THE SHAM
"Perfidy"
(PILOT)

written by
Kavuma Mathew G.Q

Copyright (c) 2017
mattquine@gmail.com
INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - DAY

A couple lays sound asleep in their bed.

Suddenly the ALARM goes off.

JAMES KELKER, (35), average build, in good shape, clean shave, awakes.

Besides him, GENE KELKER, (34), slender, toned body, night gown, is sound asleep.

He turns it off.

JAMES
Honey, rise and shine.

She lays quiet in her slumber.

JAMES
Honey the kids... School.

GENE
(waken)
It's your week to take them, I took them last week.

JAMES
Oh, right I forgot, gosh, I hate mondays.

GENE
That's what co-parenting is all about.

JAMES
Fine
(shouts)
Kids are you up yet?

KENDALL (O.S)
Yes daddy!

GENE
Great, there goes my beauty sleep, what time is it?

James verifies the time on his phone.

JAMES
It's coming to 9.

GENE
I don't want to get up yet.

James leans over and kisses her.
JAMES
Well you have to, the store remember?

. She locks him in her grip and pecks him fondly.

JAMES
Now am your captive? Huh?

James tickles her unexpectedly. She giggles.

GENE
That hurt.

JAMES
The price of hearing your beautiful laughter.

KENDALL (O.S)
Daddy, we are almost ready.

JAMES
(shouts)
Coming!

He gives Gene the guilty look. She smiles.

James heads to the bathroom. Gene reaches for her phone.

GENE
Shit!

JAMES (O.S)
What's wrong?

GENE
I somehow forgot to charge my phone.

JAMES (O.S)
Well do it now.

GENE
It's charging.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

RALF KELKER, (10), sits by the counter top eating toast.

KENDALL KELKER, (8), stands on a stool, operates the toast maker.

James walks in, dressed in jeans, dress shirt and suit.

He leans over and pecks Ralf on the forehead.

RALF
Gross dad!
JAMES
You didn't say that when I bought you that xbox. What are we eating?

He grabs a bite.

RALF
Toast.

JAMES
Mmm, I see Chef Kendall is back on kitchen duty.

KENDALL
(looking busy)
You and mom were sleeping. I thought I'd make something.

James pecks her on the head.

JAMES
I know pumpkin, mommy had a busy day yesterday with the opening. But what did we say about cooking?

KENDALL
(grumpy)
No touching the electronics.

JAMES
Good girl, wait when you get older.

KENDALL
But how am I going to be a chef if I can't use the things that make the food.

JAMES
(laughing)
Give it time, dear, any toast for me?

KENDALL
(smiles)
Sure, and mom too...

She places four pieces of bread on a plate and hands it to him.

JAMES
(shocked)
Kendall, did you toast a whole loaf?

Kendall nods.

JAMES
Well, then you have to finish it.
RALF
I'll finish it.

JAMES
How about we pack it for lunch, ok?

KENDALL
Ok.

Gene makes her way in kitchen.

GENE
What is going on here?

JAMES
Your daughter made us toast.

GENE
Kendall, what did we say about using appliances.

KENDALL
Yeah, yeah, am sorry.

GENE
Last warning. You guys are going to be late for school.

JAMES
Yes, yes off we go.

James leads the kids out of the house.
He kisses Gene.

INT. CAR - DAY
The car pulls up to the school parking.

JAMES
Right on time.

RALF
See you later dad.

JAMES
Be good at school today champ.

RALF
I will.

Ralf exists the car with his bag.

JAMES
You too pumpkin.

KENDALL
Yes, daddy.
Kendall exists the car.
James starts the car to leave.
Ralf rushes back.

JAMES
Did you forget something.

RALF
Yes, the permission slip for the zoo trip, did you sign it?

JAMES
Oh, where did I put it?

He darts around and reaches for the glove compartment.

JAMES
There it is.

He unfolds and signs it. Then hands it to Ralf.

JAMES
There you go buddy.

RALF
Thanks dad.

Ralf jets off.
James spots him in the distance, then drives off.

END TEASER
ACT ONE

INT. KELKER OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

STACY, (22), petite, is by the reception desk.

JAMES
Morning. Any messages for me?

STACY
Morning, not at the moment.

JAMES
Great, I'll be in my office.

INT. KELKER OFFICE - DAY

James makes his way to the office. He lays his bag of the floor. Leans back in his chair for a while, then turns on his laptop.

He goes through his emails.

EXT. ZOO ENTRANCE - DAY

A school bus parks outside the entrance.

A lady, Ms.BROOKS, (39), walks out first with a clipboard.

MS.BROOKS
Alright children, out in a line, all together now.

As the children step out, she ticks their names off the list. Ralf is in the middle of the pack.

The children, about 25 of them look excited.

MS.BROOKS
Everything looks in order. Now remember, we all walk in a group, any questions for the guide, raise your hand, ok?

CHILDREN
Yes Ms. Brooks.

GUIDE MARTIN (O.S)
I guess that's my cue.

Ms. Brooks is slightly frightened. The children laugh.

MARTIN, (40), medium weight. Dressed like a camper, holds Ms. Brooks firmly.

GUIDE MARTIN (O.S)
Didn't mean to scare you there.
MS. BROOKS
Oh, it's no problem at all.

She signals him to address the children.

GUIDE MARTIN
My name's Martin and I'll be your guide today, are we ready to see some animals?

KID 1
Are they real animals?

MS. BROOKS
What did we say about about questions?

Guilty, the GIRL raises her hand. The children laugh.

GUIDE MARTIN
Oh, they real alright. Shall we go have a look.

CHILDREN
Yes!

GUIDE MARTIN
Alright follow me.

MS. BROOKS
In a group, no one leaves the group.

Ms. Brooks struggles to keep them together like a school of fish.

Ralf is in awe with the plants, trees and animals they pass by.

The guide is seen explaining to the children but we can't hear him, we are following Ralf.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY
This is Kendall's class she's in the middle row.

They appear to be in a math lesson.

TEACHER (O.S)
3 times 4?

CHILDREN 2
(in unison)
12

TEACHER (O.S)
3 times 5
CHILDREN 2
(in unison)

15

TEACHER (O.S)
3 times 6

Kendall looks outside the window. Her attention is
distracted for a while.

TEACHER (O.S)
Kendall? Kendall?

Kendall turns back to the teacher.

KENDALL
Sorry ma'am.

TEACHER (O.S)
3 times 6?

KENDALL
Oh, 18.

She smiles, knows her answer is spot on.

INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

Gene walks in dressed elegantly.

TEMMY, (24), slender, pretty, approaches her.

GENE
Morning Temmy, has the inventory
arrived yet?

TEMMY
Not yet. I gave them a call, they
said it would be here in a coulpe
of minutes.

GENE
Alright then.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING - DAY

Parents pick up their children. Others head for the school
bus.

Kendall is part of those walking to the school bus. She's
accompanied by other kids.

INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY

Gene arranges some clothes and directs the girls, when she
suddenly looks at her watch.
GENE
(to herself)
Got to call the baby sitter.
(over phone)
Hi, Nancy, the kids will be home
any minute now, are you... Oh you
are? Great... I left something in
fridge just warm it up... Sure..
Thanks.

As she ends the call, the phone dies.

GENE
Just great, anybody got a charger?

TEMMY
I've got one right here.

GENE
Thanks a bunch.

She hands Temmy the phone which is placed behind the
counter.

We see the battery sign, indicates phone is charging.

EXT. ZOO ENTRANCE - DAY
The kids walk back to the school bus.
There is a lot of murmuring.

We follow Ralf to the bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY
The kids take their seats.
Ralf approaches a KID by the window seat.

RALF
Could I sit next to the window?

The kid grunts.

KID 2
Fiiiinnnnneeee.

He scoots over and Ralf takes his seat.

RALF
Thanks.

KID 2
Whatever.

Ralf smiles, peers through the window.
MS. BROOKS
(ticking names)
Alright, looks like everyone is here, let's take these kids home.

The bus sets off.

INT. SCHOOL BUS 2 - DAY

Kendall sits at the window. She pulls out a food magazine and peruses through the pages.

She's made earlier notes with her marker, mostly recipes.

A victorious smile spreads across her face.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS (DRIVING)

A MAN, (45), scruffy beard, jeans, off-white vest, lumberjack shirt, appears intoxicated.

We confirm this by the beer can he picks up and gulps to the last drop.

His eyes slowly shut as he sleeps on the wheel. He swerves left and right, gains back control.

Turns on the manual radio, skips through channels.

Country love song plays, this must be his song.

He bobs his head to the music.

EXT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY (DRIVING)

The bus moves at a steady speed.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS (DRIVING)

MAN
Where's that beer of mine.

With one hand on the wheel, he looks down to search for an extra can.

At this point, his eyes are off the road and his hands slowly steer the car to the left side.

MAN
Where are you, darling? Papa needs a sip.

HORN Hoots.

He looks up, recognises it's a school bus coming up ahead.

MAN
Shit! Shit! Shit!
Without hesitation, he swerves to the right slightly misses the bus, landing in the corn field in the opposite direction. He crashes into a land post.

EXT. PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

He kicks the right door open, let's himself out. He's bleeding from his nose, shirt is stained.

Smoke from the totalled vehicle floats across his face.

He sits by the tyre. Pulls out his cigarette pack, lights one.

MAN (while smoking)
Not today God, not today.

He exhales one satisfactory puff, looks up in the clouds.

In the distance, voices of children can be heard screaming.

MAN (to himself)
Are those kids?

The screams get louder. It dawns on him now.

MAN
Those are kids, shit! The school bus!

He jumps up but is reminded by his fractured leg. He limps in a slight drunken stupor.

He looks over his car on the other side of the road, the school bus he missed flipped over and some kids are struggling to get the others out.

MAN
Shit! What did you do now BOBBY?!

He limp-runs over to the bus.

A car passing by pumps the brakes. An old LADY, (50), dashes out and heads to the scene. She meets Bobby on his way.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY

The school bus has flipped to one end. Kids help each other to get out.

Ms. Brooks is disoriented.

OLD LADY
Ma'am, are you ok?
MS.BROOKS
I think so, what happened? The kids?

OLD LADY
You were in an accident, we are trying to get the children out.

MS.BROOKS
Children? Oh my God the children!

OLD LADY
Relax ma'am.

Bobby helps the kids hop out the bus. The driver appears to be unconscious.

Bobby turns to the old lady.

BOBBY
Call 911.

The old lady nods, as she pulls out her phone.

INT. KELKER OFFICE - DAY

James receives a call.

Caller ID: FABE

He shakes his head, smiles as he picks it up.

JAMES
(over phone)
Hey buddy, what's the problem now?

Stacy bursts in holding her phone. She signals James that it's urgent.

JAMES
(over phone)
Ok, you'll tell me about all this later, I have something to attend to.. bye
(to stacy)
What's the matter?

STACY
It's the hospital. There's been an accident!

JAMES
Gene?

Stacy shakes her head.

JAMES
The kids? Is it the kids?!
STACY
Yes.

James grabs his car keys, dashes out the office. Stacy follows.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY
James paces though the lobby to the reception. Stacy is behind trying to keep up.

JAMES
(panting)
Hi, there was an accident, my children were in that bus.

NURSE
What are your names?

JAMES
James, James Kelker, my daughter Kendall Kelker and my boy Ralf Kelker.

The nurse looks through her records on the computer.

JAMES
Are they here?

NURSE
A moment sir.

JAMES
(slams the desk)
I don't have a moment.  
(turns to Stacy)
Have you called Gene?

STACY
I've been trying, her phone isn't going through.

INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY
Gene is talking to customers.
The phone behind the counter is still charging.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

STACY
(on phone)
Still no answer.

James bows his head down in defeat.

KENDALL (O.S)
Daddy.
James turns to the source of the voice.  
We can see the relief on his face. Kendall runs over to him.  
Right behind her is Nancy.  

JAMES  
(crying)  
Oh! Kendall, I thought you were on that bus.  

KENDALL  
No I wasn't, I was brought home and then Nancy told me we had to come to the hospital.  

JAMES  
Ralf.  

Nancy waves to James and Stacy. James nods, Stacy approaches her.  

STACY  
Hi, have you tried calling Mrs. Gene?  

NANCY  
Her number isn't going through, I could try again.  

James sits on the floor. Kendall holds his hand.  

KENDALL  
Is Ralf going to be ok?  

JAMES  
Ofcourse he will honey.  

DR. SAM, (55), makes his way to the hospital.  

DR. SAM  
James Kelker?  

Hearing his name he quickly gets up.  

JAMES  
That's me.  

DR. SAM  
Am Dr. Sam, are you Ralf's father?  

JAMES  
Yes, yes, I am , is he.. Ok?  

DR. SAM  
He's unconscious but we are trying to stablize his condition, he lost a lot of blood and the nearest (MORE)
DR. SAM (cont'd)
blood bank is 15 minutes away, we
were hoping....

JAMES
You can have mine, that counts
right?

DR. SAM
Yes, that's what I was getting too.

JAMES
Let's get started right away.

DR. SAM
Follow me.

KENDALL
Can I come too daddy?

JAMES
Can she?

DR. SAM
Of course.

Dr. Sam leads them to a room.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 1A - CONTINUOUS

DR. SAM
You can sit on the bed.

Kendall stands watching in amazement.

DR. SAM
We'll first have to make sure
you're the same blood group.

JAMES
(sniffles)
Of course.

He rolls up his sleeves.

An injection is inserted and blood is drawn out.

Kendall is disgusted but she can't look away.

DR. SAM
I'll be right back.

Dr. Sam exits.

KENDALL
Did it hurt?
JAMES
(chuckles)
No.

KENDALL
(unconvinced)
Ok.

INT. BOUTIQUE - DAY
Gene sees off a client. She looks to the counter and remembers her phone.
Plugs it from the cord and turns it on. She's bombarded by messages and missed calls.
She returns the call to stacy.

GENE
(over phone)
Yes, Stacy, sorry my phone was charging, what's.... Ralf?
Accident? Oh my God! Where's James?
Alright.. Am on my way.

She throws her phone in her purse.

GENE
Temmy, I have to rush to the hospital, Ralf has been involved in an accident.

TEMMY
Is he ok?

GENE
I don't know, mind the shop while am away.

TEMMY
Sure.

She dashes out. Gets in her car and drives off.
Temmy looks on with worry.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 1A - NIGHT
Dr. Sam returns. He has a grim look.

DR. SAM
James, could I have a word with you outside.

JAMES
Ok
(to Kendall)
Stay here honey.
Kendall nods.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

DR. SAM
I don't know how to tell you this so I'll just...

JAMES
What is it? Is it Ralf?

DR. SAM
The blood types didn't match.

JAMES
(baffled)
What does that mean?

DR. SAM
It means a number of things, one of which is you can't give blood to Ralf.

James almost collapses. Dr. Sam grabs him. He finds his balance, snaps out of his stupor.

JAMES
(bemused)
James might not be my son?

Dr. Sam explains the situation to him but we hear nothing. James is lost in thought.

CUT TO BLACK.
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

DR. SAM
..... What we need right now is to find another candidate to for Ralf.

JAMES
Yes... Blood...

KENDALL (O.S)
I can give him mine.

JAMES
(to the doctor)
Can she?

DR. SAM
Yes, I believe so, lets see.

James nods.

JAMES
(to kendall)
You'll be fine honey.

KENDALL
I know, you said it doesn't hurt.

Dr. Sam leads her to the room.

JAMES
I.. Umm. Need some air, I'll be back.

DR. SAM
Ok.

James walks through the lobby disoriented. Everything is in slow motion.

MS.BROOKS (O.S)
Mr. Kelker? Mr. Kelker?

JAMES
Yes, Ms. Brooks, are you ok?

MS.BROOKS
Just a concussion, how's Ralf's condition, is he ok?

JAMES
I don't know yet, they told me he needs blood, what happened?
MS. BROOKS
This man drove on the wrong side of the road almost colliding with us, we missed him but flipped, the driver is in a coma as we speak but he did his best to save those children.

JAMES
I hope he gets well, his family need him.

MS. BROOKS
Me too. In fact there's the man right now.

She points to Bobby sitting in the lobby.

JAMES
(angry)
That's him?

MS. BROOKS
(concerned)
Yes..

James walks towards him.

Bobby is getting his trousers cut so that treatment is applied to the fractured leg.

JAMES (O.S)
You're the guy that caused this mess!

Bobby peers up. He's lifted from the frame by a pair of hands.

Thrust on the wall, repeatedly.

JAMES
You almost killed those kids!

BOBBY
Hey, look here now!

JAMES
Shut up! Why should you be walking while my son is fighting for his life!

BOBBY
Hey buddy, it was an accident! I can barely walk right.

James slams him against the wall.

He's surrounded by STAFF. Clinches his fist, angles it at his face.
GENE (O.S)
James don't!

He turns to her. He despises her. He looks back at Bobby, who's flinching.

He loosens his grip letting him go.

James walks away. Gene pats him on the shoulder.

He's not interested but turns to face her.

JAMES
Where were you? Everyone tried to call you.

GENE
Am sorry, my phone was charging.

James avoids eye contact.

GENE
Ralf?

JAMES
The doctor will let us know, they are....

KENDALL (O.S)
Mommy!

GENE
Kendall, honey. I got here as fast as I could.

Dr. Sam approaches them.

JAMES
What's the latest doctor?

DR. SAM
Am assuming you're Ms. Kelker.

GENE
Yes, I am, is Ralf going to be alright?

DR. SAM
We are giving him the....

JAMES
(interrupts)
Is he going to be fine?

DR. SAM
Yes, yes he will.

JAMES
When can we see him?
Definitely not today, he needs plenty of rest, but tomorrow is fine.

Good, we'll be here first thing in the morning.

Alright.

Dr. Sam walks off.

Aw, thank God.

Guess we should go home now. Kendall has school tomorrow.

They walk to the exist.

You guys head home, I'll be right behind. Take Kendall with you.

Gene can sense some tension as she opens the door for Kendall.

Ok.

She gets in the car and drives off.

James is about to the open the car door when he hears Bobby arguing nearby.

He is being dragged to a police vehicle by an OFFICER.

Come on now? I didn't do nothin'

You almost got school children killed plus there's a man in a coma cause of you. Now get in.

The Officer forces Bobby into the back and shuts the door behind him.

James walks up to the car. He just stares at Bobby as the officer gets in.
OFFICER 1
Don't you worry Mr. Kelker, I'll make sure idiot over here faces the law.

James nods. The officer nods back and drives off.

James walks back to his car. He then glances over his shoulder, at the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SAM OFFICE - NIGHT

Dr. Sam is going through some files. He takes a drag on his cigarette.

There is a knock at the door. He quickly puts it out, squishing it in the ash tray.

DR. SAM  
Come in.

Its James.

JAMES  
Could I have a word?

DR. SAM  
Huh, Mr. Kelker, sure sure please do come in.

James makes his way to the chair.

Silence.

JAMES  
I thought those were meant to be bad for you.

DR. SAM  
Pardon?

James points to the ash tray.

DR. SAM  
Oh, that, old habit I guess, but they are still bad for you.

Dr. Sam laughs but James doesn't join him.

Silence.

DR. SAM  
Am assuming you're here to talk about Ralf.

JAMES  
Yes, what you said some hours back, I just needed some clarification.
DR. SAM
Of course, well, we used a simple blood typing system called ABO typing. This helps identify the presence or absence of two genes, A and B. However in the question of paternity, this system is only used to exclude a man from being a father's child.

JAMES
What does that mean doctor?

DR. SAM
In simple terms, if you really want to want find out if Ralf and am assuming Kendall are yours, a paternity test would be the best way to know for sure.

JAMES
I see.

DR. SAM
Would you want to go ahead with it?

JAMES
You tell me Doctor, my wife just went from being my best friend to....

He can't make the words.

DR. SAM
It breaks a man, a situation like this.

Silence.

JAMES
What do I need to do this test.

DR. SAM
I'll get you a testing kit, how many people will you be testing.

JAMES
(sobbing)
Just me and my children.

Dr. Sam attempts to comfort him with a pat on back.

James breaks down.

DR. SAM
I'll be right back.

Dr. Sam leaves the office, James is left crying.
The phone rings. He tries to hold back his tears as he looks at it.

GENE CALLING. HER BEAUTIFUL PICTURE ON THE DISPLAY.

James cancels the call.

He navigates to text messages;

COMING HOME.

SENT. MESSAGE DELIVERED.

Dr. Sam returns.

DR. SAM
Ok, I have 3 kits for you. You fill in the person's name, gender and role, you know whether it's the father, son, daughter...

JAMES
I get it.

DR. SAM
Each kit has 3 cotton swabs, follow the instructions very carefully.

James nods. He is handed the kits.

JAMES
What happens after, all this? When do I get the.. Huh... Results?

DR. SAM
The very next day from when the samples are received.

JAMES
Right.

James turns to leave. He remembers something.

JAMES
One more thing, can we keep this between us?

DR. SAM
Of course, doctor-patient confidentiality. You can make the payment at the reception.

JAMES
Payment?

DR. SAM
For the kits.
JAMES
Oh, yes sure.

James exists.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - NIGHT

James enters the room.

Gene wakes up.

GENE
Hey, I didn't hear you coming in.

JAMES
(whispering)
It's ok, go back to sleep, am going
to check on Kendall, see if she's	
tucked in.

GENE
Ok.

She drifts back to sleep.

James stands towering over her. He stares as so many	
thoughts go through his mind.

He turns to leave.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - KENDALL BEDROOM - NIGHT

The light is on. James peeps in. Kendall is asleep. He	
stretches to turn the lamp off.

KENDALL
Dad is that you?

JAMES
I thought you were sleeping.

KENDALL
I can smell you.

Kendall sits up in her bed.

James sits by the side next to the lamp.

JAMES
Am proud of you today pumpkin.

KENDALL
I know, Ralf would have done the	
same for me. Plus he is going to be	
ok, so all is well.

JAMES
Yes, all is well.
He can't bare to keep a positive face. He turns away.

KENDALL
Dad, are you ok?

JAMES
Yes, sweaty am fine, don't worry about me. Hey listen, about giving Ralf blood today, can we not tell mommy?

KENDALL
You mean you want me to keep a secret?

JAMES
Yes.

KENDALL
But you said we shouldn't keep secrets in this family.

JAMES
I know but mom's stressed, we don't want her worrying too much, now do we do we?

KENDALL
No we don't.

JAMES
So deal?

KENDALL
Can I make Ralf cookies?

JAMES
That's considered a bribe, you know?

KENDALL
Is it?

JAMES
Fine, you can make Ralf cookies. Deal.

KENDALL
Let's shake on it.

James realises the testing kits in his hand.

JAMES
Um, one more thing pumpkin.

He rips open one envelope. Hands the cotton swabs to Kendall.
JAMES
I.. Huh... Need some of your saliva to take to the doc.. Dentist.

Kendall is confused holding the swabs.

His face is filled with guilt.

JAMES
Should I help you?

Kendall nods.

He takes out a cotton swab and scrapes inside her mouth, he does this 3 times.

KENDALL
Why does the dentist need my saliva?

JAMES
To see which bacterias are in your mouth. So that he can give you the right medicine.

KENDALL
Eeeewwwww.

JAMES
Love you.

KENDALL
Love you too dad.

JAMES
Get some rest.

He kisses her on the head. Turns off the light and heads for the door.

KENDALL
Dad?

JAMES
Yes?

KENDALL
Can I not go to school tomorrow, I want to spend time with Ralf.

JAMES
Sure honey, am sure the school will understand, one day won't hurt.

KENDALL
Thanks.
INT. KELKER HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

James looks in the mirror. He can't comprehend his state of mind.

He snaps back. Pulls a pen from his pocket.

Scribbles on the envelope;

KENDALL KELKER
11 YRS
DAUGHTER

He tries to hold back his tears.

He opens another envelope.

Gets the cotton swabs and scapes inside his mouth with all 3.

Puts them in the container.

Scribbles on the envelope;

JAMES KELKER
35 YRS
FATHER

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - NIGHT

James tiptoes into the bedroom. Reaches for the bag and places the kits inside. Zips it.

Takes his jeans off and shirt and enters bed.

He tosses and turn. Finds a comfortable position looking at the ceiling.

Gene turns, still asleep, places her left arm on his chest.

He studies her thoughtfully.

James looks away. He spots Gene's phone.

He gently reaches for it. Taps it. LOCK CODE.

BATTERY INDICATES IT'S LOW.

He glances at it for a while then puts it on charge.

He closes his eyes and drifts off.

CUT TO BLACK.
ACT THREE

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - DAY

Murmurs and giggles are heard outside the room.

Gene is woken up by it.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gene makes her way to the kitchen, in her night gown. She leans against the wall staring at James and Kendall.

GENE
You guys making breakfast?

JAMES
Kendall wanted to make Ralf something.

KENDALL
Morning mom.

GENE
Aren't you going to be late for school young lady?

James signals her that she isn't going.

GENE
Or.. Not.

James walks up to her, as Kendall breaks the eggs.

JAMES
She asked me if she could skip school today and spend time with Ralf.

GENE
I understand.

She studies his face, then pecks him.

She walks to the fridge to grab some orange juice.

GENE
Let me get dressed, then we'll leave.

JAMES
OK.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 4A - DAY

James, Gene and Kendall walk into the room.
Ralf lays by the bed. He's weak but awake.

Gene hugs him. James looks on, gritting his teeth.

**GENE**

How are you feeling honey?

**RALF**

I feel tired.

**JAMES**

Hey buddy.

**RALF**

Hey dad. Hey Kendall.

**KENDALL**

Hey, I brought you something.

She hands him the wrapping.

**KENDALL**

They are cookies, dad helped me make them.

**RALF**

Thanks.

James takes them away from him, places them on the table nearby.

**JAMES**

You can eat them later.

**RALF**

They told me I was in an accident.

**GENE**

That's true.

**RALF**

Was anyone else hurt?

**GENE**

I think, Tom and Janet but I spoke to their moms, they will be fine.

**RALF**

That's good. When can I come back home?

**JAMES**

When you feel better buddy.

**RALF**

What about school?
JAMES
Don't worry about that, ok? You just focus on getting better, school will always be there.

Ralf nods to him.

A NURSE walks in.

NURSE
It's time for little Ralf here to get his medication and some rest.

JAMES
See you later buddy.

They exist.

INT. KELKER OFFICE - DAY
James is going through some designs on his computer.
He gives quick glances at his bag.
He zips it open, revealing the envelopes.
Places them on the table. Tosses around in his chair, hands on his head.
Taps on desk with his pen. Rubs his face in frustration, throws the envelopes in his bag and gets up to leave.

INT. KELKER OFFICE LOBBY - DAY
Stacy is by the desk, working on her computer.

JAMES
Anyone calls, tell them I've gone out for a bit.

He storms out before Stacy can utter a word.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING - DAY
James pulls up to the hospital parking.

INT. CAR - DAY
He sits there for a while. Deep in thought. He bows his head.

PHONE RINGS.

FABE CALLING.

He answers it.
James (over phone)
Hi.

Fabe (V.O)
Hey buddy, heard about the accident. Hope Ralf is fine.

James (over phone)
He'll get better, he's just recovering.

Fabe (V.O)
That's good. You want to meet for lunch, talk it over.

James (over phone)
Thanks but... You know what actually, yeah, meet you at the tavern, in 30 minutes.

Fabe (V.O)
Last one there is buying.

James hangs up, shaking his head.
He leaves the car with the envelopes.

Int. Hospital - Room 4A - Day
James slowly opens the door.
Ralf is asleep. He walks slowly towards him.
He glances at him for a while. He then slowly takes out the last testing kit.

Int. Hospital - Dr. Sam Office - Day
There is a knock at the door.
Dr. Sam is interrupted reading his papers.

Dr. Sam
Come in.

James reveals himself.

Dr. Sam
Mr. Kelker, how are we today?

James
Could be better.

Dr. Sam
Am assuming you brought the samples.
JAMES
Yes.
He hands them to him.

DR. SAM
Let me take these to the lab immediately. I'll give you a call tomorrow.

James nods then leaves.

INT. TAVERN BAR - DAY

FABE, (36), tall, medium weight, is sat in the corner working on his laptop.

James walks in, he searches the room until he spots Fabe.

He walks towards him.

FABE
How you doing old friend?

JAMES
Am not complaining, is this your new office?

FABE
You know in my line of work, I can't afford those rental fees.

JAMES
Then work for a company that can.

FABE
Nope, am doing my own thing now.

JAMES
I see. What did you order?

FABE
Double cheese burger and a beer.

James signals the WAITRESS.

JAMES
Guess I'll have the same.

WAITRESS
Hi.

JAMES
Hi, Could I get the double cheese burger, with fries...

The waitress notes it down. She turns to leave.
JAMES
Oh and a beer...

She nods.

FABE
So you seen Ralf?

JAMES
Yeah, actually just came from the hospital.

FABE
How's Gene and the other little one.

JAMES
They are fine, now that we know Ralf will be ok. It was surreal.

James rubs his hands.

JAMES
Still is.

FABE
These things happen.

JAMES
Tell me something, what would you do if you found out your wife kept a secret from you?

FABE
Well, I'd confront her so that we can find a way to move forward, obviously it wouldn't be easy, thank God am not married.

James looks pensive, slowly nods his head.

FABE
Is it Gene?

JAMES
Huh?....

FABE
Did you find out something.

JAMES
Am not yet sure, but I don't know what am going to do if my suspicions are proved right.

FABE
Sounds serious. Did she cheat?
JAMES
Technically yes.

FABE
Oh buddy...

James clears his throat.

JAMES
Ralf... Might not be my son.

Fabe freezes, his eyes study James' face.

James bows his head in shame.

FABE
How did you find out?

JAMES
Trying to give blood to my son, can you believe that?

FABE
Wow.

JAMES
We didn't match. The doctor advised me to do a paternity test.

FABE
Does she know?

JAMES
I haven't told her. Took samples from the kids. Waiting on the results.

FABE
Maybe something happened at the hospital, maybe they switched the baby at birth?

JAMES
Am in a state of disarray, my thought process is tangled.

FABE
What are you going to do if it turns out he isn't yours.

JAMES
I don't know, I'd want an explanation but I also fear she might lie straight to my face.

He thoughtfully looks at James.
JAMES
I'll leave her. If she knew about this, I'll leave her, but I need to find out the truth before I can confront her.

FABE
It certainly gives you the advantage.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY
Gene and Kendall are sharing a plate of fries.
Kendall is invested.

GENE
Should I get you another plate?

KENDALL
No, this is fine.

Gene smiles.

KENDALL
Dad said he's taking me to the dentist.

GENE
He did?

KENDALL
Yes, but he said the doctor has to first check what germs are in my mouth.

Gene looks at her confused.

GENE
Huh, well you're long overdue.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - LIVING-ROOM - NIGHT
Gene is in the living room. The light from the television flickers over her face.
James enters the living room.
He leans over to kiss her.

GENE
Welcome back. How was work? Any new buildings your drawing?

JAMES
Just demos at the moment, is Kendall sleeping?
GENE
She's out like a light.

JAMES
That's sorted.

He turns to leave.

GENE
Why don't you join me for a glass of wine.

She holds up her glass.

James debates thoughtfully.

JAMES
Alright, just the one.

She observes him as he sits next to her. He pours himself a glass. Sips.

GENE
You've been distant lately.

JAMES
Have I?

GENE
Yes, you have.

JAMES
It's just the whole thing with Ralf.

GENE
I know. Just thought I'd tell you.

James shrugs his shoulders. Gene observes him.

GENE
Am thinking we should do a barbeque this weekend, nothing fancy just friends.

JAMES
That's a good idea, Ralf is coming back, it would fit like a welcome back party.

GENE
Except, it's not a party.

James sinks in the couch. Gene rests her head on his lap. He is taken aback. He gently strokes her hair in intervals.

CUT TO BLACK.
ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 4A - DAY

Gene and James sit besides Ralf's bed.

Dr. Sam makes an entrance.

DR. SAM
I see the young man is back on his feet.

RALF
I feel better now.

DR. SAM
(looking at his chart)
That's good.

JAMES
Can we take him home?

DR. SAM
I don't see any other reason why not. I'll leave you both to it.

Dr. Sam turns to leave.

James follows him. Gene looks on suspicious, she's distracted by Ralf.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

JAMES
Dr. Sam.

DR. SAM
Yes?

JAMES
The other thing we talked about, did the results come back?

DR. SAM
(looks at his watch)
I believe so. Follow me to my office.

They walk through lobby.

Gene comes out of the room and in a distance spots James entering Dr. Sam's office.
INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SAM OFFICE - DAY

DR. SAM
Have a seat.

Dr. Sam turns on his computer. He skims through his files.

DR. SAM
(to himself)
Kelker, James Kelker, huh, there we are.

He switches his gaze between the computer and James.

JAMES
What does it say?

DR. SAM
Ralf isn't your son.

James sinks in his chair. A tear runs down his right cheek. He nods his head in acceptance of his fate.

JAMES
Maybe he was switched at birth or something.

DR. SAM
That's highly unlikely.

JAMES
But it is possible.

DR. SAM
Yes, in some rare cases. The only way to find out would be to test your wife Mr. Kelker.

JAMES
Is there a non evasive way I can do it?

DR. SAM
Yes, sure, hair, but we need a hair sample from the root, so a combing brush that only she uses would suffice.

JAMES
I know just the one.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

James walks out the office. Gene is standing in the lobby. He wipes his tears as fast as he can.

GENE
Shall we go for lunch?
JAMES
I forgot something at the office.
Sorry, rain check?

GENE
That's fine.

Gene watches him leave.

EXT. KELKER HOUSE - DAY
James pulls up by the driveway. Dashes out the car and into the house.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - DAY
He stumbles in the bedroom. He sits by Gene's dressing table. Looks around.

There it is THE BRUSH.

He takes a picture of it. Then grabs it.

INT. MART - DAY
James walks by aisle in the hair section. He filters through the pictures he has taken of the brush compares them to the ones on display.

He finds a perfect match.

On his right, he spots Nancy. He turns away hoping she didn't spot him.

COUNTER.
James places the brush, chips, milk on the counter.

The TELLER gives him a suspicious look. He smiles back her.

NANCY
Mr. Kelker?

He's heard but hopes it's not her.

NANCY
Mr. Kelker, its Nancy.

JAMES
(acting surprised)
Oh, hey.

NANCY
Am good, how's Ralf?

She spots the brush being placed in the bag.
JAMES
He's good, coming back today.
You'll be able to see him.

NANCY
Cool. At the barbeque.

JAMES
What?

NANCY
Mrs. Kelker, she told me, about the barbeque.

JAMES
Yes. Good. See you there.

He pays for his items and leaves.

Nancy spots him through the window driving off in a panic.

INT. TAVERN BAR - DAY

James is sat in the corner drinking a beer.

Fabe walks in.

FABE
What's the occasion?

JAMES
Am inviting you for a barbeque this weekend.

FABE
I love me a barbeque, count me in.

JAMES
I want you to go through my wife's laptop.

FABE
Oh, James, that's not a good idea.

JAMES
You're a hacker.

FABE
Am a software engineer.

JAMES
Same thing. Remember you changed the results on those tests in campus?

FABE
Almost got expelled for it.
JAMES
I need you your help.

FABE
What do you intend on finding?

JAMES
Anything that mentions Ralf, his birth, who the father is. There has to be a reason she would keep it a secret all these years.

Silence.

Fabe appears to be going through all the options in his mind.

FABE
Just ask her.

JAMES
Will you help me or not? Look, I'll pay you for it.

FABE
Is it password protected?

JAMES
Knowing Gene, am guessing it is.

FABE
It's ok, I'll find a way. 500 upfront, the other 500 when I show you what I find.

JAMES
You're kidding right?

FABE
Am risking my career here, wife or no wife.

JAMES
Fine.

EXT. KELKER HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

There is a group of 15 people.

James works the grill. Kendall passes him the meat.

Gene steps out with Ralf. Everyone applauds him. He smiles back.

Two small BOYS run up to Ralf and whisk him away.

Gene smiles looking on.
Nancy approaches her, they are deep in conversation. She turns to look at James, who's had his gaze on her since she came out.

She smiles at him, he smiles back, turns back to his grill. His smile fades. Kendall is eating the tomatoes.

    GENE
    (to Nancy)
    It's actually pretty hot, excuse me for one moment, while I go get a hat.

    NANCY
    OK.

Gene walks back in the house.

Fabe makes his way to the backyard. He greats people as he walks towards James.

    FABE
    Quite the barbeque you got here.

    JAMES
    Almost thought you weren't going to come. Are you hungry?

    FABE
    Starving.

    JAMES
    Kendall, give Uncle Fabe here some ribs.

    KENDALL
    Here you go.

She hands him a whole plate.

    FABE
    Thanks doll.

    KENDALL
    Your welcome.

Ralf runs over to them.

    RALF
    Uncle Fabe.

    FABE
    Hey buddy, you looking good.

He yanks him with one hand. Ralf laughs as he is lifted in the air.
JAMES
Kendall, go play with Ralf and his friends.

KENDALL
But the meat.

JAMES
I'll keep guard, me and Uncle Fabe have something to talk about.

Kendall shrugs her shoulders as she leaves with Ralf.

JAMES
(to Fabe)
I see you didn't come with any equipment.

Fabe shows him a usb drive.

FABE
All I need is this baby here. Once I get in, transfer those files wirelessly.

JAMES
Ok, her laptop is in the kitchen.

Fabe turns to go.

JAMES
First finish your food.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - MASTER - BEDROOM - DAY

Gene searches for her hat in the wardrobe. She wears it and looks in the mirror. Something is off. It's the hair.

She places the hat on the dressing table and grabs the brush.

She combs her hair. Pauses. Analyses the brush. It's not hers.

She taps it against her hand. Deep in thought.

EXT. KELKER HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

FABE
(mouth full)
Let's do this.

James nods. Fabe walks off.

The phone rings, James receives the call.

JAMES
Dr. Sam.
DR. SAM (V.O)
Yes, Mr. Kelker, we compared the samples from the hair you gave us.

JAMES
And?

DR. SAM (V.O)
Gene is indeed Ralf's mother.

James bows his head in disappointment. He just can't win.

DR. SAM (V.O)
The only good news I suppose I can tell you is that both you and Gene are Kendall's parents.

JAMES
OK Doctor. I'll talk to you later.

He hangs up.

INT. KELKER HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Fabe looks around the kitchen, spots the laptop by the kitchen counter next to the power socket.

He turns it on and is welcomed with a password request.

FABE
Had to be.

He takes out the usb and places it into the laptop.

The password writes itself and he presses enter.

FABE
Candy from a baby.

He goes through files, emails, folders, some password protected, the whole desktop is flooded.

The TRANSFERRING FILES window POPs up.

COMPLETE.

He closes it.

GENE (O.S)
See anything you like?

FABE
(startled)
Oh! Gene! You scared me there.

Gene slowly walks towards him, holding her hat.
FABE
I... Um... Was checking my facebook.

GENE
You were never a good liar Fabe.

FABE
Look James just wanted me to...

GENE
I don't need to know. Hand it over.

Fabe takes a second before he reluctantly gives her the stick.

GENE
I love my husband and in time he will understand.

FABE
Whose Ralf's....

GENE
If I told you, I'd have to kill you. Now you're going to back out there, and tell him you found nothing.

Fabe avoids eyes contact.

GENE
Do you understand?

She forces a smile.

FABE
Of course.

He walks out. Gene glances at her laptop.

EXT. KELKER HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

James tosses and turns the burgers on the grill.

He spots Fabe leaving.

JAMES
Kendall? You're on guard duty.

Kendall runs to him, he hands her the tongs.

JAMES
Be careful ok?

KENDALL
I got this.

James races to Fabe.
JAMES (O.S)
Fabe!

He stops in his tracks.

JAMES
Did you find anything.

FABE
I sent them to my computer, I'll go through them and tell you what I find.

JAMES
OK then. You leaving early?

FABE
Something came, I'll see you later James.

Fabe leaves. James turns to the crowd of people enjoying themselves. Gene catches his eye, she waves. He hesitates for a while. Slowly waves back.

JAMES
(to himself)
Why wouldn't you tell me Gene?

Ralf jogs to him and grabs his finger. He lifts him up.

Studies his face not listening to what he says. His eyes get teary.

He walks back to the crowd.

THE END

FADE TO BLACK.