

"The Way To Paradise"

a Short Film By Johnathan Blevins

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FADE INTO BLACK:I

TITLE CARD, RED LETTERS: "The Barn"

EXT. MAMA SUE'S - NIGHT

STREET VIEW

A neglected house sitting in an overgrown field. In the distance we can see an old barn. Rundown farming equipment pokes out of the grass.

INT. MAMA SUE'S, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A trap house. People from all backgrounds gather here, seeking refuge from a world that does not understand them. Some are here to buy or sell, others are here to tend to their vices in peace, away from prying eyes.

Many of the occupants are passed out, some with needles still poking out of their arms. A small group of people play dice in the corner of the room, betting what little money they have. Others socialize and trade war stories about the things that brought them here.

CALEB REID,25, enters the house. He is dressed in dirty clothing that he hasn't changed in days. His face and arms are covered in scabs, as well as a thin layer of dirt. he appears antsy, as if he hasn't had a hit all day. He looks around the room, eventually setting his eyes on ROCKY, who is sitting on the couch having a conversation with a young woman, who appears to still be in her teens. Caleb approaches, interrupting the conversation.

CALEB

Hey Rocky.

ROCKY

Not today, caleb.

CALEB

Come on, man. My guy got arrested last night. I haven't had anything in a couple days. I wouldn't ask if I wasn't desperate.

ROCKY

How many times do I need to tell you? I am not a dealer.

CALEB

I know you're not a dealer. Look man, I don't know who else to ask. Can you please just sell me a little of your personal? Just this once?

Rocky pulls out a small sylophane baggy from his pocket, and pulls out two small rocks of methamphetamine. He holds them out to Caleb.

ROCKY

This is all I'm willing to part with.

CALEB

(Ecstatic) thank you. Thank you so much, Rocky!

Caleb reaches out to grab the rocks, but Rocky pulls them away.

ROCKY

Thirty bucks.

CALEB

Thirty? That's only fifteen bucks worth of shit!

ROCKY

(Sternly) you want it, or not?

Caleb takes a wad of crumbled up bills out of his back pocket, counts them, and hands them to Rocky. It is all the money he has. Rocky hands him the meth.

ROCKY

Pleasure doing business with ya.

Caleb walks away and finds a quiet corner in the room. He takes a pipe and lighter from his pocket, and loads the rocks into the pipe. At this moment, MAMA SUE, 53, comes walking down the stairs into the living room. The stairs

creak with each step. As she enters the room, she immediately sees Caleb, and shoots him a dirty look as she approaches.

MAMA SUE

You know the rules, kid. No free rides. What do you got for me?

CALEB

I'm inbetween plugs right now. I could only score a little from Rocky.

MAMA SUE

a little is good enough for me, how about you?

CALEB

(Reluctantly) good enough for me too.

Caleb hands her the pipe and lighter. She Roasts the rocks, taking a big hit before coughing up her lungs.

MAMA SUE

(Coughing) that shit tastes like it was made in a bathtub.

Caleb stares at the pipe in fear, wondering if there is any left for him. Mama sue hands it back.

MAMA SUE

You can keep the rest of that garbage for yourself.

CALEB

Thanks.

Caleb stares into the pipe, most of it is gone. He puts the pipe to his lips and clears what is left. As he exhaled he looks dissatisfied with the result. Mama sue notices the sour look on his face.

MAMA SUE  
cheer up kid, I'm sure there's  
somebody around here that's willing  
to share something with you.

Mama sue walks away and mingles with the other occupants.

SMASH CUT:

MAMA SUE'S, OUT BACK - NIGHT

The back door slings open as caleb rushes out and pukes  
into the grass. LATRELL, a middle aged African American, is  
sitting in a chair by the door, watching it unfold.

LATRELL  
You good?

CALEB  
(Dry heaving) Almost.

LATRELL  
Did I see you talking to Rocky  
earlier?

CALEB  
What's it to you?

LATRELL  
Never mind, it's none of my  
business.

CALEB  
You made it this far, might as well  
speak your mind.

LATRELL  
I'm guessing you bought from him,  
right?

CALEB  
Yeah, so?

LATRELL

Look, you seem like a good dude, and I'd hate to see you get played. Rocky acts like he doesn't wanna sell, but that's just his game, so he can charge you way more than his shits worth. He does this shit to everybody, and everybody who falls for it ends up out here, or somewhere else giving up their lunch.

CALEB

you're probably right, but I don't really have much choice. My usual guy is sitting in a cell right now and I don't really know anyone else.

LATRELL

Well, I'll tell you what, if you ever get tired of smoking that bullshit you let me know. I got some shit that will put your head in the clouds.

CALEB

I'll keep that in mind. Thank you.

LATRELL

Let me ask you something?

CALEB

Sure.

LATRELL

You high right now, or just sick?

CALEB

Just sick.

Latrell takes his kit out from his pocket and pulls out a needle, a spoon, and a bag of brown powder. He heats the powder on the spoon until it turns into a liquid and brings it into the needle. Caleb watches in wonder.

LATRELL

Come over here and sit down.

CALEB

I don't have any money.

LATRELL

It's cool, you can get me back next time I see you.

CALEB

How much?

LATRELL

Well, since I'm fronting you, let's call it eighty.

CALEB

How much is it normally?

LATRELL

Forty.

CALEB

(Thinking)... Alright, let's do it.

Caleb sits next to Latrell. Latrell ties his arm off and injects him with the needle. Caleb instantly feels the rush.

CALEB

Woah.

LATRELL

You like that?

CALEB

This has gotta be the best high I have ever had.

LATRELL

You never tried H before?

CALEB

No.

LATRELL

It's the way to paradise, kid.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. MAMA SUE'S - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: "THE NEXT NIGHT"

CALEB enters the house in the same dirty clothes as the night before. His attention is immediately called to two men who are on the verge of a physical altercation.

MAN 1

You're going to give me my money,  
one way or another.

MAN 2

I don't owe you anything, that shit  
you sold me was laced with fucking  
fentanyl!

Mama sue enters the room and approaches the two men.

MAMA SUE

You guys wanna take this outside?

MAN 1

Mama, he owes me fifty bucks!

MAN 2

No I don't, he laced my shit!

MAMA SUE

I don't give a fuck who owes who,  
take your bullshit outside. Y'all  
know the rules.

The two men reluctantly leave, bumping into Caleb on the way out. Caleb sits down on the couch next to JIMMY, who is smoking a blunt. He offers it to Caleb.



CALEB

(Taking the blunt) does that happen  
a lot around here?

JIMMY

Sometimes. You new around here?

CALEB

Sort of, been coming around for  
about a month now.

JIMMY

I wouldn't worry about it, man.  
When it does happen Mama sue  
usually takes care of it. Just keep  
a low profile and stay out of  
peoples way, you never know what  
will set somebody off when they are  
fiending.

CALEB

Thanks for the advice.

JIMMY

No problem.

Latrell enters the house, approaching Caleb as soon as he  
walks in.

LATRELL

Hey, man.

CALEB

What's up?

LATRELL

You got that eighty?

Caleb stand up and inches closer.

CALEB

Look, man, i didn't get a chance to  
get it today. I promise I will get  
it to you tomorrow.

LATRELL

You ain't trying to fuck me are you? Cause I don't like being fucked, nigga.

CALEB

No, I swear I'm not trying to fuck you. I will have it to you tomorrow for sure, I don't care if I have to rob a bank, I will get you your money.

LATRELL

You better.

Frantic screams and the sound of choking Interrupt the conversation. As they turn to see what's going on, we see a young women overdosing on the floor, choking on her own vomit.

LATRELL

What the fuck are you guys doing, turn her on her side!

The group of people crowding around her are still in a state of panic, unable to move.

LATRELL

Turn her on her fucking side!

Caleb rushes over to the woman and turns her on her side, vomit pours out of her mouth and onto the floor. It is too late, the woman is dead.

LATRELL

Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

Hearing yhe commotion, mama sue enters the room.

MAMA SUE

What the fuck is going on in here?

CALEB

She's dead.

MAMA SUE

Well then get her the fuck out of here!

CALEB

Shouldn't we call an ambulance?

MAMA SUE

What are they gonna do, bring her back to life? Get her the fuck out of this house right now!

Latrell walks over and grabs her legs.

LATRELL

(To Caleb) help me get her to the barn.

In a state of shock, Caleb complies. He and Latrell lift her lifeless body and carry it out of the house, as everyone looks on in fear.

SMASH CUT:

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

An empty barn on the verge of falling apart.

CALEB (V.O)

I had heard stories about the barn, but I never believed it. Some people say there are more than ten bodies buried underneath. I don't know anything about that. I can only tell you about what I saw for myself.

Caleb and Latrell work together to dig a hole, while the body lays off to the side.

CALEB

This doesn't feel right.

LATRELL

It is what it is. She ain't the first, and she damn sure won't be the last.

CALEB

Why couldn't we just drop her off outside of a hospital? They would have never traced it back to us.

LATRELL

She was already gone, man. Nothing nobody could have done. I know you're new around here, but this is how we handle shit like this. Can't take a chance on the cops snooping around here.

Latrell throws down his shovel and wipes the sweat from his head.

LATRELL

Alright, help me toss her in.

Caleb drops his shovel and grabs his half of the body, together the two toss her in the hole.

They pick up the shovels, ready to cover up the body. Before they do Latrell gets Caleb's attention.

LATRELL

Hey.

CALEB

Yeah?

LATRELL

I know you ain't used to this shit, It's gotta be hard. if you want another hit tonight, just let me know. I don't mind looking out for you.

CALEB

Even though I owe you money?

LATRELL

Like I said before, you seem like a good dude, I trust you.

CALEB

Thanks man, I appreciate it. After a night like this I could definitely use something to help me forget for awhile.

CUT TO:

INT. MAMA SUE'S - DAY

Caleb wakes up, band still tied around his arm. He looks at the clock on the wall and notices the time. In a panic, he jumps up. Jimmy is asleep on the couch, Caleb shakes him awake.

JIMMY

(Groggy) yeah?

CALEB

That's your El Camino outside, right?

JIMMY

It is.

CALEB

Think I could get a ride?

JIMMY

What time is it?

CALEB

9:00AM

JIMMY

come on, man. I'm trying to sleep, I feel like shit.

CALEB

Please, man. I'll owe you big time.  
I need to try and get some money  
from my dad so I can pay Latrell.

JIMMY

(Concerned) you owe Latrell?

CALEB

Yeah.

JIMMY

How much?

CALEB

Eighty bucks, but if I can just get  
to my dad's house I'm pretty sure I  
can get the money.

JIMMY

(Sighs) let's go.

TRANSITION TO:

EXT. BROWN RESIDENCE - DAY

A beautiful house in the suburbs. The kind of place where  
you could leave your car unlocked and never have to worry.  
Neighbors water their plants, and children roam free having  
the time of their lives.

A dirty El Camino pulls up in front of the house, hip hop  
music blaring through the windows. Caleb get out, fist  
bumping the driver before heading to the door.

He knocks loudly, an awkward silence passes before JEREMY  
BROWN, 42, Caleb's father, answers the door. He looks  
shocked to see Caleb, and more than a little uncomfortable.

CALEB

Hey, dad.

JEREMY

I thought we told you not to come  
around here anymore.

CALEB

Jesus, I love you too.

JEREMY

It's not about love, son. We can't have you around here causing trouble and stealing our shit anymore. We have foster kids now, and if the state finds out that you've been around here, they will probably take them away!

CALEB

Look, I'm not here to cause any trouble or steal any of your shit, ok? I just need a little bit of money. See, I owe this guy -

JEREMY

(Laughs) so that's why you're here, huh? To try and get me to settle another one of your drug debts.

CALEB

Please, dad. If you can just give eighty bucks this one time, I won't ask for your help anymore. I don't know this guy very well and I really don't want to cross him.

JEREMY

You should have thought about that.

CALEB

Dad, please.

Neighbors and children begin to pay attention to what is going on, Jeremy notices this and becomes embarrassed.

JEREMY

(taking out his wallet) all I have is a hundred, take it and don't come back.

Caleb takes the money, looks around him to see the neighbors gawking. He is devastated to see his dad is embarrassed of him.

CALEB

Yeah, thanks man. Hope your new kids make you proud.

He walks off, Jeremy watches him for a moment, feeling pity, before closing the door. Caleb looks back to see his foster brothers watching from the window, before they are pulled back by his step mother.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. MAMA SUE'S - NIGHT

Caleb enters the house, Latrell and two other menacing individuals are waiting for him, staring him down as he walks in. Everyone in the house catches on to the tension.

LATRELL

You got my money today?

CALEB

I told you I would, didn't I? All I have is a hundred though, do you have change?

LATRELL

Change?

CALEB

Yeah, I give you the hundred, and you owe me twenty.

LATRELL

Nigga, I don't what you talkin bout with this "change" bullshit. I don't owe you anything. As a matter of fact, you still owe me thirty.

CALEB

(Confused) Thirty?

LATRELL

Yeah. eight for the first hit, and eighty for the second. Minus the hundred you about to give me.



CALEB

Your charging me for the second hit? I thought you said you didn't mind looking out for me?

LATRELL

I don't mind looking out for you, but now it's time for you to look out for me and pay me my money!

CALEB

That's not fair

LATRELL

Nothing ever is, now give me my money.

CALEB

(Hands him the hundred) uoure gonna have to give me a little bit more time to get you the rest.

Latrell starts laughing, he looks to his goons and they laugh too.

LATRELL

(To his goons) you hear that? This nigga is telling me what I have to do.

CALEB

No, no, it's not like that.

LATRELL

I think it is. You my boss, nigga?

CALEB

No, I'm not anyones boss, I just meant -

LATRELL

(Signaling his men) take him to the barn.

CUT TO::

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Latrell's guys throw Caleb into the dirt floor, inches away from where he buried the body of the girl. Latrell grabs the shovel from the night before and puts the sharp end up to Caleb's neck. Caleb is hysterical, crying from fear.

CALEB

Please don't kill me, I promise -

LATRELL

Shut up! Just listen.

CALEB

Ok.

LATRELL

I want you to know something, A little history about this place. we don't just bury the OD's out here. Ever since mama sue's had this place, this is where you come to settle your differences. You got a beef? Go to the barn. You wanna fight? Go to the barn.

Latrell steps closer, pushing the shovel into Caleb's neck a little more.

LATRELL

You got a bitch ass nigga who don't wanna pay his debts? Well, guess what motherfucker? You go to the goddamn barn!

CALEB

(Crying) I'll get you the money, I promise! Just give me a couple days!

LATRELL

Didn't I tell you to shut up and listen?..(BEAT).. here's what's gonna happen. I got this guy in Indiana who wants to buy my stash, everything I got. Problem is, the

(MORE)

LATRELL (CONT'D)

cops are onto me because of some shit that happened last time. You're gonna take it down there for me, deliver it to my guy, and bring me my money. You do this, and not only is your debt paid, I'll also through you a little spending money. If you don't, well, I'm sure you will be nice and cozy in a hole next to our friend. So, what do you say?

CAMERA focuses on Caleb's face, still filled with fear. The shovel still pressing into his neck.

CALEB (V.O)

It's not like I had much of a choice..

TRANSITION TO:

INT/EXT. 2009 PONTIAC G6 - MORNING

Caleb is in the drivers seat, Latrell is leaned into the window, talking to him.

LATRELL

Alright, make sure you take it slow on the way down there, we don't want you getting pulled over. The insurance and registration is in the middle console just in case you do. If it happens, just play it cool and you should be alright. here's a cellphone, if anything happens, or someone asks why the car isn't in your name, call me. I'll see you tomorrow night.

CALEB

What if I get in some other kind of trouble?

LATRELL

Like what?

CALEB

I don't know, something I can't just talk my way out of.

LATRELL

If that happens, just look under seat.

CALEB

Why, what's under there?

LATRELL

You'll find out if you have to.

CALEB

(Nods) see you tomorrow.

LATRELL

Good luck, and don't let me get a call saying that shits off. You stay sober on this run, no excuses. I'll get you right when you get back.

CALEB

Alright.

Caleb drives off as Latrell watches. Latrell chuckles to himself as he drives away.

CUT TO BLACK:

TITLE CARD, RED LETTERS: "INDIANA"

EXT. LOW INCOME HOUSING - DAY

A low income neighborhood. Caleb is parked in front of one of the houses. The lights are on, and loud music blares inside. He takes a deep breath and pops the truck. After getting out he grabs a backpack from the trunk and approaches the door.

Three knocks. JOEL, a scrawny white guy, opens the door and smiles.

JOEL  
You must be Latrell's man.

CALEB  
Yeah.

JOEL  
Come inside.

Caleb walks inside. Two girls are passed out in the couch, they look beautiful, but sadly have lost their way. In the kitchen two more white guys, TOMMY, and DAN, sit at the table, weighing cocaine in a scale. The house is a mess, with signs of addiction scattered throughout.

TOMMY  
Woah! That Latrell's dude?

JOEL  
Yeah, he said he was.

DAN  
(To Caleb) you got something for  
us, buddy?

Caleb approaches and places the backpack into the table.

CALEB  
Sure do.

The men get visibly excited. They begin removing large bags of heroin from the backpack. Smiles take over their faces when they see it.

TOMMY  
Hell yeah!

CALEB  
It's all there.

DAN  
I know it is.

CALEB

Ok.

DAN

You wanna try some of this coke before you go? It's the best you will ever have.

CALEB

I would, but Latrell said I have to stay sober.

They all laugh at caleb.

DAN

(Mocking caleb) "But Latrell said I have to stay sober" is Latrell your mama?

CALEB

No.

DAN

Then get over here and do some coke. You will sober up by the time you get back to Kentucky. Latrell will never know.

Caleb walks over to the table. Dan organizes a line of coke for him. Caleb snorts it and feels the high immediately.

CALEB

God damn!

DAN

(Laughing) yeah that's some good shit isn't it?

CALEB

Hell yeah it is.

DAN

Well you better go before your mommy Latrell starts worrying about ya. Tell him we said thanks for the shit.

CALEB

I will.

Caleb stands there awkwardly as the guys stare at him, waiting for him to leave.

CALEB

Um...

DAN

Something we can do for you?

CALEB

You never paid me.

DAN

Oh shit, Tommy, did we forget to pay the man?

TOMMY

Why, I think so!

JOEL

How silly of us.

CALEB

It's cool, shit happens.

TOMMY

I don't think you get it, kid. You ain't getting shit. Now get the fuck out of here before we put a couple holes in you.

Caleb stands there dumbfounded, unable to move. Dan pulls out a pistol and points it at Caleb.

DAN

He said get the fuck outta here.

CALEB

If I don't come back with anything I'm a dead man, please just -

DAN

Go! Go or I'll blow your fucking  
head off!

Caleb runs out of the house and jumps into the car,  
speeding off with a panicked look glued to his face.

TRANSITION TO:

INT/EXT. 2009 PONTIAC G6 - DAY

Caleb has the seat leaned all the way back. He is sweating,  
panicking. We hear his ring as he frantically waits for  
latrell to pick up. The phone is on speaker.

LATRELL

Yeah?

CALEB

Hey man, some shit just went  
horribly fucking wrong!

LATRELL

Did you get pulled over?

CALEB

No I made it to the house. There  
was three guys there and they took  
the shit from me!

LATRELL

You let those skinny white boys  
take my shit!

CALEB

They had guns, man. One of them  
pointed one right at me, what the  
fuck was I supposed to do?

LATRELL

It's not about what you was Spose  
to do no more, it's bout what you  
gonna do, and you gonna go get me  
my shit, or get me my money.



CALEB

How am I supposed to -

LATRELL

I don't give a fuck how you do it,  
and I don't wanna know. Just get me  
my shit or get me my money. You  
come back here with nothing and  
you're a fucking dead man.

The phone clicks, call ended. Caleb bangs his head against  
the steering wheel.

TRANSITION TO:

EXT. 2009 PONTIAC G6 - NIGHT

Caleb is parked a few houses down from the dropoff point,  
watching, waiting for an opportunity. Some time passes  
before the lights to the house eventually go out. Caleb  
pulls out the phone, and makes another phone call. After a  
moment, Jeremy answers.

JEREMY

Hello? Who is this?

CALEB

Dad?

JEREMY

Caleb? Who's number is this? Why  
are you calling so late?

CALEB

(Crying) I really fucked up, dad.

JEREMY

What did you do this time?

CALEB

I can't really talk about it. I  
just wanted to tell you that I love  
you. You know, just in case.

JEREMY

Where are you right now?

CALEB

Indiana.

JEREMY

What in the world are you doing all the way down there?

CALEB

...

JEREMY

Caleb?

CALEB

Bye dad.

Caleb hangs up the phone and opens his door, ready for whatever happens. He remembers what Latrell said to him, and checks under the drivers seat. He feels something, then pulls out a 9mm handgun. He looks at it for a moment before cocking it and heading for the door.

SMASH CUT:

EXT. LOW INCOME HOUSING - NIGHT

Caleb turns the knob, surprisingly the door opens. He sneaks inside, looking all around for the stolen drugs. He checks every drawer, and every cabinet to no avail. The girls are still passed out on the couch, the men are nowhere to be seen. Caleb sneaks into one of the bedrooms, where Tommy is sleeping. He tiptoes over to the nightstand beside his bed and opens the drawer quietly. The drugs are inside, Caleb tried to grab them AND THEN -

Tommy jerks awake and grabs Caleb's arm, Tommy tries to grab something under his pillow but before he can Caleb draws his pistol and shoots Tommy in the head, blood spatters against the wall.

We hear commotion from the other room, Caleb aims his pistol at the door. Dan and Joel come running, Caleb fires three more rounds, hitting Joel once and Dan twice. Both men fall to the ground dead.

In shock, Caleb grabs the drugs, and the guns belonging to the men. He then runs out the door and starts his car. As he drives off, we hear sirens in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAMA SUE'S - MORNING

Caleb pulls up in the Pontiac, Latrell and his men are waiting for him. He steps out and hands them the backpack. Latrell takes it and looks inside.

LATRELL

Why are there guns in here?

CALEB

I noticed that they already sold some of the drugs, I figured you could sell them and make up for the difference.

LATRELL

(Nods) okay. You and me are cool.

CALEB

Just like that?

LATRELL

Just like that.

CALEB

I didn't even get your money, even with those pistols, you'll barely break even.

LATRELL

(Laughs) I'm pretty sure you did what I sent you there to do. Those fuckers owed me money, and they tried to steal a bag off my cousin. It was never about money, I just needed em dealt with.

CALEB

You knew they would rob me?

LATRELL

(Chuckles) I had a pretty good idea.

CALEB

That's why you put the gun under the seat! You used me!

LATRELL

See you around, kid. If you need another fix, let me know.

Caleb tries to hold back his anger, Latrell and his men head inside.

CUT TO BLACK:

TITLE CARD, WHITE LETTERS: "REDEMPTION"

EXT. SAINT MARTIN'S REHABILITATION FACILITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: "THIRTY DAYS LATER"

An old building used as a state rehabilitation center. Caleb walks out the front doors, looking happy and healthy. The scabs are gone, his complexion has returned to normal, and for once he is wearing clean clothes. It is as if the past had completely dissolved.

A Taxi waits on the street, caleb walks down and gets in. We watch as it drives off and disappears into the distance.

CALEB (V.O)

I was thirty days clean, and finally in control of my life again, and it felt good. I mean, sure, the past still haunted me, but I really wanted to try and forget. I wanted to try and be a good person. Someone who contributes to society. I wanted to get a job, and find a girl, start a family. I wanted to live again.

CUT TO BLACK:

(IN BLACK)

The sound of a phone ringing..

JEREMY

Hello?

CALEB

Hey, it's me.

JEREMY

Caleb? Where have you been, I haven't heard from you, I was worried something had happened.

CALEB

I'm fine, dad. I was hoping I could come by the house. So that we could talk.

JEREMY

What is it? Do you need money, again?

CALEB

No, dad, I just need to talk to you.

JEREMY

Um... okay. Meet me at Greg's diner in half an hour.

CALEB

Can't I just -

JEREMY

Just meet me at Greg's. We can talk there.

Click. Call ended.

CUT TO:

INT. GREG'S DINER - DAY

A small mom and pop diner, with a 50's theme. Jeremy sits at one of the booths drinking a cup of coffee and looking at a newspaper. The bell on the door rings causing Jeremy to look up, caleb enters and joins his father at the booth. Jeremy is caught off guard by how much better caleb looks.

CALEB

Hey, dad.

JEREMY

Wow, you look good.

CALEB

Yeah, I know. I'm thirty days clean. Just got out of rehab this morning.

JEREMY

Why didn't you tell me? After that phone call I've been pretty worried about you, you sounded pretty freaked out.

CALEB

Yeah, I was, but everything's ok now.

JEREMY

You sure about that?

CALEB

(Redirecting) why did we have to meet here? I could have just came to the house.

JEREMY

What's wrong with this place? They got the best coffe in town.

CALEB

Yeah.

JEREMY

What did you wanna talk about?

CALEB

Well, I'm clean now, and I really wanna stay that way. I was hoping I could crash with you for a couple weeks until I can find a job and get a place of my own.

JEREMY

...

CALEB

Dad?

JEREMY

I'm sorry, caleb, but I can't have you at the house.

CALEB

(Angry) why the fuck not? I went to rehab, I did the work. This is all you ever talked about, and now that I finally did it you're just gonna blow me off?

JEREMY

(Sighs) did you hear about those guys down in Indiana?

CALEB

No.

JEREMY

Three guys in some trap house. Someone murdered them, cops think it's probably drug related.

CALEB

That's terrible.

JEREMY

Yeah, it was. Happened the same night you called me from up that way.

CALEB

Really?

JEREMY

Yeah, weird huh?

Caleb stares into his fathers eyes. He knows that he knows. Jeremy finished his coffee and stand us from the booth.

JEREMY

I'm happy to see you clean, son. I truly am, but just because you did the right thing doesn't mean that all the wrong things you have done just go away. Some people are beyond redemption, son. Maybe it's time you ask yourself if you are one of them.

Jeremy exits the diner as caleb buries his head in his hands.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. POLICE STATION, INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

A simple interrogation room. Metal table, not much else. Caleb sits across from DETECTIVE DANIELS, 47, smoking a cigarette, and telling the remainder of his story.

CALEB

that's all I know.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

what about the girl you helped bury, do you know her name?

CALEB

No, she was pretty new there. Some sorority girl who flunked out of college.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

And what about Latrell? Do you know anything else about him? Anything else he has done that could help us get a better conviction?



CALEB

Sorry, I don't.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

With what you gave us I think we can put him away for at least twenty years. It's gonna be up to a jury, though. You are aware that you will have to testify?

CALEB

I have no problem with that.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

And you're going to do time, there's no way around that.

CALEB

I know.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

I'll let the judge know you helped us out, turned yourself in. Should make things go a little easier for you.

CALEB

Thank you.

A brief moment of silence. Detective daniels studies caleb.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

Can I ask you something? Off the record.

CALEB

Yeah.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

Why'd you do it? It's been a month, nobody ever suspected you, there were no witnesses. You could have lived the rest of your life and just pretended it never happened.

CALEB

I don't wanna be a wolf in sheeps clothing, I want to be part of the herd.

Detective daniels takes in what he said. Another moment of silence follows.

CALEB

Can I ask you something?

DETECTIVE DANIELS

Sure.

CALEB

What ever happened to those women? The ones passed out on the couch.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

There was only one girl when the police arrived, my theory is that she ran off after the commotion. The other one had overdosed a few hours before they arrived. She was probably already dead when you were there.

CALEB

Oh.

The detective stands, and turns to exit the room. Before leaving, he looks at caleb one last time.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

You did the right thing, kid. No matter how hard things get,

TRANSITION TO:

INT. BROWN RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jereny sits in a leather recliner, watching television and enjoying a beer.

PAN TO TELEVISION

A news broadcast. The reporter is standing in front of the barn at mama sue's, as an excavation crew digs inside. They

carry out body after body, covered with sheets.

REPORTER

Thanks to information given to the police by an anonymous source, Several missing person cases are being brought to a close. After todays raid, police have made several drug related arrests and claim that this information will lead to more arrests in the near future. Tune in for the five o'clock news for more information.

The camera pans back to Jeremy as he smiles at the television. Caleb's step mother, DIANE, enters the living room carrying an unopened beer, she hands it to Jeremy.

DIANE

What did I miss, more bad news?

JEREMY

Not this time.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. EASTERN KENTUCKY CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX, VISITING AREA - DAY

Caleb walks into the visitors area dressed in an orange jumpsuit, his father is seated at one of the tables waiting for him. He sits down.

CALEB

I didn't expect to see you.

JEREMY

I know..(BEAT).. you doing okay?  
They treating you alright in there?

CALEB

It's not all bad.

JEREMY

I know what you did.

CALEB

I know you do. Listen, Indiana -

JEREMY

I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about all the bodies you helped recover. All those bad men that are going away because you stepped up and did what was right. I know it's hard to see from where you are, but son, you really made a difference. I hope that you know that.

CALEB

You know I'm never going to see the outside of this place again, right?

JEREMY

I know, but I will be here. Every week. For as long as I am alive. I'm truly proud of you son.

A tear flows down Caleb's cheek, these are words he has been waiting to hear for his entire life.

CALEB

I love you, dad.

JEREMY

I love you too, son.

A silence, but not an uncomfortable one.

CALEB

You got here a little late, visiting time is almost over.

JEREMY

I know, I promise I'll be one time for the next one. In the meantime I put some money on your books so you can get whatever you need to get by.

CALEB  
(Smiles) thank you.

A loud buzz.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER  
Alright, visiting time is over!

Caleb stands, and shares one final loving glance with his father, before walking towards the door to head back to his cell. As he exits out of sight, Jeremy stares at the door, as if expecting his return.

SMASH CUT:

INT. EASTERN KENTUCKY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, HALLWAY - DAY

Caleb walks back to his cell, along with the other prisoners who were previously in the visiting area. He looks happy, content.

Heavy footsteps can be heard behind him -

PRISONER  
Hey rat!

Caleb turns to see who it is, as he does the prisoner is already too close.

PRISONER  
Latrell says hello.

He uses a homemade shank to repeatedly stab Caleb. Close by guards intervene and pull him off, but it is too late. The camera pans down and focus in on Caleb's body. His eyes are wide open in shock, as his blood drains from his body and forms a pool. He is dead.

THE END: