THE HURT

by

GLENN TOPPING AND DAVID VERNON

STORY BY
GLENN TOPPING

FIRST DRAFT
OVER A BLACK SCREEN WE HEAR:

Friends talking. The sound of cars driving on a street. People are joking. The mood is light.

The sound of a car making a LOUD TURN moves closer. Then we hear the BANGING of gunshots. People SCREAM. Run for cover. The sounds feel very realistic.

CUT TO:

INT. GLENN’S LIVING ROOM

This place is definitely a bachelor pad with a few beer cans laying around and an empty pizza box on the table. Glenn and his roommate Richey watch a police detective show on an old TV.

RICHEY
That doesn’t look real at all.

GLENN
When people get shot they don’t just fall to the ground.

RICHEY
That blood doesn’t even look real.

GLENN
When have you seen real blood?

RICHEY
When I was a kid there was a guy who shot his wife and there were blood stains in the hallway.

GLENN
You saw that?

RICHEY
My brother did.

Richey grabs a beer from the fridge.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
Want one?

GLENN
We’re working tonight. Don’t want to get too tired.
Glenn, 28, a casual t-shirt and jeans guy, dependable and loyal, gets up and starts picking up around the apartment.

RICHEY
Laura coming over?

GLENN
Not till after work.

Richey, also 28, is smaller in stature but more wiry and full of nervous energy.

RICHEY
(focusing on the TV show)
I really should go to LA. I’m a much better actor than these guys.

ON THE TV SCREEN:
A detective interviews a suspect.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
Look how plastic he is.

GLENN
Hey, this is Matlock, show some respect!

Richey looks at himself in the mirror and does some martial arts moves.

RICHEY
I could kick Matlock’s ass.

GLENN
He’s like 70 years old. Of course you can. Anyone could.

TITLE CARD: 1981, HALLANDALE, FLORIDA

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT
The crew is assembled inside the club. BIG BOB (late 40’s), his physique lives up to his name, addresses the group.

Besides Glenn and Richey we have NICK, LAURA, JEFF, DAVE, MIKE, SANDY and SAM.

BIG BOB
Listen up, everyone! Tonight, we have a mediocre band and a sold out crowd. What does that tell you?

(MORE)
BIG BOB (CONT'D)
We’re not dealing with a group of people with discriminating taste. Look out for the usual, drugs, people bringing in their own booze, people having sex in the shitters, people trying to get out for free, the drunk-and-soon-to-be-projectile vomiters—the pervs and the tough guys. Keep everyone from killing everyone else, and you’ve done your job tonight.

The crew laughs. They know that Big Bob is only half joking.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)
Dave and Mike, you are stage left. Glenn and Richey, stage right. The rest take up your usual places. Check your flashlights in case you need to summon for assistance.

The meeting is over. Everyone leaves to do their job.

IN FASTER MOTION:

We see an evening at the club.

A line forms outside, down the block.

People are drinking in the parking lot. Laura breaks it up.

The doors open and people start piling in to the club.

Two bartenders work feverishly to take all the drink orders.

The opening band starts playing. Not a lot of people pay attention.

Glenn gets a call on his walkie talkie about two guys smoking weed in the bathroom. He walks through the crowd, finds them in the bathroom and makes them leave the club.

Dave finds an underage kid who snuck into the club. Dave makes him leave.

Glenn and Laura take a quick break and make out for a minute in a backroom. Glenn gets a call on his walkie talkie.

RICHEY (O.S.)
(over walkie talkie)
Glenn, someone puked in the men’s bathroom on the second floor.
GLENN
Get Dave to do it, that’s his section.

RICHEY (O.S.)
(over walkie talkie)
Soon as it got reported Dave disappeared and he’s nowhere to be found.

GLENN
Big surprise.

RICHEY (O.S.)
(over walkie talkie)
Tell me about it.

GLENN
You could talk to Big Bob about it.

RICHEY (O.S.)
(over walkie talkie)
Big Blob ain’t gonna do anything about his beloved nephew, and believe me Dave knows it.

Glenn sighs.

GLENN
Be right there.

The main act goes on stage. By this point the club is crowded. Most people rush to the front of the stage.

Laura walks over to Richey with a 20 year old kid, MAX.

LAURA
This kid was showing off to a lady and he told her he had a gun. Can you pat him down?

RICHEY
Him? This kid? I know this kid. He ain’t packing, are you Max?

MAX
No.

RICHEY
You just told that lady that you had a gun cause you got a small dick. I know you, man.

LAURA
Pat him down, please.
Richey quickly, and inefficiently, pats Max down.

RICHEY
No gun. Big surprise.

LAURA
Escort him out, please.

RICHEY
Him? I’m not throwing him out. It’s not against any rules to have a small dick, is it Max?

MAX
(embarrassed)
Ah--no--

RICHEY
But if you ever talk about bringing a piece in here I’ll smack you down.

Richey smacks Max on the head.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
Now get out of here.

Max runs off.

LAURA
You know the rules.

RICHEY
I’ve known that kid since he was ten. Believe me, he’s no John Wayne.

BACK TO QUICK CUTS:

We focus on Glenn’s feet as he runs up one flight of stairs after another until he gets to the roof top. He talks to someone then runs back down the flights of stairs. He gets another call and runs back up the stairs again. Amazingly he is not out of breath.

The concert is over. People start pouring out into the streets.

The staff help clear everyone out.

The doors finally close and are locked. Everyone sits down with a beer and relaxes. Big Bob calms out to the lobby.
BIG BOB
Good job everyone. You all deserve a cold one. But after that, please get your garbage bags out and pick up trash, vomit, shit and piss stains and let’s go home.

Dave raises his hand.

DAVE
Ah, I have a school exam I have to study for.

Sam, who was just about ready to leave stops in his tracks.

SAM
I can stay.

BIG BOB
Thanks, Sam. I appreciate it.

Everyone picks up garbage bags and starts walking through the club.

SHARON
My parents are so proud--me picking up garbage.

SAM
It is just part of the job. We all do it.

SHARON
Oh, Sam, you’re so young.

Sharon takes her trash bag and goes off in a different direction. Laura walks up to Sam.

LAURA
She thinks she’s better than everyone else.

SAM
She is really pretty.

LAURA
That doesn’t give her a right to be rude.

SAM
I think she’s just misunderstood.

The crew continues picking up all the trash.
INT. GLENN’S BEDROOM

Glenn’s room is decorated with photos and posters of heroes—the moon landing, the late President Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King.

Glenn and Laura just sit on his bed. They are both exhausted. The clock reads 4am. They are almost too tired to fall asleep.

GLENN
Goodnight.

LAURA
Night.

GLENN
Love you.

LAURA
(falling asleep)
Love you---

GLENN
Can you turn off the light?

LAURA
Can you?

GLENN
You.

LAURA
You.

GLENN
Please.

LAURA
Pretty pl--

Laura starts snoring again.

INT. GLENN’S BEDROOM

It is early afternoon. Daylight peeks through the shades. Glenn and Laura are still fast asleep.

There’s a small knock on the door. Not loud enough to wake them. Richey walks into the room. He’s only wearing his underwear.
RICHEY
Glenn.

Glenn doesn’t move.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
(louder)
Glenn.

Glenn stirs.

GLENN
What?

Glenn peers up and sees Richey in his underwear.

GLENN (CONT’D)
Jesus, Richey--Laura’s here.

RICHEY
You gotta come out and see this.

Glenn slowly gets out of bed and follows Richey into the living room.

INT. GLENN’S LIVING ROOM

The TV is on. There is a news report in front of a Florida night club. A NEWSCASTER talks to a NEIGHBORHOOD WOMAN.

NEIGHBORHOOD WOMAN
--and he kept cursing the guy out telling him to back off.

NEWSCASTER
Did he look intoxicated to you?

NEIGHBORHOOD WOMAN
He was definitely on something. But nobody took him seriously, then he pulled out this knife and started waving it around.

NEWSCASTER
What happened next?

NEIGHBORHOOD WOMAN
The security guard tried to get him to put down the knife and everyone was screaming and yelling at him, but then he stabbed the guard in the hand with the knife.
Glenn is riveted to the news story.

GLENN
Where did this happen?

RICHEY
Mickey’s--the Irish place.

GLENN
Shit, that’s just a few blocks away from us.

RICHEY
We have practically the same clientele.

Laura walks in wearing a robe. She heads straight to the kitchen and starts making coffee.

GLENN
Babe, there was a stabbing at Mickey’s.

LAURA
The Irish place?

GLENN
Yeah.

LAURA
That’s close.

GLENN
(to Richey)
Did anyone else get injured?

RICHEY
Nah, but everybody’s real shaken up.

LAURA
Honey, do you want pancakes?

RICHEY AND GLENN
Yes.

INT. GLENN’S LIVING ROOM

Glenn, Laura and Richey are sitting down to a pancake breakfast.

RICHEY
See, that shit could never happen at The Hurt.
LAURA
Why not?

RICHEY
We got better security. We’re watching people all the time.

There’s a knock at the door. Glenn goes to get it. Sam is there.

SAM
Hey guys, did you hear about Mickey’s?

RICHEY
We’re just talking about it.

LAURA
Want some pancakes, Sam?

SAM
Sure.

Sam grabs a spot at the table and helps himself. These people are like family to each other.

SAM (CONT’D)
My mom doesn’t want me to go to work tonight. She wants me to quit.

RICHEY
That’s ridiculous.

LAURA
It’s not ridiculous to worry about your son.

GLENN
But Richey is right, nothing is going to happen at The Hurt. We are totally in control there. You see how hard we work.

LAURA
But some guy comes in with a knife, how can you control that?

RICHEY
We take it away from him.

LAURA
You heard about that shooting in that club in London.
GLENN
But is the US. That stuff doesn’t happen here.

LAURA
They killed Kennedy.

SAM
And John Lennon.

GLENN
The American people are good people. Sure, there are degenerates, but those people are their own worst enemies, usually. They mostly end in suicide.

LAURA
That’s why I want you out of that job and working for the police force.

RICHEY
Just as dangerous.

LAURA
He gets a gun to protect himself.

RICHEY
Being a cop is dangerous.

LAURA
It’s his dream.

GLENN
Yeah, it really is.

RICHEY
You got to go for it, man.

LAURA
Exactly.

We can see that this is an argument Glenn and Laura have had a few times.

GLENN
I’m going to.

There is an awkward silence.

Richey gets up and starts performing some of his martial arts.
Richey
This is why it's safe to party at The Hurt. We got Kung Fu magic.

Glenn
We've been to Mickey's. The security people drink all night. You have to stay focused.

The phone rings. Glenn gets up and answers the phone. He starts a conversation.

Sam
Thanks for the pancakes. They were delicious.

Laura
You've got some nice manners on you, Sam. Not like some people around here.

Richey
Who are you talking about?

Laura
(to Sam)
I've fed this monster enough pancakes to feed a starving nation and the only thing I get out of him is a belch or a fart.

Richey
My way of saying thanks.

Glenn hangs up the phone.

Glenn
Big Bob is holding a meeting today at 2. It's mandatory.

Laura
About Mickey's?

Glenn
Must be.

Sam
Want some help with the dishes?

Richey
Sam and I will do them.

Laura
I'm not going to argue that.
Laura and Glenn go back into the bedroom leaving Richey and Sam alone. Sam starts washing dishes and Richey dries and puts them away.

RICHEY
Do you want to keep working at The Hurt?

SAM
Yeah. It’s the best job ever.

RICHEY
Want me to talk to your dad?

SAM
Would you?

RICHEY
Sure.

SAM
What would you say?

RICHEY
I’ll tell him that his son isn’t a pussy and he shouldn’t be one either.

Sam thinks this is hysterical.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
Give me his number and I’ll call him today.

INT. GLENNS BEDROOM

Laura comes out of the bathroom with a large towel around her. Glenn comes into the room and sits on the bed.

LAURA
Are we alone yet?

GLENN
Good god, yes.

They both laugh. Glenn kisses her.

LAURA
We have to have our own place when we get married. I’m not having Richey walk down the aisle with us.

GLENN
You’re the boss.
Glenn starts making out with Laura.

LAURA
We have to get to that meeting.

GLENN
We have exactly twelve minutes before we have to leave.

LAURA
I like where this is going.

The two continue kissing.

INT. THE HURT

All the workers are assembled. Big Bob comes out of the kitchen and addresses the group. People are deep in conversation.

BIG BOB
Hey, quiet down. So thanks for coming out on your day off. Most of you have probably heard about the stabbing at Mickey’s. I called over there and they said Ed--the guy who got stabbed, is gonna be fine. It was only a flesh wound, no stitches.

NICK
So why are we here?

BIG BOB
To talk about safety. What could we do to make you guys safer here?

RICHEY
Get a better class of clients.

Everyone laughs.

BIG BOB
I know, it’s a big joke, but this is serious.

Sam raises his hand.

SAM
Maybe we could install cameras and have a room where a security officer keeps watch?
BIG BOB
Who do you think I am, Michael Jackson? This ain’t Wonderland. I ain’t got that kinda money.

SANDRA
A metal detector, like at the airport. Those things work, you know.

BIG BOB
Again, we don’t have millions at our disposal. We have to be creative.

DAVE
Yeah, let’s get creative!

GLENN
Hire an undercover person to walk through the crowd. That way, you can keep an eye on people. These people know us and when they see us coming they hide every bit of contraband that they got.

BIG BOB
Finally, an idea that makes sense.

RICHEY
Why don’t we do a commercial and it can show us doing martial arts and talk about how tough the bouncers are at this place. It could be done pretty cheap, my cousin has a video camera and we just do some high kicks and that would make people think twice about getting in our faces.

SANDRA
A commercial? Are you kidding?

DAVE
This club’s crowd doesn’t watch TV.

BIG BOB
Something you can do is make sure that you report any suspicious behavior.

SAM
You mean if someone gets too drunk?

BIG BOB
Well, we don’t want to discourage drinking. That is what pays your salaries. But you can tell if someone is looking to start a fight.
SANDRA
How about dealing with the drunk guys that grab your ass?

DAVE
I can honestly say that has never happened to me.

SANDRA
And you’re just waiting for the day, aren’t you?

The group laughs. Dave is embarrassed.

SANDRA (CONT’D)
I’m serious. Some of the guys are very disrespectful.

Sandra looks at Laura to see if she’ll back her up.

LAURA
(hesitantly)
Yeah, it happens.

BIG BOB
And how do you deal with it, Laura?

LAURA
Come over here and I’ll show you.

Big Bob approaches Laura. He stands in front of her.

LAURA (CONT’D)
Now say something to me.

BIG BOB
Nice weather we’re having here.

LAURA
Something a little raunchier than that.

BIG BOB
You got a nice rack on you there.

Big Bob smiles, as if he just got away with something. Laura springs into action. She pantomimes kicking Big Bob in his nuts. She makes him double over then helps him stand up straight. The whole move is so smooth and seamless that Big Bob is confused as to what has really happened.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)
Yes, more of that.
GLENN
How about paying to have everyone take a martial arts class?

DAVE
And give up my free time? No way.

SHARON
I don’t do martial arts.

LAURA
It would be fun to learn.

Big Bob nods to Dave who starts handing out small bags to everyone.

BIG BOB
Listen up, Dave is handing out goodie bags with some things that just might help save the day.

Everyone starts taking items out of the bag. There are whistles and big buttons that say SECURITY, and pepper spray.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)
Don’t use the pepper spray unless absolutely necessary cause it could result in a law suit if sprayed into the wrong person’s eyes.

The staff is like a group of kids. They start playing with the items in the bag and blowing their whistles. Richey holds up a condom.

RICHEY
Hey, look what I got.

Everyone laughs.

BIG BOB
That did not come from the bag!

RICHEY
It says, ‘Ribbed for Her Pleasure.’ Thats my newest secret weapon.

BIG BOB
Now leave! See all of you next week.

People blow their whistles even louder.
BIG BOB (CONT’D)
Damnit. I knew I shouldn’t have gotten those.

EXT. PARK-DAY

Glenn and Laura are in a beautiful park. There’s still a little sunlight left. They walk and hold each other’s hand.

GLENN
It feels like the whole day is gone.

LAURA
It is still nice out.

Glenn seems nervous.

GLENN
That meeting was crazy, wasn’t it?

LAURA
Yeah. You never can be too careful but I think Big Bob over-reacted. I mean, this is Florida, it’s not Vietnam or anything. People are still very civilized here.

GLENN
Growing up if we didn’t see M’am and please and thank you, we’d get a smack as a reminder.

LAURA
Things are changing though. It is a different world.

GLENN
It’s not that different. People are still people. They have dreams, they fall in love--

Laura looks at the night sky. When she turns back she notices that Glenn is kneeling--

LAURA
What are you--

GLENN
Whether we agree that the world is good, or bad, there is only one person I want to live this life with.
Laura covers her face. This is a big emotional moment for her.

GLENN (CONT’D)
Will you marry me?

Laura starts crying. She nods and pulls Glenn to his feet. They kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR

Dave sits and talks to Nick and two other guys at a table in this dive-y bar. Dave seems high as a kite.

DAVE
If that asshole came to our bar, if he tried anything--just tell them what we’d do, Nick.

NICK
We’d beat the shit out of him.

DAVE
Fuck yeah.

NICK
We don’t let nothing slip by us.

DAVE
We’re like, fucking Wonder Woman with those gold arm bands of hers.

Dave demonstrates, using the imaginary gold bracelets as shields against bullets.

DAVE (CONT’D)
We’d go, bam, bam, bam--

CUT TO:

INT. SHARON’S FAMILY’S LIVING ROOM

Sharon sits in the living room with her much-older parents. They watch Wheel of Fortune. Nobody speaks. Sharon looks lonely and a little sad.

SHARON’S MOTHER
(to the TV screen)
Now you just ought to buy yourself a vowel.
INT. BIG BOB’S LIVING ROOM

This is a nice house but the furnishings are out of style. There are photos of family members on the mantle but they look like ghosts from another life. Big Bob sits in a chair, by himself, drinking from a bottle of whiskey. He plays with a cat that sits near his chair. He dangles a piece of string and the cat frantically moves her paws to catch the string.

BIG BOB
(to cat)
You want that, don’t you. Then come and get it. Come on, Gypsy, you can get it.

EXT. PARK—NIGHT

Glenn and Laura sit on a park bench. It is just after sunset. They seem excited and exhausted.

GLENN
The way I see it, we can either spend the money on a wedding or save it for a house.

LAURA
You know the answer to that. We’re both practical.

GLENN
We can still have a nice wedding, we just have to be creative.

LAURA
When do we start telling people?

Glenn smiles.

GLENN
You’re practical but you’re still a girly-girl. You can tell people whenever you want.

CHRON: THE FOLLOWING WEEK

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Richey sits at a table with ANDY (50), Sam’s father. They are both having coffee. A waiter brings Richey a slice of apple pie.
RICHEY
I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me.

ANDY
I only have a few minutes.

RICHEY
As I said on the phone, I’m one of the managers at The Hurt.

There is a TV set overhead. The news is playing, without sound. We see that Ed, the Bouncer from Mickey’s is going back to work today. His hand is still bandaged. The Chryon on the news report says: ARE WE LIVING IN VIOLENT TIMES?

Andy watches the TV. Richey tries to get his attention away from the news.

RICHEY (CONT’D)  
So I work with your son. Sam’s a good kid.

ANDY  
My wife and I have worked hard to make sure that he’s raised right.

RICHEY  
I don’t know if Sam’s mentioned it--do you have other kids?

ANDY  
Sam’s an only child.

RICHEY  
Which makes a lot of sense. Of course you’d be protective of him.

ANDY  
Are you going to try to talk me into letting Sam continue working at the club?

RICHEY  
Don’t you think it’s good for him? He gets to be around people and interact.

ANDY  
A lot of drunk, reckless people.

RICHEY  
What was your first job?
ANDY
I worked at a hot dog stand. I made sixty dollars a week.

RICHEY
(smiling)
Probably the happiest sixty dollars a week that you ever made.

Andy nods.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
Have you ever been to the club before?

ANDY
A long time ago. Back when it was called The Argyle.

RICHEY
Ah, then you know what I’m talking about. It’s a classic place. Lots of memories.

ANDY
I smoked my first doobie there. While I saw the Doobie Brothers.

RICHEY
Right on. Hey, Andy, we’ll watch over Sam, ok? He’s a smart kid and we’ll kick his butt if he gets out of line. We got this, ok?

Andy looks at Richey, surprised that he has changed his position.

INT. THE HURT

The staff is assembled inside the club.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM

We can’t tell where we are. It is a big empty room with bad overhead lighting. Laura sits in a chair talking to an unseen interviewer.
LAURA
It started out like any other night.
Maybe a little more hectic, but nothing
out of the ordinary.

CUT TO:

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

The staff waits to hear Big Bob’s nightly spiel. We hear
the house band practicing for the night’s madness.
Everyone is ready and in work-mode. Big Bob comes in and
gathers everyone.

BIG BOB
Listen up, everyone. Tonight we are
expecting a large crowd and this new
singer is coming in with her band. Her
name is Joan Jett. We sold out tonight so
we have no tickets at the cashier. Dave
and Nick, stage left. Glenn and Richey,
stage right. Everyone else, usual places.
I hear we also have an announcement.

Glenn and Laura step up to where Big Bob is standing.

GLENN
Laura and I are engaged to be married.

The whole group starts applauding. There are catcalls.
Just then, Sam walks in. Everyone is surprised to see
him.

GLENN (CONT’D)
Sam! Good to see you! Laura and I are
going married!

Sam goes crazy and runs up and gives an energetic hug to
Glenn and Laura.

SAM
Let’s hear it for love, people!

There is another, sincere round of applause. Big Bob
takes over.

BIG BOB
Congratulations, you two. Now let’s get
to work!

The staff disperses and people get ready to take their
positions. Sandra walks over to Glenn and Laura.
SANDRA
Congratulations you two. I hope I’m as lucky one day.

LAURA
You will be!

Glenn and Richey walks towards their posts.

RICHEY
So who is this Joan Jett chick?

GLENN
According to Nick she’s pretty hot.

RICHEY
As long as they are breathing, they are Nick’s type. Is she famous?

GLENN
She sold out. She’s been on that new music channel, MTV.

RICHEY
Ah, another flash in the pan.

GLENN
I hate sold out nights. Brings out the crazies.

Big Bob walks over to Glenn.

BIG BOB
MTV showed up and they are going to film some of that chick’s concert. Can you go bring them in and take them to her dressing room?

GLENN
Sure.

RICHEY
I can do it.

BIG BOB
Yeah, I don’t need anyone making the moves on the talent. Glenn is a hundred times more trustworthy.

RICHEY
I’m trustworthy! Hey, I was on Miami Vice!
BIG BOB
You had no lines, which is a big deal considering you never shut up.

Big Bob laughs at his own joke as he walks away.

RICHEY
No one respects me around here.

GLENN
(joking)
Maybe it’s all the kung fu action.

Glenn makes a playful attempt at a kung fu kick.

RICHEY
Bastard.

CUT TO:

INT. THE HURT/DRESSING ROOM

Glenn stands in the hallway with a 3 person MTV crew. He knocks on the dressing room door. JOAN JETT, 23, with a shock of black hair opens the dressing room wearing an oriental robe.

JOAN JETT
Yeah?

GLENN
Hi, I’m Glenn and I have the MTV camera crew here.

Joan Jett gives Glenn a once over.

JOAN JETT
Thanks Glenn.

GLENN
Want me to send them back once you’re dressed?

JOAN JETT
This is dressed, for me. Come on in, boys.

The MTV crew goes into Joan Jett’s dressing room and she closes the door. Glenn goes back to his post.

LATER:
INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

There is now a crowd of people milling around the lobby. Glenn stands at his post. Robbie, holding his walkie talkie approaches him.

RICHEY
We have to go to the parking lot.

Richey continues walking. Glenn follows him.

CONTINUOUS SHOT AS:

Richey and Glenn walk through the club, through the front exit and into the parking lot outside.

GLENN
What’s going on?

RICHEY
Rumor that there’s some lady, and I use that word lightly, trading blow jobs for Quaaludes.

GLENN
This club only attracts the most high brow.

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

There is a black SUV with a few guys standing around. One guy gets out of the SUV and another one goes inside.

RICHEY
How long do you think we should wait?

GLENN
Till about right now.

Glenn walks to the SUV and bangs on the car.

GLENN (CONT’D)
What’s going on in there? Everyone out?

WOMAN’S VOICE (O.S.)
(from inside the car)
Leave us the fuck alone, we’re not doing anything.

Richey joins Glenn.

RICHEY
Open up!
A DUDE gets out of the SUV quickly, pulling up his pants. He runs off into the night. The woman from the SUV, FEMALE IN CAR, 20, gets halfway out the door. She is stoned out of her head.

GLENN
Security.

FEMALE IN CAR
I don’t care who the fuck you are, you have to wait your turn.

GLENN
And you are going to have to vacate the parking lot.

FEMALE IN CAR
I paid five bucks to park in here!

GLENN
And I’d say you got your money’s worth.

RICHEY
Leave! Right now!

The woman gets back in her car. She attempts to back out and almost hits a few cars.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
Turn your wheel--right! Right!

She finally makes it out of the parking lot. Richey sends a message on his walkie-talkie.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
Situation in parking lot resolved. And she was a real dog.

GLENN
Hey, that’s not nice. But true.

RICHEY
Would you fuck her?

GLENN
I have a fiancee.

RICHEY
Oh, you’re gonna give me the whole, ‘now I’m engaged my dick has fallen off’ routine.
BIG BOB (O.S.)
(through walkie-talkie)
Glenn and Richey, we had a scuffle with a
drunk patron and the police have arrived
to escort him off. Just a heads-up.

Glenn and Richey go to the front of the club and they see
police lights flashing. Two police officers have a guy in
handcuffs and escort him into the back of the police car.

RICHEY
You shooing off some skank ho in the
parking lot and you miss the big cop
fight in the front of the club. Real shit
show tonight.

Glenn and Richey pass by the front door bouncer. Glenn
sees Laura by the entrance. He grabs at her butt. She
quickly turns and slaps his hand away.

LAURA
I’m going to have to talk to HR and tell
them you are sexually harassing me.

GLENN
If only we had an HR department--their
heads would be exploding.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM

The same room that we saw Laura in. Now Laura sits in a
chair and talks to an unseen interviewer.

LAURA
The night started getting crazier. It was
definitely a high-incident night.

INT. THE HURT/StAGE

The opening act plays, trying to drum up some excitement.
The crowd mostly ignores them.

Glenn watches the crowd. He receives a call on his walkie-
talkie.

BIG BOB (O.S.)
(on walkie talkie)
Glenn, can you provide backup--there is a
young female, very intoxicated being
escorted out, in the main lobby.
GLENN
(into walkie talkie)
On it.

Glenn moves past people quickly and races down the stairs. Glenn sees Nick and Laura carrying out the DRUNK CLUBGOER.

DRUNK CLUBGOER
(slurring her words)
Let me down.

LAURA
(to Glenn)
Careful, she just puked all over everything.

Nicka and Laura carry the drunk girl outside and sit her on a bench outside the entrance. Glenn looks down and notices a drop of blood hitting the pavement.

GLENN
How did she cut herself?

LAURA
She fell down the steps.

Glenn takes a closer look at the woman’s head and sees that the bottom half of her right ear lobe is missing.

GLENN
Call the paramedics.

Glenn rushes back inside the club. He sees other drops of blood on the carpet. He follows the trail until he reaches the stairway. He sees something flesh-colored on the floor. A patron is about to step on it.

GLENN (CONT’D)
Hey, move away.

The patron steps back, missing the tiny piece of ear lobe. Glenn picks it up. He rushes to the bar.

GLENN (CONT’D)
(to bartender)
Cup of ice, fast.

The bartender quickly gives Glenn the cup with ice. Glenn puts the piece of ear lobe into the cup.
INT. ROOM
Laura is still in the room being interviewed.

   LAURA
   Glenn took fast action. You can always
   count on him.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT
Paramedics have arrived. Glenn gives them the ear in the
cup of ice.

   PARAMEDIC #1
   Can anyone tell me what happened?

   DRUNK CLUBGOER
   (slurring her words)
   I tripped. It’s their fault! They make
   those steps too small!

   PARAMEDIC #2
   Is she with anyone?

   LAURA
   I asked around in the club but didn’t
   find anyone who knew her.

   PARAMEDIC #2
   (to Glenn)
   You did the right thing by putting this
   on ice.

   GLENN
   I thought about putting in a cocktail
   umbrella but figured it might be in bad
   taste.

Laura laughs. She loves how Glenn can say something funny
in such a normal tone.

INT. ROOM
Richey is interviewed by the unseen interviewer.

   RICHEY
   The job isn’t all doom and gloom. It’s a
   very sexy job. A lot of good stuff
   happens there too.

   (MORE)
And when you work security, you’re the man. You get to decide who stays and who plays.

INT. THE HURT

Richey is on watch. He listens to the music and is enjoying it. An attractive woman walks by and Richey nods and smiles at her. He sees a large African-American man walk by and the two of them bump fists.

INT. THE HURT/BATHROOM

Richey walks into the men’s bathroom. He sees a stall with two sets of feet in it. He bangs on the door.

RICHEY
You’re doing drugs or having gay sex— neither of which are cool in here.

Two men immediately come out of the bathroom stall. They’ve obviously been doing lines of coke.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
(to one of the guys)
Did he swallow?

Other guys in the bathroom laugh. The two guys, humiliated, rush out.

RICHEY (V.O.)
Yeah, it was a crazy night, but what do you think happens when you put a thousand drunk people together looking to celebrate life and just have a good time.

We hear Joan Jett being announced from the stage. The main show is starting.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE

A drunk patron is heckling one of the guitarists in the band.

ON THE GUITARIST:

He is trying to ignore the heckler but we can see that the guy is getting to him.
HECKLER
(yelling)
You can’t play for shit! Get off the fucking stage, poseur!

Finally, the guitarist puts his guitar on the ground and, from the stage, jumps the guy in the audience. People are shocked and try to move away. The guitarist starts pounding the shit out of the heckler. Richey and Nick push through the crowd to get to the fight. They pull the two guys apart.

Richey and Nick escort the bloodied patron out of the club. The guitarist climbs back onto the stage, picks up his guitar and holds it in the air.

The audience goes crazy, applauding.

RICHEY (V.O.)
It was all part of the show. It’s exciting. But nothing bad, like this was ever supposed to happen.

INT. THE HURT/OUTSIDE THE WOMEN’S RESTROOM

Laura comes out of the bathroom escorting two women into the lobby. She walks them to the front of the club.

LAURA
(to bouncer)
Don’t them back in.

ANGRY FEMALE PATRON
Fuck you, you bitch. I don’t want to be in this filthy club anyway.

LAURA
Good. We both get what we want.

BOUNCER
(to Laura)
Crazy night.

Laura nods.

INT. THE HURT/UPSTAIRS LOBBY

Glenn walks through the upstairs lobby. He passes a club employee.

GLENN
Have you seen Dave?
The employee shakes his head. Glenn goes up to the second floor bar and leans over to the bartender.

GLENN (CONT’D)
Have you seen Dave?

BARTENDER
You know Dave, he just takes off sometimes.

GLENN
Yeah, I know.

Glenn walks away from the bar. In a dark corner he sees a guy standing away from everyone else. As he gets closer he sees a girl on her knees giving this guy a blow job.

GLENN (CONT’D)
What the hell? Zip up and get out.

The woman is so drunk she has a hard time getting up.

GLENN (CONT’D)
Both of you, leave, now.

BLOW JOB WOMAN
I can’t leave. I’m with my boyfriend.

GLENN
Want me to find your boyfriend so I can tell him that his girl was thrown out for blowing another guy?

The woman actually thinks about it for a moment then shakes her head.

BLOW JOB WOMAN
Maybe not.

GLENN
Out!

Glenn is now angry. He finds a door that leads to an employee office. He goes inside and finds Dave smoking from a joint.

DAVE
Hey! Glenn! Want a hit?

GLENN
Are you crazy?

DAVE
What?
GLENN
You’re on the job!

DAVE
I’m just loosening up a bit. I can focus better when I’m high.

GLENN
Does Bob know about this?

DAVE
He doesn’t care.

GLENN
To hell he doesn’t care. If he caught any of his employees smoking weed he’d can their ass.

DAVE
You’re not going to tell him, are you?

GLENN
I have a responsibility. I can’t have you stoned at work.

DAVE
This is the first time.

GLENN
I seriously doubt that.

DAVE
It is.

Glenn hesitates, trying to figure out what to do.

DAVE (CONT’D)
This would create some real trouble in my family.

GLENN
(frusterated)
Fine. Go home. Sleep it off. I’ll tell Bob that you weren’t feeling well. But if I catch you doing this again I will burn your ass over the coals.

DAVE
Got it. Thank you, Glenn.

GLENN
You’re welcome.
DAVE
You’re a real friend.

GLENN
Just go, Dave.

Dave gets his backpack together and puts his pipe and baggie of weed in it and leaves. Glenn is left alone, feeling very uneasy about the whole situation.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE

Joan Jett is raising the roof off the theater. The audience is loving her show. She has them in the palm of her hands.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

Laura and Sandra escort two cheap looking women, EILEEN and BETSY, both around 25, out of the club. Eileen and Betsy are both extremely drunk. Eileen almost falls and Sandra puts her hand around Eileen’s waist to keep her up and moving.

EILEEN
Get your hands off of me you fucking bitch.

LAURA
Just keep walking.

BETSY
Don’t tell us what to do.

LAURA
We are telling you what to do. This is private property and we’re telling you to get off of it.

EILEEN
Our boyfriends are going to be super angry at you two.

LAURA
That’s a risk I’ll have to take.

Eileen walks off-balanced, slips and falls.

EILEEN
Fuck!
Sandra helps her up. Eileen is bleeding on her chin. Sandra pulls a handkerchief out of her pocket and gives it to Eileen.

EILEEN (CONT’D)
Haven’t you done enough?

Eileen still uses the handkerchief and applies it against her chin.

LAURA
Do you need an ambulance?

EILEEN
Fuck that.

LAURA
(to Sandra)
What do you think?

EILEEN
Just looks like a scrape to me.

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

Eileen and Betsy are now outside. Laura and Sandra are blocking their entrance as they try to get back into the club.

EILEEN
Our boyfriends are in there.

SANDRA
We can go and find them.

EILEEN
Oh, they’ll find you soon enough. And they won’t be happy.

Danny Brack walks out of the club. He is mid 20’s, well-built and a tough guy. He sees Eileen from a distance.

DANNY
Eileen, what’s the idea?

EILEEN
They threw us out, baby.

DANNY
Who did?

EILEEN
These two dykes.
Danny charges over to Laura and Sandra.

    DANNY
    This better not be true.

    SANDRA
    They were drunk and disorderly.

    DANNY
    You can’t throw them out.

    SANDRA
    We can. We are security guards for The Hurt.

    DANNY
    That doesn’t give you the right. Let me talk to the owner.

    EILEEN
    And one of those bitches threw me to the ground.

    LAURA
    You slipped and fell because you are highly intoxicated.

Danny also slurs his words. Sandra takes out her walkie-talkie and calls for back-up.

    DANNY
    Don’t you act like you’re so important. You’re just fucking security guards--that is the lowest job on the totem pole.

Laura and Sandra are used to this kind of talk. They just ignore Danny. Big Bob walks over to them.

    BIG BOB
    What’s the problem?

    DANNY
    Who are you?

    BIG BOB
    This is my place.

    DANNY
    You should teach your employees to treat your paying guests with some fucking respect.
BIG BOB
My staff is very respectful.
(to Laura)
What did they do?

LAURA
Drunk and disorderly. They are getting sloppy.

BETSY
Fuck you, lady.

BIG BOB
And you’re being disrespectful to my employees. Listen, these people are like family to me. So I am going to ask you nicely to leave.

DANNY
What? You’re throwing all of us out?

Big Bob makes a motion to the bouncer at the door, indicated that none of these people can re-enter that club.

DANNY (CONT’D)
You are going to be sorry about this, you fat fuck. I may leave now but I’ll be back to get you.

BIG BOB
Get the fuck out here and take those two fucking bimbos with you.

DANNY
I’m coming back, man.

BIG BOB
Big talker!

DANNY
You’ll see!

BIG BOB
Go home, man. Sleep it off.

Big Bob walks away. As he goes to the entrance of the club he sees Glenn.

GLENN
What now?
BIG BOB
Drunk ass idiots. Hey, have you seen Dave?

Glenn hesitates. He hates to lie.

GLENN
He wasn’t feeling well. I sent him home.

BIG BOB
(in disbelief)
You? You sent him home.

GLENN
Yeah.

BIG BOB
Who gave you the right to make that decision?

GLENN
It was no decision. He was sick.

BIG BOB
You’re starting to overstep some bounds here, Glenn. I know you’re good at your job, but you’re not irreplaceable.

GLENN
What did I do?

BIG BOB
I make decisions here about who does what. If the other employees see you calling the shots then it undermines my authority.

GLENN
Got it. I’m sorry.

BIG BOB
(concerned)
Is Dave going to be ok?

Glenn is awfully tempted to tell Big Bob the truth. He restrains himself because he’s such a good guy and don’t want to cause trouble.

Big Bob starts to walk away.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)
If you ever become a cop I hope you learn how to make better decisions.
GLENN
Yes, Bob.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY
The lobby is nearly empty. The bouncers are ready and standing in their locations. A message comes over to each of them over the walkie talkie.

BIG BOB (O.S.)
(through walkie talkie)
Show is ending soon. Be ready.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE
Joan Jett is finishing up her last song. The audience goes wild. Her and her band take a bow. People yell out for an encore.

JOAN JETT
(into microphone)
We’ve done as many as they’ll let us do.
Good night everybody!

INT. ROOM
Same room as before. Sandra talks to an unseen interviewer.

SANDRA
Getting people to go home is one of the hardest parts of the night. This is when most of the vomiting happens. Or people are too drunk to leave or too drunk to drive or forget where they parked their car, or even sometimes forget where they live.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT
Patrons leave the club in droves.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY
Glenn and Laura watch as the customers depart.
GLENN
Thank God. Rough night.

LAURA
My Grandmother had a sign she kept in her store. It said that everybody brings some joy to the place--some by arriving and some by leaving.

Big Bob walks over to them.

BIG BOB
Good news--since it was such a crazy night and everybody did a good job, I’m bringing in a cleaning crew tomorrow. You guys don’t have to clean the place.

LAURA
Big Bob, I could kiss you.

BIG BOB
Go right ahead.

LAURA
I think my fiancee would mind.

BIG BOB
He might but I wouldn’t.

INT. ROOM

Nick is being interviewed.

NICK
It didn’t happen very often but if it was really busy Big Bob would bring in a cleaning crew the next day. We were all pretty happy about that.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

The staff hang out and have a beer. Everyone is exhausted. Sam wears his backpack and says good night to everyone.

GLENN
Where are you going?

SAM
I’ve got to hurry to catch the last bus.
GLENN
I’ll drive you home.

SAM
It’s ok, I don’t mind the bus.

GLENN
I’m happy to do it.

EXT. THE HURT/PARKING LOT-NIGHT

The employees are the last ones in the parking lot. Glenn, Sam and Laura walk together.

GLENN
Do you want to come over tonight?

LAURA
No, I have to be up early. I’ll call you tomorrow.

Richey walks up.

RICHEY
What about we all head back to the house for a drink?

LAURA
I can barely move.

RICHEY
(to Sandra)
What about you?

SANDRA
No, thank you.

RICHEY
It wouldn’t hurt for you to say yes once in a while.

Sam gets into Glenn’s car. Glenn starts it up and begins to back up.

Suddenly we hear a car driving quickly in their direction.

SAM
(to Glenn)
Don’t back up, there’s a car coming.

Glenn stops back up. Suddenly a station wagon comes barreling over towards them.
RICHEY
(yelling)
Glenn, look out!

There are three loud bangs. They echo into the night. On the second bang the front driver’s side window shatters.

GLENN
Get down!

Glenn opens his door and lays on the ground next to another car that is parked next to his.

The station wagon takes off, screeching into the night. Sandra screams. Other employees run to the parking lot to see what is going on.

RICHEY
What the fuck?

Laura runs over to Glenn but he tells her to get down.

GLENN
They might circle around and come back.

RICHEY
Where’s Sam?

Glenn runs over to the other side of the car. He opens the door and sees Sam huddled in the front seat, covered with blood. Glenn takes Sam from the car and puts him on the ground.

GLENN
(calling out)
It’s Sam, he’s been hit! Laura call an ambulance!

RICHEY
Those motherfuckers! We have to go after them!

Sandra starts crying.

Glenn sits on the ground and grabs Sam under the shoulders and pulls him into his lap in a sitting position. Richey runs over to take a look.

RICHEY (CONT’D)
Jesus!

GLENN
(to Sam)
You with me, Sam?
Sam nods weakly.

RICHEY
(getting crazy)
Those motherfuckers!

GLENN
Be quiet!

Glenn looks at Sam’s back and finds the bullet hole.

GLENN (CONT’D)
I don’t see an exit wound.

SANDRA
Where the hell is that ambulance?

Glenn puts his finger into the bullet hole in an attempt to control the bleeding.

GLENN
(to Sam)
Hold on, buddy.

SAM
(faintly)
Am I going to die?

GLENN
No way. The ambulance is coming and they’re going to take you to the hospital and stitch you up. You have to make it so you can come to our wedding. Don’t you want that?

SAM
Yeah.

Finally we hear the sound of the ambulance.

MOMENTS LATER:

The paramedics are loading Sam into the ambulance. The police have arrived.

As the paramedics put Sam in the back of the car Glenn comes up and asks if he can come along. The paramedic rushes him inside. The doors close and the ambulance takes off, leaving a stunned group of employees in the parking lot.
INT. AMBULANCE

One of the paramedics watches over Sam as the ambulance rushes to the hospital.

GLENN
(to paramedic)
Is he going to be ok?

PARAMEDIC #3
(whispering to Glenn)
Doesn’t look good.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Laura, Richey, Sandra, Nick and Big Bob are in the waiting room. Glenn walks up, still wearing his clothes that are covered with blood.

RICHEY
How is he?

GLENN
He’s in surgery. I left so I could come here and give my statement.

BIG BOB
Has anyone called his parents?

LAURA
The police have. They left straight to the hospital.

A POLICE DETECTIVE walks out of an office and approaches a group.

POLICE DETECTIVE
I just got a call and your friend, Sam, didn’t make it.

Sandra starts sobbing. Then Laura. All of them start crying.

ON TV SCREEN:

There is a news report about the shooting.

NEWSCASTER
This violent shooting has sent shock waves throughout the city and even the state.

(MORE)
It brings up the issue of gun control and asks the question if we are now living in violent times. The suspect, twenty-five year old Danny Brack and his accomplice, BYRON SCOTT, are being held without bail. The DA’s office state that the shooting was caused by an argument that Brack had with the club staff over his girlfriend being thrown out of the club for intoxication. The club, The Hurt has stayed closed for a week in memory of their deceased employee. The funeral for Sam Ackerman is being held today.

The TV is in the living room of Glenn’s apartment.

INT. GLENN’S LIVING ROOM

Glenn wears a dark suit. Laura helps Glenn with his tie.

GLENN
I’m really not looking forward to today.

LAURA
It’s going to be hard, but I’ll be by your side.

Glenn nods. He appreciates this.

LAURA (CONT’D)
I’ve been thinking, Glenn--maybe we should put the marriage plans on hold for a bit. Just till this blows over.

GLENN
You don’t want to marry me?

LAURA
The timing just feels off right now. It feels that everything has changed.

GLENN
(holding back his feelings)
Ok. We can wait.

LAURA
Just till things get better.

GLENN
Of course.

LAURA
Is Richey going?
GLENN
I haven’t seen that much of him. He’s taking it badly.

LAURA
I know.

GLENN
He’s been drinking a lot.

LAURA
Have you talked to him?

GLENN
I’ve tried. But what can I do for him if I can’t even help myself?

LAURA
Maybe you should talk to someone.

GLENN
Who?

LAURA
A therapist or something.

GLENN
That doesn’t work.

LAURA
It can. My mother went to therapy when she was going through this depression.

GLENN
That’s your mom. Our family does things differently.

Laura hugs Glenn.

LAURA
I know you’re in pain over Sam’s death. You need to admit it.

GLENN
(angry)
Of course I’m in pain--this kid, my friend, died in my lap. I tried to save him.

LAURA
No one could have saved him.
GLENN
Jesus, I said I don’t want to talk about it.

LAURA
Maybe if you lived in the real world for a minute where people feel pain and anguish and shame.

GLENN
Maybe I don’t want to live in a world where kids get shot in parking lots by drunk assholes. Maybe that is not a world worth living in. Maybe people shouldn’t be able to get away with doing things like that.

LAURA
They caught him. He’ll be on trial.

GLENN
And that is the only thing that is holding me together--the knowledge that he will pay for what he did for Sam.

Laura doesn’t know what to do for Glenn--he is in so much obvious pain. All she can do is to hold on to him.

GLENN (CONT’D)
I guess Richey isn’t coming. We should just leave without him.

EXT. GRAVE SITE-DAY
A miserable, rainy day. The ceremony is being held over a canopy. Next to the open plot and the casket is a large photo of Sam, smiling widely. It is a beautiful photo that really captures his loving spirit.

The crew from The Hurt is represented by Glenn, Laura, Sandra, Big Bob, Nick and a few others. Richey and Dave are absent.

Andy (Sam’s father) stands next to his wife, LOIS, and an older couple who are probably Sam’s grandparents. Andy and Lois look like their world has been shattered.

A PRIEST walks up to the podium and starts the ceremony.

PRIEST
Today, in the saddest of sad days we say goodbye to Sam Ackerman. He has been taken from us too soon.

(MORE)
We have to believe that the Lord has other plans for his son and we must always respect the Lord’s decision. I’ve been talking to those who knew Sam and they have described him to me as friendly, generous—always willing to help out a friend, trusting and someone who had a great future. He is remembered by his teachers as a voracious reader, a thinker and someone who tried to create peace and harmony everywhere that he went.

Richey arrives, wearing a wrinkled suit. He walks in the rain without an umbrella. He seems drunk. He walks quietly to the grave site and stands in the back row with a group of strangers. He looks terrible, like he hasn’t slept in days.

Andy sees Richey and is incensed. He starts to walk over to Richey but Andy’s wife grabs his arm. Andy pulls his wife’s arm away from him and goes around the crowd, to Richey.

(whispering)
What the hell are you doing here?

I’m saying goodbye to my friend.

I don’t want you here.

I’ll say goodbye and then I’ll go.

You don’t understand. You are not welcome here.

I will leave soon, I promise.

Andy can’t believe Richey’s audacity. He raises his voice.

You are the reason that my son is dead.

People at the funeral turn and look at Andy.
ANDY (CONT’D)
You told me that you would watch over him at the club.

RICHEY
I tried.

ANDY
It wasn’t good enough. My son is dead and he’s never coming back.

The Priest stops talking. Everyone is focused on this conversation.

ANDY (CONT’D)
He was going to quit working at that club. You talked me out of it.

Richey tries to hold it together.

RICHEY
Hey, I didn’t kill your son. I was his friend.

ANDY
You obviously had no other choice then work in a scum-filled cesspool, but Sam had options. He was going to go to college. He wanted a big, full life, and you robbed him of that.

RICHEY
Look man, I didn’t pull the trigger.

ANDY
When you convinced me to let him continue working at that club, even when I told you how important Sam was to me, how he was our only child--you signed his death sentence. I blame you!

Andy is holding back tears and fury. His face is red and he is pointing at Richey.

ANDY (CONT’D)
Out!

Andy’s wife walks over and grabs on to her husband.

LOIS
Leave him alone, Andy.

Andy stands there, frozen.
LOIS (CONT’D)

Leave him alone.

Andy breaks down and starts sobbing. Lois holds on to him.

LOIS (CONT’D)
(whispers to Richey)

Please go.

Richey nods. He is embarrassed. He leaves, practically running away.

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Glenn, Laura, Sandra, Big Bob and Richey sit quietly in a coffee shop. They still wear their outfits from the funeral. There is food on the table but no one has eaten much of it.

SANDRA

Why do funerals always happen on rainy days?

No one replies.

BIG BOB

I’m opening The Hurt up again on Friday. I’d like to see all of you there, but I understand if you’re not.

LAURA

Isn’t it a little soon?

BIG BOB

I can’t afford to keep it closed any longer. I’d have to pay off some talent.

GLENN

I understand. It’s expensive keeping it closed.

SANDRA

I don’t think I’m ready to go back there.

BIG BOB

Like I said, I understand.

RICHEY

Where’s Dave? Why didn’t he come today?
BIG BOB
He has an important test, otherwise he’d definitely be here.

RICHEY
That’s bullshit and you know it. Dave is an asshole.

BIG BOB
Hey, that’s my--

RICHEY
I know, which is why I don’t talk shit about him at work. But here, in this coffee shop, I can say what I want.

BIG BOB
Dave’s had a rough life.

RICHEY
Look, at the club you’re my bus and if you say that orange is green, I have to agree with you. But right here, at this table, after this funeral, I only want to speak the truth.

GLENN
Hey, Richey, chill out, man.

RICHEY
Dave comes in late, leaves early, smokes weed at work, makes other people do his work. You know all of this and let it happen. He should have come to Sam’s funeral. In fact, Sam lent Dave a hundred bucks that he never paid back. You should make him give that money to Sam’s parents. That would be the decent thing to do.

GLENN
Richey--

BIG BOB
No, Glenn, it’s fine. Let Richey speak his mind. After all, we’re just telling the truth here. It’s good.

GLENN
Are you sure?
BIG BOB
Sure. Because we all know the truth--that Sam is dead because Richey talked Sam’s father into letting him stay on at the club. Otherwise, if it weren’t for Richey, Sam would still be kicking around here.

LAURA
I don’t think that is fair, Bob. Sam had a choice.

BIG BOB
And his choice was that he was going to quit. Till Richey talked to him. Cause Richey is always getting involved with things that don’t affect him at all.

Richey gets up from the table, knocking over a cup of coffee.

RICHEY
Fuck you, Big Blob. Fuck all of you.

Richey leaves in a huff.

Everyone starts cleaning off the spilled coffee from off the table.

LAURA
You shouldn’t have said that, Bob. Richey is already having enough trouble about this.

BIG BOB
I was trying to be nice, but if he’s going to come after me then I’m going to say what’s really up, you know.

SANDRA
I can’t believe that everyone is fighting. Sam is dead. Don’t you understand that?

GLENN
I think that is why everyone’s fighting. Because they don’t know what to do. We’re all frustrated. I’m mad. I am really pissed at this guy coming in and shooting at our family. I mean, what the fuck. He got thrown out of a bar, so what? He has to come around and try to kill us? What kind of world is this? It’s not the world I grew up in.
Me either. My parents let me walk to school alone, now kids are getting kidnapped.

BIG BOB
You guys do understand that I have investors. I lose a lot of money each day that club stays closed.

GLENN
I get it.

BIG BOB
We have to come back stronger.

LAURA
We are a family.

SANDRA
I don’t know guys. This is pretty harsh.

GLENN
Challenges come to families all the time and you have to face it together. Otherwise everyone just falls apart. 
(to Laura)
Don’t you agree?

Laura doesn’t look at Glenn. She’s not sure.

INT. GLENN’S CAR/PARKING LOT

Glenn and Laura sit in a car (a different car than the one that Sam was shot in.) There is silence between them. They are parked in a lot outside the coffee shop they just hung out in.

LAURA
I think we should quit.

GLENN
I don’t agree. We have to band together. Or else that guy wins. He broke up our family.

LAURA
These people are not our family, Glenn. It’s a job. It’s not even a career. It’s not safe. I don’t feel safe anymore.

GLENN
I understand.
LAURA
I mean, if you were a cop at least you’d have weapons to defend yourself. You’d be doing something noble by defending citizens, or the city--not just herding around drunken assholes who, from time to time, are going to take shots at you.

Laura starts to cry. Glenn comforts her.

GLENN
I want to work for the police force--I think I do. I just need some time. My head is spinning with all of this. I have to figure it out.

LAURA
I need you to quit working the club.

GLENN
I might. I probably will. But I want to do it because that is my decision.

LAURA
What about us? What about our family? Let’s say we get married and have kids--how will I explain to our child, ‘guess what, your daddy died dragging a drunk guy out of a nightclub?’

GLENN
I get what you’re saying.

LAURA
I’m starting to feel less and less like this is going to work out with us.

Glenn lovingly takes hold of Laura’s face.

GLENN
This is hard, I know. We’re being tested. I will quit the club, but in my own time, and probably soon. But I can’t start doing things just because you order me to, otherwise I stop being the man that I am. Please understand that.

Laura nods.

GLENN (CONT’D)
Let’s get through this together. If we can survive this, our relationship will be strong and healthy.
Laura nods again.

GLENN (CONT’D)

I love you.

LAURA

I love you too.

Glenn kisses Laura. She melts into it.

INT. THE HURT/Lobby

Big Bob addresses the crew. Glenn, Laura, Sandra, Richey, Dave and Nick are part of the group. There are some new faces as well.

BIG BOB

Tonight’s a big night. It’s our first night back and people are going to be watching us to see how we’re doing. And you know what? We’re doing just fine. This club has had many incarnations before. It has survived. We are going to go out and show them how brave we are.

DAVE

Hell yeah!

BIG BOB

We, as a family, are going to heal. So for those of you who are traumatized by this, we will pay for your therapy. Not for life, but a few sessions to help get you back on track.

Laura looks at Glenn. She wants him to do this.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)

As you can see, we’ve hired a few more bouncers. And Glenn is going to work the front door and he is going to make sure that every person that comes into this club is kosher. You up for that, Glenn?

GLENN

Yeah.

BIG BOB

Good man. Ok. Now, I want everyone to hold hands. We’re going to say a prayer for Sam.
The crew is taken aback by this. Big Bob has never been religious. They awkwardly take each other’s hands then put their faces towards the ground.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)
Lord, you have given us trials, but I’d like to think that you believe we can overcome them. Tonight is for our fallen, our friend, Sam.

EVERYONE
For Sam.

They break hands.

BIG BOB
We don’t have a big crowd tonight. People are still nervous about coming back here. So let’s show them that they can come here and have a good time and be safe.

DAVE
Yeah!

The group breaks up. Big Bob walks over to Dave.

BIG BOB
If you smoke weed or get drunk tonight or fuck up in any way, family or no family, you’ll be out on your ass. You hear me?

Dave is shocked.

DAVE
Yes, sir.

BIG BOB
Oh, and I found out that you quit college a year ago so there’s no good reason for you leaving early. In fact, you can close up tonight.

DAVE
(speechless)
Ah--

BIG BOB
There’s no, ‘ahh’, there’s just, ‘yes sir.’

DAVE
Yes sir.
BIG BOB
Now go out there and don’t fuck up.

Big Bob walks away. Glenn walks over to him.

GLENN
So I brought it.

BIG BOB
Don’t let anyone see it.

GLENN
Ok.

BIG BOB
And for God’s sake, don’t have any accidents with it. I feel uneasy about you having a gun on you, but if it makes you feel safer, I’m ok with it.

GLENN
Thanks.

EXT. THE HURT/ENTRANCE—NIGHT

Glenn works the front door. The line is long and moving slowly. PATRON #1 walks up to Glenn.

GLENN
Five dollar cover.

The man hands Glenn a five dollar bill.

GLENN (CONT’D)
What’s in your jacket?

PATRON #1
Nothing.

Glenn taps the side of the guy’s jacket and feels a bottle.

GLENN
You can’t bring alcohol in here.

PATRON #1
I ain’t got nothing.

Glenn takes his large metal flashlight and hits the bottle, breaking it.

PATRON #1 (CONT’D)
Shit.
Alcohol starts pouring out of his jacket.

GLENN
Guess your jacket is now leaking Jack Daniels, by the smell of it. Now leave.

PATRON #1
I don’t need your club, man. Someone just died here--that’s disgusting.

GLENN
Feel free to exercise your right to freely choose another club.

Patron #1 walks away, angry.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

Big Bob walks around. There is not a very big crowd. He sees Laura and walks up to her.

BIG BOB
We’re really taking a beating here tonight.

LAURA
Give it time, they’ll come back.

BIG BOB
I hope I can wait that long. It’s expensive keeping this place open.

A drunk patron walks nearby and pukes on the carpet. Laura looks at the situation and sighs.

LAURA
I guess this is the wrong time to ask for a raise.

Big Bob laughs.

BIG BOB
Thank God Halloween is two weeks away. That’s our busiest night of the year.

EXT. THE HURT/ENTRANCE–NIGHT

Big Bob walks to the entrance way and sees Glenn patting someone down. The line is still moving very slowly.
GLENN
(to the patron)
You’re good.

The patron walks inside.

BIG BOB
How’s it going?

GLENN
I’ve turned away about twenty people. Five because of carrying knives, a few for brass knuckles or other small weapons, and the rest for flasks and bottles.

BIG BOB
Is there a way to do it any faster?

GLENN
Bring someone else so there are two of us?

BIG BOB
I’ll see if I can spare anyone.

TITLE CARD: TWO WEEKS LATER

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

The club is decked out for Halloween with all kinds of spooky decorations.

INT. THE HURT/BIG BOB’S OFFICE

A messy office. Big Bob sits in his chair while Laura, Sandra and two other employees talk with him.

BIG BOB
Damnit. Ok, you made your point.

Big Bob uses his walkie talkie to call Glenn.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)
Glenn, come to my office and bring a couple of the guys with you.

SANDRA
I hope you don’t think we’re making any trouble.
BIG BOB
I understand. I don’t like it, but I
guess its the world we live in.

Glenn, Richey and Dave come into the office.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)
After a discussion with some of the other
bouncers I’ve decided not to let any toy
guns come into the club for Halloween
tomorrow night.

RICHEY
That’s ridiculous. A lot of costumes have
toy guns. There are usually five or six
Rambos.

BIG BOB
Rambo is gonna have to party somewhere
else.

DAVE
What are you going to do, have us check
everyone’s costume before coming in?

BIG BOB
Yep.

DAVE
This place is becoming a joke. Business
has really slowed down. The lines take
longer to get in. You should make a
business decision instead of a personal
decision.

BIG BOB
One more shooting at this club and we’ll
all be out of business. Glenn, you’ll
check people at the door.

RICHEY
And what about the guys who already
purchased a ticket and now they can’t
come in with their full costume? Do they
get their money back?

BIG BOB
Yeah, I guess so. Just put some signs out
front letting people know. Also, I need
two volunteers to judge the costume
contest.

DAVE
I’ll do it.
BIG BOB
Great. Glenn and Laura. You two have good taste.

Glenn smiles at Laura, enjoying the compliment.

INT. GLENN’S LIVING ROOM

Glenn looks in the mirror. He is dressed as Robin Hood, green tights and all. Laura walks in. She is dressed as Maid Marion.

GLENN
Do these tights work?

LAURA
You have skinny legs.

GLENN
They’re not skinny, they’re toned.

LAURA
(laughing)
That’s your opinion.

GLENN
If you don’t like them some other girl might.

Laura comes over and kisses Glenn.

LAURA
Ah, I guess they’re ok.

Richey comes out of his room. He is dressed as Adam with skin-toned tights and an enormous fig leaf covering his privates.

LAURA (CONT’D)
You’re going to have a hard time getting customers to take you seriously tonight in that.

RICHLEY
If they get too close I’ll threaten to throw my fig leaf at them.

Richey picks up a bottle of Bourbon.

RICHLEY (CONT’D)
Anyone want a swig?
GLENN
It is right before work.

Richey starts to leave the room with the bottle.

Richey
More for me.

LAURA
(to Glenn)
He's really been pushing the bottle.

GLENN
He hasn't gotten over Sam's death.

LAURA
I don't think any of us have.

GLENN
He still feels responsible. I hear him having nightmares. It's getting worse.

LAURA
Maybe he should take Big Bob up on the therapy offer.

Laura pauses and stares at Glenn.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Maybe you should too.

GLENN
Not that again.
(in his best Robin Hood accent)
But yonder my fair lady, we must go and find the Sheriff of Nottingham.

EXT. THE HURT/ENTRANCE-NIGHT

There is a long line. Most of the patrons are in costume. Glenn is at the front door. A person (RAMBO #1) walks in as Rambo, holding a gun.

GLENN
Sorry pal, no fake guns allowed in tonight, so go put it in your car.

RAMBO #1
It's part of my costume.

Glenn points to a sign.
GLENN
No fake weapons.

RAMBO #1
That’s totally fucked up. What is Rambo without a gun?

GLENN
It’s a Halloween costume, you don’t need to fight your way out of Cambodia.

RAMBO #1
They didn’t say anything about this when I bought my ticket.

GLENN
New policy. We had a shooting here.

Rambo #1 starts getting angry.

RAMBO #1
Fuck you guys, you’re getting soft. Nobody wants to come to your shitty club anyway. I only got a ticket here when I couldn’t get tickets for Wonderland or The Hide-a-way. Just because one of your bouncers was too stupid and got himself shot, the rest of us have to have our Halloween spoiled?

GLENN
Hey man, that bouncer was a friend of mine.

RAMBO #1
He’s a fucking pussy. Rambo never gets killed, man.

GLENN
Hold on, Rambo.

Glenn picks up his walkie-talkie.

GLENN (CONT’D)
(into walkie talkie)
Big Bob, we got another Rambo situation.
(to Rambo #1)
You don’t need to make this personal, it’s just policy. The owner is coming out to talk to you.

RAMBO #1
Good. Finally someone important.
Big Bob came out.

BIG BOB
Happy Halloween sir, how can I help you?

RAMBO #1
Your bouncer here doesn’t understand that Rambo doesn’t go anywhere without his gun.

BIG BOB
We’re not letting fake weapons come in here tonight.

GLENN
He also called Sam a fucking pussy and suggested that he was stupid enough to get himself killed.

BIG BOB
(angry)
Take a hike, Rambo.

RAMBO #1
What?

BIG BOB
You heard me.

RAMBO #1
I want my money back!

Big Bob gets into Rambo’s face.

BIG BOB
And you would have gotten your money back. But when you insult a young kid, a friend of all of ours that was tragically murdered by some fucking idiot, you lose all rights to everything. You think you’re a big man? You’re not even in the top three Rambos we’ve had to kick out tonight. Move it!

Rambo #1 leaves, yelling into the crowd as he exits.

RAMBO #1
Fuck this place man! They’re all pussies!

INT. THE HURT.SECOND FLOOR
Sandra keeps an eye on the crowd. She pulls out her walkie talkie.
SANDRA
(in walkie talkie)
I’m taking my ten.

Sandra starts walking toward an employee exit. A man wearing a stocking mask and a black cloak follows her. She tries to ignore him. He keeps following her. She gets more nervous. She finally turns around and faces him.

MAN IN CLOAK
How do you want to die?

The man pulls out a realist-looking assault rifle. Sandra screams. Laura runs up, sees what is going on and grabs the man. Laura flips him over her shoulder. The man lands with a THUD on the ground. Laura grabs his weapon.

LAURA
It’s plastic.

Laura takes the mask off of the guy. He is a nerdy, skinny white guy. The guy looks terrified.

MAN IN CLOAK
I was only playing. It’s Halloween.

LAURA
How did you get in here with this?

MAN IN CLOAK
I hid it in my backpack.

LAURA
I’m taking you out of here.
(to Sandra)
Are you ok?

SANDRA
I’m done.

INT. BIG BOB’S OFFICE

Big Bob is adding receipts on his adding machine. Sandra walks in. She is breathing heavily.

SANDRA
I can’t do this anymore. I’m quitting.

BIG BOB
Can you finish out the week?
SANDRA
I can’t finish out the night. Sorry, Bob.
Every moment I’m hear I keep hearing
those gun shots. I keep thinking that
there will be another shooting. I’m
having nightmares. I cry and shake before
I come to work.

BIG BOB
I understand. Good luck. Stay in touch.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-NIGHT

Glenn is in his car (the same one that he was in the
night of the shooting.) Sam sits next to him. The station
wagon drives by and starts shooting at them. The air is
filled with gun shot debris. The car takes off.

Glenn looks down at Sam, who is bleeding.

GLENN
I let this happen again. I should have
known.

SAM
Why didn’t you save me, Glenn? I’m just a
kid. I’m never going to go to college or
see Europe, or have sex, or get married--
why didn’t you protect me?

CUT TO:

INT. GLENN’S BEDROOM

Glenn wakes up in a start. He is terrified from his
dream. He sits up and looks over at Laura who is sleeping
soundly. Glenn starts weeping, quietly and privately.

The camera movies away from Glenn’s bedroom, goes down
the hall, and inside the bathroom. Richey takes a shower
but stands silently, staring off into the distance.

TITLE CARD: ONE MONTH LATER

INT. JOYCE SOUTIER’S OFFICE

Glenn sits in a tidy office across from an attractive,
well-dressed woman, JOYCE SOUTIER in her 50’s. She is a
therapist and has her degrees framed on all the wall.
JOYCE
How do you feel about seeing a therapist?

GLENN
Not crazy about it, to be honest with you. But I want to get help.

JOYCE
So what is going on with the court case right now?

GLENN
The trial is coming up.

JOYCE
And how are you feeling about that?

GLENN
I don’t know. Excited. Dreading it. Nervous. I mean, this Danny guy can’t get off--there’s no way.

JOYCE
Are you going to attend?

GLENN
I’ll be testifying. I’ll also go in and watch the trial on my days off. But I feel weird about that too. I don’t want to just sit there, I want to do something.

JOYCE
There really hasn’t been much to do, has there?

GLENN
No. It’s frustrating.

JOYCE
Why frustrating?

GLENN
Makes me feel less of a man.

Joyce stares at him to continue.

GLENN (CONT’D)
Well, just sitting and watching. And the waiting. I have these urges--

Glenn hesitates.
JOYCE
Yes?

GLENN
Nothing.

JOYCE
You can tell me anything. I’m not here to judge you.

GLENN
I feel like I want to go fucking beat the shit out of him. He killed Sam.

JOYCE
Is that what men do?

GLENN
Yes, they don’t sit around passively and wait for something to change. They take action.

JOYCE
How long have you been frustrated about this.

GLENN
For a long time. I’m always the level-headed one. And I’m sick of that shit. Shit doesn’t get done by just sitting and waiting. But it’s my fault.

JOYCE
Why?

GLENN
It just is.

JOYCE
None of this has been your fault.

GLENN
From the beginning.

Joyce watches Glenn and waits.

GLENN (CONT’D)
I should have stopped them. I should have rammed my car into theirs.

JOYCE
Would that have been realistic?
GLENN
I should have known they were trouble. I could tell from the sound of the way they were driving.

JOYCE
Could you realistically have done something?

GLENN
Yes. I could have stopped it.

JOYCE
I don’t think so.

GLENN
No offense, but you’re a woman. Women talk things out. Men go and do something about it. And I didn’t do anything. So I watched my friend die. And I watched them apprehend the guy. Now I’m going to watch them put that scumbag on trial. That’s not being a man.

JOYCE
But, I’d suggest, that it is being a man to understand your limits--what is in your control and what is out of your control.

GLENN
I want to help them put him behind bars. That’s what I want.

INT. COURTHOUSE
Glenn, Laura and Richey are in the courtroom among others, watching the start of the court trial. Glenn and Laura hold hands. The court clerk approaches the jury.

COURT CLERK
Please come to order.

A female African-American JUDGE resides. The jury is group of mostly older people.

The State Attorney, DONALD, is the first to speak.
Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the evidence in this case will show that the defendant, Danny Brack, was angry at the club security for throwing out his girlfriend. The witnesses will testify that the victim, Sam Ackerman, was not involved in the earlier incident. I will show you that Danny Brack was drunk, angry and a dangerous volcano that was waiting to spill over. He committed this act intentionally, as he left the club, made this plan, then carefully returned to the club to seek his revenge.

MOMENTS LATER:

The Defense Attorney, QUINTON, polished, in his 50’s, and a very compelling speaker, approaches the jury.

QUINTON
Ladies and gentlemen the state cannot produce anyone who can positively identify my client as the shooter. Witnesses will tell you that my client was not at the club but at home with friends, thank you. My client does not own a gun and the vehicle in question was not even there.

JUDGE
Mr. Prosecutor please call your first witness.

DONALD
Mr. Richard Jones please take the stand and be sworn in

Richey gets up from the audience. He gets sworn in and takes the stand.

DONALD (CONT’D)
Were you working at the club on the night of the shooting?

RICHIE
Yes, I was.

DONALD
What was your job in the club?

RICHEY
I was one of the security team.
DONALD
Please tell us what occurred

RICHEY
I was working the front door at the club when an intoxicated female was ejected from the club. She then fell down and cut her chin.

DONALD
Who ejected her?

RICHEY
Laura our female security person.

DONALD
What happened then?

RICHEY
Her boyfriend then came out screaming at us because of what happened. He made threats that we will pay for what we did to his girlfriend.

DONALD
Do you see that boyfriend in the courtroom? And, if so please point him out and tell us what he is wearing.

RICHEY
That's him
Richey points to Danny.

DONALD
May the record show that the witness is pointing to the Defendant, Danny Brack.

DONALD (CONT’D)
Did you ever see the defendant before this shooting incident?

RICHEY
Nope.

DONALD
Thank you, no more questions.

JUDGE
Your witness.
QUINTON
Good morning, did the police show you a picture of my client at any time after the shooting?

RICHEY
Yes, at the police station

QUINTON
So in fact you did not see my client at the club but in a photo and that’s why you pointed him out today?

RICHEY
No, I remember him from the club

QUINTON
Fact, my client had been at the club numerous times and you never saw him before?

RICHEY
No

QUINTON
You have a habit of injuring patrons at the club?

DONALD
Objection, argumentative.

JUDGE
Sustained.

QUINTON
No more questions

The jury made up of six men and six women are paying attention to the witnesses and making faces as to what they are hearing.

DONALD
I’d like to call Glenn Topping to the stand.

Glenn, nervous, gets up and gets sworn in.

We don’t hear Glenn’s testimony but we watch the jury as they listen to it. They are a difficult jury to read. Donald finishes up questioning Glenn. Glenn looks over and Laura gives him a ‘thumbs-up.’
JUDGE
(to Quinton)
Your witness.

Quinton takes a moment just staring at Glen.

QUINTON
Are you employed at a club called The Hurt.

GLENN
Yes I am.

QUINTON
What is your position there?

GLENN
Assistant Security Manager.

QUINTON
So basically that is a fancy way of saying that you are a bouncer.

GLENN
Not exactly.

QUINTON
Seems like you have a difficult time describing things.

GLENN
No.

QUINTON
So what was your involvement in this case?

GLENN
I was working the night in question. The club was closing and we were hanging out in the parking lot, all of us employees saying good night to each other. I offered to give my friend, Sam Ackerman, the victim a ride home.

QUINTON
Very generous of you. Had you been drinking, Mr. Topping?

GLENN
No.

QUINTON
Nothing at all?
GLENN
 Maybe a few beers throughout the night

QUINTON
 So would it be fair to say that at this point you were intoxicated?

GLENN
 No.

QUINTON
 But you had several beers throughout the night.

GLENN
 I’m sure I worked them off during the eve. I have a very active job.

QUINTON
 So what happened in the parking lot?

GLENN
 I was parked at the front of the parking lot, facing the door. I started to back up then Sam told me not to back up because there was a car coming.

QUINTON
 Could you describe the car?

GLENN
 It was a dark colored older station wagon with the fake wood panel on the sides.

QUINTON
 Did you see anyone in the car, and if so, would you describe them, please.

GLENN
 I didn’t see the driver but the passenger was a white male with short hair.

QUINTON
 Are there lights in the parking lot, where you were?

GLENN
 Some.

QUINTON
 Does it get dark there after work?

GLENN
 Somewhat.
QUINTON
Does your vehicle windows have tint?

GLENN
Yes.

QUINTON
So you want this jury to believe that you saw my client in a fast moving car in a semi-lit parking lot?

GLENN
I am certain that I saw him.

QUINTON
How certain?

GLENN
Very certain.

QUINTON
You were close with your friend, Sam, weren’t you?

GLENN
Yes.

QUINTON
And you’d like to find some closure with his murder, wouldn’t you?

GLENN
Yes. And I’m happy that the police have caught the right guy.

QUINTON
No further questions.

INT. COURTHOUSE CAFETERIA

Glenn, Richey and Laura eat lunch together.

GLENN
The defense is playing a good game.

RICHLEY
But they can’t win, right? There’s just too much evidence.

LAURA
I can’t wait for this to be over. I wonder if they’ll get to me today.
RICHEY

It’s moving pretty fast.

INT. COURTHOUSE

The court is back from recess. Laura walks from her seat to take the stand. They swear her in.

MOMENTS LATER:

Donald is questioning Laura.

DONALD

Please tell us what happened on the night of the shooting.

LAURA

I was working the front door of the club when I was summoned by one of the other bouncers that some females were drunk and out of control.

DONALD

What did you do when you found them?

LAURA

They were too intoxicated to be in the club so I helped escort them out of the club. They would take a few steps then stop to curse me. I grabbed one of them by the arm and she tripped and fell, cutting her chin.

DONALD

Did you throw her to the ground.

LAURA

Of course not. I didn’t have any ill will towards her. I just needed her out of the club as she posed a risk to the other patrons. She threatened that her boyfriend would come and get revenge on us.

DONALD

Did you believe her?

LAURA

We get threats all the time. People say things when they are drunk.
DONALD
Did their boyfriends eventually come out to get them?

LAURA
Yes. Moments later they came out and got into an angry exchange with us. One of the guys threatened to come back and get even.

DONALD
Is that person in the court room today?

LAURA
Yes.

DONALD
Point him out to us, please.

Laura points to Danny.

DONALD (CONT’D)
Please note that the witness pointed to the Defendant, Danny Brack.

Donald stares at the jury, trying to read them.

DONALD (CONT’D)
No further questions, your honor.

MOMENTS LATER:

Quinton starts his line of questioning for Laura.

QUINTON
Ms. Veroni, isn’t it true that when you escorted the girls out of the club that you threw them to the ground.

LAURA
Absolutely not true.

QUINTON
Don’t you have a history of brutality against the bar patrons.

LAURA
(exasperated)
That is ridiculous.

QUINTON
Did you actually see my client in the club last night?
LAURA
Yes.

QUINTON
Did you see my client in the car that drove through the parking?

LAURA
I’m not sure.

QUINTON
Not sure. Okay. I take ‘not sure’ to me there is a higher probability that you did not see him, would you agree.

LAURA
Yes.

QUINTON
So you have no evidence linking my client to the crime scene, is that correct?

LAURA
Yes. But I--

QUINTON
No further questions.

Laura, frustrated, steps off the stand. She sits back down next to Glenn and they hold hands, tightly.

LATER:

DONALD
You were the lead Homicide detective on this case correct?

DET.PIKE
Yes

DONALD
How many people did you interview In this case?

DET. PIKE
Many

DONALD
How many witnesses actually saw the defendant commit this crime?

DET. PIKE
There were three.
DONALD
During your investigation what did you learn about the whereabouts of the suspects in this case?

DET. PIKE
We discovered that the defendant fled to North Florida.

QUINTON
I object to the word fled.

JUDGE
Sustained

DONALD
Was the defendant found in South Florida?

DET. PIKE
No, he was found in North Florida at a friend's home, and brought back via an arrest warrant.

DONALD
Did the defendant admit to the crime during interrogation?

DET. PIKE
No, he wanted a lawyer, so we stopped all questioning.

DONALD
What happened to the vehicle that was used in this case?

DET. PIKE
We learned that after the shooting the car was taken to an auto salvage yard and crushed.

DONALD
Did you discover who the car was registered to?

DET. PIKE
Yes, the co-defendant in this case.

DONALD
What type of firearm was used in this case?

DET. PIKE
It was a 30-30 rifle.
DONALD
What happened to the gun used in this case?

DET. PIKE
We learned that the gun was tossed into the ocean.

DONALD
Who got rid of the gun?

DET. PIKE
The co-defendant in this case

DONALD
Was the gun ever recovered?

DET. PIKE
No

DONALD
So it's safe to say that most of the physical evidence was destroyed but due to the eye witness's that put the defendant in the car and holding the gun is why you presented this case to the state?

DET. PIKE
Yes, we felt we had a strong enough case to proceed.

DONALD
No further questions

QUINTON
Det. Pike, have you worked homicides where the eyewitness testimony was incorrect?

DET. PIKE
Unfortunately, yes.

QUINTON
Det. Pike, let me get this straight, no physical evidence, questionable eyewitness testimony and you feel you had enough to take this to the state?

DONALD
Objection, argumentative
JUDGE
Sustained

QUINTON
Nothing further your honor.

INT. GLENN’S LIVING ROOM
Glenn and Laura are decorating a Christmas tree. They play gleeful Christmas music. On the TV screen is a newscast about the trial. The sound is down. Glenn notices this and runs to turn the sound on.

ON TV:
A Newscaster speaks to the camera.

NEWSCASTER
And the jury is still in deliberation on the Danny Brack trial. It has been a very emotional trial with both sides presenting compelling arguments. Most recently, Brack’s sister swore under oath that her brother, Danny was with her the entire night of the shooting. So far the prosecution hasn’t been fully successful in setting up a time line. The jury is expected to be back any day now.

Laura walks over and turns the TV off.

LAURA
(to Glenn)
I’m not going to let it wreck our Christmas.

GLENN
I agree.

They kiss.

INT. COURTHOUSE
People are rushing in to the courthouse, grabbing a seat. A News Reporter (NEWS REPORTER #2) is being filmed.

NEWS REPORTER #2
We’ve been told that the jury is in on the Danny Brack trial. People are anxiously awaiting this verdict. On one side of the room is the Defendant’s family, his parents and his brother--
We see WILLIAM and APRIL Brack, in their late 40’s and TROY CLUBSTON, in his early 20’s.

NEWS REPORTER #2 (CONT’D)
Friends and family of the victim, Sam Ackerman are also filling up the courthouse hoping for a victory.

We see Sam’s parents as well as Glenn, Big Bob, Laura, Sandra, Richey, Nick and other employees from The Hurt.

The judge enters the court room. The jury is already inside.

JUDGE
Has the jury reached a verdict?

Everyone looks on, holding their collective breath.

JURY FOREMAN
Judge, we cannot come to a decision.

There are gasps from the room.

JUDGE
If given more time do you think you can come to a unanimous decision?

JURY FOREMAN
No you’re honor, we are hopelessly deadlocked.

Andy, Sam’s father stands and yells directly towards Danny.

SAM
You’re a murderer! You killed my son!
(towards the Jury)
And you’re letting him get away with it.

JUDGE
Please escort Mr. Ackerman out of the court room.

A Guard walks Sam’s father out of the room. Andy is in tears.

JUDGE (CONT’D)
I have no choice then to declare a mistrial.

DONALD
Your Honor, I would like to poll the jury.
JUDGE
We will poll the jury.
The Clerk walks to the jury box.

Juror 1
Guilty

Juror 2
Guilty

Juror 3
Not guilty.

Juror 4
Guilty

Juror 5
Guilty

Juror 6
Not Guilty

Juror 7
Guilty

Juror 8
Guilty
Grass is stunned. He looks at Laura who is crying. Sandra runs out of the room, in tears.

EXT. COURTHOUSE—DAY

Donald talks with Andy’s family and friends.

RICHEY
How could he get away with this?

DONALD
I’m sorry, we did our best. They created just the right amount of doubt. Where we take it up to hear depends on the Ackermans.

SAM’S MOM
I don’t know if I can deal with this again.

ANDY
We’re not going to drop it. We need justice for Sam. My son is dead and that scumbag walks free.
RICHEY
We can help set up a legal fund, maybe do a fundraiser at the club--

ANDY
You guys have done enough. My son is dead because of a fight that my son wasn’t even a part of. His blood is on your hands.

GLENN
Hey, we had no control over--

ANDY
Get out. Out of my face!

Andy’s wife tugs on his shoulder for him to stop.

ANDY (CONT’D)
I never want to look at any of you again. Leave my family alone!

Andy walks away, followed by his wife.

DONALD
A lot of families go through similar things in this situation.

INT. GLENN’S LIVING ROOM

Glenn and Laura sit across from each other, neither of them speaking. Richey is drinking whiskey out of a bottle. He is very wound up and upset.

RICHEY
That fucking asshole. It wasn’t my fault. I didn’t force him to let Sam work at that club. He has to take responsibility. He was the one that said yes. What the fuck? Why blame me?

GLENN
He’s just venting.

RICHEY
Fuck him!

LAURA
It’s not Sam’s dad you should be angry at.
RICHEY
Who then? That asshole, Danny? His bitch of a girlfriend for lying? The fucking jury for falling for that load of shit. The judicial system for letting a killer loose? No? Ok, then let’s just blame Richey. Fuck this shit!

GLENN
Buddy, calm down.

Richey is packing now.

RICHEY
I didn’t kill anyone. I’m a stand-up guy. Fuck all of them. I’m done. I’m out of here.

Richey grabs a backpack and heads out.

GLENN
Should I go after him?

LAURA
He just needs to feel what he’s feeling.

GLENN
And what are you feeling?

LAURA
A deep, profound loss. For Sam. But for so many other things. Feels like the end of an era.

GLENN
Business is still shit for the club. People are avoiding it.

LAURA
Also for us, Glenn. I think I need a break.

GLENN
What?

LAURA
I told you I needed you to quit the club, but you’re still there. Your life doesn’t seem to be moving forward. I need to think about what I want.

GLENN
This is the worst timing ever.
LAURA
I know.

GLENN
I feel like shit because of this. And now you break up with me.

LAURA
I’m not breaking up. I’m just suggesting that we take a little time to catch up with all these events.

GLENN
I don’t understand.

LAURA
Sam’s death has to be a wake-up call, or it was completely in vain.

Laura starts to leave. She looks back at Glenn.

LAURA (CONT’D)
I’m sorry.

Laura leaves his apartment.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

These scenes take place over the next few months.

A. Richey moves his clothes and belongings out of Glenn’s apartment.

B. Sandra works in a restaurant. She takes the order of an elderly couple. She sees a group of 20 year olds acting stupid by throwing things at each other. She is weary of them.

C. Laura has a job at a car rental company. She walks someone to their rental car.

D. Richey is in Los Angeles. He is at an audition in a room full of other guys his age and type.

E. Glenn is at The Hurt. It is a very small crowd. He walks a drunk guy out of the club.

F. Danny Brack stares at himself in the mirror. He looks like a haunted shadow of his former self.

G. Glenn turns in his application to the police department.
H. Andy and his wife look at photos of Sam on his birthday. They hold each other's hands tightly.

I. Glenn is in a therapy session.

J. There is another trial for Danny Brack. We see that it is also a mistrial. Only Glenn from the Hurt is in the courthouse.

K. Richey is in his bathroom. He is desperate and near tears. He is shooting up heroin.

L. Glenn works out at the police academy.

ON A TV SCREEN:

A newscaster speaks directly to the TV screen.

NEWSCASTER
The family of slain club worker, Sam Ackerman finally got their wish today. Suspect Danny Clugson was found guilty of his murder and received life in prison.

INT. GLENN’S LIVING ROOM

Glenn is on the phone with a friend. His new roommate, PHIL, watches the newscast.

GLENN
(on phone)
Yeah, its great news--I mean, there’s no good outcome, but I am glad that this guy is finally getting what he deserves.
(listening)
Yeah, life in prison. Oh, hey, I have another phone call. Thanks for calling.

PHIL
Man, the phones are ringing off the hook.

GLENN
(answering the phone)
Glenn Topping. Oh, a radio interview? For when? Tomorrow morning? I can do that. Where is your station?

Glenn motions to Phil to give him pen and paper, which Phil does. Glenn writes down the radio station information.
GLENN (CONT’D)

(into the phone)
Great. Thanks. Oh hey, I have to jump
off, I have another call.
  (clicks the button for call
  waiting)
Glenn Topping here.
  (listens)
I’m sorry, who?
  (listens)
Richey? I’m sorry, he lives out in LA
now.
  (listens)
What? Are you sure?
  (listens)
When?

Glenn tries to hold it in but tears start falling from
his eyes.

INT. THERAPIST’S OFFICE

Glenn sits across from his therapist, Joyce.

JOYCE
I’m so sorry, Glenn.

GLENN
He killed himself before he found out
about the verdict. He never knew that
Brack got life.

JOYCE
That’s terrible.

GLENN
If he had waited one more day--maybe he
could have forgiven himself. Maybe he
would have come back.

JOYCE
We’ll never know.

GLENN
Fucking life--excuse my language--just a
bunch of heartbreaks.

JOYCE
Is there a memorial?

GLENN
Big Bob finally sold The Hurt. It was
just losing too much money.

(MORE)
GLENN (CONT'D)
It never found its footing after the shooting. He is going to keep it open one extra night just for past employees.

JOYCE
Are you going?

GLENN
Yeah. I wouldn’t miss it.

JOYCE
Are you expecting to see Laura there?

GLENN
That is a complicated question. I mean, of course I do. I love her. I’ve missed her but I’ve kept a respectful distance.

JOYCE
You two were good friends with Richey.

GLENN
We were. I need to see her. I just don’t know if she wants to see me.

JOYCE
So I also have to bring up that this is the end of the group of sessions that your insurance is paying for. I can continue to see you, but you would have to take on the expense. At least until your new insurance kicks in.

Glenn considers this for a moment.

GLENN
You helped me through a very difficult time. I’ll always appreciate that. I think I am ready to take what I’ve learned and apply it now. Thank you.

Joyce smiles. She knows he’s going to make it.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

There is music coming from the stage. There is a small crowd in the lobby. Glenn walks in and is instantly greeted by Big Bob.

BIG BOB
Glenn! So good to see you!

They hug.
GLENN
So you finally did it--you sold the place.

BIG BOB
Didn’t have a choice, really.

GLENN
What are you going to do with all the money you made?

BIG BOB
Travel. I’ve been stuck in this club for so long, night after night--I want to sleep under the stars.

GLENN
That’s wonderful. I’m excited.

Dave walks by. He comes over and says hi to Glenn as Big Bob walks away to talk to someone else.

DAVE
I wasn’t sure that you’d come.

GLENN
Wouldn’t have missed it.

DAVE
Sorry I was such a jerk back then. You were right to be on my back.

GLENN
Wow, I can’t believe what I’m hearing.

DAVE
You opened up my eyes. Taught me how to be a stand-up guy.

GLENN
It was all worth it then.

Glenn looks out at a few other people that enter into the club.

DAVE
Looking for anyone in particular?

GLENN
Oh, you know, just seeing who is here.

DAVE
Looking for Laura?
GLENN
Ah--maybe.

DAVE
I was shocked when you two broke up. I heard she’s getting married.

GLENN
Oh yeah?

DAVE
You didn’t know?

GLENN
It’s not like we keep in touch.

DAVE
Yeah, I see her a few times a week--we go to the same gym. Apparently she’s in love.

Glenn does not want to hear about this.

GLENN
Cool, well, nice catching up.

The lights go off and on, signaling for everyone to come inside the theater.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE

Big Bob is on the stage. There is a large photo of Richey behind him. In the photo Richey looks young and cute and hopeful.

People come in and take their seats. Glenn sits down and he sees Laura come in by herself. There isn’t a seat free next to Glenn so she sits on the aisle of another row.

BIG BOB
Richey. Richey was like no one else I ever met. He was funny, obnoxious, full of life and full of shit at the same time.

Everyone laughs.

BIG BOB (CONT’D)
I threatened to fire him about--eh--a dozen times. But here’s my secret. I never really would have. I liked having him around. Tonight is for you, Richey.
(to the crowd)
(MORE)
And for all of you. Please laugh, dance, eat, drink and tell stories about Richey. We’re the ones that are going to keep him alive. Now if anyone would like to come up and say a few words.

Sandra gets up and walks to the stage.

SANDRA
I looked up to Richey, like a brother. Yeah, sometimes he was an annoying brother, but still, you knew he had a good heart. Man, he loved Miami Vice. When I heard that he was moving to Los Angeles to try to make it as an actor, I thought--ok--ok--I can see that. But he never got over Sam’s--you know--he never got over it. I’ll miss you Richey.

Sandra is overcome with tears. She walks off the stage. Glenn stands up hesitantly and walks to the stage.

On the stage he sees Laura looking at him. He smiles at her. She smiles back.

GLENN
Funny to be saying goodbye to two things that have been very important to me--Richey, and this club. I spent a lot of time with both of them. It is hard to accept that neither of them are going to be here anymore. It is a sign of the times--a learning experience--the beginning of wisdom--things you love in this world are going to disappear--so you better appreciate them every single day.

Glenn looks at Laura.

GLENN (CONT’D)
There has been so much loss lately. It is unbearable. But we have to live with it. We have to learn for those we’ve lost. And the secret to that is for us to stay a family. Check in on each other. Show you care. We need each other. And Richey--I’m not going to forget you. I promise, man. Promise.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

It is getting close to closing time. There aren’t that many people left. Glenn talks to Big Bob.
GLENN
So who did you sell this place to?

BIG BOB
It’s going to become a market. Pretty fitting, ain’t it? I mean, about ten times a night we had a ‘pick up on aisle two.’

Glenn and Big Bob laugh. Laura walks over to Glenn. Big Bob excuses himself.

LAURA
I’ve been wanting to talk to you but you’ve always been with people.

GLENN
I figured we would talk. So how are you?

LAURA
Ok. It’s been an interesting time. And you?

GLENN
I’m at the police academy, training to become a cop.

LAURA
I heard. That’s amazing.

GLENN
Yeah. You had a lot to do with that. You pushed me to follow my dream.

Laura smiles.

GLENN (CONT’D)
I’ll be Officer Topping pretty soon. What a mind fuck, eh?

LAURA
I could always see you in the uniform. You’re going to make a great cop.

BIG BOB
Last call! Last drinks ever for The Hurt!

GLENN
Do you want anything?

LAURA
No, I’m good. I’m sorry I haven’t called. Things have been crazy.
GLENN
Yeah. I get it. I understand that congratulations are in order.

LAURA
What do you mean?

GLENN
You know.

LAURA
No, I don’t.

GLENN
I heard that you’re getting married.

Laura laughs.

LAURA
Hopefully.

GLENN
Good for you.

LAURA
That Dave could never keep a secret.

GLENN
It’s a secret?

LAURA
Yeah, well, things haven’t been agreed upon yet.

GLENN
Ah.

LAURA
But I’m hoping.

Glenn wishes he could be anywhere other than here right now.

GLENN
Who’s the lucky guy?

LAURA
You, stupid.

Dave walks over to them.

DAVE
Want to meet up at the Bee Hive for a sunrise diner breakfast?
GLENN
(floored)
Me?

DAVE
Ah, well, both of you, if you want. We can get a big booth.

Dave walks away and invites others to breakfast.

LAURA
Yes, you.

GLENN
I’m shocked.

LAURA
I never wanted to break up. I just said I needed some time.

GLENN
Ok.

LAURA
And I decided that this world has become a scary place--some place new--some place I don’t understand. And I only feel safe being here with you.

Glenn kisses Glenn.

BIG BOB
Everybody out. This is a wrap!

EXT. THE HURT-SUNRISE

People walk out slowly, almost in slow-motion. They seem to stop and say goodbye to the club. The marquee on the club is turned off. Big Bob struggles with the gate. A person wearing dark closes emerges. This person stays behind Bob and carries a shotgun. Bob doesn’t see this armed person as he says goodbye to The Hurt.

THE SCREEN TURNS TO BLACK