

THE WILL (WORKING TITLE)
By Donnel Salters Jr.

INT - Funeral Home - Night

CURTIS, 16, walks to the casket in front of the room. He stares down as the tears on his face starts to slowly flow down his cheek as he looks down at what appears to be the body of his grandmother. As he says his final goodbyes, he turns around and hears loud yelling coming from the room behind him. He kisses the cheek of his beloved grandmother and walks to the back room where the yelling is coming from.

Curtis

What are you two doing?

As Curtis pulls the two adults off of each other, it reveals that it is his mother, TASHA, and his Aunt, GLORIA, who are the ones arguing.

Tasha

Nothing honey, me and your aunt were just talking.

Gloria looks at Tasha and rolls her eyes as she stomps out. Curtis walks over to the door and looks at his mother.

Curtis

Not today Tasha, ok?

EXT - ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

With heavy snow outside, Curtis walks out and goes outside for a cigarette. He goes into an alleyway as if he doesn't want to get caught smoking. As he smokes, he pulls out his wallet and there is a picture of him as a baby being held by his grandmother. As he's looking, someone comes up walking towards him and grabs his shoulder. Curtis jumps and turns around quickly to learn that it is just his best friend.

Best Friend

Again with those? They're bad for you, you know.

Curtis

You scared the hell out of me, AVA. I thought you were my mom or something.

Ava

You know she's a little preoccupied right now so.

Ava grabs the cigarette from his hand and starts to take a few puffs.

Curtis

Seriously?

Ava

What? I said bad for you, not me. How are you holding up though?

Curtis looks at Ava and back down at his hand with the picture still out. He quickly puts it in his back pocket as if he doesn't want to look weak in front of his friend.

Curtis

I'm fine. I just want the funeral to be over and done with.

Ava

Well if you need anything you know i'm here for you. Besides school and work, taking care of your bipolar crazy ass fills up the other part responsibilities every day so.

Curtis

I'm not bipolar.

Ava

(mocks) I'm not bipolar.

Curtis

Whatever.

Ava

Stop being such a baby. Imma go back inside and tell everyone you're fine before they start looking for you if you need a minute.

Curtis

Yeah I'd appreciate that.

Ava walks away.

Curtis

Oh, Ava?

Ava stops and turns around then stares at Curtis in confusion.

Curtis

Thanks.

Ava

Don't mention it dickhead.

Ava walks off again and sticks her middle finger up in the air in a friendly way as a form of goodbye. Curtis starts to chuckle at Ava and continues to smoke the rest of his cigarette.

INT - CURTIS'S HOUSE - DAY

Curtis walks into his room and lays down in his bed. Tasha walks in and sits on the edge of his bed.

Tasha

How are you holding up?

Curtis

I'm fine.

Tasha

Good. Well we need to talk about something.

Curtis rolls his eyes and gets up from his bed to sit next to his mother. The anger shows on his face as he looks at his mother preparing for what she has to say.

Curtis
What is it now?

Tasha
You're grandmother has some belongings and she hasn't written a will, at least that we know of.

Curtis
And you're telling me this...why?

Tasha
First of all, you need to stop with this attitude.

Curtis
Whatever you say mom.

Tasha starts to get angry and takes a deep breath. She pulls out a paper from her back pocket and starts to unfold it. On the paper it has a list of names with possessions from Curtis's grandmother.

Curtis
What is this for?

Tasha
As I said, she hasn't wrote a will. So everything has to be settled between us. Now I understand that you've been taking care of her before she passed and you may feel like you deserve most of what she had but I th-

Curtis
(interrupts) I told you before I don't care! No one even told me she was in the hospital the night she died and you really want to tell me what I deserve and what I don't?

Curtis grabs his jacket and storms out of the room and walks out the house to take a walk. Tasha opens a window and screams to the top of her lungs out of it.

Tasha

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! CURTIS COME BACK HERE NOW!

Curtis

FUCK OFF!

Curtis runs to try and get his anger out and ends up running all the way to the rougher part of town. As he starts to finally stop running he sees a restaurant called ALLI'S DINER.

INT - ALLI'S DINER - NIGHT

Waitress

Hey honey, what can I do for you?

Curtis

Yeah, table for one?

Waitress looks at the time which reads 11:42 P.M. and looks at Curtis with a little bit of curiousness in her face.

Waitress

It's a little late for someone your age to be out at this time isn't it?

Curtis

It could be later.

Waitress

Smart guy huh? C'mon sweetie.

Waitress walks Curtis to his table. The waitress looks at Curtis as if she's trying to figure something out. As if there is something off about him but she can't put her finger on it.

Waitress

Don't I know you from somewhere?

Curtis

I don't believe so.

Waitress

Aren't you Ms. Lambert son? Ms. Lambert that lives right there on Colson Street? Tasha is your mother, right?

Curtis

(lies) nope, never heard of a Tasha.

Waitress

Yeah, I recognize you. Your grandmother just passed not too long ago. I'm sorry for your lost.

Curtis

How do you even know my mom?

Waitress

Your mother and I used to be friends back when we were in high school. Ask her about Denise, she'll know who you're talking about.

Curtis

Yeah, I rather not (chuckles). My mom and I don't really talk that much.

Curtis opens up his menu and immediately puts it down.

Curtis

Can I just have a coffee?

Waitress

It's on the the house sweetie.

Curtis

You don't have to I have the money for it.

Curtis takes out his wallet and opens it. He only has a dollar left in his wallet.

Curtis
Okay, maybe not.

Waitress
(laughs) It's on the house.

A few hours go by and you can see Curtis sleeping with his head on the diner table. A man walks into the diner and walks over to the table. He taps Curtis on his shoulder.

Man
Hey, hey man, wake up. Wake up..... WAKE UP!

Curtis wakes up and picks his head up fast. He looks up to see the man who was waking him up. It ends up being GARY, his old friend from elementary school.

Curtis
Wassup Gary, what you doin here?

Gary
Shit, besides watching you sleep in the middle of a diner at 4 A.M.

Curtis
Wait, IT'S 4 AM????

Gary
Well, 4:22 to be exact. Isn't it past your bedtime buddy?

Curtis
It's not like my mom would give a fuck anyway.

Gary
(laughs) Baby Curtis still having problems with mommy I see?

Curtis

Shut up yo. Don't YOU have some place to be besides a diner at 4 in the morning?

Gary

Really? You playin' that game huh?

Curtis

I don't play games, you know that.

Gary looks around and takes something out of his back pocket. He keeps it in his hand and keeps his hand as closed as possible.

Gary

Play games with this then.

Gary opens his hand to see a dime bag of weed in his hand. He pulls it up to Curtis's nose so he can smell it.

Curtis

Damn, that's loud.

Curtis sees the manager of the diner in the corner of his eye. He snatches the weed from out of Gary's hand before anybody can see anything.

Manager

Everything alright here fellas?

Curtis

(nervously) Yeah man, everything's fine.

Gary

(laughs) Yeah, everything's good my boy.

Manager stares at both of them and shrugs his shoulders.

Manager

Alright enjoy your night boys.

Gary
Oh, we will!

The boys wait for the manager to walk away. Curtis hands are sweating because of how nervous he was. His heart is beating out of his chest.

Curtis
Yo, what the hell is good with you?

Gary
Would you relax, it's not that serious.

Curtis
Whatever yo.

Gary
C'mon, let me light you up real quick. It sounds like you need this more than I do.

Curtis
I don't know about that..

Gary
C'mon Curt.

Curtis stares at the weed while it's in his hand and begins to think about it.

Curtis
You know what, fuck it let's do it.

Gary
That's my boy.

Curtis and Gary gets up and gets ready to walk out the door. Denise stares at them from the counter and shakes her head.

INT - GARY'S CAR - NIGHT

There's nothing but silence in the car. Gary is driving at 100mph in a 55mph lane. Curtis and Gary both are high as they are making their way back to Curtis's house.

Curtis
Can you slow down?

Gary
Stop being a pussy.

Curtis
Nah, forreal. I don't think this is safe.

Gary
(shouts) CURTIS STOP BEING A PUS-

Right before Gary can finish his sentence, they accidently hits something. They stop the car almost immediately. Curtis freaks out and doesn't know what to do as the initial shock of this situation causes him to flip out.

Curtis
DUDE WHAT THE FUCK DID YOU DO?!

Gary
Relax Curtis, let's go check it out.

Curtis and Gary get out of the car to see that they have hit a deer. Curtis crys out of fear of getting in trouble.

Curtis
WHY WOULD YOU HIT HIM!? WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO, MAN!?

Gary
Dude, calm down.

Curtis

NO MAN, I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A BAD IDEA! WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!

Gary

Dude, Curt, calm the hell down.

Curtis

HOW ARE YOU SO FUCKING CALM ABOUT THIS?!?!?

Gary

Fuck this.

Gary gets in the car and slams the door shut and starts the car.

Curtis

DUDE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?? Gary?! GARY!!!!

Gary doesn't say a word. He drives off at full speed as he flips his middle finger out of the driver side window. As soon as Gary drives off, Curtis breaks down in tears as he think of everything that has happened the whole night. You can see him on his knees, slowly breaking down. Curtis smashes his hand on the dirt to beat out his frustration. He starts punching whatever he can and ends up breaking his hand from it. He looks at it and sees his hand was bleeding heavily.

Curtis

(To himself) FUCK. Okay Curtis, it's ok. We'll get out of here. We just need to find a way home.

A few moments later, police sirens start blaring. A cop pulls up and gets out of the car as he flashes his flashlight to see Curtis sitting next to the dying deer.

Cop

What happened here young man?

Curtis looks up at the cop with his eyes bloodshot red from crying so much.

Cop

Do you have any identification on you?

Curtis starts to go into his back pocket to get his ID and realizes that it isn't in his pocket.

Cop

You don't talk much do ya? Have you been doing any drugs tonight?

Curtis blankly stares at the cop as if he doesn't want to tell him the truth. His eyes dart back slowly to the deer as he begins to cry hysterically. The cop looks at him with no words needed and grabs him by his wrists and puts them in handcuffs. The cop puts him in the cop car. As they are driving to the station, both of them remain silent. At the station, Curtis sits in a jail cell, still crying and still wondering what is going to happen now that he is behind bars. An inmate walks to him and sits down next to him.

INT - POLICE PRECINCT - NIGHT

Inmate

What are you in for?

Curtis

(depressingly) I got high and hit a deer. You?

Inmate

Killed my dog. He bit my girlfriend.

Curtis

What kind of dog?

Inmate

Pomeranian. His name was Papi.

Curtis

Cute.

Inmate

Yeah, pain in my ass though. Little asshole never stopped barking.

Curtis

Well it was nice to meet you uuh...

Inmate

JAVON.

Curtis

Javon huh? The name is Curtis.

Javon

Nice to meet you Curtis. You're a cool ass dude man.

The cop walks towards the cell and unlocks the bar door.

Cop

Kid, you're free to go.

Curtis

(points at himself) Me?

Cop

Yes you, now are you trying to spend the night here or are you leaving?

Curtis

(gets up quickly) Nah officer I'm good. Nice meeting you Javon. No more killing dogs, okay?

Javon

(laughs) Yeah man I got you.

Curtis and Javon gives each other a fist bump. Curtis walks out into the lobby of the precinct.

Curtis

Wait a minute officer, do you know who let me out?

Woman

Me.

Curtis turns around and sees Denise. Excited and also confused he runs to her and gives her a giant hug. He is relieved and also scared.

Curtis

How did you even know I was locked up?

Denise

You forgot your wallet at the Diner and didn't know where to bring it so the first place I thought of was the Police Station. They told me a young man forgot his I.D. and I asked to see who it was and come to find out it was you.

Curtis

Thank you so much, but I don't have anything to pay you back.

Denise

(laughs) It's on the house kid. Besides I owe your mom from back when I stole her boyfriend in high school.

Curtis

Her boyfriend? Who?

Denise

(laughs) Gregory Lambert.

Curtis

My dad? Wait a minute... my mom said she had me while she was in high school.

Curtis receives his belongings back from the police and he checks his phone to see 15 missed calls from Ava. He decides to call her back and tell her everything that's happened.

Ava

(screaming over the phone) Dude what the hell happened to you? Where are you? Are you ok? ANSWER ME NOW CURTIS!

Curtis

Yeah Ava I'm fine I've just had a crazy night. I'll explain everything when I see you in class tomorrow, I promise.

Ava

Well your mom is over here worried sick about you. You could've at least sent me a text or something letting me know you were still alive.

Curtis

My mom was actually worried about me? Wow that's a first. Ok Ava I'm sorry but like I said I'm on my way home. When I see you I got you. Love you.

Ava

Love you too dickhead.

Curtis hangs up the phone and looks over to Denise.

Curtis

Um, do you mind taking me home?

Denise

I don't know about that one. You're mom wouldn't be too happy.

Curtis

Would you rather me ask the cop who locked me up.

Denise rolls her eyes.

Denise
I'm tired of saving your ass kid

Curtis
(In a cocky matter) Thanks.

INT - DENISE'S CAR - EARLY MORNING

Curtis and Denise is on their way to Curtis house. Curtis looks at the time and it is close to 7 A.M. He looks over at Denise.

Curtis
Thank you again. I know you been doing a lot for me today.

Denise
As I said before kid, I owe your mother. It's the least I can do.

Curtis
Tasha has nothing to do with this, you know. You did this out of the kindness of your heart and I appreciate it.

Denise
(Takes a deep sigh) Yeah Kid.

Curtis
So what is it.

Denise
Is what?

Curtis
What did you do with my dad?

Denise
Your dad...he just made me feel nice.

Curtis

So that's the easy way of you saying you guys fucked huh?

Denise

(nervously) What? NO! WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE KID!

Curtis

Alright alright I'm sorry.

An awkward silence occurs in the car. Denise finally takes a deep breath and calms down. She looks over back and forth from Curtis to the road.

Curtis

So...Denise?

Denise

Yeah?

Curtis

Was he big?

Denise

You got a lot of balls kid. Just like him. How is he anyway?

Curtis doesn't respond. He puts his head down and gives a look. Similar to the look he gave back at his grandmother's funeral.

Denise

I see....

Denise pulls up in front of the house. You can see Tasha on the front porch with the police. Tasha looks up and recognizes the car. Rage builds up as she sees Curtis come out of the car.

Tasha

(Under her breath) Oh hell no.

EXT. - CURTIS'S HOUSE - MORNING

Curtis stares at his mother as she marches her way over as fast as she possibly can. Curtis turns back to Denise.

Curtis
You should probably go.

Denise turns off the car and gets out.

Curtis
Fuck, what are you doing??

Denise doesn't say a word and completely walks past him.

Tasha
What are you doing here bitch? Especially with my son!

Denise
Look, I know you been holding this grudge on me but I think we can work pa-

Before Denise can finish her sentence, Tasha punches her in her face and Denise falls to the ground.

Denise
Oh I been waiting for this.

Denise gets up and grabs Tasha's hair and smashes her head on the hood of Denise's car. Tasha kicks her in her knee and watches her fall to the ground as she gets on top and keeps punching her face. Denise finds a way to escape from being beat and walks to her car to get a wooden bat and cracks it on the top of her head. Curtis's neighbor NICK comes and walks next to him.

Nick
Your mom is fighting again?

Curtis
(sighs) Yup.

Nick
(sighs) I'll get the first aid.

Nick walks away from frame. Curtis runs up to Denise and Tasha and breaks up their fight.

Curtis
CAN YOU STOP?!?!

Tasha
I'm not gonna stop shit. This little whore wanted your father so she gonna get what's coming to her.

Denise
Who are you calling a whore?

Curtis runs back in between them and pushes the both of them off each other.

Curtis
HOUSE. NOW!

Denise, Tasha, and Curtis walk into the house. Curtis sits in between Denise and Tasha on the couch. Awkward silence rises.

INT - CURTIS HOUSE - MORNING

Curtis
Okay now are we going to talk or are we just going to sit here?

Tasha
I don't have anything to say.

Denise rolls her eyes and crosses her legs. She doesn't give eye contact to any of them.

Curtis

Look okay, we need to all realize that my father is... was a piece of shit. All he did was use women and cheat on him. Yet everybody was in love with him and wanted to be with him all the time. Can we all just get over the past and be fucking friends? It's like even when he's dead he still has power.

Denise looks over at Tasha and Tasha does the same. They both look like they have done something wrong. They both look like they are about to make up then they immediately roll their eyes and completely ignore each other again on the couch.

Curtis

You two are ridiculous. Look you don't have to forgive each other but look at it like this, you got something in common. Yall got the same taste in men.

The two girls laugh. They look at each other again.

Denise

He has a point yanno?

Tasha

I guess he does. I still don't like you. (laughs)

Denise

(laughs) And I still hate you.

Curtis looks over at his mom.

Curtis

Now, can you tell me what was in that will?

Tasha

We should talk about that in private.

Curtis and Tasha walks to the basement of the house. There is a room that Curtis was never allowed to go to. He use to always call it the secret door.

Curtis
THE SECRET DOOR?!?!

Tasha shakes her head and opens it, there's nothing in the room except or a giant duffle bag and a small tv back from the 1950s. Tasha opens the duffle bag.

Tasha
She wanted you to have everything that she had left. Just for the love of God please take care of it.

Curtis slowly walks over to the bag. He looks extremely nervou. He looks inside the bag and the screen cuts immediately to black.

Curtis
Oh shit.....