

FADE IN:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

A jury has just finished deliberation and a Hispanic defendant stands waiting.

JUDGE

Has the jury reached a verdict?

JURY FOREMAN

We have.

JUDGE

How say you?

JURY FOREMAN

On the first count of sexual battery, we find the defendant, Pedro Gonzalez GUILTY.

The courtroom bursts with mixed reaction. JESSE THOMPSON (30's), a handsome prosecutor with a smooth, confident "I'm in control" demeanor, calmly congratulates his fellow prosecutors. The others are visibly excited.

JUDGE

Settle down.

JURY FOREMAN

On the second count of...

Jesse slips out the courtroom and hurriedly walks out. His ASSISTANT catches up to him. They both keep walking.

JESSE

I'm late for my four o'clock.

ASSISTANT

How did it go?

JESSE

We got him. Hopefully they won't let him out this time.

She hands Jesse a folder.

ASSISTANT

You've been assigned to an appeals case.

JESSE

Which appeal?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ASSISTANT

Robby Carter. Drug trafficking, larceny.

JESSE

Who?

Jesse thumbs through the papers to Robby Carter's picture.

JESSE (CONT' D)

I don't remember this case.

ASSISTANT

It was before you made head DA. Since Daniels and Goldstein passed on, you were next in command on that case, so you get to handle it.

JESSE

(moans)

What's the appeal on?

ASSISTANT

Carter claims he didn't get a fair trial.

JESSE

That's bullshit. It'll get thrown out.

ASSISTANT

Judge Abrams already let it through.

JESSE

Abrams. Should have known. The guy's an ACLU freak.

ASSISTANT

Apparently Carter has been filing for years. They mixed up his paperwork when they transferred him to Austin Correctional. He finally got a hold of someone who listened.

JESSE

Mix-up or not. Robby Carter got a fair trial.

Jesse gets into his Mercedes.

ASSISTANT

Wait, you're also supposed to go over this opening argument -

JESSE

Thanks Chloe. Leave it on my desk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jesse zooms off.

INT. KITCHEN - LARGE HOUSE - EVENING

SAMANTHA THOMPSON (30's) prances around her kitchen making a meal. She is a beautiful and delicate woman with a clear face, wearing respectable clothes. The house is clean and simple - somewhat empty. The PHONE RINGS. INTERCUT Samantha and Jesse at his office.

SAMANTHA

Hello?

JESSE

Hi honey.

SAMANTHA

(elated)

Hi Jes. I was just about to call you. I'm running a little late, but dinner will be ready at 7.

JESSE

(beat)

About dinner - I got held back two hours at a meeting. I didn't even get to my office till just now.

SAMANTHA

No. Not again. You've stayed overtime every day this week.

JESSE

I know, I'm so sorry. Lemme make it up to you...

CUT TO:

EXT. KITCHEN WINDOW - UNSEEN MAN'S POV - CONTINUOUS

We see Samantha on the phone, unaware she is being watched.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

SAMANTHA

(sullen)

Sure. Yeah. I know. It's okay. I'll leave some in the fridge for you. Love you too.

INT. LAW OFFICE - LATER

Jesse is tired and frustrated, and looks at the clock. He turns to his assistant.

JESSE
I'll see you tomorrow.

ASSISTANT
Are you leaving now?

JESSE
Yeah. I should have left an hour ago.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Samantha is in her robe about to go in the shower. We switch to INTRUDER's POV to find out she is being watched from inside. She steps in and turns on the water. The PHONE RINGS but she can't hear it.

CUT TO:

I/E MERCEDES - CONTINUOUS

Jesse is on the freeway driving home, and hangs up his cell. He turns on his exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

All is silent, until Jesse's Mercedes pulls up and parks. He steps out with a bouquet of flowers. Jesse opens his front door to find a dark living room in pieces.

JESSE
Samantha?!

A WHIMPERING is heard from the bathroom. Jesse rushes to the door to see his wife beaten and tied. He starts to untie her.

JESSE (CONT' D)
Oh my God! Samantha, what happened?

SAMANTHA
(sobbing)
He's still here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jesse JUMPS UP and goes to the hallway. He hastily grabs the first weapon he can find - a vase - and steps through the hall looking left and right. A DARK FIGURE POPS OUT of nowhere and knocks Jesse down before he has a chance to react. THEY STRUGGLE. Jesse is over-powered and SLAMMED BACK into the bathroom with Samantha. Two SHOTS are fired.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Jesse is sitting up in his bed, with bandages. A YOUNG DETECTIVE is standing at the foot of the bed with notebook and pencil in hand.

YOUNG DETECTIVE

Sir, if you could describe any more of the details of what the man looked like, any distinguishing characteristics, any -

JESSE

No! I've already gone over the same story two times with the detectives today. I told them everything I saw.

YOUNG DETECTIVE

We're just trying to help sir.

JESSE

Well what would help is if you go out and find the son-of-a-bitch.

An OLDER DETECTIVE pops in.

OLDER DETECTIVE

They just picked up a guy for burglary who fits the description. He's at the station for questioning.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

MIGUEL VASQUEZ (late 20's) is sitting in cuffs at a table. He is a quick-tempered hoodlum with an attitude. His PUBLIC DEFENDANT stands by his side. Detective DOUG SCHAEFFER (30's) is interrogating while prosecutor JANE KLOSKY (30's), Jesse, and OLDER DETECTIVE watch from behind the one-way mirror.

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CONTINUED:

MIGUEL

I told you, I wasn't nowhere near that area. My shift got off at six and I was at the bar at eight, like I said.

DOUG

So what were you doing for 2 hours?

MIGUEL

I was at home, showering, getting ready to go out.

DOUG

And no-one around to confirm that huh?

PUBLIC DEFENDANT

Are you really suggesting my client drove 30 miles after work to commit a rape, timed perfectly, and drive 30 miles back to show up at a bar like nothing happened?

On the other side of the mirror, Jesse gets annoyed and goes to the door.

JESSE

This is ridiculous. Let me talk to him.

The others stop him.

OLDER DETECTIVE

Jesse, you know you can't get involved. If you interfere, his testimony will be thrown out.

Jane goes through the door and into the interrogation room.

JANE

Well, when we match your client's DNA to the scene, pleas are off the table.

PUBLIC DEFENDANT

There won't be any DNA because there won't be any case. I've already filed a motion to dismiss. Your only witness couldn't even pick him in the lineup. Unless you have more evidence than a rough description of my client in the dark, there is no case.

FADE TO:

INT. JUDGE ABRAMS CHAMBERS - DAY

The public defendant and the prosecutor argue in front of JUDGE ABRAMS (50's) as Jesse is watching from outside his office window. From Jesse's POV we see the lawyer's backs, and can't hear anything. Suddenly the prosecutor turns around with a defeated look. She steps outside.

JANE

I'm sorry, I couldn't get the charge to stick. There just isn't enough evidence. Hopefully witnesses will come forward.

JESSE

I can't believe this! He just gets off free?

JANE

He's definitely in for the burglary. At least he's not going anywhere.

JESSE

Until he gets out in six months and splits. I can't live with that.

Jesse storms off.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION, INMATE TRANSFER DEPARTMENT - DAY

CHRISTOPHER LYLE (40's) is sitting at his desk sifting through mountainous piles of paperwork. Jesse walks in, surprising Chris.

CHRIS

Hey Jesse... I heard what happened. Jesus Christ, man, I'm so sorry, if you need a place to stay or something -

JESSE

I need a favor Chris.

CHRIS

Sure, yeah, anything.

JESSE

I need you to book me. Miguel Vasquez just got booked today, I need you to put me in with him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHRIS

(lowers his voice and closes
the door)

Put you IN? Are you crazy? Look I'd
wanna kill him too, but you gotta have
patience. When the DNA comes back
they'll nail him.

JESSE

Abrams dismissed the case. We can't even
get his DNA.

CHRIS

What? Are you serious?

JESSE

I can't sit back and watch this guy slip
away. I need to you to put me in his
cell block.

CHRIS

I can't do that.

JESSE

We both know you can. A couple weeks is
all I need. You owe me, remember?

CHRIS

Yeah, but like this? You'll get jumped
in there. And so you find Miguel, then
what?

JESSE

I have to do this for Samantha. I have
to find out what happened. It's the only
way. I'm begging you.

CHRIS

(sighs)

Show up tomorrow morning. You'll get
taken in as someone else. You'll have
till the first of the month at best, when
all the records are re-filled. And when
that happens, you don't know me.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. AUSTIN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY - DAY

In a control room with two guards, ROBERT KINGSLEY (40's) and
GREG STANTON (30's), Jesse stands silently wearing the
standard orange inmate uniform. He is holding a stack of
linens and is listening to KINGSLEY's instructions.

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CONTINUED:

Kingsly is inspecting Jesse's box of personal items and immediately picks out a carton of cigarettes.

KINGSLY

Contraband!

JESSE

I have a prescription. It's in the envelope.

Kingsly opens it to find \$100, and smiles.

KINGSLY

You'll fit in just fine here. Stanton, which suite do we have for this gentlemen.

STANTON

C-28. With Harold Stevens.

He gives Kingsly a set of keys and buzzes a door open. Kingsly leads Jesse out of the control room.

KINGSLY

Now don't mind Harold. He's strong as an ox, but dumber than a mule. Simple fellow. If you don't make trouble, you won't have trouble.

Kingsly leads Jesse down a long hall of cells. The inmates BANG on the cells and MAKE A RUCKUS for their new inmate. Kingsly pays no attention as they slowly walk down one of the halls. Jesse looks inside each passing cell as they go by.

Kingsly stops at Jesse's cell.

KINGSLY (CONT'D)

On your feet, Harold.

HAROLD STEVENS (early 30's) rises to reveal a 7 foot giant. His neck, arms, and chest are all thick. Harold's muscles aren't toned, but have a raw incredible hulk strength. He looks at Jesse with a childish smile.

Jesse's face weakens as Kingsly opens the cell gate. Jesse slowly walks in as the gate CLANGS behind him.

Harold voice is deep and monosyllabic, revealing slight mental retardation.

HAROLD

Hi, my name's Harold. What's your name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jesse is taken back by Harold's voice, and by his awaiting handshake.

JESSE

J - James. Nice to meet you Harold.

Jesse turns to the bunk beds and notices the top mattress that sags in the middle.

HAROLD

I'm on the top.

JESSE

I see.

Harold notices that Jesse isn't much for conversation, and lays on the top bunk. Jesse unfolds his sheets on his new bed. He lays down on his back looking at the sagging bed above him.

Jesse silently pulls out a picture of Samantha and stares at it.

HAROLD

What are you in for?

JESSE

(to himself)
Justice.

HAROLD

What's that?

JESSE

Murder.

Jesse puts the picture away.

FADE OUT:

INT. REC ROOM - MORNING

The prison recreational room has round tables and plastic chairs, where inmates read, play cards, and sometimes watch TV. Everyone is comfortable except Jesse, and they all subtly notice him.

Jesse sees Miguel at the other end of the room. Miguel is talking to two other Hispanics, LOCO (late 20's) and RICKY (30's). In the middle of laughing with his friends, Miguel turns and notices Jesse staring at him. Miguel's face turns serious for a moment and jerks his head "You got a problem?" up at Jesse. Jesse turns away for the moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TED JACOBS (late 40's) is playing solitaire nearby. Aside from a slight beer-gut, Ted's body is in shape- perhaps the remanence of a high-school football player. He is confident and can definitely hold his own.

TED
Stop starrng dumb-fuck. Sit down.

Ted starts dealing cards for two. Jesse sits. Ted never looks up.

TED (CONT' D)
Cigarette.

JESSE
No thanks.

TED
(laughs)
Real cute. Get the pack out of your pants and gimme a fuckin cigarette.

Jesse pulls out a crisp pack of Camel's, opens it and throws Ted a stick.

TED (CONT' D)
Ooh, lemme see that. Camels. Fresh too. Who's your supplier?

Ted snaps the pack from Jesse.

TED (CONT' D)
Hey fellas, present from the new guy.

RUEBEN JONES (early 30's), tall and clean-cut, and NEIL MCCRACKEN (late 20's) a slim weasely-type, come over. They each take a cigarette from Ted and smile at Jesse.

TED (CONT' D)
You part Mexi can?

JESSE
No.

TED
Sure you haven't been pickin tomatoes in the fields, you look kinda dark.

JESSE
Part German, part French.

TED
Glad to hear it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JETHRO (late 20's), a tall lanky guy with a permanently-curious LSD-face, and long greasy hair, has been watching their conversation and walks over with a pack of tarot cards in hand. He's neither violent nor intimidating.

JETHRO

(to Jesse)

Reading for a stick?

TED

Not again with your Hocus-Pokus shit.

Jethro sits down at their table, and shuffles the cards.

JETHRO

Select four cards and place them face down.

Jesse follows. Jethro proceeds to turn each one over...

JETHRO (CONT' D)

10 of FIRE. It represents opposition. A struggle.

RUEBEN

Yeah? Do you see iron bars and cement walls in his future too?

Rueben and Ted laugh.

JETHRO

DEATH. The sickness or death of someone you love.

TED

You're not gonna get repeat customers like that, Jeth.

Jesse and Jethro are focused on the cards and each other.

JETHRO

FLOODS. Beware of the one who wronged you, for they shall wrong you again.

RUEBEN

Looks like you're cursed. But for half a pack, he can remove it from you.

JETHRO

The EAGLE. Vision, clarity. You will come to see that which you initially could not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TED

(annoyed)

And a happy ending, very good. Take your magic act somewhere else.

Jethro leaves, leaving Jesse somewhat affected.

TED (CONT' D)

Fuckin' kook.

NEIL

He did predict the Lakers would win again - got me two packs.

RUEBEN

Like that wasn't a sure thing.

FADE TO:

INT. LUNCH ROOM - DAY

Ted, Rueben, Neil, and JASON DAVIES (early 30's) a cocky grease-monkey type, are eating at the same table. Jesse walks past their table and sits down with his tray at a table down the row, where Harold is eating by himself.

RUEBEN

What, he doesn't wanna sit next to his new friends?

JASON

What's with new fish? You said you know him?

TED

Yeah, we met briefly. Got a little bit of a prick up his ass. But he's alright.

NEIL

Who's bit of prick is that?

JASON

Is Harold his cell mate?

RUEBEN

Wouldn't want *that* prick up my ass.

NEIL

(to Ted)

Are we cool with him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TED

Yeah. He'll turn around. He's got a while. He's in for murder.

MOVE to Jesse's table.

JESSE

So the food's always this bad?

HAROLD

Huh? It's not that bad. Wednesday is chicken day. That's the best. Saturday is noodles. That's also good.

Across the room is the Hispanic table where Miguel, Loco, and Ricky are eating. Miguel is eyeing Jesse.

LOCO

Is that the new peckerwood?

RICKY

Who's he hangin with?

MIGUEL

Looks like no-one, except Mr. Big Foot. His boyfriend can't protect him all day.

LOCO

You gotta problem with him?

MIGUEL

Fool keeps mad-dogging me. If he wants a piece, he better be ready.

LOCO

Maybe he needs to learn some respect - we've got your back essey.

Back to Jesse's table. Jesse has picked out all he can eat from his food and drops his fork in the plate. Jesse can't help but catch a glimpse of Miguel every few moments. Harold notices he isn't eating.

HAROLD

Are you gonna eat that?

JESSE

(sliding the tray to him)
Take it.

Jesse gets up and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON BATHROOM - DAY

Jesse is using a urinal and sees no one around. As he finishes, he is surprised by Miguel and Loco.

MIGUEL

You want a start something asshole?

Miguel sucker-punches Jesse in the gut. Loco grabs Jesse from behind and holds him in a full-nelson so Miguel can punch him.

MIGUEL (CONT' D)

Were you gonna say something to my face, chilito?

Miguel pinches Jesse's cheek and wiggles his face. Jesse squirms and manages to KICK Miguel in the CROTCH. Miguel is taken back for a moment, but then comes back.

MIGUEL (CONT' D)

Pinche pendejo!

Miguel begins to POUND on Jesse. Ted silently comes in the bathroom to join the fight. Ted grabs Miguel on the neck with a VULCAN NERVE PINCH bringing Miguel in surprised agony to the floor.

MIGUEL (CONT' D)

Ah! What the fuck you doing? Stay out of this.

Loco lets go of Jesse to help Miguel, and an all-out brawl ensues. Loco punches TED and is sent back.

LOCO

What are you his boyfriend now?

Jesse slams against Miguel grabbing Miguel's head with his fist. Miguel twists and pushes Jesse into the wall. Everyone gets their fair share of beating.

Harold steps in.

HAROLD

Hey! Quit it!

Harold sticks his hands in between Jesse and Miguel and pushes them apart.

MIGUEL

Man, fuck you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUARD (O. S.)

Harold, don't do anything.

THREE GUARDS come in to break it up, as Miguel KICKS Harold. Harold lets go of Miguel's neck and swipes Miguel's body into a wall. Miguel has the WIND KNOCKED OUT OF HIM and doesn't move. The guards have controlled the others. Harold is done.

GUARD (CONT' D)

That's enough Harold.

INT. PRISON INFIRMARY - LATER

Jesse and Ted are sitting on adjacent beds with small bandages over their cuts.

JESSE

Look, uh, thanks for what you did back there. (beat) I'm not sure why you -

TED

Don't mention it. But don't think I stuck my neck out as a personal favor. You seem to be new to this, so lemme explain how it works. Outside, we're a majority. In here, we gotta stick together. We can't let any of those fuckin mexicans or those niggers push us around. Protect your crew and you get protected. (Beat) Besides, we should talk business sometime. You seem to be well-connected. I didn't catch your name.

JESSE

James.

TED

Ted.

The NURSE comes and takes Ted away.

TED (CONT' D)

You gotta watch your back in here. You never know who you accidently piss off.

JESSE

(puts the icepack back on his head)

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TED

(winks)

And if you drop the soap -

JESSE

(smiles)

Don't pick it up.

TED

That's right.

As Jesse watches Ted's distinct floppy walk, it all comes back: Jesse has a MEMORY FLASH of Ted's trial years ago. Ted looked completely different - his balding head not yet shaven, and 50 pounds heavier. In a swirl of images and sounds, Jesse recalls the verdict: GUILTY. Ted (Theodore Jacobs) convicted of CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, sentenced for six years. Ted's turns to the jury with a pouty "why me?" face. Jesse and his older colleagues congratulate each other. Ted is taken away by the guards and Jesse turns to see Ted's distinctive walk.

FADE OUT:

INT. JESSE'S CELL - NIGHT

Jesse is in bed and Harold is washing his face. He takes his small bamboo plant, and adds water to it.

JESSE

That thing's growing fast. You got magic beans in there?

HAROLD

Huh?

JESSE

You gonna grow a giant beanstalk and climb out of here?

Harold is still puzzled.

JESSE (CONT'D)

You know like "Jack and the Beanstalk"?
(beat) You never heard the story of
"Jack and the Beanstalk"?!

Harold gets on the top bunk and leans his head over.

HAROLD

What's it about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSE

Oh, you'd like it. It's about magic beans, and fairies, and giants - well, you might not like the ending.

HAROLD

Tell it to me.

JESSE

Well, there was this boy Jack, who lived with his widowed mother. And they were very poor. One day, Jack and his mother went to the market to sell their cow.

HAROLD

The mom stayed home. She was too weak to walk.

JESSE

You *have* heard this story!

HAROLD

I don't remember it. Tell the rest.

JESSE

So Jack was at the market and was tricked into selling their cow for a bag of beans - magical beans supposedly. But when he came home, his mother scolded him because he didn't get food like he was supposed to.

Jesse is interrupted by a LOUD FART from above.

JESSE (CONT' D)

Jesus. (sniffs) Oh man!

HAROLD

(laughing)

Sorry.

JESSE

Can't you see I'm in enough pain?

HAROLD

You wanna switch bunks?

Harold continues to giggle like a ten-year-old.

JESSE

No thanks! (sniffs again) Oh the humanity!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jesse gets out of bed and goes to the cell door shaking his arms on the bars.

JESSE (CONT' D)

(fake shouting)

Help! Help! I'm being tortured! This is cruel and unusual punishment!

Harold is delighted, laughing uncontrollably as he sings:

HAROLD

Beans beans, the magical fruit. The more you eat the more you toot...

FADE OUT:

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Jesse and Harold enter. Jesse picks up a pair of dumbbells and starts curling. Harold does sit-ups on an inclined bench.

Ted walks over to Jesse, and Rueben follows.

JESSE

Hey Ted.

Ted smiles at the band-aid on Jesse's head.

TED

Hey.

Jesse and Rueben also exchange heads up.

TED (CONT' D)

Harold, you busy? I was hoping you could spot me.

HAROLD

Yeah, sure.

Harold follows Ted to the bench press. Rueben stands away. Ted benches 150 pounds 10 times. Some of the other inmates work their way closer to Harold and wait for the show.

TED

nine and ... ten.

Ted gets up and wipes off.

TED (CONT' D)

Your turn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HAROLD

Oh, that's okay, I wasn't gonna -

TED

C'mon, we'll spot you.

As Harold goes to lay down, Ted signals Rueben to put more weight on. They place a 45-pound ring on each side.

Miguel and Loco watch from the other side.

MIGUEL

This guy's the jolly fucking green giant.
And dumb as my retarded cousin.

LOCO

Careful. Don't let him hear you.

Ted stops Harold after a couple presses. Ted and Rueben place the bar on the rest slot together, and go to put more weight on.

MIGUEL

What's he in for?

LOCO

I heard he killed his girlfriend. They were playing around and he broke her neck in his hands. Didn't even know he did it. They had to tranquilize him to get him in here.

Ted stops Harold again.

HAROLD

No more. That's getting heavy.

TED

Just a little more.

The inmates watch in amazement.

FADE OUT:

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Jesse stands by the gate, and the guard lets him through. Jesse curiously waits for Kingsly to speak.

KINGSLY

Sit down.

Jesse sits. Kingsly has James' file open next to him

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KINGSLY (CONT' D)

Seems there's a little confusion as to your records.

JESSE

Oh?

KINGSLY

So you were transferred from Bucksville, South Caroline? (beat) Thing is, we have the wrong picture for you, and they can't find your record. Now we don't get many out-of-state'rs, and none that I can recall from Bucksville.

JESSE

(failing to hide his excitement)

The thing is. I'm not really supposed to be here. This whole thing's a big misunderstanding. I've never committed a crime. If you just let me out now, I won't say anything, I won't make a big deal.

KINGSLY

(smiling)

Yes, I'm sure that's all fine and true, son. I was hoping you could tell me which cell you had, so we find which guard you -

JESSE

No. I'm serious. I was never in Bucksville.

KINGSLY

Alright. I thought you would've been more help. But it'll all get sorted out, eventually. Stanton.

Stanton opens the gate to let Jesse back out.

INT. REC ROOM - DAY

Some inmates are playing cards, but most are watching the TV that's been turned on. Jesse sits alone watching from afar. Ted jumps on the chair next to Jesse.

TED

(playful)

You keeping secrets from me James?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSE

What?

TED

You didn't tell me you were a lawyer.

JESSE

Who said -

TED

It's alright, I'm not gonna bust your balls for it. In fact, this is good news. You can help me out. My parole is coming up next week. And you know how it goes, the parole hearing is the same assload of horseshit year after year. They've already made up their minds before you walk in the door.

JESSE

I don't know what you think I can do -

TED

(his face turns serious)

I know you know people who know people. I have money on the outside. \$100,000 to get me out.

Ted gets up to leave.

JESSE

Look Ted -

TED

(getting angry)

Make it happen! Trust me. You don't want to see me after my hearing. I'll make this place miserable for you.

CUT TO:

INT. VISITOR PHONE ROOM - DAY

Jesse walks in and sees Chris waiting behind the other side of the glass. Jesse sits down and picks up the phone.

CHRIS

(looking at Jesse's bandage)

Making friends already?

JESSE

You could say that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHRIS
How you holding up?

JESSE
I think it's him

CHRIS
Miguel?

JESSE
Yeah.

Jesse looks around and then starts threading something through a thin slit in the glass wall. From Chris's side we see a couple hairs poke through. Jesse points at it with his eyes.

CHRIS
Huh?

JESSE
It's his.

CHRIS
(surprised)
Are you sure?

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY

A SLOW-MOTION REPLAY OF MIGUEL FIGHTING JESSE. Jesse reaches for Miguel's head and grabs his hair. As Miguel pulls away we see JESSE'S HAND CLOSE ON SOME HAIR. His fist remains tight.

FLASH TO PRESENT:

JESSE
Positive. Have Gary look at it.

Chris puts the specimen away.

CHRIS
You know this is useless in court.

JESSE
When it matches, we'll go from there.

Beat.

CHRIS
I can't believe I let you do this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSE

Yeah, well I need out by Tuesday.

CHRIS

What?!

JESSE

I'm pretty much done. And I got this guy on my case expecting me to do favors for him

CHRIS

It's not that easy.

JESSE

What's not easy? What the fuck are you saying?!

CHRIS

Till the first. That was the deal. Then it all straightens itself out.

JESSE

I can't stay till the first. Pull me out!

CHRIS

Jesus Christ, I can't blow a big whistle now. It'll be too obvious. They'll put me in here! (beat) What's an extra week?

JESSE

Is Carla still on the parole board?

CHRIS

What? No. She moved up last year. Why?

JESSE

Never mind.

CHRIS

Listen Jesse, stay straight in there. You're losing your head.

JESSE

Just let me know what happens with the sample.

Jesse starts to put the phone down.

CHRIS

Hey, just lay low. Keep out of trouble.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jesse sighs and walks away.

FADE OUT:

INT. REC ROOM - DAY

Jesse, Ted, Rueben, and Neil are playing cards.

RUEBEN
Where's Jason?

NEIL
He's up for parole. He should be back in an hour.

RUEBEN
(to Ted)
Aren't you up for denial this week?

TED
(looking at Jesse)
Yeah, but I got a good feeling about this one.

RUEBEN
Yeah? Is this a Jethro-prediction?

TED
I got some friends on the outside.

NEIL
Nice.

The TV-center in the middle of the room turns on. Rueben and Neil move to another table to get a view.

JESSE
About the parole hearing.

TED
Don't tell me bad news. I don't want to hear it.

JESSE
It's being worked out. But you have to play your part too. The parole board has three people, and they all have to make a recommendation.

TED
What do I have to say?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSE

It's more how you come across. You need to convince them you're a descent guy, that doesn't think about pornography anymore. But they know that's how you're trying to act. When they ask you what you've learned about yourself in prison, they don't give a fuck what you say. They're watching your eyes to see if you looked at the 15 year old girl they had walk by the window. They want to see you've transformed your sexual urges into other forms. Don't stare at the parole officer with the cleavage. Don't even notice the guy's shirt with the logo in the shape of a dick.

TED

(in amazement)

No shit.

Miguel and Ricky walk by. Miguel makes mocking kissy-lips to them

TED (CONT' D)

Keep walking.

MIGUEL

(grabbing his crotch)

Suck this.

STANTON

(steps in)

Problem guys?

MIGUEL

Naw.

They keep walking.

TED

There's a guy who can't control his urges. Fuckin rapist.

JESSE

What?

TED

Guy's a fuckin rapist.

JESSE

I thought he was in for burglary.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TED

Yeah. But he was goin off about his last job in the weight room

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Ricky is spotting Loco on the bench press. Miguel is curling. Ted is across the room

MIGUEL

...Some rich lawyer's house. She's this dressed-up white blonde bitch. Tied her up in the bathroom. And I thought I had time to take their shit too. So I'm finding their jewelry box when the husband comes home!

RICKY

Oh shit.

MIGUEL

After he sees her, he comes out and I just plow his ass.

RICKY

You kill 'em both?

MIGUEL

Yeah, I thought so. But then I get caught the next day.

RICKY

For that? How'd they find you?

MIGUEL

Naw. For some other shit. But my lawyer got the case dropped, so they couldn't get my DNA or nothin.

RICKY

Man, you lucked out.

FLASH TO PRESENT:

INT. REC ROOM - DAY

STANTON

(over speaker)

Playtime's over. Back to your cells.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The inmates all get up and leave. Jesse is entranced, looking at Miguel.

FADE OUT:

INT. JESSE'S CELL - NIGHT

SAMANTHA (O. S.)

Jesse! Help!

Jesse pops up in his bed in a sweat.

SAMANTHA (CONT' D)

Jesse! Ahh!

Jesse's dream is in SLOW MOTION - surreal and very emotional.

Jesse jumps out of bed and to the cell door. SAMANTHA IS BEING CARRIED AWAY BY A DARK FIGURE as she screams for Jesse's help. He shakes on the cell door but it doesn't budge. He grabs his head and finds a cigarette behind his ear. Jesse sticks the cigarette in the keyhole and opens the door.

The dark figure takes Samantha into a cell down the hall. As Jesse follows, he looks into a passing cell. The cell has no bars, and is a parole hearing room instead. Ted is sitting on a small chair pleading in front of the same judge from his trial.

JUDGE

Your parole is DENIED! Ah hahaha!

Ted turns to Jesse with an angry face. Jesse quickly turns away from the room and BUMPS into a FAT LAWYER in a business suit.

FAT LAWYER

Congratulations! That was some fine work. You are going to be moving up in this world.

Jesse is now also in a suit. He PUSHES the fat lawyer aside, still trying to reach Samantha.

Jesse's assistant is waiting for him in the hallway. She shoves a big piece of paper in his face. Jesse initially pushes it away, but is then shocked by the fact that he can't read any of the words. He stands in confusion.

SAMANTHA (O. S.)

Jesseeee!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He snaps back to focus and runs to her voice. The cell they turned into is Jesse and Samantha's bedroom. Samantha is on the bed, tied and bloody, clearly dead. Miguel is leaning on the wall with his arms crossed.

MIGUEL

You got a problem, home boy?

Jesse rushes to fight Miguel. The two struggle like their earlier fight. Jesse gets Miguel in a headlock and is choking him

CUT TO:

INT JESSE'S CELL - NIGHT

Jesse is choking his pillow and WAKES UP to the guard's call.

KINGSLY

Wake-up time!

Jesse is panting and has a disgruntled look as if part of his mind never woke up. Harold gets down from his bunk.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON KITCHEN - MORNING

Jesse is scrubbing a pot violently. Suddenly another set of pots drops in his workload. Jesse snaps with a fierce look at the INMATE.

INMATE

What?

Jesse looks down again and the INMATE leaves.

INT. JESSE'S CELL - DAY

Harold is on the top reading NATURE magazine. Jesse is underneath thinking to himself.

JESSE

What are you reading?

HAROLD

Magazine. About Nature. It has pictures of the GALA-PAGUS islands.

JESSE

Galapagos islands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HAROLD

Yeah, they're really pretty. I'm gonna go there someday. I'm gonna swim with the turtles, and the fish. And the birds.

JESSE

How much longer do you have in here?

HAROLD

8 months, about.

JESSE

Why are you in here Harold?

HAROLD

Because I'm stupid.

JESSE

We all make mistakes.

HAROLD

My mom *told me* I was hanging with the wrong crowd.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAROLD'S MOM'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

MIKE (20's) and RON (20's) walk up to the front door and knock. Harold answers the door.

HAROLD

Oh, hey guys, what's up?

RON

Harold, buddy, we were gonna go hang out a little. Want to hang out with us?

HAROLD

Yeah, sure. (turns his head inside). Mom, I'm gonna hang out with Ron and Mike.

HAROLD'S MOM (O.S.)

Be back for supper. Be careful.

HAROLD

I love you.

Harold steps outside with the guys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HAROLD (CONT' D)

What did you guys wanna do?

RON

Actually, I was just telling Mike about how cool your car was.

HAROLD

Really? It's an old car.

RON

It's a classic. Let's go for a drive.

HAROLD

Oh, I dunno. My mom doesn't want me using it except to go to work.

RON

Just for a little bit.

MIKE

Yeah, it's just down the street.

RON

C'mon Harold.

HAROLD

Alright, well, down the street.

Harold opens the garage and the three load into a rusty 1966 Cadillac Convertible. Mike sits in the back with his backpack on the seat.

I/E. CADILLAC - AFTERNOON

MIKE

Oh, uh, why don't we drop by Greg's. It's right here.

RON

Oh yeah, do you mind Harold? Mike has to pick up his stuff from a friend. It's right down this street.

The car pulls up next to an apartment complex.

RON (CONT' D)

We'll be right back.

Ron and Mike get out, run up to a door and knock. A GUY (30's) opens the door and takes an envelope from RON. He steps inside for a moment and comes out with a backpack he gives to Mike. The two run back to the car and jump in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT' D)

Okay, let's go. C'mon.

As the cadillac takes off a POLICE CAR pulls out from nowhere with SIRENS ON.

MIKE

Shit!

HAROLD

What do I do?

RON

Pull over! Stop the car!

Ron and Mike jump out of the car before it fully stops and dart off into the trees.

OFFICER #1

Hands up. Out of the car.

Harold gets out, very confused. The other officer reaches for the bag in the back and opens it to reveal PLASTIC BAGS FULL OF ECSTACY.

OFFICER #1 (CONT' D)

Hands on the side of the car.

FADE TO:

INT. JESSE'S CELL - DAY

CLOSEUP on Jesse's face.

JESSE

Oh my God, I had no idea. You took the wrap for them? Where are these guys now?

HAROLD

They disappeared. I'm not sure where they went.

JESSE

I wouldn't want to be them when you get out. What are you gonna do when you find them?

HAROLD

I'm not friends with them anymore. My mom was right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSE

I know. I meant like aren't you gonna beat their faces in? Pick them up by the head with one hand...

HAROLD

Why would I do that?

JESSE

They *used* you. They're the reason you're in here.

HAROLD

I just want to go back to my house. Play with my hamster, Fred. Work at the day-care center, play with the kids.

JESSE

Go to the Galapagos Islands, play with the turtles?

HAROLD

Yeah!

Harold laughs and Jesse smiles at his picture of Samantha at school with her kids.

Soon to come: Harold is found dead.