS

Even if you sell this place. You promise?

MACY

Yes. I promise. Hank is gonna love this.

ODIS

They were buddies.

MACY

He always wanted to sleep in the bed with Hank. He could bounce up there like a cat.

ODIS

We had to draw the line there. But, he didn't like it.

MACY

So, he just showed up?

ODIS

Yeah. I was sitting on the deck having my morning beer. Heard some noise from the bushes and out he walks, like he never been away. Hungry like always. Fed him a whole pack of hot dogs, then I found some whipped cream. He always loved that stuff.

MACY

Can Hank come out and see him this afternoon if he's not working?

ODIS

I think Billy Boy would like that.

MACY

He's gonna be so happy.

ODIS

So will Billy Boy.

MACY

Well, I hate to leave him and you,  
but can you run be back? I got to  
get home, do somethings to help  
Lucy and get to work. She taking me  
again.

ODIS

Take the truck.

MACY

No, Odis. Then you don't have a  
ride.

ODIS

I ain't going no where. Me and  
Billy Boy gonna have a reunion.  
Help me with 'em groceries and  
she's all yours.

She hugs Odis.

MACY

Thank you Odis.

ODIS

You already said that. Grab some  
bags and get going.

They walk to the truck and grab paper bags filled with  
groceries.

EXT LUCY'S HOUSE.

Hank, Dakota and Fallon arrive in Fallon's car. They get out  
of her car. His bicycle is in the tied-down trunk

DAKOTA

I can be of help.

HANK

You're too young to have anything  
to do with this.

DAKOTA

You think you are so smart.

HANK

Not all the time.

The house is empty. Hank, Fallon and Dakota enter.

DAKOTA  
I'm not a child.

                  HANK  
Yes, you are Dakota. You're 12.

                  DAKOTA  
But I'm old for my age. I can help  
with this.

                  HANK  
I don't know what this is right  
now.

                  DAKOTA  
Then there is no reason to exclude  
me. Whatever this becomes might  
mean you need my help.

                  HANK  
I'm trying to look out for you  
Dakota. This could get complicated  
and I would hate for something to  
happen that gets you hurt. Your mom  
would kill me.

                  DAKOTA  
Then we need to be clever, and I  
can be very clever.

Hank walks to the kitchen.

                  HANK  
Fallon, you want something to  
drink...

He sees a note from his mother. The note reads: Hank, Odis  
loaned me his truck. Left early to do a few things. Bought  
some minutes. Give me a call for surprise. Love Mom.

                  DAKOTA  
Who's the note from?

After he reads it, he answers.

                  HANK  
Mom is in Mr. Odis truck. She wants  
me to call her.

                  DAKOTA  
I thought she was out of minutes.

                  HANK  
(dialing) She bought some.

He waits as the phone rings. When Macy answers the POV will cut back and forth. Macy is driving Odis' truck.

HANK (CONT'D)  
Hey mom. What's up?

MACY  
Hey Hank. I've got a surprise for you!

HANK  
You past your drug screening?

MACY  
Probably even better.

HANK  
What?

MACY  
Billy Boy is back!

HANK  
No way!!

MACY  
Odis took me to his lawyer's to sign some papers. After that he said he wanted to show me something at his place. We pull up. He calls out and here he comes. Billy Boy.

HANK  
That's amazing.

DAKOTA  
What are y'all talking about?

Hank puts up a hand, asking Dakota to be patient. Fallon is smiling because Hank is smiling.

MACY  
He's out there now if you don't have work.

HANK  
I do. I don't have time to get to Odis' and back. I have to be at work for five.

Fallon raises her hand.

HANK (CONT'D)  
Just a second mom.

FALLON  
I'll take you.

HANK  
Really?

Fallon smiles and nods.

HANK (CONT'D)  
Fallon's here in her car. She can  
take me.

MACY  
Oh, that's great. Tell Fallon  
thanks. Billy Boy is gonna be happy  
to see you.

HANK  
Same here. You're sounding good  
mom.

MACY  
I'm happy Hank. And it feels great.

HANK  
That's great. Okay. I'm going so I  
can get out there and get back.

MACY  
Wish I could see your face. Love  
you.

HANK  
Same here mom.

He hangs-up his cell.

DAKOTA  
What is going on?

HANK  
We used to have this goat for a  
pet, Billy Boy. But about half  
dozen years ago we woke up one  
morning and he was gone. We looked  
all over. But mom said he just  
showed up at Odis.

DAKOTA  
A goat?

HANK  
We were buddies. Thanks Fallon. But  
let's go so I can get back.

(MORE)

HANK (CONT'D)

Last thing I want is to be late for work.

DAKOTA

Can I go?

Hank looks at Fallon.

FALLON

Sure. I'll bring her back. Let's go meet this Billy Boy.

HANK

We need to make a quick stop at a store and buy some whipped cream. He loves it.

They exit.

EXT. ODIS' CABIN.

Odis is on the deck, drinking a beer. Billy Boy is resting next to Odis. His head pops up when he hears and sees the approaching car. Hank, Fallon and Dakota get out. Hank has a bag in his hand.

HANK

Hey Billy Boy! Look who's here.

Billy Boy comes down the steps and goes straight to Hank.

HANK (CONT'D)

Where have you been ole' buddy. So good to see you.

Fallon and Dakota are watching, smiling. Odis takes his time coming down the steps.

ODIS

He came out of the woods yesterday morning. It's like he's never been away.

HANK

He looks older but no worse for the wear.

ODIS

Wish we could all say that.

HANK

I didn't mean anything by that Mr. Odis. Oh.

(MORE)

HANK (CONT'D)

Mr. Odis this is Lucy's daughter  
Dakota and my friend Fallon.

ODIS

No offense taken. Nice to meet you  
Dakota and Miss Fallon.

FALLON

And I've heard about you Mr. Odis.

ODIS

Well, it ain't all true. And I hear  
you some kind of cook Dakota.

Hank reaches inside the bag and gets a spray can of whipped  
cream.

HANK

Look what I got for you Billy Boy.

Billy Boy recognizes the can and gets excited.

ODIS

He remembers, don't he.

Hanks shoots a big splurge of whipping cream in his hand and  
Billy Boy licks it off.

DAKOTA

Can I try it?

HANK

Sure.

Hank sprays whipped cream into Dakota's hand. Billy Boy licks  
it off. Everyone is laughing.

EXT. LATE AFTERNOON. BACK OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING.

Macy parks the truck. Her cell phone rings. The phone  
conversation POV will cut back and forth.

MACY

Hello.

MRS. SANCHEZ

Hello Macy. Mrs. Sanchez here.

MACY

Hey.

MRS. SANCHEZ

Sorry about you having to fly solo last couple night. The other girl had a problem with her domestic bliss. He's in jail. He broke her arm. I got you a new partner. Wait for her before you enter.

Macy looks out the driver's side window and sees Alice wearing a company shirt approaching.

MACY

I don't have to wait. She's here.

MRS. SANCHEZ

Good. Her name is Alice. She used to work for me but like you got into a little trouble. She was a good worker. Hope it goes well with you two. See ya'.

Macy hangs up her phone and gets out of the truck.

ALICE

I bet you're surprised.

MACY

Yeah.

ALICE

I got out yesterday and went straight to Ms. Sanchez. Still had my shirt.

MACY

Were you expecting to get out?

ALICE

They said I been so good I earned a reduction in sentence.

MACY

Great.

ALICE

Must have been long nights cleaning this place by yourself.

MACY

It was.

ALICE

Well, let's get after it girl. Me and you. Like Cagney and Lacey.

MACY

Who?

ALICE

Before your time, I guess. Open up,  
I'll explain later.

Macy and Alice walk to the rear entrance. Macy enters the security code, the door unlocks and they enter.

A montage of Macy and Alice working hard to clean the building.

They are eating their supper.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I see they still got that lady Mrs. Sterling working here. You meet her?

MACY

She came to where I am living and laid down the rules.

ALICE

She likes being on top.

MACY

I noticed.

ALICE

She had a hand in them taking my kid away.

MACY

Why do you say that?

ALICE

My mother was perfectly willing to look after my baby. But, she wrote a report that said my mother had diabetes and her health could prevent her from giving my Rasheen proper care. They put him in foster care.

MACY

I'm sorry.

ALICE

She tell you the same thing?

MACY

Yeah, but my boy turns 18 in May.

ALICE

Rasheen is 15. I'm coming in here tomorrow to start and try to get him back. I had two other kids but they both dead.

MACY

I'm so sorry Alice.

ALICE

Your boy behaves himself?

MACY

In the running to be valedictorian and wants to go to law school.

ALICE

Well now ain't that somethin'. You should be proud.

MACY

I've put him through too much.

ALICE

Well, time to start over. Now, you ready to finish this thing off?

MACY

It's great having you helping Alice.

ALICE

Back at you.

They pick up their lunch and get back to work.

INT. NEXT MORNING. SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE.

Alice is sitting, waiting, dressed nicely. There are other people in the waiting room. A door opens. A YOUNG LADY asks for Alice Brumfield. Alice stands and goes to the door.

YOUNG LADY

Mrs. Sterling will see you now.

ALICE

Thank you. Her office in the same place it's been for years?

YOUNG LADY

Yes ma'm.

ALICE

Thank you.

Alice walks down the hall, past people working. She gets to Mrs. Sterling's door and knocks.

MRS. STERLING (V.O.)

Come in.

Alice enters.

MRS. STERLING

Hello Miss Brumfield.

ALICE

Mrs. Sterling.

MRS. STERLING

When did you get out of prison?

ALICE

Yesterday.

MRS. STERLING

They must have reduced your sentence.

ALICE

Good behavior.

MRS. STERLING

Well, good for you.

ALICE

What do I have to do to get my Rasheen back?

MRS. STERLING

I'm not the one who makes that decision Miss Brumfield. That would be up to the process or a judge. We have a large caseload. It's a lengthy process. We have to schedule an interview with you, your son and his foster parents. So you have to be patient. It takes time. Longer than you might wish. We have to be sure about what is right for your son.

ALICE

But you have input?

MRS. STERLING

Some.

ALICE

Are you going to be against me?

MRS. STERLING

I am not against you Miss Brumfield. I am for the children. So, we need to follow the state process. If you wish to petition the court to regain custody of your son you have that right, too, but you will need to get a lawyer and have him or her file a motion on your behalf.

ALICE

A lawyer?

MRS. STERLING

That's the way the system works. You must understand it's for the benefit on the child. Now, is there anything else?

ALICE

No. Thank you.

MRS. STERLING

I'm glad you're out Miss Brumfield. Good luck with your process or in court.

Mrs. Sterling turns her attention to her computer. Alice leaves.

INT. LATER THAT MORNING. LUCY'S HOUSE.

Macy is asleep on the couch. Lucy is about to leave for work. Macy's cell phone rings. Macy is out, so Lucy decides to answer it.

LUCY

Hello. Macy Evers' phone. (beat)  
Just one minute please. She's  
asleep. She works nights. (beat)  
Thank you.

Lucy puts her hand over the receiver part of the cell phone.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
Macy. Macy. Wake-up. Come on. It's  
the drug court.

Macy pops up

MACY  
What?

LUCY  
(mouths) Drug court.

Macy takes the phone

MACY  
Hello. This is Macy Evers. (beat)  
Yes ma'm. (beat) Yes ma'm. Between  
1 pm and 2 pm today. (beat) Yes  
ma'm I know where it is. (beat)  
Thank you.

Macy hangs up the phone.

LUCY  
Today?

MACY  
Yep.

LUCY  
What are we gonna do?

MACY  
You are doing nothing. I going in  
there and pee in a cup.

LUCY  
What about the condoms?

MACY  
I know people who have pulled it  
off before and heard about those  
who got caught. When they get  
caught they want to know whose pee  
it is. I'm not putting you and  
Dakota at risk. It's been five days  
since Rick forced that shit on me.  
I been drinking plenty of water,  
peeing like crazy. I'm thinking I'm  
flushed.

There is a pause. Lucy thinks.

LUCY

Yeah. You're flushed. We got to think positive. But that's damn nice of you to think of Dakota.

MACY

Thanks Lucy. I know you would have peed in that condom if I asked. But, you get on to work. I'm gonna drink couple gallons of water to flush myself even more. If they did hair or blood I would be down the river, but just peeing, I'm gonna be fine.

LUCY

I love you and I'm proud of you.

The two sisters hug. Lucy smiles and leaves. Macy gets up, fills a glass of water from the kitchen sink tap and drinks it down. Finished with water, she looks anxious.

INT. DRUG COURT RESTROOM.

Macy enters the restroom, followed a short, overweight female black deputy, DEPUTY GLORIA, who has long yellow finger nails.

DEPUTY GLORIA

Says on your sheet you done this before. Is that right?

MACY

Yes.

Deputy Gloria hands her a "pee" cup.

DEPUTY GLORIA

Well. Here's your cup. You know I got to watch.

MACY

I know. Okay to go in the stall?

DEPUTY GLORIA

Yeah. Go ahead. Just gotta leave that door open.

Macy goes into the restroom stall, leaving the door open. Gloria stands in the stall, blocking camera's view of Macy. It is quiet, until we here a trickle of Macy's pee.

DEPUTY GLORIA (CONT'D)  
Didn't take you long. I seen girls  
take half an hour.

Gloria turns around with the filled pee cup and puts a lid on it. Macy is zipping her pants up, flushes the toilet.

MACY  
Okay to wash my hands.

DEPUTY GLORIA  
That's what my mother taught me.  
I'm taking this to the lab. You can  
wait in the lobby. Don't go  
nowhere!

MACY  
I'm not.

Macy washes her hands. She looks at herself in the mirror.

EXT. DRUG COURT.

Macy comes out of the Drug Court. Crosses the parking lot to Odis' truck. No expression. She gets into truck and burst out into happiness repeatedly singing, *I just want to celebrate!!* She has passed the test. She calls Lucy.

MACY  
Hey Lucy. I passed. (beat) I know.  
It is a great day.(beat) Thank you  
so much Lucy. (beat) You've been  
great. (beat) Sounds great. Wine  
time Saturday night! Plus we can  
celebrate your birthday! (beat) It  
is to me. (beat) I'm going out to  
return Odis' truck (beat) My new  
work partner is picking me and  
bringing me home. (beat) Yeah. Nice  
of her. See ya' later. Bye.

Macy hangs up, cranks up truck and turns the radio on loudly and sings along.

EXT. ODIS' CABIN

Macy arrives at Odis. She gets out of the truck. Billy Boy comes out of his new house inside his new fence. Odis is asleep on the deck.

MACY

Hey Billy Boy. Hey Odis. Guess what. Great news.

She goes up the steps.

MACY (CONT'D)

I passed my drug tests. Isn't that...Odis. Odis. Odis!

Odis does not respond. He is dead. Macy is devastated.

EXT. ODIS' CABIN. MID-MORNING.

Several cars arrive. Lucy's, Fallon's, Odis's truck, other cars, friends of Odis. Also, Alice gets out of a car with an older lady, her MOTHER, who uses a cane to help her walk. Macy is carrying an urn. Billy Boy is in the fenced area. Hank lets him out of the fence and Billy Boy follows the others into the woods, down a trail. The trail ends at Big Creek. Macy stops at the creek bank.

MACY

How can you explain Odis? One day you thought he was the most cantankerous man in the world, the next the kindest. He had a lot of heartache in his life. He came from absolute poverty in Mississippi where his dad died in a sawmill accident and Odis had to drop out of school to help provide for his family. He later got his GED, joined the service, fought in Vietnam, which he never talked about but according to his son he earned a Silver Star in the Battle of Hue. He provided a home for me and my son for almost eight years. Most of those years were very good. The bad times came when he lost his wife and then his son. He and Donna would often come down here for a picnic and Odis would fly fish. He loved that. When Donna died, at her request, he spread her ashes in this creek and now Odis has returned to join his wife.

Macy wades into the creek and lets the ashes spill out in the current. Billy Boy goes Baaaaa!

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING.

Montage of Macy and Alice cleaning. They meet in the hallway and take a break.

ALICE

You know you could have stayed home tonight. I could have handled this.

MACY

No. I need the distraction, and the money.

ALICE

You gonna move out there?

MACY

Eventually. Yeah.

ALICE

Place in the woods. That ought to be nice.

MACY

It was mostly good. Hope you come visit us. Odis taught me how to barbeque chicken.

ALICE

Then I'll be there.

There is a pause.

MACY

You gonna get Rasheen back?

ALICE

Absolutely. My mother said he's comes to visit her now and then.

MACY

Aww. That's sweet.

ALICE

Yeah. He's good boy. Always was. Them other two went down the wrong road early.

MACY

(beat) How did they die Alice?

ALICE

Drugs. Bad deal gone worse. Shot down in their car.

MACY

Oh my God. I'm so sorry.

ALICE

It hurt that's for sure. Everyday ya' think 'bout 'em. Burying 'em was hard. (beat) But I got the bastards that did it.

MACY

What?

ALICE

Police said they had no proof. So, I shot 'em myself. They was standing on a corner outside a bar. Acting all tough guy shit.

Flashback

EXT. NIGHT. BAR.

Two black guys are leaning against the wall of a run-down bar, laughing.

JEROME

Shit, Dewitt, I told that bitch, she best go spray something on that cooter of hers it stinks so bad.

DEWITT

You one crazy fool Jerome.

Alice walks up to them.

DEWITT (CONT'D)

What the fuck you looking at old bitch?

ALICE

You the two that shot my boys?

JEROME

Get the fuck out of her old woman and go watch Good Times reruns.

Dewitt laughs.

ALICE

Go fuck yourself.

Jerome and Dewitt pull their pistols. Jerome points his at Alice's head.

JEROME

You want to die old woman?

ALICE

You killed my boys part of me  
already died.

Jerome lowers his pistol.

JEROME

Get the fuck out of here. I got no  
use for uh old bitch's cooter.

Dewitt laughs and put his pistol away. Alice pulls a pistol  
out of here her purse and shoots Jerome and Dewitt.

Back from Flashback.

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE

ALICE

I watched 'em die right in front of  
me. I waited for the police. I pled  
self-defense but I had an illegal  
weapon. That's what they hung on  
me. Felt guilty for leaving  
Rasheen.

EXT. NIGHT. BEHIND BURGERTOWN.

Fallon sits in her car waiting for Hank. Hanks comes out of  
the back door and gets into her car.

HANK

Hey. Thanks.

FALLON

Hank. We need to talk.

HANK

Okay.

FALLON

I did something you are going to be  
pissed about.

HANK

Okay...what?

FALLON

I went to see Rick.

HANK

What? Are you out of your mind?

FALLON

Maybe. But just listen to me. Okay?

HANK

You need to stay away from him.  
Rick does not involve you.

FALLON

That hurts.

HANK

What? Why?

FALLON

Have you not noticed? We are  
getting close. I don't know where  
this is going, but Rick fucked with  
your mom and you two are my  
friends. I stand by my friends  
Hank.

HANK

What did you do?

FALLON

I bought Oxie off him.

HANK

Jesus. Where is this going Fallon?

FALLON

Revenge!

Flashback.

INT. RICK'S HOUSE.

Rick is sitting in a comfortable chair, eyeing Fallon who  
smiles at him.

RICK

You ever bought Oxie before?

FALLON

No. But I want to try it. You only  
live once you know.

RICK

That's right. Got to put your toe  
in the water and move it around.  
Make a splash even.

FALLON

Exactly. Make a splash. That's what  
I want to do.

RICK

I know how you can get this Oxie  
and not even pay for it.

FALLON

I bet you do.

RICK

Interested?

FALLON

Maybe. But not right now. I got  
Friday night plans!

RICK

You gonna come back and see me then  
when you got more time for a little  
pleasure.

FALLON

I might make a splash soon.

RICK

Let me get you your Oxie. Stay  
right there beautiful.

Rick goes into his kitchen.

FALLON

You got a bathroom I can use? I got  
to pee real badly.

RICK

Sure down the hall to the left.

Fallon goes down the hall. She looks over her shoulder and  
peeks into Rick's bedroom and sees he has an old brass bed  
headboard and footboard. She goes into the bathroom.

Back from flashback.

EXT. BACK OF BURGETOWN

Fallon and Hank are in her car.

FALLON  
So, that's my plan.

HANK  
Absolutely not.

INT. THE KITCHEN OF ALICE'S MOTHER'S HOUSE.

Alice and her mother are sitting at the kitchen table, drinking coffee. Alice is enjoying a bowl of grits.

ALICE  
God. I missed you grits.

MOTHER  
I missed you.

ALICE  
I know mom.

There is a pause.

MOTHER  
You got plans for today?

ALICE  
Thought I'd help you do whatever  
you need me to do 'round here.

MOTHER  
Oh, there's plenty to do.

ALICE  
Good. Make a list and we'll get at  
it. I do have plans for this  
evening. Going by Macy's.

MOTHER  
She seems like a nice girl. Her  
sister Lucy too. That boy Hank and  
Rasheen could be friends. They both  
smart and nice.

ALICE  
Well, maybe they'll get a chance to  
meet.

MOTHER  
He'd be a good influence for  
Rasheen.

There is a knock on the door.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
Mighty early for a visitor. You  
want to see who that is. (She knows  
who it is.)

Alice goes to the door. Opens it. It is Rasheen. Her tears  
flow as she hugs her son.

INT. ALICE AND RASHEEN ARE AT THE KITCHEN TABLE.

Rasheen is eating a big breakfast cooked by his grandmother,  
eggs, grits, bacon and toast.

RASHEEN  
They are nice people mom. You would  
like them. They have been good to  
me.

ALICE  
I hope I get the chance to thank  
'em.

RASHEEN  
They are both lawyers. I think  
that's what I want to do.

ALICE  
Oh, son. That's so good. I missed  
you so much.

RASHEEN  
So have I mom. It was real hard at  
first. I had to fight being mad at  
you.

ALICE  
I wouldn't blame you.

RASHEEN  
I couldn't deal with how you gave  
yourself up and forgot about me. I  
mean you had to know that you were  
not going to get away with it. That  
you would be locked up.

ALICE  
I was wrong. I let my hatred get in  
the way of my love for you.

RASHEEN  
It wasn't just you. I was mad at  
that Social Services woman.

(MORE)

RASHEEN (CONT'D)

The judge. Everyone who took me away from Grandma.

ALICE

I understand.

RASHEEN

Before I left Grandma told me I couldn't walk around being bitter. It would only hurt me. Soon as I was with my foster parents, they fixed a nice dinner and told me they understood if I was mad but then said the same thing Grandmother did. They have been real patient with me.

ALICE

I'm so glad you got someone nice and loving.

RASHEEN

Not only that. They said they want to talk with you about handling your case to get me back.

ALICE

They said that?

RASHEEN

They said to tell you soon as you are ready they want to meet you with and Grandma. At no charge. The only thing they want is for me to come see them whenever I can.

ALICE

I must have done something right. This is like a gift from Heaven.

EXT. LATE SATURDAY MORNING. ODIS' CABIN.

Macy, Lucy, Hank, Fallon and Dakota are busy cleaning the cabin and yard. Macy and Lucy are inside. Hank cleans the yard. Fallon and Dakota cleans the deck. Billy Boy is following Hank around.

DAKOTA

So, it looks like you and Hank are really hitting it off.

FALLON

He's not like other guys. He has a great amount of compassion. Most guys his age have one thing on their minds.

DAKOTA

Not just his age. They start earlier now.

FALLON

You have guys hitting on you already.

DAKOTA

Every day. They think because my aunt went to jail I must be a slut.

FALLON

How do you handle it?

Macy and Lucy come out on the deck. Macy is carrying a boot box.

MACY

Hey guys. Everyone come look at what we found.

They all gather on the deck, even Billy Boy. Macy takes the lid off the box. It has Odis's Silver Star, old comics and a vintage collection of baseball cards.

HANK

Jesus. His Silver Star, comics and baseball cards. He never said anything about any of these.

DAKOTA

Are they valuable?

HANK

This one is. Mickey Mantle's Rookie Card. Oh, wow...Pete Rose too. These things could be worth a bundle.

MACY

Hank can you take them and find out?

HANK

Mom. Unless we really need to, why don't we seal them up and keep them with his Silver Star. I think Odis would like that.

Fallon looks at Dakota as if to say, see what I mean.

MACY

But what about your college.

HANK

I got the loan process figured out. If we need them, we'll see.

LUCY

I still think you should get them appraised and get them out of here. Put them in a bank safety deposit box.

HANK

Both of those are good ideas.

FALLON

I have an uncle who is collector of baseball stuff. Played in the minors. He could tell us more about them.

MACY

Thanks Fallon. You are a real sweetie. Hope you stick around like forever.

HANK

Mom. Don't embarrass her.

FALLON

I'm not embarrassed.

DAKOTA

Oooooooooo!

EXT. NIGHT. ODIS' CABIN.

A bonfire. Macy, Lucy, Alice, Hank, Fallon and Dakota. Everyone but Dakota has a glass of wine. She has a Mountain Dew.

MACY

Okay everybody. Listen. I got three toasts to make. Number one.

(MORE)

MACY (CONT'D)

A toast to Odis. Who most of us often thought was an old goat-no offense Billy Boy-but was actually good-hearted and so kind. It goes to show you how appearances can be so wrong about people. So, a toast to the loving memory of Odis Hobbs who made this world a better place.

They all agree and drink.

MACY (CONT'D)

My second toast is to my wonderful big sister and my son Hank I would not be here today without you Lucy. And Hank I know you got mad but you never gave up on me, even though you could have. So here's to you two

Everyone starts chanting: Lucy. Hank. Lucy. Hank.

MACY (CONT'D)

My third toast. And this one is special. Not to say the other two weren't. But this toast...Is to me! I peed and conquered. Yeah for me.

They all cheer and drink.

MACY (CONT'D)

Hank and Fallon. That's your last glass of wine.

DAKOTA

Yeah. Now you get to drink Mountain Dew like me. Whoopee!

MACY

Well, I just got to say it. You know what would make this a really nice party?

LUCY

I'll bite. What?

MACY

If we had Rick roasting over this fire. That would be fitting.

Hank and Fallon share a look.

ALICE

You got to let all that go Macy.  
Revenge can come with a heavy  
price. You know I know that.

LUCY

She's right. He's got no reason to  
be in our lives now. So raise a  
glass to no more Rick.

MACY

That I can drink too.

Macy, Lucy and Alice drink. Fallon and Rick raise their empty  
glasses and smile.

INT. NEXT MORNING. CABIN.

Macy, Lucy and Dakota are asleep. Dakota is on the couch.  
Hank is writing his mom a note. Lucy comes down the hall.

LUCY

Morning.

HANK

(whispering) Hey.

LUCY

You going somewhere?

HANK

Yeah. I was leaving mom a note. I  
am borrowing the truck and taking  
Billy Boy for a ride to get Fallon.

LUCY

What's up with that?

Lucy is making coffee.

HANK

Fallon wants me to help move some  
stuff and I thought I would show  
her little brother Billy Boy. Then  
we are going to spend the day here  
with mom.

LUCY

(stretching, still waking) That's  
nice. Didn't know she had a little  
brother.

Lucy goes to the bathroom.

Dakota sits up on the couch.

DAKOTA

She doesn't have a little brother.  
Can I come along?

HANK

Stay out of it. Not this time. We  
have plans and a stop to make.

DAKOTA

What kind of stop?

HANK

Personal.

DAKOTA

I look stupid to you?

HANK

No. Far from it. But you can't come  
along.

DAKOTA

Can I borrow your bike?

HANK

Why?

INT. ODIS TRUCK.

Hank and Fallon, with Billy Boy inside the truck, are in the BurgerTown parking lot. Fallon is on her cell phone. She is wearing a tight fitting black, lacy top that shows an abundance of cleavage and black leggings. Her makeup looks like a night on the town.

FALLON

Hey Rick (beat) Too early for you.  
(beat) Well, I'm kind of a morning  
person. (beat) That's right. I like  
to make splashes in the morning.  
(beat) Are you a morning person  
Rick? (beat) Then okay if I come  
see you? (beat) Okay then. Rick.  
(beat) Just so you know...I like to  
dominate! (beat) Glad you like it.  
See you soon. Bye.

HANK

I don't like this.

FALLON

I can handle myself. Besides he's thinking with his cock so he'll walk right into it.

HANK

I don't like that phrasing.

FALLON

Let's go. You'll need to go in a store and get the whipped cream. I would attract too much attention. Besides someone might recognize me and that would be embarrassing.

HANK

I don't like this.

FALLON

Drive Hank. Me and Billy Boy have got this.

Hank cranks the truck and they leave. Billy Boy is baaing in the back seat.

EXT. RICK'S HOUSE.

Fallon, wearing black stilettos, a black hoodie, hair tucked-up under a black cap and sunglasses, is knocking on Rick's door. She carries a black cloth bag. The door opens. Rick is well groomed, even shaved.

FALLON

My. Looks like someone got splashed while waiting for their splash.

RICK

I like the black. Come in beautiful.

Fallon steps in. Rick closes the door.

RICK (CONT'D)

You want something to drink or little booster to get you in the mood.

FALLON

I'm in the mood.

Fallon takes off her sunglasses, unzips her hoodie, which reveals her attractive cleavage. From the bag, Fallon takes a sex-toy whip.

RICK  
Oh. Yeah. Those are beautiful  
boobs!

FALLON  
Why don't you take off your clothes  
and I'll show you what kind of mood  
I'm in.

Rick smiles. He takes off his shirt.

FALLON (CONT'D)  
Nice chest. But I didn't come here  
for your chest.

RICK  
Why don't we go into my bedroom?

FALLON  
You read my mind.

RICK  
Follow me.

They walk down the hall to his bedroom. Rick stops at the door and gestures for Fallon to enter first. She does. He grabs her by the back of the neck as she passes and pushes her onto the bed. He takes the bag from her. He looks into the bag.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Handcuffs. Whipped cream and rope?

FALLON  
Sounds like fun to me.

RICK  
You just don't look like the  
naughty type.

FALLON  
Give me a chance and maybe I'll  
prove you wrong.

He thinks. Smiles.

RICK  
Okay. Let's find out.

He takes the handcuffs out of the bag. And starts to handcuff her.

FALLON  
That's not what I had in mind.

RICK  
And what did you have in mind?

FALLON  
I told you I like to dominate.  
Trust me. I'm young, but I'm read  
bad!

RICK  
You fucking me girl?

FALLON  
Not yet.

EXT. OUTSIDE RICK'S HOUSE.

Hank is hurrying before anyone notices him bringing Billy Boy to Rick's back door. He also carries a hand vacuum cleaner.

INT. RICK'S BEDROOM.

Rick is naked and handcuffed to brass headboard. Fallon, now wearing black, long, lacy gloves, is spraying whipped cream on his genitals.

FALLON  
Having fun so far?

RICK  
It's getting interesting!

Fallon pulls two lengths of rope from the bag.

FALLON  
I want to totally dominate you  
Rick.

RICK  
Go ahead baby.

Fallon ties his ankles to the brass footboard.

RICK (CONT'D)  
Rick is all yours baby!

FALLON  
I can't wait. But you're going to  
have to because I got pee. Be right  
back. Sorry. Here's a little  
something to think about.

She kisses the top of his forehead. She leaves a red lipstick mark on his forehead.

RICK

I want more than that. Hurry up.  
Rick is ready.

FALLON

Be right back.

Fallon closes the door and hurries to Rick's back door. She lets in Hank and Billy Bob. Hank is wearing plastic gloves, shower cap and plastic covers for his shoes. Fallon takes Billy Boys' leash and leads him to the bedroom door. She takes off his leash and Billy Boy goes into the bedroom. She closes the door. She and Hank wait outside the door.

RICK (VOICE OVER)

What the fuck? Hey. Get this goat out of...AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!

FALLON

The drugs are hidden somewhere in his kitchen. Find them. I'll handle this.

Fallon goes into the bedroom.

RICK

What the fuck bitch. Untie me now  
Godda....

She stuffs a rag into Rick's mouth. She holds up the can of whipped cream.

FALLON

You think Billy Boy wants some more  
whipped cream Rick?

Rick shakes his head no and tries to scream but gag muffles him.

FALLON (CONT'D)

I do.

She sprays more whipped cream on his genitals. Billy Boy enjoys the whipped cream. Rick's POV as he tries to scream.

EXT. BACK DOOR OF RICK'S HOUSE.

Dakota sneaks in the backdoor with the Peacemaker. Hank is behind a cabinet. She is not sure who he is. She cocks the pistol.

DAKOTA  
Freeze asshole!

Hank looks up.

                  HANK  
Shit Dakota. Put that thing down.  
Here. Really carefully. Give it to  
me.

Dakota uncocks the pistol. She hears the muffled screams from the bedroom. She hands the pistol to Hank.

                  DAKOTA  
What the hell is that?

                  HANK  
Billy Boy is enjoying whipped  
cream.

                  DAKOTA  
What the hell have you done?

Fallon enters the kitchen.

                  FALLON  
Dakota. You can't be here.

                  DAKOTA  
Wow. Look at you. What the hell  
is...

                  FALLON  
Go now and don't touch anything.

Dakota leaves.

                  FALLON (CONT'D)  
You find anything?

Hank sticks his head back in a lower cabinet.

                  HANK  
(inside the cabinet) There's a  
false bottom on this cabinet. It's  
what mom and Junior did. Holy shit.

                  FALLON  
What is it?

                  HANK  
The motherlode.

Hanks starts taking out large bags of pills, a quart glass jar of powder (cocaine) and six gallon storage bags of marijuana.

FALLON

Leave them right there. I'll get Billy Boy.

HANK

Let me.

FALLON

No Hank. He's already seen me. No need for him to see you.

HANK

But I want him to.

Hank goes into the bedroom. An exhausted Rick is on the bed.

HANK (CONT'D)

Hello Rick. You remember me? You hurt my mom you gutless piece of shit. And now you are going to go away for a long time.

He cocks the Colt and puts the barrel right between Rick's eyes.

HANK (CONT'D)

When and if you ever get out, you fuck with my family I'll do more than fuck with your pecker. You smart enough to understand that?

Rick nods yes.

Hank takes the Colt away from Rick's head. The barrel of the Colt left an impression on Rick's forehead. He puts the leash on Billy Boy. Fallon wipes her lipstick off Rick's forehead.

HANK (CONT'D)

You wipe everything down that needs it and do the back door in case Dakota touched it. I'll vacuum. Take Billy Bob with you.

FALLON

Let me see the vacuum a second.

Hank hands it to her.

FALLON (CONT'D)  
We would hate to leave any whipped  
cream on your manhood Rick.

She smiles at him, and turns on the vacuum.

Rick's POV screaming as Fallon uses the vacuum on him.

HANK  
Okay. Go wipe. I'll vacuum in here.

Hank vacuums the floor and the sheets. Rick's curse words are muffled by the rag stuffed into his mouth. Fallon enters the bedroom

FALLON  
All wiped. Go get the sofa.

Hank leaves.

FALLON (CONT'D)  
Now, I know you're not happy right  
now but you did a bad thing and all  
this is a result of that. You need  
to understand that.

She wipes Rick's forehead again to make sure all of the lipstick is gone. Hank returns.

FALLON (CONT'D)  
I'm going to untie your feet and do  
not even think about kicking me.

Hank shows him the Peacemaker and smiles. She unties Rick's feet. Hank takes the gag out of Rick's mouth.

HANK  
Before you make a sound, you count  
to 100 then scream all you want. If  
you scream before that, we're  
coming back and let Billy Boy enjoy  
more whipped cream until all your  
skin is gone. And tell you the  
truth, I wouldn't blink to put that  
Colt to your head and pull the  
trigger. Understand?

RICK  
(exhausted) ...yes

Fallon, Hank and Billy Boy leave the bedroom. Hank unlocks and barely opens Rick's front door but they go out the back door to the truck. Hank starts driving away. Fallon takes out a burner phone. She dials 911.

FALLON

(beat) Yes ma'm. I live on Pecan Street but I was walking my dog down Lilly Pad Road I heard screams coming from this house. (beat) I don't really know the address. (beat) I really don't want to get involved. The person who lives there is not a nice man. They say he sells drugs.

She hangs up the phone.

EXT. AMITE POST OFFICE.

Hank, wearing a baseball cap, the black hoodie and sunglasses, gets out of the truck with an 9x12 manila envelope and enters the post office. He comes back out to the truck without the envelope and they drive away.

Hank and Fallon are driving over the Highway 16 bridge over the Tangipahoa River. Fallon tosses out the phone. They smile at each other. They start laughing. Billy Boy is happy to be with them.

EXT. ODIS' CABIN

Hank pulls up to the cabin in the truck. Hank, Fallon and Billy Boy get out of the truck. Fallon is wearing a white sun dress. Macy is on the deck, grilling chicken thighs.

MACY

You two hungry?

HANK

Starved.

MACY

What 'bout you Billy Boy.

HANK

He's pretty full.

Fallon stifles a laugh. Macy looks at Hank.

MACY

Where have you two been?

HANK

We've been here all day Mom.

MACY

What the hell have you two done?

HANK

Probably best you don't know. That chicken smells great. Mr. Odis would be proud.

MACY

Oh shit. You two fucked with Rick didn't you?

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE.

Mrs. Sterling is working at her desk, typing furiously on her computer. There is a knock on her door. It is the Young Lady from earlier. She doesn't look up.

MRS. STERLING

I'm busy.

YOUNG LADY

Mrs. Sterling. You have visitors.

Mrs. Sterling looks up. Standing in the doorway is a black man, DETECTIVE STAFFORD, and a white woman, DETECTIVE LONDON, both showing their badges.

LONDON

Could we have a few minutes of your time Mrs. Sterling?

MRS. STERLING

What is this about?

LONDON

Can I close the door?

MRS. STERLING

Not until you tell me what this is about?

Detective Stafford walks to Mrs. Sterling's desk and hands her an opened 9x12 envelope.

STAFFORD

Before you look in there, I suggest you let us close the door.

Mrs. Sterling opens the envelope. She takes out a photograph of her naked, sitting on Rick's sofa, her left arm extended, a thin strap tied tight above the elbow with Rick injecting a needle into her arm.

LONDON

Can I close the door now?

Mrs. Sterling nods her head yes.

EXT. MACY AND ALICE ARE LEAVING THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE.

ALICE

You want me to follow you home?

MACY

No. I'm good. Last I heard he's  
still locked up.

ALICE

Alright. But you call me I'm comin'  
fast as I can.

MARY

I know you would. Night.

Macy gets into her truck and drives away. Alice watches her go.

Hank and Fallon are in the cabin, studying, both working on their laptops. Hanks stops and smiles at her. She look up.

FALLON

What?

Rick comes out from the hallway of the cabin, wearing a back pack and carrying a machete.

RICK

Surprise.

Hank and Fallon look at Rick, then each other.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF CABIN. NIGHT.

Later, Macy drives up to the cabin. She sees Billy Boy asleep in his pen. She goes up the steps and opens the door.

INT. INSIDE THE CABIN.

Macy enters the cabin, leaves the door open. Hank and Fallon are tied-up sitting on the floor. Hank has a black-eye, Fallon a busted lip. Rick sits in a chair next to them holding the machete.

RICK  
Hey Macy. How was work?

MACY  
Let them alone Rick. They did it for me.

RICK  
Oh, I believe that. But the key word or words is "they did it."

MACY  
Look. Let them go and I'll start selling for you again. You know I made you a lot of money.

RICK  
Until you cheated me.

MACY  
I learned my lesson. Never happen again.

RICK  
No. I thought 'bout that but I don't think I can't trust you Macy.

MACY  
What are you going to do Rick? You kill us and the finger is going to be pointing right at you.

RICK  
I'm not sure about that. Look what I found in little Hank's room.

Rick pulls the Colt Peacemaker from behind him.

RICK (CONT'D)  
You know bad things happen in families all the time. Boy gets mad at his mother and girlfriend. They fight and he shoots them both, even shoots the old goat and then puts one in his brain because he's so guilty. I seen that shit on the news more than once. And everybody says, he was such a good boy. Never any trouble. And with your history, well that will just makes it more believable.

Macy goes to Hank and Fallon, to protect them. Rick stands, moves to the center of the room, watches her, keeps the pistol pointed at her.

MACY

Rick. Don't do this. It's me you really want. I'll do whatever you want. Anything Rick.

RICK

Wow. That's really temptin' Macy. Hey Hank. Did you ever hear what a good fuck you momma was back in the day. Looks to me like she probably still is. You still a good fuck Macy?

MACY

If that's what it takes Rick.

RICK

What I really want is a taste of this hot little tart. She promised me a ride I never got. What about it Fallon? You ready to fuck me for you life?

FALLON

Fuck you. I'm not giving you the satisfaction of seeing me beg.

RICK

Whoa. Heat from this little bitch. I bet she really is a wild one. You fuck her yet Hank?

Alice steps in the door way with tire a iron. Rick turns but it is too late. She swings, hitting him across the face. The Colt drops. Rick is out, bleeding badly from his nose and mouth.

Alice drops the tire iron, runs to Fallon and as Macy goes to Hank, both working to untie them.

MACY

You both alright?

FALLON

Better now.

MACY

Did he say anything about Lucy or Dakota?

HANK

No.

Hank's hands are free. Macy is finishing his feet. Rick's is slowly regaining consciousness. His hand reaches for the tire iron.

HANK (CONT'D)

Shit.

Macy turns and sees Rick. She grabs and cocks the Colt Peacemaker as Rick stands and raises the tire iron. She shoots Rick to the right of his stomach, spinning him around, knocking him to his knees.

RICK

(hurting) Shit Macy. Fuck.

Rick collapses on his knees. He starts to crawl out of the door.

Macy stands over Rick, pointing the Peacemaker at the back of his head. She cocks it. Rick stops crawling.

MACY

You're asshole Rick.

ALICE

No Macy. He's done. Don't do it.

Macy pauses. The room is quiet, except for Rick's labored breathing. She uncocks the pistol. Soon as she uncocks the pistol, despite his severe wound, Rick sweeps his arm, knocking Macy off her feet. She drops the Colt. Rick reaches for the Colt. Before Rick can cock it, Alice has picked up the tire iron, and hits Rick across the back of his head. Rick is down and done. Macy picks up the Colt.

ALICE (CONT'D)

You better call the police Macy.

Macy hugs Hank and Fallon. She wipes blood from Fallon's lip. Rick moans. Macy turns and points the Colt at Rick. Alice takes the Colt away from her.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Macy. Call the police now.

Macy goes to her purse and takes out her cell phone.

EXT. THE CABIN PORCH. NIGHT.

Alice, Macy, Hank and Fallon are sitting in shock on the porch. Inside a crime scene team is at work. A car pulls up. Out of the car comes Detective Stafford and Detective London. They walk up the steps and show their badges.

LONDON

I'm Detective London. This is Detective Stafford. We've known Mr. Rick scumbag for quite awhile. Kind of surprised he hasn't been shot before now. Anybody want to start?

MACY

He dead?

LONDON

Not yet, maybe if we're lucky.

STAFFORD

Beats the shit out of us how a judge would let him out so soon in the first place.

MACY

I shot him.

LONDON

Yeah. He came to and said that before they put him under, and a weird mumbling claim about a goat and his pecker.

STAFFORD

I'm wondering about that big knot on his head. 'Course he could've been born with it.

Detective London's cell phone rings. She raises a finger to pause the moment.

LONDON

Yeah. (beat) Okay. (beat) Thanks. (Ends phone call.) Well it seems our friendly scumbag Rick didn't hang around long. He's with the devil. Now, suppose we start at the beginning.

STAFFORD

Wish we had popcorn.

Really.

(MORE)

STAFFORD (CONT'D)

This is probably going to be a  
great story. Who's going first?

Alice, Macy, Hank and Fallon look at each other.

THE END