

LOOTERS  
SEASON 1, EPISODE 1  
"THE COMING STORM"

Written by

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**FADE IN.**

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - NIGHT**

SUPER: The Early Home

The Early home is a modest two-story farmhouse. It's VERY neat, especially for a farm. Everything has a place and is in it. The grass is manicured. The paint is fresh. Nothing resembling "trash" is visible. The street address is 1863.

Outside the house is a barn and a smaller shed. This is a Bonsai farm and row upon row of trees of all shapes and sizes surround the house and barn.

**INT. THE EARLY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

The Early family sits in the dining room, a cake with a single birthday candle at the center of the table. At the head is DWAYNE, BM, 40s, chubby with glasses. He wears cargo shorts and a t-shirt for the Star Wars Galaxy's Edge theme park.

DWAYNE

Should we sing?

His kids KARL and KYRA laugh. His wife JUDITH grabs a knife to cut the cake. She wears jeans and a button-down shirt. She looks very at home on a farm.

JUDITH

It's not a birthday, it's just our anniversary.

DWAYNE

One year on the farm. It's great, right?

He looks around the spacious farmhouse with pride. Karl bounces in his chair, staring anxiously at the candle's flame. Karl is 16, BM, tall and skinny, wearing warm-ups for the Tukabatchee High School basketball team.

KYRA

Can we hurry up? I don't like wax on my cake. Gross.

Kyra is 18, BF, tall, overweight, wearing overalls and a long-sleeved shirt. Karl leans forward nervously and blows out the candle.

DWAYNE  
Hey!?

JUDITH  
Moving on.

She starts cutting the cake.

DWAYNE  
Hey?!

KARL  
We done?

JUDITH  
Nothing left but the cake.

KARL  
Cool.

He gets up and grabs the remote control.

JUDITH  
Already? Don't you want cake?

KARL  
Halftime should be over.

DWAYNE  
Warriors on?

KARL  
Do I watch anything else?

Dwayne frowns, a little wounded, as Judith hands him cake.  
The TV comes on to a weather bulletin.

ANNOUNCER  
Hurricane Carl is expected to be a  
category 5 by the time it hits  
land.

Concerned, Dwayne carries his cake towards the TV and eats as  
he watches.

DWAYNE  
What's this?

KYRA  
Karl's full of hot air, he's going  
to blow our house down.

Karl is legitimately annoyed.

KARL  
It's Carl with a C, NOT Karl with a  
K. Completely different.

JUDITH  
Leave him alone.

Judith hands Kyra cake. Kyra shakes her head. Judith shrugs.

DWAYNE  
I'm going to have to go to the  
hardware store.

KYRA  
Because your son is a tropical  
disaster.

KARL  
There's nothing tropical about this  
storm. This is why you dropped out  
of--

Dwayne puts a hand on Karl's shoulder. Karl shuts up.

DWAYNE  
Quiet, I need to hear this. This  
sounds like I'm going to spend a  
LOT of money at the hardware store.

ANNOUNCER  
The path of the storm is a bit  
unpredictable at this point, but  
everyone across the Panhandle  
should be preparing and staying  
closely connected to the latest  
weather alerts. This could be a bad  
one...

Dwayne frowns.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - LATER**

Dwayne carries a plastic bag and tosses it into a large bin near the front gate. As soon as he turns his back, the neighbor's dog, a beefy but unidentifiable breed of a mutt named JEFFREY, launches itself against the fence with loud and aggressive barking.

Dwayne stumbles backward and falls on his ass. He stares at Jeffrey.

DWAYNE  
Damned dog.

He checks himself out, but no serious injuries. He picks up a sizeable rock from the driveway. Jeffrey continues to bark. Dwayne checks the weight of the rock. He's satisfied.

Dwayne launches the rock at Jeffrey and nails him on the top of its head. The dog yelps and runs off. Dwayne nods his head and goes inside.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
Critical hit.

The CAMERA follows Jeffrey. The dog races through the junkyard.

The CAMERA goes to the sky and looks down on Jeffrey as the dog makes its way towards the Hasley home. The junkyard is MUCH larger than the Early property and the pathways through the junkyard are almost like a maze.

Jeffrey knows the maze well, though, and he runs a well-worn path to the front door of the Hasley home. Once he's there, he starts scratching on the door. A few seconds later, Keith opens the door and lets Jeffrey in. Keith shuts the door in the CAMERA's face.

**INT. THE HASLEY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

SUPER: The Hasley Home

The Hasley family sits around their dining room table. The house is not only poorer, it's MUCH dirtier and more cluttered. CHARLEY HASLEY, WM, 50s, dressed in denim, boots and a work shirt, sits at the head of the table.

BARBRA HASLEY, WF, 40s, carries a birthday cake with two candles that read "55." The icing says "Happy birthday, Charley!"

The four Hasley kids sit around the table. They sing to their father, but not the official "Happy Birthday" song, but more like the waitstaff at Applebee's or something:

HASLEY FAMILY  
Happy happy birthday birthday/to  
you to you to you to you...

They clap along as they sing. Charley sits with his arms crossed. He doesn't want to smile, but he can't help it.

HASLEY FAMILY (CONT'D)  
Happy happy birthday birthday/happy  
birthday to you!

BILLY HASLEY, WM, 25, dressed like his father, leads the singing, but isn't the best at it. He's flat and uncomfortable. GEORGE HASLEY, WM, 23, wears a suit, but the jacket and tie hang over a door. He's a good singer and he knows it. RUSSELL HASLEY, WM, 19, wears a Dallas Mavericks jersey. He's by far the most athletic of the brothers. He sings but his mind is elsewhere. KEITH HASLEY, WM, 16, dressed like a skater, already has tattoos. He's hesitant to sing and doesn't know the words or clapping rhythm too well.

Once the song is over, Charley leans in and blows out the candles. He struggles to do it and seems short of breath. He reaches his hand up and rubs his chest.

KEITH  
Let's cut the cake!

GEORGE  
We've barely finished the damned  
song. Wish your father a happy  
birthday.

Keith reaches for the cake, but Russell smacks his hand away.

KEITH  
Happy birthday, dad.

Beat.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
Happy now?

Keith reaches for the cake again. This time, Barbra swats his hand away.

CHARLEY  
Someone get me some water.

Keith crosses his arms. He's not doing it. Billy looks at his dad with concern. Charley holds his hand to his chest.

BILLY  
I got it.

He gets up and goes to the sink. He grabs a glass and fills it with tap water.

CHARLEY  
I'm not feeling so hot.

Barbra stops cutting the cake and looks at Charley with concern.

GEORGE  
You okay, dad?

Charley coughs. Then he falls to the ground.

RUSSELL  
Dad!

BARBRA  
Charley!

Billy leaps to his feet and goes to help his father. He cradles Charley's head as he positions him to be more comfortable.

George rushes for the phone on the wall in the kitchen. He picks it up and dials 9-1-1. It starts ringing.

The room is a flurry of activity as everyone tries to find something to do to help.

**EXT. THE HASLEY HOME - LATER**

An ambulance sits outside the Hasley home, lights flashing. Dwayne and Judith stare out their window at the commotion.

EMTs carry Charley to the ambulance on a stretcher. The rest of the Hasley family follows them. Barbra gets in the ambulance after they load Charley. Billy and his brothers look on helplessly.

**EXT. TUKABATCHEE STATE PRISON - DAY**

SUPER: Tukabatchee State Prison

The Tukabatchee State Prison was built in the 1950s and hasn't been updated since. The building is dingy and weather-stained, the windows are dirty, the grounds are maintained, but only up to the edge of the prison grounds. The woods beyond that are overgrown.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE STATE PRISON - CONTINUOUS**

In the prison TV room, JEFF BUSS, WM, sits with three men: MUSCHETTI, WM, BARKLEY, BM and JACKSON, BM. They are far away from the TV and away from the door.

JEFF  
I don't belong here.

He's nervous. His leg bounces as he talks. He looks around to make sure the COs aren't watching him.

BARKLEY  
Most of us don't.

Jeff laughs.

BARKLEY (CONT'D)  
I was convicted without having talked to a lawyer.

MUSCHETTI  
You went into court without a lawyer?

Barkley shakes his head.

BARKLEY  
Nah, I met him as I walked into the courtroom.

MUSCHETTI  
That's fucked up. I don't belong here, either. I was set up.

Everyone chuckles. They look at Jackson. He laughs out loud.

JACKSON  
Nah, I definitely belong here.

No one asks him to elaborate.

Muschetti leans in and whispers.

MUSCHETTI  
I don't want to go on this gig.

JEFF  
Then don't go.

Everyone but Jeff laughs.

JACKSON  
Doesn't work like that.

MUSCHETTI  
Besides they keep promising "time off for good behavior."

JEFF  
Why am I here? They didn't pick me for this one.



MUSCHETTI

Someone needs to know what we were doing.

BARKLEY

In case we don't come back.

Jeff stares at them in disbelief.

JEFF

You serious?

They all nod.

JEFF (CONT'D)

So what they got you doing?

Muschetti leans in and starts to tell them. Jeff looks around the room to see if anyone is watching them.

At the doorway, Jeff makes eye contact with a CO, VAUGHT, who watches them closely.

Jeff looks towards the other side of the room and notices three Black men sitting at a table in the far corner who are eyeballing him. He recognizes the men RONNIE, RICKY and MICHAEL.

Jeff is worried.

**EXT. RINCON'S HARDWARE STORE - DAY**

SUPER: Rincon's Hardware Store

Dwayne walks into a mom-and-pop style hardware store. It's a small shop among a row of other family businesses.

**INT. RINCON'S HARDWARE STORE - MOMENTS LATER**

Dwayne stands at the customer service desk, talking to a CLERK.

DWAYNE

So I don't need the plastic sheeting?

The clerk shakes his head.

CLERK

No, if you're moving the trees inside and boarding up the windows, you should be good.

Dwayne nods along. In a nearby aisle, George and Russell Hasley play with cordless drills.

DWAYNE

Thanks. I'll meet the guys at the house?

He holds up a receipt. The clerk nods.

CLERK

Yep.

Dwayne waves and walks outside. George sees Dwayne go outside and slaps his brother on the arm. They put down the drills and follow Dwayne. The clerk looks on with concern.

**EXT. RINCON'S HARDWARE STORE - MOMENTS LATER**

George and Russell walk out the front door, but stop short when they see Dwayne talking to Sheriff TED BOONE, WM, 50s.

DWAYNE

Shelves are kinda empty in there.

SHERIFF BOONE

Sorry 'bout that. Lot of stuff going down over at the State Pen.

Dwayne raises an eyebrow.

SHERIFF BOONE (CONT'D)

Uh... ongoing construction.

He gets excited.

SHERIFF BOONE (CONT'D)

And... uh... preparation... you know... for the storm.

Dwayne nods. Sheriff Boone nervously moves towards his car.

DWAYNE

Thanks, sheriff.

SHERIFF BOONE

Be safe.

He gets in the car and drives off. Dwayne stares after him.

DWAYNE

Trouble at the prison?

RUSSELL (O.S.)

Hey!

Dwayne recognizes the voice. He looks towards the ground with a sigh before turning to face the Hasley brothers.

DWAYNE

What do you all want?

George looks him up and down. It's hostile.

RUSSELL

Heard you inside.

Dwayne is exasperated already.

DWAYNE

And?

GEORGE

You sure ask a lot of questions.  
For a farmer.

RUSSELL

Yeah. You sure you got the right  
job?

GEORGE

You sure you're living in the right  
town?

Dwayne doesn't respond.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

See, the thing is, if you suck and  
ruin your land...

Russell chuckles.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

It ruins our land, too.

RUSSELL

So we don't need any idiot  
neighbors.

Dwayne walks away from them.

DWAYNE

(under his breath)

You have enough idiots under your  
own roof.

RUSSELL  
What was that?

Russell steps to follow him, but George holds him back.  
Dwayne doesn't respond.

GEORGE  
Leave it. For now.

George stares after Dwayne as he gets into his Jeep.

RUSSELL  
You better watch yourself, Obama!

Dwayne doesn't hear him. He drives away.

**EXT. TUGENDBUND OIL RIG, GULF OF MEXICO - NIGHT**

SUPER: Tugendbund Oil Rig, Gulf of Mexico

For the most part, the oil rig is shut down, with only safety lights on. The rain and wind whip the structure as a group of men stand on the deck wearing rain gear.

Two men climb a scaffold about a dozen feet above the ground. Muschetti is at the top. He reaches for a small weather-proof box with a red light on it.

Beneath Muschetti on the ladder is Barkley. Jackson is on the deck.

JACKSON  
Hurry up!

Two men join them on the deck. Beneath his rain gear, KOY, a Filipino man in his 30s, wears unmarked military fatigues. With him is VAUGHT, WM, 40s, wearing the uniform of a Florida Corrections Officer.

KOY  
Where we at?

Jackson looks up at him, but doesn't answer instantly.

JACKSON  
Last one.

At the top of the scaffold, Muschetti grabs the box. From behind the box emerges a glowing blue snake with many, many legs.

Muschetti leans back, almost slipping. His foot kicks Barkley in the head.

BARKLEY  
Hey, watch it!

The snake strikes Muschetti on the hand. Then his face. Three quick strikes in succession. Muschetti screams. He lets go of the scaffold and falls, almost knocking Barkley loose as well.

Muschetti's body hits the platform with a crack and flips into the ocean. The men on the deck rush to look, but he's long gone.

Barkley looks up and sees the rear end of the snake go back behind the box. He starts to climb down.

Vaught turns and looks towards him.

VAUGHT  
What are you doing? Get the last box. The hurricane will wreck it.

BARKLEY  
It's already broken.

KOY  
Let's get out of here.

Barkley climbs down.

**EXT. TUKABATCHEE STATE PRISON - NIGHT**

The prison is in nightly lockdown. Most of the lights are off and the only movement is guards going through the motions.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE STATE PRISON - CONTINUOUS**

A group of men meets in Warden Bryant's office. BRYANT is a WM in his 60s. He's a college football booster type, with the memorabilia to match. He smokes a cigar. In his office.

Also in the room are Sheriff Boone, Vaught, Koy and a second corrections officer, NEYLAND, WM, 20s. Before them stand Barkley and Jackson, wearing the striped uniforms of prisoners.

BARKLEY  
So he turned to me and said it was broken. Then he fell. As I was climbing down and I saw... a glowing blue snake with... uh... too many legs...

Bryant is in charge here.

BRYANT  
A snake?

He turns and looks at Jackson.

BRYANT (CONT'D)  
That what you saw?

Jackson shakes his head.

JACKSON  
I was on the platform, I didn't see  
nothin'.

Bryant stares at them for a moment. Then waves them away with  
a hand. Neyland escorts them out.

Bryant turns to Koy.

BRYANT  
The families?

KOY  
Money sent to their accounts at  
midnight. All three. You should  
call Muschetti's family.

BRYANT  
Tell them the sad news?

KOY  
Yes sir. You decide who you'll  
charge with his murder yet?

BRYANT  
Depends on who pisses me off in the  
next 48 hours.

They chuckle.

BRYANT (CONT'D)  
Their story check out?

VAUGHT  
As far as I can tell? Yeah.

Bryant nods towards Koy.

BRYANT  
You?

KOY  
I climbed up there. No snakes.

Everyone chuckles.

KOY (CONT'D)  
The box was working.

Bryant is concerned.

BRYANT  
Working, you say?

Koy nods. Vaught is skeptical.

BRYANT (CONT'D)  
Call a meeting. There are too many  
moving parts for my tastes.

Koy pulls out his phone.

**EXT. SID'S DELICIOUS CAFE - DAY**

Sid's Delicious cafe is a small coffee and cupcake shop on the same street as Rincon's. It's not in the same building, though, but several blocks further down the street.

**INT. SID'S DELICIOUS CAFE - MOMENTS LATER**

Inside the cafe is a standard hipster-type coffee shop with sizes like "puny," "mediocre" and "ridiculous" and cupcakes with names like "apple glitter," "tricolor cruller," "red velvet quake" and "carrot heartbreak." Two TEEN GIRLS run the store today.

Judith sits at a small table with a mediocre-sized coffee and an apple glitter cupcake. Across from her is AUDREY NEWMAN, WF, 40s, immaculately dressed in business attire.

AUDREY  
How did Dwayne drag you to the  
farm? He doesn't strike me as the  
farmer type.

Judith laughs.

JUDITH  
He's not.

Audrey joins her in laughter. She takes a sip from her ridiculous-sized coffee.

JUDITH (CONT'D)  
I'm the one who grew up on the  
farm.

Audrey has to hold back a spit take.

AUDREY  
Seriously? I would've never known.

JUDITH  
I'm the one that's teaching HIM how  
to do it.

AUDREY  
Well, he's definitely not the  
handiest man around the house.

They both laugh, but it's a little muted.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
I'm thinking of starting up the  
roundtable again.

Judith is a little surprised.

JUDITH  
Three of Tuckabatchee's finest?

AUDREY  
We are up to SIX women who own  
businesses.

Beat.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
But no fucking way we're inviting  
Maggie Brown back.

They burst into laughter. Audrey takes a sip of her coffee.

JUDITH  
I'm in.

AUDREY  
How are YOU doing?

Judith stalls with coffee.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
You've been here a year as a Bonsai  
tree farmer. Did it bring you the  
riches and serenity you were  
promised?



Judith frowns. And drinks more coffee. Audrey slides a card across the table.

AUDREY (CONT'D)  
My landscaping guys. They'll do a  
good job.

Judith's eyes grow huge as she grabs the card and covets it.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - DAY**

A DOZEN workmen stand outside the Early home. The foreman, ROTH, talks to Judith.

ROTH  
No, I can do it, it's just going to  
take some time. I need more guys,  
but with the storm coming...

Judith nods.

JUDITH  
Do the best you can.

Judith picks up one of the smaller trees. Roth is impressed.

ROTH  
You're pitching in?

JUDITH  
They're my trees.

ROTH  
Yes, ma'am.

He signals for the workmen to get started.

ROTH (CONT'D)  
You heard her, fellas. We need to  
get these trees in that barn. And  
it's going to be tight and  
delicate.

A few of the men giggle. Roth points towards one of the workmen, MEYERS.

ROTH (CONT'D)  
Shut your mouth, Meyers.

Laughter.

ROTH (CONT'D)  
Meyers, Bassett, Rao... uh... new  
guy...

The new guy, RONNIE STORM, perks up.

RONNIE  
Storm. Ronnie Storm.

ROTH  
Come with me, we're gonna need to  
put some shelves in here...

Roth walks towards the barn, waving his hands.

ROTH (CONT'D)  
The rest of you, start grabbing  
those trees.

**EXT. HASLEY'S JUNKYARD - NIGHT**

Kyra quietly slips over the fence and into the Hasley's junkyard. She makes sure that she's seen by no one from either the Hasley house or her own.

She listens for dogs and people, but doesn't hear anything. She walks down one of the pathways through the junkyard that leads away from the Hasley house. She scans the stacked cars and piled junk as she goes, looking for something.

Kyra walks along quietly and the pathway ends in a cul-de-sac. She spots several Mercedes Benz wrecks in one corner and makes a beeline for them. She pulls a flathead screwdriver from her pocket and starts to pry the company emblem from the closest Benz.

She pulls the first one off without damaging it.

KYRA  
Nice.

She starts making a pile and removes a second emblem. She moves to another Benz.

As she reaches towards the car, a glowing blue snake with many, many legs crawls from behind the car's grill. Kyra falls backwards onto her ass, dodging the snake, which crawls under the car.

KYRA (CONT'D)  
What the hell?

She scrambles away from the car, but the snake is gone. She grabs the two emblems she already removed and runs back towards her house.

George stands in the shadows, watching her run away with a smirk on his face.

**EXT. TUKABATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY**

SUPER: Tukabatchee High School

Tukabatchee High School is a one-story building made of brick. Like the state prison, it's older and only barely kept up. The sign in front reads "Tukabatchee High School/Est. 1863/On Sale Now/Yearbook & Caps/Gowns."

The bell rings and students flow out of the building.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL GYM - CONTINUOUS**

The gym is a standard high school gym with a single basketball court dominating the floor space and collapsible bleachers lining the walls. The walls are covered in various signs encouraging the team, the Warriors, to do well in this week's game against the Steinhatchee Bulldogs.

Among the PLAYERS in practice are Karl Early and Russell Hasley. In the bleachers are a few students and a scout or two. Among the students is Keith Hasley.

Russell dribbles the ball up court, the captain's "C" prominent on his jersey. Karl plays on the other squad, with the younger players and backups. Russell crosses half court and Karl picks him up. Russell smiles. He pulls up and drains a three. He backs off. Cocky. Staring Karl down. Karl silently cusses himself out.

**CUT TO:**

Russell dribbles down the court again and Karl covers him again. Russell fakes another three and Karl moves in close. Russell grins as he shoots past the surging Karl and lays the ball up for a score. Karl claps his hands loudly and shakes his head.

**CUT TO:**

Russell approaches midcourt again. Karl covers him tightly. Russell gets excited again and tries to drive past Karl, but as he goes by, Karl pokes the ball out and directly into the hands of THEO RODRIGUEZ, who is 6'9". He runs down the court and dunks the ball.

**CUT TO:**

Karl's squad has the ball, with back-up point guard DENNIS LIEN setting the offense at the top of the key. Russell guards Karl, who stands in the corner of the court. Karl fakes towards Dennis and cuts baseline towards the goal. Dennis gets Karl an alley-oop pass that the young player can't dunk. But he manages to tip the ball in for a score.

**CUT TO:**

Russell drives the ball up the court, Karl covering him. Russell accelerates to pass Karl, but Karl keeps up. Russell passes the ball to AARON KLEINFELD, a 6' tall guard, who hits an open jumper.

**CUT TO:**

Dennis dribbles the ball down court. Karl heads towards the corner again, but reverses and heads back towards Dennis. The point guard feeds Karl the ball and the other defenders clear out the paint.

Russell steps up to cover Karl tightly. Karl stares him down then makes a step the left. Then a step to the right. Then he crosses over and goes left. Russell trips over his own feet and falls backwards onto the court. Karl drives to the hoop for an easy layup.

Russell stares him down, but Karl runs down court, ready to play defense. COACH JOHN GALLANT watches Karl play. He nods approvingly.

**EXT. TUKABATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL GYM - LATER**

Karl sits on a bench in front of the school, leaning back against a thin support column in the shade. He has trouble staying awake as he waits for his ride.

Russell and Keith sneak up behind the bench. Karl's eyes close and he dozes a little bit. Keith gets on his hands and knees and crawls under the bench. He gently unties Karl's shoelaces and ties them to the bench's leg.

Keith withdraws and joins his brother. They walk into Karl's eyeline and the movement wakes him up.

RUSSELL  
 Hey man, your mom's at the other  
 pick-up spot.

KEITH  
 Yeah, she said you better hurry.

Karl is a bit confused. He grabs his backpack and stands to walk away. His laces immediately trip him up and he falls face forward to the pavement.

Russell and Keith die laughing as they run away. Karl stares after them with a frown.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - LATER**

Workmen carry medium- and large-sized Bonsai trees into the barn and set them on newly-constructed wooden shelves. Marilyn works alongside them, but she focuses on the smaller, baby Bonsai trees.

Roth and a few of the workmen come out of the barn and laugh when they see her carrying the tree.

ROTH  
 Need any help there?

MARILYN  
 No thank you, Mr. Roth.

The men laugh at him. One punches him in the shoulder.

ROTH  
 Mr. Roth is my grandfather. Call me  
 Chuck.

MARILYN  
 Thanks... uh... Chuck.

ROTH  
 You anglin' for a job?

Marilyn laughs.

MARILYN  
 Already got one. My mom's paying me  
 to help out.

Roth nods in understanding.

ROTH  
 That makes a lot of sense. You look  
 a little young for a real job.

MARILYN

I'm 15. I can handle it.

Judith walks out of the house and cups her eyes against the sun to see them.

JUDITH

Marilyn? You doing okay?

MARILYN

Fine, mom.

Marilyn carries another small tree inside.

ROTH

Ms. Early.

Roth nods a greeting.

JUDITH

Everything going okay?

ROTH

We're ahead of schedule. Quite a bit.

She smiles.

**EXT. HASLEY'S JUNKYARD - CONTINUOUS**

Jeffrey the dog wanders through the Hasley's junkyard, sniffing around for anything to eat. He moves closer and closer towards the fence that separates the junkyard from the Early home.

He finds a loose part of the fence and starts scratching at it, trying to pull it open. It's almost large enough for him to break through.

Something skitters behind the dog and it whirls around to see what's there with a bark. But it's nothing.

Jeffrey turns back towards the fence and a many-legged glowing blue snake runs from beneath a car and bites the dog on its hind leg multiple times very quickly.

He yelps and bolts towards the fence, pushing through a torn spot. As he goes through, the jagged edge of the fence cuts Jeffrey, who starts bleeding.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Marilyn walks towards the barn, carrying a Bonsai tree. She hears Jeffrey's bark and looks in that direction. She keeps walking until she hears the second bark and then the fence rattling.

Marilyn looks up to see Jeffrey barreling towards her. She panics and drops the tree, but Jeffrey dodges it and sinks his teeth into her ankle. She screams.

Workmen come running and the dog turns and hightails it. The men rush to help Marilyn. Blood flows from her ankle.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - LATER**

Dwayne returns home in his Jeep and parks close to the front door. He gets out and runs inside.

**INT. THE EARLY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Dwayne joins the rest of the family in Marilyn's room. She lays on the bed with her ankle in a cast and her foot elevated. Her mother sits on one side of her bed and her siblings on the other.

Marilyn's room is very typical teenage girl. She's popular and along with the standard Harry Styles and BTS posters is a corkboard completely covered in photos of Marilyn and her many friends.

DWAYNE

Jeffrey? The Hasley's dog?

Judith nods.

JUDITH

Broke through the fence. If those workmen hadn't been here...

Dwayne takes Marilyn's hand.

DWAYNE

How are you, sweetie?

Marilyn is loopy from painkillers.

MARILYN

Shabba, I's flourney viki icky.

Everyone laughs.

JUDITH  
She's on some pretty heavy  
painkillers.

Judith grabs Dwayne by the arm and pulls him into the hallway.

JUDITH (CONT'D)  
She need 16 stiches and a tetanus  
shot. You've GOT to do something--

DWAYNE  
I'm on it.

He walks out of the room with purpose. He's serious, a thing he's not that good at being.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - LATER**

Dwayne walks back outside. Even though the Hasley house is far back from the main road, Dwayne walks all the way down his driveway and then does a U-turn and walks up the Hasley driveway.

**INT. THE HASLEY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

George sits shirtless in his bedroom at a desk with broken drawers. The room is dirty and cluttered. Clothes piled everywhere. Fast food wrappers, beer cans, used condoms. A few posters of women in bikinis line the walls. There are no books in the Hasley home. The room has two beds, one for George, one for Billy. The space is cramped.

The shades are down and the room is dark, except for the glow from the computer screen. The PC that George uses to surf the Internet is an older model. He has no mousepad. He's watching gay porn and masturbating. The sound is on, but very low.

Someone knocks at the door.

George closes the browser window and quickly pulls up his pants.

GEORGE  
What do you want? I'm taking a nap.

He grabs a bottle of hand sanitizer and cleans up.

KEITH (O.S.)  
You have a visitor.

George is surprised.



GEORGE  
Is it a hot chick?

KEITH (O.S.)  
Hell no!

GEORGE  
Then I ain't home.

George lays down on his bed.

KEITH (O.S.)  
It's Dwayne Early. He's talking  
about the cops.

George gets up and opens the door.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
Jeffrey bit one of his kids.

GEORGE  
Fuck.

He grabs a shirt and puts it on.

**EXT. THE HASLEY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Dwayne stands waiting before the Hasley's front door. It opens to reveal George and Keith standing there. They aren't happy to see him.

GEORGE  
Mr. Early.

DWAYNE  
George.

GEORGE  
We don't usually get your kind of  
visitors around here.

Dwayne stares at him silently for a few moments.

DWAYNE  
Is your father here?

George's face turns aggressive.

GEORGE  
Nah, he's up at the hospital.  
Stroke.

Dwayne is genuinely shocked.

DWAYNE  
Really? He okay?

KEITH  
As if you care.

DWAYNE  
I don't wish any harm on your  
family.

GEORGE  
Then what can we do for you, Mr.  
Early?

Billy and Russell join them.

BILLY  
What's going on?

GEORGE  
We have a visitor.

BILLY  
I can see that.

George ignores him.

GEORGE  
Mr. Early?

DWAYNE  
Well... I really wanted to talk to  
your father...

The brothers stare at him.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
It's just that, you know... I've  
complained about some of this  
before. There's a lot of racket  
over here. Strange people coming  
and going at all hours of the  
night. You guys still aren't  
keeping up the junkyard. I've got  
invasive species, weeds, rats...

RUSSELL  
We got Jeffrey for the rats. He'll  
take care of them.

DWAYNE  
Then there's the problem of that  
damned dog.

RUSSELL  
Watch your mouth.

BILLY  
You NEED to get off our property.

DWAYNE  
Your dog bit my daughter.

George puts his hands up in a calming manner. Then he places his hand on Russell's shoulder. Russell stands down.

GEORGE  
C'mon, c'mon, let's all calm down.  
We can talk this stuff out, right?

DWAYNE  
Since when are you the...

Dwayne laughs to himself.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
I'm not going to vote for you,  
George. No chance.

All the humor and pleasantness drains from George's face.

GEORGE  
Well... you can screw right the  
hell off, then.

Russell and Keith cheer. Billy prepares for a fight.

DWAYNE  
What?

GEORGE  
Pretty sure you heard me.

Dwayne takes a step forward. George moves to attack him, but Billy steps in the way.

BILLY  
Go. Now.

Dwayne considers more, but he turns and walks away. Keith runs towards him, planning to hit Dwayne in the back of the head, but Russell stops him.

DWAYNE  
Get rid of that dog. Or I'll be  
back with the sheriff.

George holds his brothers back.

GEORGE  
 Sure... uh... we can send Jeffrey  
 to Cousin Richie's farm.

KEITH  
 No way!

Russell places a hand over Keith's mouth and shushes him.

RUSSELL  
 He's not really gonna do it.

Dwayne stops and considers saying something. But he doesn't  
 turn around, he walks home instead.

**EXT. TUKABATCHEE HOSPITAL - DAY**

SUPER: Tukabatchee Hospital

Tukabatchee Hospital is one of the newer buildings in town. A  
 modern corporate structure, the three-story building is  
 relatively calm.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS**

Charley Hasley sits in a hospital bed, hooked up to various  
 machines and IVs. Barbra, Billy and George sit around him,  
 their faces wracked with concern.

Charley adjusts so he's sitting up straighter. Barbra frowns  
 at him.

BARBRA  
 What are you doing?

CHARLEY  
 This bed is already driving me  
 crazy. I gotta get out of here.

BARBRA  
 You aren't the mayor anymore, you  
 can rest.

CHARLEY  
 I don't wanna rest.

GEORGE  
 What do you need? I can get it.

Billy shoots George a dirty look.

BILLY

WE'RE taking care of everything  
while you're in here.

CHARLEY

Y'all ain't ready for that yet.  
You're still kids. And you know how  
the powers that be wanna get rid of  
people like us.

BARBRA

Enough of that. You need your rest.

Charley points towards his pants, which are hung over the  
back of a chair across the room.

CHARLEY

At least hand me my phone. It's in  
my pants.

George reaches for it half-heartedly, but Billy leaps up and  
goes to get it. Billy picks up the pants and feels for the  
phone. A coin falls from one of the pockets and lands on the  
chair.

George stares at the coin. It's not U.S. currency. It's not  
the currency of ANY country. The coin is silver, but a sheep  
dominates this side of the coin and it's hand-painted black.  
George stares at it for a second then picks it up and pockets  
it where no one else can see him.

George grabs the phone and walks it over to Charley. He  
offers the phone to his father, but Barbra snatches it away.

BARBRA

(to Charley)

I said no.

(to George and Billy)

Can I talk to you two. Outside.

She doesn't wait, she steps out of the room, bringing  
Charley's phone with her.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS**

Barbra stands with her arms crossed. She's shook. She's  
having trouble holding it together.

BARBRA

You can't stress him out any more.

BILLY

What happened?

BARBRA

He had some kind of stroke or something. I wasn't listening. I was too busy worried about who's going to take care of everything.

GEORGE

Dad will.

She shakes her head.

BARBRA

No, no, no.

She walks out of Charley's eyeline, so he can't see her through the window.

BARBRA (CONT'D)

(whispered)

He almost died. He still could die. He has to go away. For treatment. It's experimental or something, but they say it should work...

BILLY

But?

BARBRA

We'll be gone for 6 months, at least.

GEORGE

But if dad's going to be gone, you have to run things.

Barbra shakes her head vigorously. She starts to tear up.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

You--

Billy steps forward.

BILLY

I'll run things. Till you and dad get back.

BARBRA

Of course you will.

She breaks down. And throws her arms around Billy. He returns the hug. George rubs her back.

**EXT. THE HASLEY HOME - NIGHT**

Billy and George return home and park near the front door. Billy slams the door and heads inside. George follows slowly, fully engrossed in his phone.

**INT. THE HASLEY HOME - LATER**

Billy and George join Russell and Keith for dinner. A fried chicken bucket sits in the middle of the table, surrounded by biscuits, fries, mashed potatoes and corn on the cob. Billy immediately starts serving himself. George sits down, still busy with his phone.

GEORGE  
(without looking up)  
I saw that neighbor girl... uh...

RUSSELL  
Kyra?

GEORGE  
Yeah, that's it.

BILLY  
What about her?

GEORGE  
She was stealing stuff from the  
junkyard.

Billy keeps eating his corn on the cob. George looks up.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
Yo?

Billy waves his hand.

BILLY  
It's junk. Who cares.

He eats a big spoonful of mashed potatoes and gravy.

GEORGE  
I'll take care of it myself.

BILLY  
Whatever.

George walks away, leaving his half-full plate on the table. He slams the door to his and Billy's bedroom. Billy gets up and goes into his parents' room and shuts the door.

KEITH  
You guys done?

No answer.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
Guys?

No answer. Russell grabs the chicken bucket. Keith grabs a drumstick from George's plate.

**INT. THE HASLEY HOME, CHARLEY AND BARBRA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Billy lays on his parents bed, staring at the ceiling. He's frustrated and angry, but holding it in as much as he can, even though he's got privacy.

He sits up and looks around. The room is dominated by a giant Dallas Cowboys banner. He gets up and wanders around the room. He pauses at a cluttered desk. He rifles through some bills. Finds a few porn magazines and tosses them on the bed.

A mostly-covered wooden box catches his eye. He tries to pull it free, but has to move some stuff to get to it. He pulls it out and the box is a little bigger than a football.

The box is made from sequoia wood and has brass corners and latch. There's room for a lock, but one isn't present. Billy opens the box.

He pulls out a folded cloth. He opens it up and it's a flag for the Black Sheep Civic Society. He pulls out a ring with the initials BSCS around a ruby gem.

Billy reaches into his pocket and pulls out the coin he found at the hospital. It's a match. Not only does it have the same name, it's the same black sheep imagery.

The last item inside is a book filled with detailed directions for the ceremonies of the BSCS. He flips through the book, but doesn't find anything interesting.

He puts everything back in the box. He pockets the coin and puts the box back on the desk, covering it up like before.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - DAY**

Kyra stands looking at her latest work of art. She turns off her blowtorch and sets it down.



The statue, which is nearly complete, is a full-body replica of the character "Fat Mama," aka Nell Wilson, from the TV show "Who Wants To Be A Superhero?" The statue is made from scrap metal and Kyra has been careful to try to match the colors as much as she can.

GEORGE (O.S.)  
Who the hell is that?

KYRA  
You wouldn't even understand.

George steps forward, grinning.

GEORGE  
What, you don't think I like art?

KYRA  
No, I don't think you like art.

GEORGE  
I'm wounded. I'm gonna be mayor some day. I learned how to fake liking art a long time ago.

KYRA  
YOU are running for mayor?

He laughs.

GEORGE  
Well, everybody wants BILLY to run. But his deep dark secret is that he has absolutely no interest. But I do.

KYRA  
Go ahead and mark me down as one vote for your opponent.

He laughs again.

GEORGE  
Good thing I don't need the criminal vote.

She looks at him like he's crazy.

KYRA  
Criminal? Speak for yourself.

GEORGE  
No, I'm speaking for you.

She scoffs.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I saw you.

She freezes.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

In the junkyard. Stealing parts for your... what is that again?

KYRA

Art.

GEORGE

You gonna be a professional artist some day? There a lot of money in giant metal people?

Kyra continues to work on the statue, never looking at George.

KYRA

I went to art school. SCAD. For a semester.

GEORGE

You flunk out or something?

KYRA

Nah, just takin' some time off.

Beat.

KYRA (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll volunteer for your opponent.

GEORGE

You don't even know who they are.

KYRA

It doesn't matter.

He chuckles, but there's no real humor in it.

GEORGE

Don't let Billy see you stealing scrap. He doesn't like people like you.

She shrugs.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
 He's pretty close with the sheriff,  
 you know.

She nods.

**EXT. TUKABATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY**

The basketball team warms up in the gym. They're about to run a scrimmage, with the starters wearing dark jerseys and the back-ups wearing white. Today, Karl is with the starters. Russell practices three pointers from the baseline corner.

Behind him in the bleachers sit a SCOUT and a RADIO ANNOUNCER, they are closely watching the starters warm up.

SCOUT  
 What about this kid, who's he?

RADIO ANNOUNCER  
 Russell Hasley. REALLY wants to  
 play for the Mavericks. He won't.

Russell keeps moving closer as he shoots, hoping to overhear them. He hears enough.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)  
 He's been a star athlete his whole  
 life. Not very smart, but he's  
 strong. Tough. Conditioned to do  
 what he's told.

SCOUT  
 He have room to grow?

RADIO ANNOUNCER  
 Nah, he's a fifth-year senior. He  
 got extra eligibility after he  
 missed his sophomore season with an  
 injury.

SCOUT  
 How?

RADIO ANNOUNCER  
 His dad was mayor.

The two men laugh. Coach Gallant blows a whistle and the players start an intra-squad scrimmage.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Kid hasn't grown since he was a freshman and all the other kids keep getting bigger. He's not a great dribbler. Not a great outside shooter.

SCOUT

Doesn't seem like much left for him to do?

The announcer shakes his head. On the court, the scrimmage is going full speed now. Karl is running the point for the starters, with Russell playing shooting guard.

Karl walks the ball down the court, Dennis covering him. Karl pulls up at the three-point line and drains the shot before Dennis can react.

SCOUT (CONT'D)

What about this kid?

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Second year. First time starter. He showed some flashes in clean-up time last year.

SCOUT

He looks pretty sharp.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

He grew nearly six inches over the summer.

The scout is impressed.

**CUT TO:**

Karl runs a fast break. He crosses midcourt with Dennis covering him. He fakes right, stops and passes the ball to MACK JOHNSON, a near-seven foot center for an alley-oop.

**CUT TO:**

Karl runs another fast break, this time his teammates have a 3-1 advantage. Dennis is the lone defender, he commits to Karl, leaving Russell wide open for a dunk. Karl fakes a pass to Russell and drives past Dennis for the layup. Russell throws his hands up in frustration.

**CUT TO:**

Karl covers Dennis. Dennis drives towards the hoop, but Karl pokes the ball free and takes off down the court.

Russell is ahead of him and open, so Karl passes him the ball. The pass is a bit high, though, and bounces off of Russell's hands and out-of-bounds.

Karl chastises himself, patting himself on the chest. Russell laughs.

KARL

My bad. Won't happen again.

On the sideline, Coach Gallant claps enthusiastically.

COACH GALLANT

C'mon, let's go. Let's go!

Karl gets back on defense.

**CUT TO:**

Karl posts up against Dennis. He steps away, creating space, turns around and hits a jumper.

**CUT TO:**

Karl leads another fast break. Russell is open under the basket. This time, Karl gets the pass to him and Russell gets an easy layup.

Karl tries to high five Russell, but Russell ignores him and runs back on defense.

**CUT TO:**

Another one of the starters, Aaron Kleinfled, shoots a three from the corner, but misses. Russell grabs the rebound and goes to lay the ball up. Theo Rodriguez steps in front of Russell and cuts him off.

At the three point line, Karl claps and Russell looks up. Karl has an open shot, Russell is covered by a guy 8" taller.

Russell ignores Karl and drives at Theo. He pulls up for a jumper, but Theo swats it out of bounds.

Coach Gallant watches the practice carefully. He confers with his ASSISTANT COACHES, one of whom takes notes.

**EXT. TUKABATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY**

Marilyn walks towards the front door of the school on crutches. The bell rings and she's alone as she makes her way to the door. Her backpack shifts heavily as she struggles up the stairs.

Keith approaches the building, but Marilyn doesn't see him. He's distracted and mutters to himself. He looks up to see Marilyn struggling with the crutches to open the front door.

Keith rushes to open the door for her, but she won't get out of his way.

MARILYN

Buzz off.

KEITH

I'm trying to help you.

MARILYN

I don't need YOUR help.

He tries to pull the door open, but she stays in his way. She almost falls over.

KEITH

I didn't bite you.

Marilyn coughs. She stands firm. Stubborn. He pulls on the door again and she finally gives in and moves aside. He opens the door and she goes in.

She hurries down the hall. Keith runs to catch up.

MARILYN

I hope you're not waiting for me to thank you.

KEITH

No... I... uh...

Marilyn coughs again.

KEITH (CONT'D)

Are you doing okay? You sound sick.

A group of popular girls approach Marilyn and get between her and Keith. The blonde one, DARCI, takes Marilyn's backpack and shoulders it. The Black girl, TAMEKA, hugs Marilyn. The Latina girl, VALENTINA, steps in front of Keith as the other girls lead Marilyn away.

VALENTINA

Not today, loser.

Marilyn looks back at Keith, but doesn't react. Keith nods goodbye. She walks away.

**INT. THE EARLY HOME - NIGHT**

It's the middle of the night, and deadly quiet. Dwayne and Judith sleep in their king-sized bed.

Outside, Jeffrey the dog starts barking.

Dwayne is startled awake and sits up. But the dog has stopped and it's quiet. He's not sure he even heard it.

A lone bark pierces the silent night.

Dwayne is still in a daze and he's not sure if he heard the bark or not.

JUDITH

Are you going to do something about  
that dog or just sit there?

Dwayne lays back down and goes to sleep.

Judith gets up and grabs her phone. She dials 9-1-1.

**INT. THE EARLY HOME - LATER**

Judith stands in the living room peering through the window at the Hasley home. Police lights illuminate the junkyard.

DWAYNE (O.S.)

What's going on?

Judith jumps.

JUDITH

I don't know. I can't see anything.

The CAMERA goes through the window, outside and through the junkyard down the same path Jeffrey took earlier.

The CAMERA stops before the front door of the Hasley home. Sheriff Ted Boone walks Jeffrey out of the house towards a K-9 Unit truck.

Russell and George hold Keith back. He's crying and screaming as he tries to get to the dog. Billy watches, arms crossed.

**EXT. BSCS LODGE - DAY**

SUPER: Black Sheep Civic Society Lodge

The BSCS Lodge is a two-story building that looks like an Elks or Masonic Lodge. There are no windows and the building would appear empty if the parking lot weren't full of cars.

**INT. BSCS LODGE - MOMENTS LATER**

Sheriff Boone stands in a room full of men. A large banner across the back of the room bears the name of the organization, Black Sheep Civic Society, with an emphasis on the initials "B.S.C.S."

Among the men present are Warden Bryant, corrections officers Vaught and Neyland, the mercenary Koy, local politician RICKY HOWARD, a Black man in his 30s, and numerous others.

BOONE

Not even three hours later, I'm out there again. Gave the dog right back.

The men laugh. George walks in and takes a seat.

BOONE (CONT'D)

Speak of the devil...

GEORGE

Sorry gentleman, my father couldn't make it. I'm sure you've heard.

Murmurs of sympathy.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I'll have his proxy.

Boone nods.

BOONE

That gives us a quorum, let's jump directly to business.

Murmurs of agreement.

BOONE (CONT'D)

Ricky?

RICKY

Ito joined the others. Now all three farms are requesting aid for the hurricane.

BRYANT

What did you tell them?



RICKY

We determined that Bonsai tree farms are "inessential" and they aren't eligible for emergency funds.

BOONE

Anyone likely to raise a fuss?

RICKY

Well, we never can tell with old Mr. Early, but nothing yet.

George laughs contemptuously at the mention of his neighbor's name.

BOONE

Bryant. How about the prison?

BRYANT

Everything's prepared. The storm won't cause us any problems.

BOONE

What about the OTHER project?

BRYANT

Vaught?

Bryant looks at the CO.

VAUGHT

The rigs have been cleaned and secured.

BOONE

You sure?

VAUGHT

Supervised myself.

KOY

They're good.

Boone nods his head. Vaught frowns.

BOONE

Good.

RICKY

The paperwork has already been "filed." Payments made. Our emergency funds will be among the first approved.

Boone smiles.

NEYLAND  
Sirs, if I may?

BOONE  
Neyland?

NEYLAND  
Something at the prison doesn't  
seem quite right.

BRYANT  
What are you talking about?

NEYLAND  
I can't put my finger on it.  
Strange activity. My gut's telling  
me that something's going on.

BRYANT  
Vaught?

VAUGHT  
No idea, sir.

Beat.

VAUGHT (CONT'D)  
I mean... it doesn't FEEL right.

BRYANT  
We're already on high alert for the  
storm. We're doing everything we  
can.

Neyland nods.

NEYLAND  
Yes, sir. I just think everyone  
should keep an eye out and an ear  
to the ground.

BOONE  
Don't we always?

Laughter.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE HOSPITAL - NIGHT**

The entire Hasley family is gathered in Charley's hospital  
room. Charley is dressed up and moving around, albeit slowly.

GEORGE  
Where are you going again?

CHARLEY  
A clinic. In Texas.

GEORGE  
Why now? You--

BILLY  
I'll take care of everything until  
you get back.

George crosses his arms.

GEORGE  
Why does he get... Mom, why don't  
you stay and run things?

Billy shoots George an evil look. Barbra shakes her head.

BARBRA  
No, you take charge, Billy. Running  
a business like that is a man's  
job. I have to take care of  
Charley. That's MY job.

RUSSELL  
C'mon, mom.

Billy shoots Russell a look of disapproval.

BARBRA  
A wife's first duty is to her  
husband.

GEORGE  
Isn't a mother's first duty to her  
children?

BARBRA  
We're done with this conversation.

GEORGE  
But--

CHARLEY  
You heard your mother. Grab my  
suitcase.

Billy grabs the suitcase before George can get to it.

**INT. THE EARLY HOME - LATER**

Dwayne walks in the front door and slams it behind him. He's bursting with nervous energy.

DWAYNE  
Hey, everybody! Family meeting!  
Now!

A big grin dominates his face.

**CUT TO:**

The family sits around the dinner table. Dwayne remains standing.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
Heard back from the county  
commission. There will be no aid  
for the Bonsai tree farms. Not  
ours, not Karsh or Ito.

The family looks on, concerned.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
But I have a plan.

The family grow MORE concerned.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
Don't worry. I did my own  
research...

Judith laughs. Dwayne shoots her a disappointed look.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
No insurance will cover any of us  
for the storm. AND...

He pauses for effect. Too long.

KYRA  
C'mon, dad.

DWAYNE  
The other farms don't have a big-  
ass barn to put ALL their trees in.

JUDITH  
Meaning...?

He's incredulous they don't get it.

DWAYNE

All we gotta do is survive the storm and we'll corner the market!

KARL

The Bonsai tree market?

Judith is skeptical.

DWAYNE

It's a lot bigger than you think.

Marilyn chuckles. Which makes Karl and Kyra laugh. Dwayne stands confident in his big plan.

JUDITH

So your plan is to "finish putting the trees in the barn."

DWAYNE

Exactly.

He's proud of himself.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - DAY**

Judith walks outside and grabs the mail from the box. She gets in her car and tosses the stack of letters into the passenger seat, where they fan out and all of the addresses can be seen.

She pulls the car out of the driveway.

**EXT. BOAR-LY WORE-LY GROCERY STORE - LATER**

SUPER: Boar-ly Wore-Ly Grocery Store

The Boar-ly Wore-ly Grocery Store is the largest grocery store in the area. It serves the entire town of Tukabatchee. Customers enter and leave. GIRL SCOUTS sell cookies out front.

Judith pulls into a parking spot and turns the car off. She looks over at the letters on the passenger seat. One of them catches her eye. She picks it up and opens it.

The form letter inside is stamped with the words "foreclosure warning." It's an official court document and is no joke.

She puts the letter back in the envelope and sets it on the seat. She gets out of the car, a grim look on her face.

**INT. BOAR-LY WORE-LY GROCERY STORE - LATER**

Judith carries a small bag of groceries as she walks out of the store. She passes a stand with books, comics and magazines. She stops to browse.

She isn't interested in anything at first. Then a book catches her eye. She picks it up and reads the back. The book is titled "The Tukabatchee Massacre," by Wyndham Waterford. It's a VERY slim tome, barely 20 pages.

She smiles and walks back towards the register.

**EXT. BOAR-LY WORE-LY GROCERY STORE - LATER**

Judith stands in front of the store, on her phone. She looks at the book as her phone rings.

AUDREY (O.S.)

Audrey. Go.

Judith chuckles.

JUDITH

I finally figured out what my book is going to be.

AUDREY (O.S.)

About time.

Judith puts the book in her grocery bag and walks towards her car. She stays on the phone.

JUDITH

You ever hear of the Tukabatchee Massacre?

AUDREY (O.S.)

Sounds vaguely familiar.

JUDITH

It's some completely messed up sh--

Judith hears a sound and turns back towards the door of the grocery store. She sees Billy standing in the doorway. He's staring at her.

JUDITH (CONT'D)

Stay on the line.

AUDREY (O.S.)

What's up?

JUDITH  
Probably nothing.

She walks faster across the parking lot. She looks back again.

Billy is following her.

JUDITH (CONT'D)  
I think Billy Hasley is following me.

She speeds up. He does, too.

JUDITH (CONT'D)  
I'm sure of it.

AUDREY (O.S.)  
You want me to call the cops?

Judith unlocks her car with the fob.

JUDITH  
I'm almost to my car. But don't go anywhere.

AUDREY (O.S.)  
I'm here.

Judith starts to run. Billy speeds up, but doesn't break a sweat.

Audrey arrives at her car and yanks the door open. She looks back at Billy. He stops. They stare at each other for a few moments, Billy's face emotionless.

She gets in the car and quickly backs out of the parking spot. She looks in the rearview mirror, but Billy is gone.

JUDITH  
That was weird.

AUDREY (O.S.)  
Everything okay?

JUDITH  
I think so?

AUDREY (O.S.)  
You asking me?

JUDITH  
No, I'm fine. I'm on my way home.

She pulls out of the parking lot.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE STATE PRISON - DAY**

The prison is a hive of activity. GUARDS and TRUSTEES board up the windows in preparation for the storm.

Jeff huddles in a corner of the cafeteria talking to Barkley and Jackson.

BARKLEY

It was messed up.

JACKSON

They didn't give a second thought for Muschetti.

Jackson starts to walk away. Vaught walks into the room and sees them.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

I don't wanna be seen with either of you.

BARKLEY

He's got a point.

Jackson and Barkley leave in different directions. Vaught follows Barkley.

Jeff walks back to his cell and flops down on the bed. The second he does, Ronnie, Ricky and Michael fill up his cell.

RONNIE

We have a job for you.

JEFF

I'm retired.

RICKY

Not anymore, you aren't.

RONNIE

It's time for some payback.

Michael unwraps a shirt he was carrying to reveal a shiv.

JEFF

What if I don't want the job?

Ronnie nods to Ricky. Ricky walks over to the cell door and pulls out a key.



He inserts it in the lock and shuts the door, him on the outside. He pulls on the bars and the door is definitely locked. He uses the key to open it again.

RONNIE  
Any more dumb questions?

MICHAEL  
Use the shiv or have the shiv used  
on you, get it?

Jeff sighs.

JEFF  
So what's the plan?

Ronnie crouches down and begins to whisper.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - DAY**

Kyra finishes welding the last piece of metal onto her statue of Fat Mama. The full moon illuminates the statue as she admires it.

GEORGE (O.S.)  
Well, at least you finished the  
stupid thing.

KYRA  
Ugh. You again?

GEORGE  
I figured you loved my company so  
much last time...

KYRA  
It's not stupid.

He laughs.

GEORGE  
It was just a joke. Didn't mean to  
offend you.

KYRA  
To offend someone, they have to  
care about you. You can't offend  
me. You just bore me.

He exaggeratedly laughs.

GEORGE  
You're no fun tonight.

KYRA  
Sor... It's my first completed,  
life-sized work. I'm proud of it. I  
didn't want to share that  
feeling... With you.

He moves in really close.

GEORGE  
No need to apologize.

KYRA  
I didn't--

He leans in and kisses her. She immediately pulls back in  
disgust. She pushes him away.

KYRA (CONT'D)  
What's wrong with you?

GEORGE  
You're gay, right?

KYRA  
Something like that.

George turns and looks away.

GEORGE  
Sometimes... I have... uh...  
feelings.

Kyra stares at him, but he doesn't make eye contact.

KYRA  
Really?

GEORGE  
Sometimes.

KYRA  
What does that have to do with me?

George shrugs.

GEORGE  
I figured since we were both LGBT,  
that meant you and I...

She laughs out loud.

KYRA  
That's not how any of this works.

She keeps laughing. The humor drains from his face. He stomps over to her statue and pushes it to the ground with a crash. It breaks into several pieces.

KYRA (CONT'D)

Hey!

George runs away. She stoops to survey the damage.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL, COACH GALLANT'S OFFICE - DAY**

Coach Gallant sits in his office, facing Russell.

COACH GALLANT

Got some tough news for you, son.

Russell nods anxiously.

COACH GALLANT (CONT'D)

I'm going to be bringing you off the bench this season. I'm gonna have to start Theo.

Russell is disappointed.

RUSSELL

How am I supposed to get a scholarship as a bench player.

COACH GALLANT

Son, you're going to have to readjust your expectations.

Russell crosses his arms.

COACH GALLANT (CONT'D)

You'll still get a lot of playing time. You'll be our scoring punch off the bench. When the other team is tired, you'll be fresh and they won't be able to handle you.

RUSSELL

Yes, sir.

COACH GALLANT

You'll be our sixth man. Like Jordan Poole.

RUSSELL

But I hate the Warriors?

COACH GALLANT

Well, that doesn't matter... I just need to know we can count on you off the bench.

Russell sighs.

RUSSELL

Of course. Sir.

Russell gets up to leave.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL GYM, BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LATER**

Karl and the rest of the team sit around the locker room, resting after practice.

THEO

Shoot, first thing I'm gonna do is buy a bed big enough to sleep on comfortably.

Laughter.

DENNIS

I'm gonna buy a gold jersey.

KARL

What?

DENNIS

Seriously, that ish is gonna be sweet.

THEO

Like the jersey is made of gold?

DENNIS

Hell yeah!

THEO

Won't that be too heavy to wear?

Russell walks into the room, clearly angry. He sits down, glaring at Theo.

THEO (CONT'D)

(to Karl)

You gonna go D1?

KARL

Sure, I want to get a scholarship to play ball. But it's not my only thing.

Russell laughs contemptuously. Karl ignores him.

KARL (CONT'D)

I'm going to use ball to get a degree in something that will help out in Africa.

RUSSELL

How?

Karl shrugs.

KARL

I'll figure it out later. I just like the idea of using the white people's school to fix things in Africa.

The room laughs. Except Russell.

KARL (CONT'D)

Call it reparations, Gen Z-style.

RUSSELL

You're full of crap. You're gonna buy cars and gold chains like the rest of us.

KARL

Whatever, man.

The players laugh and horse around.

**EXT. TUKABATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL - LATER**

Marilyn walks out of the school; Keith holds the door for her. She works her way outside, going extra slow to make Keith hold the door longer. She coughs as she goes by him.

KEITH

You okay? You don't look so good.

MARILYN

I look better than you do.

He nods his head in agreement. He walks alongside her in silence for a few moments. She speeds up and he keeps pace.

KEITH  
I'm sorry. About the dog.

She studies his face.

MARILYN  
Thank you. It wasn't your fault.

KEITH  
I know. I just...

MARILYN  
I'm sorry they took your dog away.

Keith shrugs. She stares at him for a moment.

MARILYN (CONT'D)  
You don't seem to be that upset.

KEITH  
I... uh...

She breaks into an intense cough. She sways a bit on her crutches.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
What--

She faints.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE HOSPITAL - LATER**

The Early family sits around Marilyn's bed. She's sleeping as they look on, concerned. Dwayne stands up.

DWAYNE  
I'd better get these two home. Make sure everything's locked up and ready in case the storm moves towards the land.

Judith hugs him as hard as she can.

JUDITH  
I'll call you if anything changes.

They kiss.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - NIGHT**

Heavy rain falls on the Early home. Heavier winds blow and the barn door shudders as the trees sway.

**INT. THE EARLY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

The Dwayne, Kyra and Karl sit in the living room, watching the weather report.

ANNOUNCER

The storm is stalled offshore, but local winds are hitting near tropical storm levels. It's too soon to predict the path Carl will take, but we're currently recording gusts up to 160 miles per hour...

Dwayne gets up and walks to the window. He looks at the barn and sees that the door, while chained, is rattling quite a bit.

DWAYNE

I'll be right back. The barn door looks a little loose. Gotta put another chain on it.

He walks toward the front door.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE STATE PRISON - CONTINUOUS**

Everyone is in the cafeteria, all the prisoners and all the COs, with extra men working tonight. Warden Bryant stands before the crowded room, speaking into a microphone.

BRYANT

If you have any questions about the prison's hurricane preparedness plans, direct them towards your CO. AFTER you're back in your cells.

Jeff sits at the front of the room, nothing between him and Bryant. He looks back to see Ronnie, Ricky and Michael sitting near Vaught and another CO. Ronnie nods at him. Jeff turns nervously towards the warden, his hand in his pocket, gripping the shiv.

BRYANT (CONT'D)

Lastly, we're going to need some volunteers to do some exterior upkeep throughout the storm. Make sure the place doesn't get--

RONNIE

No.

Bryant isn't used to being interrupted or told "no."

BRYANT  
Excuse me?

RONNIE  
We know about Muschetti...

The other prisoners start to get riled up. The COs are nervous.

RONNIE (CONT'D)  
We aren't dying for your storm prep.

BRYANT  
Now listen here, you n--

Ronnie whistles.

Clusters of men rush each of the COs, temporarily overloading and distracting them. Bryant starts to panic.

Jeff stands up. He pulls the shiv from his pocket and nervously takes a few steps towards Bryant.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Dwayne walks out of the house in heavy-duty rain gear. He carries a chain and padlock.

DWAYNE  
We're gonna need a bigger ark.

Out of nowhere, Jeffrey lunges at Dwayne. The full weight of the dog is enough to knock him to the ground.

Jeffrey fights to get at Dwayne's throat. Dwayne sticks his hands up, pushing the chain towards the dog's mouth. Jeffrey clamps down on Dwayne's hand. Blood flows.

Dwayne punches the dog with his other hand and Jeffrey lets go.

Jeffrey surges towards Dwayne's throat again, but Dwayne manages to hold the dog back with the taught chain, which Jeffrey gags on.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE STATE PRISON - CONTINUOUS**

Jeff hesitates. Across the room, Ronnie fights off a CO.

RONNIE  
Go! Now!



Jeff rushes Bryant and stabs him in the stomach.

Bryant hits Jeff across the head with the mic.

Jeff stabs him again.

The COs, using batons and tasers, start taking control of the room.

Neyland rushes Jeff and hits him in the back of the head. He falls to the ground, leaving the shiv in Bryant's stomach. Bryant falls to the floor as well.

Vaught arrives and he and Neyland brutally beat Jeff into submission. Another CO rushes to help Bryant.

**EXT. THE EARLY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Tired of gagging on the chain, Jeffrey pulls away from Dwayne's face.

Dwayne reacts quickly and wraps the chain around the dog's throat.

Jeffrey yelps.

Dwayne starts choking the dog to death and the CAMERA pans away from the violence.

**INT. TUKABATCHEE STATE PRISON - CONTINUOUS**

Jeff is still alive, but he's battered and bloody. He lays on his back, blood flowing from his head onto the floor. A CO cuffs him, but he's not moving.

The other COs savagely put down the riot. Billy clubs. Tasers. Tear gas.

Smoke fills the room as billy clubs strike bodies and men scream.

**INT. THE EARLY HOME - CONTINUOUS**

Dwayne walks into the living room. His family looks up at him. He's dirty and wet and his hand is completely covered in blood.

KYRA

Dad?

KARL  
What's wrong?

KYRA  
Is that blood?

DWAYNE  
I just killed that damned dog!

They hug.

**FADE OUT.**