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A FRIEND'S BETRAYAL

By

Rodney Benbow

There's one kind of situation that nobody ever likes to be put in. That is having to choose between a family member and your best friend. That is what you're going to see.

When a person hears the term "A Friend's Betrayal", the first thing they would ask is "What does that term mean?" In this case it is a story about two 17 year old's name JESSE KRAMER and LARRY MILES. They have been best friends since they were in kindergarten. One of them was a good basketball player in high school until getting kicked off the team for skipping school. The reason why he was skipping school was because he was on the streets selling drugs to pay back money he stole from two drug dealers. The other one was also selling drugs on the streets to help his father raise money needed to pay for his mother's heart surgery who is in the hospital dying from a heart failure. He had also been staying after school helping his father work extra hours to help raise money for his mom's heart surgery. In a situation like this, it would cause a person to become desperate to save somebody they love and care for. The question is, "How far would you go to save a loved one as time is running out for them?" Would you become that desperate to save them even if it cost you the friendship of your best friend? That is what you're going to find out. Here's where the story begins.



INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - DAY

LISA STAFFORD is conducting basketball practice. Her husband BEN STAFFORD walks in. Lisa is 40 years old and is coach of the girl's high basketball team. Ben is also 40 years old. He is a police officer.

LISA STAFFORD

Very good! Very good! Samantha stay on her. Good job girls. Good practice. This will wrap up practice for today. I will see all of you tomorrow after school.

The girls go into the locker room. Ben walks up to Lisa.

BEN STAFFORD (KISSING LISA)

Looks like you got a good squad out there.

LISA (KISSING BEN)

Yep! They are getting better everyday. This is why I feel we got a good chance at winning this coming Friday.

BEN

Well, I will certainly make the effort to be there. I wouldn't want to miss a good ball game with my lovely wife coaching.

LISA

And I certainly wouldn't want to coach a good game without my handsome husband around.

BEN

I guess I will be there to bring the team good luck.

The girls walk out of the locker room. Lisa calls over to her point guard SAMANTHA WILKINS. She is 16 years old.

LISA

Samantha!

SAMANTHA WILKINS

Yes Coach!

LISA

Can I talk to you for a minute?

SAMANTHA

Sure!

LISA

Have you seen Jesse anytime recently or talked to him?

SAMANTHA

Last time I talked to him was three ago.

LISA

Are you sure about that?

SAMANTHA

Yes!

LISA

Oh god! This has me worried. He hasn't been to class in almost two weeks now. It isn't like him to miss so many days like this.

SAMANTHA

Coach Stafford, I'm sure Jesse has a good reason for this. I don't think you need to get worried.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

GRANT TURNER and his assistant SCOTT TYLER are chasing Jesse. Turner is following in the car. Tyler is running after him on foot. Jesse managed to escape by jumping onto a moving freight train. Turner is 42 years old and Tyler is 40. They are the two drug dealers who Jesse stole money from.

SCOTT TYLER (YELLING)

Turner is going to get his money back Jesse. You can't keep running from us.

Tyler walks to the car! Turner rolls down the window!

SCOTT

Mr. Turner I'm sorry he got away from me. Damn that kid is one fast son of a bitch. He got away this time, but he has no place to run.

GRANT TURNER

That is true Scott! Sooner or later he's going to have to face us.

(MORE)

GRANT TURNER (CONT'D)  
When we get back the \$2000 he stole  
from us, you make sure he learns  
not to ever do that again.  
Understood!

SCOTT  
Most definitely sir!

INT. LIVING ROOM OF BEN AND LISA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben and Lisa arrive home!

LISA  
Boy this was a long day for me!

BEN  
Same here! Today I had to respond  
to a domestic dispute downtown. A  
guy was beating his wife because he  
was drunk. We almost had to shoot  
his ass.

LISA  
What led to that?

BEN  
He pulled a gun on her. I was able  
to sneak up from behind him and  
knock it out of his hands.  
Otherwise he would've killed her.

LISA  
So what is the wife going to do?

BEN  
Divorce him I hope! I would think  
she'd have common sense to do that.  
No woman ever deserves to get beat  
on like that.

LISA  
That's true! Since we're here and  
all alone, am I going to have to  
worry about you hurting me?

The two of them start kissing!

BEN  
I don't know! You tell me!

LISA (KISSING BEN)  
I don't think so! You're a good  
husband and definitely a good  
kisser.

BEN (KISSING LISA)  
And you're a good wife and a good  
kisser!

Lisa tells Ben about Jesse!

LISA  
There's something I want to tell  
you Ben.

BEN  
What is it?

LISA  
Remember the girl I called over  
today after practice and the guy I  
asked her about?

BEN  
Yeah!

LISA  
Do you think you can work for me on  
that?

BEN  
Why do you need me to do that?

LISA  
Jesse has been missing school for  
almost two weeks now. When Samantha  
told me she hasn't talked to him in  
three weeks that bothered me.

BEN  
What's the connection between those  
two?

LISA  
Jesse is her boyfriend! They've  
been dating for about six months  
now.

BEN  
How do you know that?



LISA

Samantha told me! Jesse was on the guy's basketball team until he got kicked off for missing so many days. He is a great athlete and an outstanding student. I've talked to some of his other teachers and they are also concerned about him.

BEN

Have you talked to the principal about him?

LISA

Yes! I've also talked to his friend Larry!

BEN

Larry who?

LISA

Larry Miles! He and Jesse are in my class together. The two of them are good friends. You might want to talk to him also.

BEN

What's Samantha and Jesse's last names?

LISA

Jesse's last name is Kramer and Samantha's last name is Wilkins.

BEN

I'll talk to my captain tomorrow and see if he will let me do that for you.

LISA

Thank you!

EXT. BASKETBALL COURTS - DAY

JESSE KRAMER and Samantha met at the basketball courts. Jesse is 17 years old.

JESSE KRAMER

Want to play one on one Samantha?

SAMANTHA

Sure! I'm always up for a challenge with you.

JESSE

Let's go!

They played for one hour!

JESSE (CONT'D)

You're pretty good!

SAMANTHA

You're not so bad yourself! Jesse  
can I ask you something without you  
getting mad?

JESSE

What is it?

SAMANTHA

How come you haven't been to school  
in almost two weeks now?

JESSE (BREATHING HARD)

Why the hell did you bring that up?

SAMANTHA (ANGRY TONE)

Coach Stafford is worried about you  
Jesse that's why. Shit Jesse you've  
never done this before. What made  
you do it now?

JESSE

I have personal business to handle!  
It's nothing that concerns you.  
Just leave it alone.

SAMANTHA

Leave it alone my ass Jesse! This  
is the first time we've talked or  
done anything together in almost  
three weeks now. How the fuck am I  
suppose to leave it alone. Is it  
that personal for you to be  
skipping school and not talk to me?  
Jesse this isn't you. You have a  
teacher worried about you and it  
has me worried now. I care about  
you. That's why I'm asking. I don't  
want to see you throw your life  
away. I know losing your parents  
was hard for you and Brian, but  
they damn sure wouldn't want this  
from you.

JESSE

My parents are not the issue right now all right. What I do is my fucking business. I don't need you getting all stirred up because of something Coach Stafford said. Samantha wait! I'm sorry! I just need some time to take care of one thing okay. Once that is done I will be back to school.

SAMANTHA

Do you want to break-up from me now?

JESSE

No I don't want to do that. I just need time to handle some things. I will keep talking to you, okay. I just need to take care of one minor thing. When I do, I will start coming to school again.

SAMANTHA

Does Brian know you've been skipping school?

JESSE

No, and I don't want him to know about that.

SAMANTHA

Jesse please don't do this. Look what it's doing to us now.

JESSE

Samantha you have my word that once this is behind me, you will have nothing to worry about from me.

Jesse sees Scott walking in their direction!

JESSE (PANICING) (CONT'D)

Samantha I need to go okay!

SAMANTHA

Jesse wait!

JESSE

I'll call you tomorrow okay! I need to get out of here.

Jesse runs off!

SAMANTHA

Well can I at least get a hug and  
kiss?

Scott approaches Samantha!

SCOTT

Excuse me miss! Are you a friend of  
Jesse Kramer?

SAMANTHA

Yes!

SCOTT

Good! Because I have a message I  
would like for you to deliver to  
him.

Scott grabs Samantha by her arm! He pulls a gun on her!

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Ben tells his police Captain DAN MILO about his wife's case.  
Captain Milo is 49 years old. Ben walks into the Captain's  
office.

BEN

Good morning Captain Milo!

CAPTAIN DAN MILO

Good morning Stafford!

BEN

Captain I have a favor to ask you!

CAPTAIN MILO

What is it?

BEN

My wife told me one of her students  
hasn't been coming to school in  
almost two weeks now. She asked me  
if I could ask some of his other  
teachers and friends to find out  
why. Do you think you can allow me  
to do that for her?

CAPTAIN MILO

You can, but on your own time! You  
also have to fill out a report from  
that domestic dispute case  
yesterday.

BEN

Kane can take care of that!  
Captain, this sounds pretty serious  
from what she told me.

CAPTAIN MILO

How serious?

BEN

Serious enough to help a young  
teenager from her point of view. I  
don't know the full details on it  
yet. That's why she asked me to do  
this. That's also why I need you to  
let me do this. I can't just do it  
on my own time.

CAPTAIN MILO

All right Stafford you can do it,  
but make sure Kane or somebody else  
fills out the report from  
yesterday's incident. Do you  
understand me?

BEN

Yes Captain!

Ben walks to Detective MARK KANE'S desk. Ben and Detective  
Kane have worked on other cases together. Kane is 38 years  
old.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hey Kane!

MARK KANE

Yeah!

BEN

Can you fill out the report from  
yesterday's domestic dispute case?  
Captain Milo wants it on his desk  
now. I got a call to make about  
another case.

KANE

Stafford do you see all of this  
paperwork I have on my desk?

BEN

Yes I see that! The reason why I'm  
asking you to do the report is  
because my wife asked me to find  
out why one of her students hasn't  
been coming to school.

KANE

I understand! I'll take care of it  
Stafford.

BEN

Thanks!

Ben calls his friend KEITH HAWKINS. Keith is a Private Investigator. Ben and Keith served ten years in the army together. Keith is 40 years old.

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - DAY

KEITH HAWKINS

Hawkins Detective Agency!

BEN

I still think you should've joined  
the police force with me Keith.  
After the ten years you and I  
served in the army together, you  
would've been a damn good cop just  
like me.

KEITH

Detective Ben Stafford! Long time  
no hear from you. I like the fact  
of being my own boss. That's why I  
opened my own Detective Agency.  
What's been going on with you?

BEN

A lot of crazy shit that's what!

KEITH

What kind of crazy shit?

BEN

It's a long story that I would  
rather not get into right now. I'll  
tell you about it another time.  
Anyway, I need a favor from you.

KEITH

What is it?

BEN

My wife has asked me to search for  
one of her students from her class.  
She told me he hasn't been to  
school in almost two weeks now.

KEITH

Damn two weeks! Why the hell did she wait that long to tell you that?

BEN

I don't know man! Your guess is as good as mine on that. Since I saved your life during the Gulf War you owe me for that. You also owe me for helping you find that 11 year-old girl who was kidnapped by her father two years ago. How's she and her mother doing?

KEITH

They're doing fine! She has full custody over her. His sorry ass is locked up in jail for 10 years because of that. I'm glad you did those things for me and I appreciated that. So what do you need me to do?

BEN

Can you meet me in one hour at the bar we use to go to during our army days? I'll explain everything when you get there.

KEITH

I'll be there!

INT. BAR - DAY

Ben and Keith meet at the bar. Keith brought his girlfriend AMANDA THOMPSON. Amanda is 37 years old.

KEITH

Over here Ben!

Ben and Keith shake hands and hug!

BEN

You still haven't changed since being in the army Keith. Same haircut! Same Everything!

KEITH

That's me man! That's how I know I will be recognized by an old army buddy like you.

They laugh!

BAR TENDER  
Can I get you anything sir?

BEN  
Get me a Miller High Life!

BAR TENDER  
Will do! I need one Miller High Life!

KEITH  
Since you're here Ben, I want you to meet a very special lady in my life. This is Amanda Thompson. Amanda this is Ben Stafford.

Ben and Amanda shake hands!

AMANDA THOMPSON  
Nice to meet you Been!

BEN  
Nice to meet you too Amanda! Whatever happened with you and Melanie, Keith? I thought you two were unbreakable.

KEITH  
I thought that too, until I caught her sorry ass two timing me with her ex-boyfriend. When I caught the two of them in bed one night I told her the hell with it. She was nothing but a two-timing bitch. Come to find out she was doing that with a lot of other guys. Two weeks later, that's when I met this lovely lady sitting right here next to me at a nightclub.

AMANDA  
Thank you for the compliment Keith!

KEITH  
It was my pleasure Amanda!

They kiss! The bar tender brings Ben his beer!

BAR TENDER  
Here's your Miller High Life sir!



BEN

Thanks!

KEITH

So you and Lisa are still married Ben?

BEN

Yep! It's been five years now since we tied the knot.

KEITH

That's good man! I'm happy for both of you. When you called me, you said she asked you to find out why one of her students hasn't been coming to school in two weeks.

BEN

Yeah! She asked me to talk to some of his other teachers about him. His name is Jesse Kramer. She's very concerned about him, which is why she asked me to do this.

KEITH

I can see why! I care for young kids man and I hope to have some of my own one day. That's why I helped that lady get her daughter back from her husband. I'll be glad to help you with that Ben.

BEN

Thanks!

Ben's cell phone rings! It's Lisa!

BEN (CONT'D)

Let me take this call!

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - DAY

BEN

This is Stafford!

LISA

Ben where are you now?

BEN

I'm with an old army buddy of mine, Keith Hawkins. I've asked him to help me with the Jesse Kramer case.

LISA

I remember Keith! You told me you saved his life in the Gulf War and you helped him find an 11 year-old girl who was kidnapped by her father.

BEN

Yeah!

LISA

How soon can you two get here? School just let out and Jesse's other teachers are still here.

BEN

We're on our way Lisa!

LISA

Okay!

They hang up!

INT. BAR - DAY

BEN

Keith that was Lisa! She'd like for us to go ahead and come to the school.

KEITH (HUGGING AMANDA)

Okay! Well Amanda, I have to go! I will see your lovely face tonight my sweet love.

AMANDA (HUGGING KEITH)

I'll be waiting for you Keith!

They kiss!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - DAY

Ben and Keith arrive to the school!

BEN

Hi Lisa!

LISA

Thank you for doing this for me Ben. You haven't changed at all Keith.

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

That's the same look you have in the picture you and Ben took.

KEITH

That's right Lisa! I was telling Ben this is how I know people will recognize me.

LISA

I see! It's good to see you again!

Lisa and Keith hug!

KEITH

It's good to see you again also Lisa. Where do you want us to start?

LISA

You can start with Rodney Lyons the principal. He has the file on Jesse. The only other teacher I know Jesse has is Linda Clay. She's his English teacher.

BEN

We'll get started right away!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben and Keith question RODNEY LYONS the school principal. Mr. Lyons is 46 years old.

RODNEY LYONS

How can I help you two?

BEN

We're looking for Rodney Lyons the principal.

MR. LYONS

That's me!

BEN

Mr. Lyons I'm Detective Ben Stafford and this is Keith Hawkins. He's a Private Investigator.

Ben and Keith shake hands with Mr. Lyons!

BEN (CONT'D)

We came here to ask you about Jesse Kramer. What can you tell me about him?

MR. LYONS

Jesse has been a good student from the beginning of the year. He was also an outstanding basketball player for the men's basketball team. Lately, he's been missing school for about two weeks now. That is why his teachers and former coach have been sending me letters telling me he hasn't been here.

BEN

I know, because my wife told me that too. That's also why she asked me to find him and why he hasn't been coming here. She is concerned about him.

MR. LYONS

That concerns me too! He has had perfect attendance since he started coming here in ninth grade.

KEITH

Lisa said you have his personal files?

MR. LYONS

Yes I do!

KEITH

Can we see them?

MR. LYONS

Sure!

Mr. Lyons hands Jesse's file to Ben!

BEN (READING THE FILE)

I'll be damn! It says here, "When Jesse was ten years-old, his parents was killed in a car accident when a drunk driver in a dump truck fell asleep behind the wheel. He drifted into the oncoming lanes of the highway and crashed head on into a couple in a pick-up truck. The couple was identified as Paul and Martha Kramer.

(MORE)

BEN (READING THE FILE) (CONT'D)  
Parents of Brian and Jesse Kramer."  
How long have you known about this  
Mr. Lyons?

MR. LYONS  
Since Jesse started coming here! He  
and Brian seemed to have gotten  
past that. Brian ended up raising  
Jesse ever since that happened  
seven years ago. I've also been  
trying to get in touch with him to  
see if he knows about Jesse not  
coming to school, but I've never  
been able to reach him.

KEITH  
Do you know where we can find  
Brian?

MR. LYONS  
He works at a construction site  
downtown. He's been working there  
for almost a year now. It's that  
new tall building that's being  
built. It's about 30 stories high.

BEN  
Have you talked to any of Jesse's  
teachers or any of his friends  
about this?

MR. LYONS  
Mrs. Clay is his English teacher!  
She's also been down here asking  
about him. You may also want to  
talk to a guy name Larry Miles. He  
and Jesse are good friends and have  
some of the same classes. Also talk  
to our janitor Leon. He's Larry's  
father. I'm sure he knows about  
Jesse as well.

BEN  
Where can we find Mrs. Clay?

MR. LYONS  
When you walk down the hall make a  
right. Her class is the second room  
on the left.

BEN  
Thanks Mr. Lyons!

MR. LYONS  
You're welcome Officer!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Next Ben and Keith question Jesse's English teacher LINDA CLAY. Mrs. Clay is 41 years old.

LINDA CLAY  
How can I help you gentlemen?

BEN  
Are you Linda Clay?

MRS. CLAY  
Yes I am! What can I do for you?

BEN  
Mrs. Clay, I'm Detective Ben Stafford and this is Keith Hawkins. He's a Private Investigator. You probably know my wife Lisa Stafford.

MRS. CLAY  
Yes I do! She's one of the P.E teachers and coach of the girls basketball team.

BEN  
That's right! She also asked me to talk to some of the faculty members about Jesse Kramer. What can you tell me about him?

MRS. CLAY  
Jesse hasn't been to school in almost two weeks now. He was making good grades in my class. He was never late and hadn't missed any days until now. I don't understand why he's been missing so many days. That has me worried about him.

BEN  
I know! That's why my wife asked me to look into this.

MRS. CLAY  
Jesse was also on the men's basketball team.  
(MORE)

MRS. CLAY (CONT'D)

I heard he was kicked off because of all the days he's missed. Whenever I would ask a student to volunteer to lead the class on a certain chapter, Jesse would volunteer to do that.

KEITH

Did you also know his parents were killed in a car accident when he was 10 years-old?

MRS. CLAY

Yes I did! Jesse told me about that. I also know his older brother raised him after it happened. How did you two know about that?

BEN

Mr. Lyons showed us his file. I wouldn't be surprised if that's one of the reasons why he hasn't been coming to school.

MRS. CLAY

You could be right! I've heard about situations of teenagers falling apart after a tragic event like that. I hope that's not the case with Jesse.

BEN

Me too!

KEITH

What can you tell us about Larry Miles?

MRS. CLAY

Larry and Jesse are good friends! He's been here everyday. The two of them sit next to each other in the first row. I didn't think to ask him about Jesse until now.

BEN

Who's the men's basketball coach?

MRS. CLAY

Darnell Creighton! He should be in his office now down in the gym.

KEITH

Is Larry's father also here?

MRS. CLAY

He should be! I saw him this morning when I came into the building.

BEN

Thank you for your time Mrs. Clay!

MRS. CLAY

You're welcome Officer!

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ben and Keith are walking in the hallway. They run into the janitor LEON MILES and his son LARRY MILES. Leon is mopping the floor and Larry is cleaning the mirrors in the boy's bathroom. Leon is 50 years old and Larry is 17.

BEN

Excuse me sir!

LEON MILES

Yes!

BEN

Are you Leon Miles the janitor?

LEON

Yes I am!

BEN

Is this your son Larry?

LEON

Yes!

BEN

Leon sorry to bother you! My name is Detective Ben Stafford and this is Keith Hawkins. He's a Private Investigator. We'd like to ask the both of about Jesse Kramer. What can you tell us about him?

LARRY MILES

Sir, Jesse and I have been best friends since we were in kindergarten. We also have some classes together, but he hasn't been here in nearly two weeks now.

BEN

Do you know why?



LARRY

He told me he had some personal business to handle last time I talked to him. That was this past weekend.

KEITH

What kind of business?

LARRY

He didn't say!

BEN

Do you think it has something to do with the loss of his parents when he was 10 years old?

LARRY

No! It can't be that! Jesse and his brother Brian have moved on past that. I know it was a hard time for both of them, but I hope that doesn't have anything to do with Jesse not coming to school.

KEITH

What do you know about him Leon?

LEON

Jesse has been a good kid since he and Larry become friends. My wife and I would invite his parents and brother to family cookouts on the weekends before they were killed.

BEN

How did you two know about his parents getting killed?

LEON

We attended the funeral to show our support for them. My wife and I would let him and his brother stay with us until Brian got that construction job downtown.

KEITH

Do you mind if we talk to your wife?

LEON

I'm afraid now is not a good time!  
She's in the hospital suffering  
from a heart failure. That's why  
I've been working extra hours  
trying to raise money to pay for  
her heart surgery. The hospital  
found a new heart for her. We have  
to pay the remaining amount that my  
insurance company couldn't cover.  
That's also why Larry is helping  
me.

BEN

Sorry to hear about that!

KEITH

Larry who are some of you and  
Jesse's other teachers?

LARRY

Mrs. Hughes is our Math teacher and  
Mr. Helm is our Science teacher.  
Their rooms are right next to each  
other down the hall.

BEN

I appreciate you two taking the  
time to talk to us. In the  
meantime, if you hear from Jesse or  
see him give me a call. Here is my  
home and cell phone number.

Ben hands Leon a business card!

LEON

I will do that Officer!

INT. SCIENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Ben and Keith walk into the science room to meet with Larry  
and Jesse's science teacher MARTIN HELM.

BEN

Excuse me sir!

MARTIN HELM

Yes!

BEN

Are you Mr. Helm?

MR. HELM  
Yes I am!

BEN  
Mr. Helm I'm Detective Ben Stafford  
and this is Keith Hawkins. He's a  
Private Investigator. Is Mrs.  
Hughes in her room?

MR. HELM  
Yes she is!

BEN  
Keith go ask her to come over here!

KEITH  
Okay!

Keith walks out of the room to get Larry and Jesse's Math  
teacher BARBARA HUGHES.

INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT

KEITH  
Excuse me mam!

BARBARA HUGHES  
Yes!

KEITH  
Are you Mrs. Hughes?

MRS. HUGHES  
Yes I am!

KEITH  
Mrs. Hughes my name is Keith  
Hawkins! I'm a Private  
Investigator. I'm here with a  
police office right now and he  
asked me to come over to get you.  
We want to talk to you and Mr. Helm  
about a guy name Jesse Kramer.

MRS. HUGHES  
Okay!

INT SCIENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Keith and Mrs. Hughes walk into the science room.

KEITH  
Here's Mrs. Hughes Ben!

BEN  
Mrs. Hughes thank you for coming  
over here. I'm Detective Ben  
Stafford.

Ben and Mrs. Hughes shake hands!

MRS. HUGHES  
Officer, this gentleman said you  
two wanted to talk to us about  
Jesse Kramer.

BEN  
Yes!

MRS. HUGHES  
Has something happened to him?

BEN  
I don't know! The reason why we  
came here is because my wife asked  
me to do this. She's very concerned  
about him.

MRS. HUGHES  
I can see why because that concerns  
me too. I really don't know what to  
tell you about Jesse other than he  
hasn't been to school in almost two  
weeks. My first thought is that he  
probably dropped out of school.

MR. HELM  
That thought also crossed my mind.  
He had never missed any days until  
now. Here are some of his grades  
that he made on the exams I've  
given to the class.

Mr. Helm hands Ben his grade book!

BEN (READING THE GRADE BOOK)  
"Jesse Kramer, four B's and three  
A's." What grades has he made in  
your class Mrs Hughes?

MRS. HUGHES  
He's made all A's in my class. I  
just don't understand why he's been  
missing school.

KEITH

Have any of you talked with his brother Brian?

MR. HELM

No!

MRS. HUGHES

No! Do you think this could have something to do with the death of his parents? He told us they were killed in a car accident when he was 10 years old.

BEN

We're not counting out that possibility. Some kids have become a whole new person after suffering a tragic loss like that.

MR. HELM

I agree with you on that! That same thing also happened to a student who use to go here four years ago. His name was Craig Myers. After his parents were killed in a boating accident that was the last time we saw him. That is a very sad thing to hear about, but in the case with Craig he was an only child. He had nobody to turn to after the loss of his parents.

MRS. HUGHES

Last thing we heard about Craig was he got arrested for dealing drugs on the streets and for armed robbery at a gas station. Sadly to say he has been in jail ever since then. I just hope the same thing hasn't happened to Jesse.

KEITH

We hope not either!

BEN

Listen! If you two or any of his other teachers here from him please let me know. Here's my contact numbers.

Ben hands them a business card!

MR. HELM  
We'll definitely do that Officer!

INT. COACH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ben and Keith walk to the gym. They talk to the men's basketball coach DARNELL CREIGHTON.

BEN  
Excuse me sir! I'm looking for  
Coach Darnell Creighton.

DARNELL CREIGHTON  
That's me! How can I help you?

BEN  
Coach Creighton I'm Detective Ben  
Stafford and this is Keith Hawkins.  
He's a Private Investigator. My  
wife Lisa asked me to talk to some  
of the faculty members about Jesse  
Kramer. What can you tell me about  
him?

COACH CREIGHTON  
Officer Jesse was one hell of a  
ball player. I hated to have to  
kick him off the team because he  
was missing school and missing  
practice, and I don't understand  
why. He was my starting point  
guard.

KEITH  
Did you know his parents were  
killed in a car accident when he  
was 10 years old?

COACH CREIGHTON  
Yes! He told me about that! I met  
his brother Brian when he was a  
freshman. How did you two know  
about that?

KEITH  
Mr. Lyons showed us his file. We  
talked to him earlier and to some  
of his other teachers. They're all  
shocked about him not coming to  
school and are very concerned about  
him. We also talked to Larry Miles  
and his father Leon who are also  
concerned.

COACH CREIGHTON

Damn! I can imagine what that can do to a child at a young age. Do you two think that's why the reason why he's been missing school?

BEN

We don't know! That's why we're asking to find out.

KEITH

When we talked to Larry and his father he told us his wife is in the hospital suffering from a heart failure. That hasn't stopped Larry from coming to school.

COACH CREIGHTON

I asked Larry if he wanted to try out for the team at the beginning of the year and he said he didn't want to. I've also seen him and Jesse hanging around each other on and off the campus. Do you think Larry might know something?

KEITH

When we talked to them Larry said he hasn't seen Jesse since this past weekend. He told us Jesse had personal business to handle.

COACH CREIGHTON

Is his business that personal that it's causing him to miss school?

BEN

I don't know! Your guess is as good as mine on that. Listen, if you see or hear from Jesse I'd like for you to give me a call. My wife is also concerned about him just like you and everyone else we've talked to. Here are my contact numbers.

Ben hands Coach Creighton a business card!

COACH CREIGHTON

I definitely will Officer!

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ben and Keith leave Coach Creighton's office. They walked outside to the parking lot.

BEN

Damn Keith! This has me very worried about him now after what all of them told us. Who do you think we should talk to now?

KEITH

You need to talk to Brian and see if he knows about this. I wouldn't be surprised if he doesn't. Let me know what he tells you okay. I have something else I need to take care of tomorrow.

BEN

You could be right! I just hope Jesse isn't doing anything illegal on the streets. From what they told us he sounds like a good kid, but there's always that case of "looks can be deceiving". I hope that's not what we're dealing with.

KEITH

I sure as hell hope not either! Just give me a call tomorrow and let me know what you find out from his brother.

BEN

I'll call you right after I talk to him.

Ben and Keith leave the parking lot!

EXT. FRONT DOOR OF SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jesse goes to visit Samantha!

JESSE (KNOCKING ON THE DOOR)

Samantha! Samantha open up! It's me Jesse!

Samantha opens the door! She has bruises on her face!

JESSE (CONT'D)

My god what happened to your face?



SAMANTHA

That guy you ran from at the basketball court did this to me. He said if you don't pay back the money you stole from Grant Turner, he's going kill you and your brother.

JESSE

Oh shit! Samantha I'm sorry that happened to you!

SAMANTHA (ANGRY TONE)

Is that why you've been missing school? Jesse what the fuck have you gotten into? Are you selling fucking drugs on the streets you son of a bitch?

JESSE

Samantha wait! I will -

SAMANTHA (CRYING)

You will what! Jesse I don't ever wanna see you again. Don't call me and don't come over here anymore. Leave me alone!

Samantha slams the door in Jesse's face!

JESSE

Oh shit! What the fuck have I done?

INT. BEDROOM OF BEN AND LISA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LISA (HUGGING BEN)

So what did you and find out?

BEN (HUGGING LISA)

The people Keith and I talked to told us the same thing you told me. I did find out his parents were killed in a car accident when he was 10 years old.

LISA

I knew that too! He told me about that at the beginning of the year. How did you find out?

BEN

Mr. Lyons! When he showed Keith and I Jesse's file it read a drunk driver fell asleep behind the wheel in a dump truck and drifted into the oncoming lanes and crashed head on into a pick up truck. The couple in the truck was identified as Paul and Martha Kramer, parents of Brian and Jesse Kramer.

LISA

Did you talk to Brian about Jesse?

BEN

Not yet! That's on my agenda tomorrow. Mr. Lyons told me he works at a construction site downtown. He's also been raising Jesse since their parents' death.

LISA

That's a terrible thing for kids to go through.

BEN

Yeah I know! That is sad! I did talk to Larry and his father. Leon told us they let Brian and Jesse stay with them until Brian started working at the construction site. Also Larry's mother is in the hospital suffering from a heart failure. Did you know about that?

LISA (SUPRISED)

No I didn't! They never said anything about that.

BEN

Larry told us he talked to Jesse this past weekend and said he had personal business to handle. Mr. Lyons and all his teachers said he's a good kid.

LISA

Is there somebody else I could talk to about him?

BEN

Talk to Samantha tomorrow and see if she's heard from him.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

Right now my big concern is that he hasn't gotten into any kind of trouble. Mr. Helm and Mrs. Hughes told Keith and I about another guy name Craig Myers. They said he lost his parents in a boating accident and then he started dealing drugs and then robbed a gas station which is why he's been locked up in jail.

LISA

Yeah I remember Craig! He was an only child and didn't have nobody to turn to. It breaks my heart for any child to go through something like that especially when they are young. A lot of times they never recover from that because it makes them become a completely different person then what were before. I never imagined going through that because I was blessed to have both of my parents all my life.

BEN

Same thing with me as you know! One of the things I've never liked about being a police officer is having to deliver that kind of news to the relatives of the person who died in such a tragic way. Unfortunately it's the nature of my job.

LISA

Yeah! I definitely hope Jesse isn't in any kind of trouble. That's why I am asked you to look into this.

BEN

Yeah! Don't forget to talk to Samantha tomorrow okay.

LISA

I'll definitely do that!

The two of them kiss and then go to bed for the night.

## ACT TWO

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE- DAY

Ben goes to the construction site!

CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN  
Good morning sir! How can I help you?

BEN  
I'm looking for a guy name Brian Kramer. I was told he works at this site.

CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN  
May I ask who you are?

BEN  
Detective Ben Stafford! Is he here today?

CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN  
Yes he is! Take the elevator up to the seventh floor and you'll find him. Put on a hard hat first.

The foreman hands Ben a hard hat!

BEN  
Thanks!

Ben gets off the elevator and meet's Jesse's brother BRIAN KRAMER. Brian is 34 years old.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Excuse me sir! Which one of these guys is Brian Kramer?

BRIAN KRAMER  
I am! Who are you?

BEN  
I'm Detective Ben Stafford! I came here to ask you about your brother Jesse.

BRIAN  
What do you want to know about him?

BEN  
Do you know he hasn't been to school in two weeks Brian?

BRIAN (ANGRY TONE)  
What the fuck are you talking  
about?

BEN  
Settle down Brian! I didn't come  
here to start anything with you.  
I'm going by what my wife told me.

BRIAN  
What the hell does your wife have  
to do with my brother?

BEN  
She's his P.E Teacher! She asked me  
to talk to people who know him and  
see what I can find out.

BRIAN  
Well you're not going to find out  
anything from me. Jesse has been  
getting up and going to school  
everyday, as far as I know.

BEN  
She wasn't the only one who told me  
that Brian.

BRIAN  
Who else told you that bull shit  
lie?

BEN  
His principal, basketball coach,  
and three of his teachers told me  
that. You can also include his best  
friend Larry Miles and his father.

BRIAN  
Well as far as I know, all you can  
kiss my ass Stafford. You all are  
full of shit.

BEN  
Well since you think that's bull  
shit, I guess you're going to say  
he wasn't kicked off the basketball  
team.

Brian puts a stunned look on his face!

BEN (CONT'D)

Well, well! Somebody's pulling his head out of his ass to finally listen to me now.

BRIAN

Who the hell told you that?

BEN

His ex-basketball coach, Darnell Creighton! Brian look! I didn't come here to cause any trouble. I'm doing a favor for my wife. I also know your parents were killed in a car accident and I'm sorry for your loss.

BRIAN

All right Stafford what do you want me to do?

BEN

I think you should talk to Jesse about this since you are his legal guardian. My wife is concerned about him and so am I. I have no reason to lie about something like this. I'm only going by what I'm being told. If you find out anything give me a call. Here are my contact numbers.

Ben hands Brian a business card!

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

Larry and his father go to the hospital!

LEON

Doctor! How's my wife doing?

DOCTOR

She's holding on as long as she can Mr. Miles. She only has three weeks to live unless you can come up with the remaining amount for us to perform her surgery. As you know, we have a new heart for her, but you still need \$2000 to cover the amount your insurance company couldn't pay.

LEON  
Can we see her now?

DOCTOR  
Yes!

INT. REGINA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Larry and his father walk into the hospital room of his mother REGINA MILES. Regina is 49 years old.

LARRY  
Hi Mom!

REGINA MILES  
Hi Larry! How are you?

Larry and Leon both hug her and kiss her on the cheek.

LARRY  
I'm doing fine mom! I just wish you  
were home with us.

REGINA  
I know! I wish I was too! How are  
you doing Leon?

LEON  
I'm hanging in! I've been working a  
lot of overtime to raise the  
remaining amount of money we need  
for the doctors to perform your  
heart surgery.

REGINA  
How much do they need?

LEON  
They told us \$2000! They also said  
they have a new heart for you, but  
can't do the surgery until I pay  
the remaining amount. Right now  
things are not the same without you  
Regina. All I do is pray everyday  
for some kind of miracle to get you  
through this.

REGINA  
Leon you have to find a way to get  
through this. I pray on that too,  
but if by some chance I don't make  
it, you have to promise that you  
will move on without me.

LEON (CRYING)

I can't make that promise to you Regina. I just won't do it. I love you too much to let you die now. I'm not going to let our 25 year marriage go down the drain.

LARRY (CRYING)

I won't let you go either mom! I'm only 17 years old and I'm not ready to lose you. I need you mom. I need you very badly. That's why I've been helping dad.

LEON

Regina we're not going to let you die. If I have to sell the house to pay for your surgery I will do that. This is taring us up right now and I will not stop working hard until we get the money we need to pay for your surgery. You need to go ahead and get some rest now. We'll be back here to see you tomorrow.

Larry and Leon hug Regina and then leave her room.

INT. KITCHEN OF STAFFORD HOUSE - NIGHT

LISA

Ben I have bad news!

BEN

What is it?

LISA

Samantha didn't come to basketball practice today. She also wasn't at school either.

BEN (SURPRISED)

What! Why!

LISA

I don't know! I'm wondering if it has something to do with Jesse.

BEN

Did you ask the other girls on the team about her?



LISA

Yes I did! They said they didn't see her and haven't talked to her.

BEN

Damn! What do you think about this now?

LISA

I don't know what to think! This is the first time she's ever missed practice or missed school. We've got a big game on Friday and we need her on the court.

BEN

Do you have a list of the girls' phone numbers?

LISA

Yes!

BEN

Call her and see if she found out anything about Jesse.

LISA

Okay!

Lisa calls Samantha!

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - NIGHT

SAMANTHA

Hello!

LISA

Is Samantha home?

SAMANTHA

This is she!

LISA

Samantha it's Coach Stafford! I called to ask you why you didn't come to practice today.

SAMANTHA

Coach Stafford I have something to tell you about Jesse.

LISA

Have you seen him recently?

SAMANTHA (CRYING)  
Yes, and I think he's in trouble!

LISA  
What kind of trouble?

SAMANTHA  
Saturday we were playing basketball on the courts. A guy approached us and Jesse took off running. The guy and pulled a gun on me and forced me to go with him.

LISA  
Where did he take you?

As Samantha continues crying, Lisa calms her down!

LISA (CONT'D)  
Take your time Samantha! Take some deep breathes if you need to.

SAMANTHA  
The guy took me to a night club downtown. He then took me to a private room and another guy was there.

LISA  
What other guy?

SAMANTHA  
His name is Grant Turner! The guy who grabbed me from the court was Scott Tyler. They told me to tell Jesse if he doesn't pay back the money he stole from them, they're going to kill him and his brother. They also beat me Coach Stafford.

LISA  
Samantha did you tell the police about this?

SAMANTHA  
No!

LISA  
Samantha listen! My husband is here with me now and he's a police officer. I'll tell him everything you just told me. Are you going to be okay?

SAMANTHA

I'm scared Coach Stafford! I'm scared for Jesse! I don't know what to do.

LISA

Samantha I'm sorry that happened to you. My husband will handle this okay. In the meantime, you stay your house and keep your doors lock until I come there. I'll let you stay here with me tonight.

SAMANTHA

Okay!

Lisa and Samantha hang up!

INT. KITCHEN OF STAFFORD HOUSE - NIGHT

LISA

Ben this could be big information for you.

BEN

What is it?

LISA

Samantha said a guy came to the courts where she and Jesse were playing basketball and forced her to go away with him with a gun after Jesse ran off. The guy told her if Jesse doesn't pay back the money he stole from Grant Turner and Scott Tyler, they're going to kill him and his brother.

BEN

Holy shit! If Jesse has gotten mixed up with them that's bad news. The department has been trying to nail them for a long time. We believe they've been smuggling drugs in and out of the country. Oh god what the hell was Jesse thinking to do something foolish like that. I need to talk to my Captain tomorrow and see where we stand on that. Right now I need to call Keith.

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - NIGHT

KEITH  
Hawkins Detective Agency!

BEN  
Keith it's Ben! Listen I just found out some serious information about Jesse.

KEITH  
What information?

BEN  
Meet me at the station tomorrow at 9 o'clock. I'll tell you about it there because I also need to tell my Captain.

KEITH  
Okay Ben! I'll be there!

INT. BRIAN AND JESSE'S APARTMENT - DAY

The following day Brian stayed home from work.

BRIAN  
Jesse wake up!

JESSE (SURPRISED TO SEE BRIAN)  
Brian! Why aren't you at work?

BRIAN  
To find out what your into!

JESSE  
What the hell are you talking about?

BRIAN  
Jesse is it true that you haven't been to school in two weeks now?

JESSE  
Why do you ask that?

BRIAN (ANGRY TONE)  
Jesse stop fucking bull shitting with me. Now answer the fucking question.

JESSE

Brian what I do is my business all right. It has nothing to do with you.

BRIAN

Jesse when a cop comes to my job and tells me something like that about you, it everything to do with me. Is that why you were kicked off the basketball team?

JESSE (ANGRY TONE)

Leave it alone Brian! It's none of your fucking business all right.

Brian pushes Jesse to the floor!

BRIAN

Don't you ever say that is not my business boy. I am busting my ass off trying to keep a roof over our heads since mom and dad were killed. They damn sure wouldn't want this from you.

JESSE

Well mom and dad is dead now Brian. Don't you think it's a little too late for you to be a big brother to me?

BRIAN

It damn sure isn't too late for me to kick your ass boy. Now what the fuck have you gotten into?

JESSE

I owe these guys some money I borrowed.

BRIAN

Who the hell did you borrow money from?

JESSE

I can't tell you that now Brian!

BRIAN

Jesse I'm not playing! Don't make me whip your ass right here boy. I'm seconds away from that.

JESSE

Well then in that case!

Jesse gets up and punches Brian! Brian punches him back! The two of them fight in the living room for about 2 minutes. Jesse then grabs a lamp and hits Brian on the head knocking him out. He left apartment carrying a duffle bag.

INT. CAPTAIN MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

BEN

Captain! I have some information about Jesse Kramer.

CAPTAIN MILO

What information Stafford? Who's this guy?

KEITH

I'm Keith Hawkins! Ben and I go way back!

Keith and Captain Milo shake hands!

CAPTAIN MILO

I see!

BEN

Remember the names Grant Turner and Scott Tyler?

CAPTAIN MILO

Hell yeah I remember those names! We've been trying to nail them for a long time on drug smuggling charges. What do they have to do with Jesse Kramer?

BEN

Yesterday my wife called one of the girls on her basketball team and she told her that a guy came to the courts where she and Jesse were playing basketball. That was Tyler! He told her to tell Jesse if he doesn't pay back the money he stole from them, they'll kill Jesse and his brother Brian.

CAPTAIN MILO

Holy shit! Stafford are you serious about this?

BEN

Yes I'm serious Captain! At a time like this I wish the circumstances were not this serious.

KEITH

Do those guys Turner and Tyler use kids to do their dirty work?

BEN

That's what it sounds like! Captain I think we need to go and search through Turner's place. I'm sure we will find something strong to put him and Tyler away.

CAPTAIN MILO

Hold on Stafford! We can't just go and search through his place without probable cause. Even if we did have that, we'd still need a search warrant. If we go there now and rip the place apart this whole department would get sued for unlawful search. Have you found Jesse and talked to him?

BEN

No!

CAPTAIN MILO

Stafford listen! What I need you to do is find Jesse and see what he can tell you about Turner and Tyler's operation. Whatever information he tells you, you let me know okay.

BEN

All right Captain!

KEITH

The problem now is we don't know where to find Jesse.

Ben's cell phone rings! It's Brian!

BEN

Let me take this call!

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - DAY

BEN  
This is Stafford!

BRIAN (IN PAIN)  
Stafford! It's me Brian!

BEN  
Brian are you okay? You don't sound good!

BRIAN  
I'm hurt because Jesse hit me with a lamp. He ran off somewhere and I think he's in some kind of trouble.

BEN  
I know! My wife talked to his girlfriend Samantha. We believe he's mixed up with two guys name Grant Turner and Scott Tyler. Do you know where he may have ran off to?

BRIAN  
No!

BEN  
Brian listen! Get yourself to the hospital now. I'm going to go search for him. I'm sure I'll find him. I'll let you know when I do.

BRIAN  
Thanks!

INT. CAPTAIN MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

BEN  
Captain that was Jesse's brother Brian. He said Jesse ran off somewhere. We're going to go look for him now.

CAPTAIN MILO  
All right! Call me when you find him.

Ben and Keith leave Captain Milo's office!



EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Jesse is walking on the streets. He and Larry met in an alley.

JESSE

Larry over here!

LARRY

Jesse do you know how much trouble you're in? A cop and some other guy have been asking about you at the school.

JESSE

I know! That's why I called you to meet me here. I have all the money I need to payback Turner.

LARRY

How much did you take from them?

JESSE

\$2000!

LARRY

Shit Jesse you better be glad he hasn't killed you and Brian.

JESSE

Why the fuck do you think I've been out here selling all this marijuana?

LARRY

I know, because I've been out here doing that with you. My dad would kick my ass if he found out I was doing this with you to help raise money to save my mom.

JESSE

How's your mom doing? I remember you told me she was in the hospital suffering from heart failure.

LARRY

She's holding on with every ounce of strength she has. She only has a few weeks to live unless my dad and I raise the money we need to pay for her surgery.

JESSE

How much do the two of you need?

LARRY

\$2000! The same amount you stole from Turner.

JESSE

Larry look! If you want to, you can use some of this money to save your mom. I know what it feels like to not have your parents around.

LARRY

Jesse I can't use that money. You need that to save your own ass. My dad and I will find a way to raise the amount we need.

JESSE

Larry I think you should take this! I know I haven't been doing good things lately, but it's the least I can do for you. You've been my best friend since kindergarten.

LARRY

I know that Jesse and I appreciate you wanting to do that. Like I said, you need that money to pay off Turner and Tyler so they won't kill you and Brian. We need get out of here because look who's coming this way.

JESSE

Oh shit! It's them! Let's go!

Jesse grabs his duffle bag. He and Larry run after spotting Turner and Tyler. When Ben and Keith spotted them running, a gunfight starts.

KEITH

Who the fuck is shooting at us Ben?

BEN

That's Grant Turner and Scott Tyler! They must have more men. You get the ones over there and I'll get the ones over here.

Ben and Keith each shot and killed two of Turner's men. Turner and Tyler escaped the gunfight unarmed.

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - DAY

Ben calls Captain Milo!

CAPTAIN MILO  
This is Captain Milo!

BEN  
Captain, Keith and I spotted Jesse,  
but he ran because Turner and Tyler  
were after them.

CAPTAIN MILO  
Where are you Stafford?

BEN  
In an alley on the south side of  
town. Keith and I just killed some  
of Turner's men.

CAPTAIN MILO  
I'll get some officers out there.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Captain Milo and Detective Kane arrive to the scene with  
other officers.

BEN  
Over here Captain!

CAPTAIN MILO  
Did you see where Jesse ran  
Stafford?

BEN  
Yes! He and Larry were running that  
way when Keith and I spotted Turner  
and Tyler going after them.

CAPTAIN MILO  
I see! Kane!

KANE  
Yeah!

CAPTAIN MILO  
Take some men down that way and get  
those people away from here, and  
keep this area clear.

KANE  
All right! Let's go guys!

INT. NIGHTCLUB OFFICE - NIGHT

GRANT

That Jesse kid got away from us again, but this time he had help. Who was the other kid with him?

SCOTT

That was his friend Larry Miles!

GRANT

What about that two cops?

SCOTT

I only knew Ben Stafford. That other guy must be a friend of his.

GRANT

Right now we have to find a way to catch Jesse. The problem now is we can't go anywhere near him. Stafford and the entire police department could be onto us after what we did to Jesse's girlfriend.

SCOTT

Do you have a plan?

GRANT

Yes I do, but we need to lay low for a few weeks. Then let's pay Jesse's friend Larry a visit. He could be the key in helping us catch Jesse and getting back the money he stole from us. See if you can get an address on him and some information that can be useful to us.

SCOTT

I'll get on it right away!

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Ben and Keith tracked Jesse down at home.

BEN

Jesse wait! Don't run! We're here to help you!

JESSE

Who the hell are you two?

BEN  
I'm Detective Ben Stafford and this  
is Keith Hawkins. He's a Private  
Investigator. We're the ones who  
came to save you and Larry from  
Turner and Tyler. Let's go inside!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

All of them walk inside the apartment.

BEN  
Jesse is it true that you stole  
some money from Turner and Tyler?

JESSE  
Sort of!

BEN  
Jesse don't bullshit me okay! I  
told you I'm here to help you. I'm  
not going to arrest you unless you  
don't tell me what I need to know.  
Did you take money from them?

JESSE  
Yes!

KEITH  
How much?

JESSE  
\$2000!

BEN  
Shit Jesse do you know what kind of  
guys you're mixed up with?

JESSE  
Yes! That's why Larry and I ran  
when we saw them in the alley.

BEN  
Then why did you steal that much  
money from them?

JESSE  
To help Brian and me!

BEN  
What does Brian have to do with  
this?

JESSE

He fell behind in the rent and we were about to get evicted. I asked Turner if I could borrow \$500 and he wouldn't loan it to me. I had to Stafford. Put yourself in my position if you didn't have parents to borrow money from.

KEITH

Jesse I'm sure there were other options for you. Stealing from other people is not one. From what Ben was telling me, you stole money from a dangerous mother fucker.

BEN

He's right Jesse! We've been trying to nail Grant Turner for a long time for smuggling marijuana in and out of the country. Some how he manages to cover his tracks. Is this the reason why you've been missing school?

JESSE

Yes!

BEN

What have you been doing to pay him back?

JESSE

Selling marijuana on the streets!

BEN

Jesse look! I'm going to take you home with me tonight. Chances are Turner and Tyler will track you down here. My wife is the reason why I'm helping you. How much have you made from selling the marijuana?

JESSE

\$2000! The amount I stole from them!

BEN

You know, on any given day I would arrest you for this Jesse. You obviously have committed a serious felony. Was Larry also doing that with you?

JESSE

Yes!

KEITH

Did he also steal money from  
Turner?

JESSE

No! I only did that! He's been  
keeping me informed of what's been  
going on at the school.

BEN

Do you know his mom is in the  
hospital suffering from a heart  
failure?

JESSE

Yes!

BEN

Listen! Tomorrow we are going to  
pay Turner and Tyler a visit and  
you're going to come with us. You  
are going to give them back the  
money you stole. What we will do  
then is wait for them to come after  
you. I will have you under  
protection when you go back to  
school. When he tries something,  
that will be the evidence we need  
to nail him. We'll be catching him  
in the act.

As Brian walks in, Ben and Keith pull their guns.

BRIAN (FREEZING UP)

Stafford why are you here?

BEN

I found out why Jesse wasn't going  
to school Brian. He just told me he  
stole money from a drug smuggler to  
keep you and him from getting  
evicted from your apartment. Are  
you all right?

BRIAN

I have a concussion, but I'll be  
okay!

JESSE

Brian I'm sorry I hit you with a lamp. I'm also sorry I've been lying to you.

BRIAN

Who's this other guy?

BEN

That's Keith Hawkins! He's a Private Investigator! He's been helping me find Jesse!

KEITH

Are you sure you'll be all right Brian? You look like you took a hard hit.

BRIAN

I'll make it!

BEN

Listen you two! Both of you need to come to my place tonight. Brian the men we're after is Grant Turner and Scott Tyler. They were the ones Jesse stole money from. They're out to get both of you because of what Jesse did. All of us need to get out of here now.

All four of them leave the apartment!

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

Larry goes to see his mom by himself!

LARRY

Doctor! Is it all right for me to see my mom?

DOCTOR

Yes you can Larry!

INT. REGINA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

LARRY

Mom! It's me!

REGINA

Hi Larry! How are you?



Larry hugs her!

LARRY

I'm doing all right! Dad and I are hanging in hoping for a miracle for you.

REGINA

My condition is still the same since the day you and Leon came together. How are you doing in school?

LARRY

I'm doing fine!

REGINA

That's good! Larry I know you're concerned about me, but I don't want my condition to cause you to put your life on hold. Yes I want to be home with you and your father, but I don't have much time to live now. As much as I love you, you can't hold onto me. Larry I want to know that you will get through this no matter what happens.

LARRY

The only way for me to get through this mom is for you to be home with us. I can't let you go. I won't let you go. I will do what I have to do to save you. Dad and I are going to get through this even if I have to take desperate measures.

REGINA

Larry please don't say that. You're starting to scare me now. What do you mean by taking desperate measures?

LARRY

I don't mean anything bad by that. It's just a figure of speech. I'm letting you know dad and I will find a way to get the money we need to save you. We will not stop until that's done. You need to go ahead and get some rest. I don't want your condition to get worse.

REGINA  
Goodbye Larry!

LARRY  
Goodbye mom! I love you!

Larry kisses her on the cheek and leaves the room. As he walks out of the room two of Turner's men were standing at the door listening in. They hid out of sight as Larry walked out. He secretly calls Turner.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

TURNER'S BODYGUARD  
Turner it's me! I just found out  
some interesting information about  
that kid Larry Miles.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF BEN AND LISA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben, Brian, Jesse, and Keith walk in! Lisa was there with Samantha.

LISA  
Jesse what is going on with you?  
Why have you been missing school?

JESSE  
Coach Stafford I'm sorry I had you  
worried. I'm also sorry to tell you  
I've been doing bad things.

LISA  
What kind of bad things?

BEN  
Remember what Samantha told you?

LISA  
He stole some money from two guys.  
Jesse why did you do that?

JESSE  
To keep Brian and I from getting  
evicted from out apartment.

LISA  
Jesse I don't want you to feel like  
I'm fussing at you, but a lot of  
your teachers are worried about you  
just like me. There's also somebody  
else who's worried about you.

JESSE

Who!

LISA

Samantha! She's here right now!

Samantha walks downstairs!

SAMANTHA

She's right Jesse! Why did you do this? Look what happened to me now.

JESSE

Everyone look! I know I screwed up, but I'm going to get myself out of this. Samantha I'm sorry for the way I acted that day at the courts and that Tyler beat you.

BRIAN

Jesse you know Larry's parents would have helped us when I fell behind in the rent. You didn't have to go and steal from these guys Turner and Tyler.

BEN

He's right Jesse! That's why Turner's men tried to kill Keith and I.

LISA

When did this happen Ben?

BEN

Today! When I was at the station explaining to my Captain that Jesse got mixed up with Turner and Tyler, Brian called me and said he ran off. Keith and I spotted him and Larry running out of an alley. Turner and Tyler were chasing them. That's when they tried to kill us. We tracked Jesse down at home. That's when he told me why he stole money from them.

LISA

Jesse if you had come to me about you and Brian's situation I would have helped you. Look what has happened to Samantha because this and look what kind of trouble you're in.

JESSE

I know Coach Stafford! It also caused Brian and I to get into a fight. I'm sorry for everything I've done. I truly mean that.

LISA

Do you have a plan to get him out of this Ben?

BEN

Yes I do!

LISA

What's your plan?

BEN

Tomorrow Keith, Jesse, and I are going to the club that Turner owns downtown. We're going to make sure Jesse pays back the money he stole. We know he will come after him again. That's where I need you Lisa.

LISA

What do you need me to do?

BEN

When Jesse goes back to school I'm going to have some other officers go undercover to watch him. Chances are, Turner will try to kill him and Samantha at the school. We he does I need you to let me know that. I also need you to get them to a safe place. That's when we move in to get Turner and Tyler. Are you ready to go through this Jesse?

JESSE

Yes! I just want to get out of this situation.

BEN

Brian I need you to stay here. Don't go to work tomorrow because Turner might send somebody after you too. Here's my spare gun just in case you have to use it.

Ben hands Brian his gun!

BRIAN

Okay!

BEN

I'm going to go to the station to tell Captain Milo my plan. Keith and I will be here to get you at 8 o'clock Jesse.

JESSE

What do you want me to do in the meantime?

BEN

Stay here with Brian! I don't want you to go back to school until after tomorrow. Samantha you should be all right to go back tomorrow. When Jesse gets there the day after, you stay close to him and Lisa. Do you feel okay with that?

SAMANTHA

I'm nervous, but I will go through with it.

BEN

You got every right to feel that way Samantha. I understand how you feel from your position. Once this is over you'll have nothing to be nervous about.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

BEN

Kane!

KANE

Yeah!

BEN

I need to talk to you for a minute!

KANE

What is it?

BEN

Let's go into Captain Milo's office.

INT. CAPTAIN MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

BEN

Captain! I think I've got a good plan for us to catch Turner and Tyler.

CAPTAIN MILO

What's your plan Stafford?

BEN

Tonight, Keith and I are going to take Jesse to the nightclub Turner owns. We're going to have him pay back the money he stole from Turner and Tyler.

KANE

Shit Stafford! Don't you think that's risky?

BEN

Yes I know it's risky! Just listen! After Jesse pays the money back, Turner will still come after him at his school. This is where I need both of you. I need you two to go undercover and watch Jesse and his girlfriend Samantha Wilkins. Here's a picture of them. Captain, there's not a doubt in my mind now that Turner will try to kill both of them. When he does, that's when we move in to nail him. That also give us a justifiable reason to search his place you guys.

KANE

I agree with him Captain Milo! If we don't do this, we may not get another chance of busting Turner and Tyler.

CAPTAIN MILO

I agree on this too! That is a good plan Stafford! I just got one question!

BEN

What is it?

CAPTAIN MILO

How do you know Turner won't try to kill you, Keith, and Jesse when you go to his club tonight?

BEN

It's a chance I have to take Captain. Like Kane just said, we may not get another chance at nailing Turner and Tyler. You told me yourself to make sure we get strong evidence against them.

KANE

Captain at a time like this, we don't have any other choice. The world we be a better place without assholes like Grant Turner and Scott Tyler.

CAPTAIN MILO

As much as I hate to admit it, but you both are right about this. In the meantime, Stafford do you think you need us to come with you tonight?

BEN

We'll be fine guys! Thanks for the offer?

EXT. NIGHTCLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ben, Keith, and Jesse go to the club Turner owns.

BEN

You guys ready for this?

KEITH

Hell yeah!

BEN

Are you okay Jesse?

JESSE

I'm okay! Just ready to get this shit over with.

BEN

I feel you on that! All right let's go inside!

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

All three of them walk into the club.

BEN

Excuse me! Can you tell us where to  
find Grant Turner?

BAR TENDER

Who wants to know?

BEN

Tell him Jesse Kramer is here to  
pay back the money he borrowed.

BAR TENDER

All right!

The bar tender picks up the phone and calls Turner.

GRANT (V.O.)

Yes!

BAR TENDER

Mr. Turner! There's three guys down  
here. One of them is that Jesse  
Kramer kid.

GRANT (V.O.)

Thanks for telling me!

INT. NIGHTCLUB OFFICE - NIGHT

GRANT

Jesse is here Scott! I think  
Stafford and that other guy is with  
him.

Grant and Scott look at the club camera monitors.

SCOTT

There they are!

GRANT

Get some bouncers down there and  
take care of them.

SCOTT

Got it!



INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

KEITH  
Ben look over there!

BEN  
Oh shit!

JESSE  
What is it?

BEN  
We got trouble which means it's  
time to throw some blows.

As Turner's men approached Ben and Keith, a fight breaks out. Jesse ran off as Ben and Keith were fighting against the bouncers.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Keith where the hell is Jesse?

KEITH  
I thought he was with you!

BEN  
Shit!

EXT. NIGHTCLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The two of them run outside to the parking lot. Jesse was nowhere to be found.

BEN  
Fuck! We got to find him Keith!  
Turner is definitely going to kill  
him now. Damn!

KEITH  
Got another plan?

BEN  
We're going to have to split up.  
I'll check with Lisa at the school  
tomorrow. You check with Larry and  
some of the other people Jesse  
knows all right.

KEITH  
Yeah!

## INT. NIGHTCLUB OFFICE - NIGHT

GRANT

That cop Stafford and his friend  
are now helping Jesse. I know how  
we can get him to come to us.

SCOTT

How do we do that?

GRANT

Remember his friend Larry Miles who  
was with him that day in the alley?

SCOTT

Yeah!

GRANT

Larry is the way to get to Jesse! I  
found out from a personal contact  
that Larry's mother is in the  
hospital dying from a heart  
failure. Chances are, he and his  
father will be there to see her  
again. When they do, let's get  
Larry into a private room. We're  
not going to hurt him. Let's use  
him to get Jesse to come to us. I'm  
willing to bet Larry will do this  
to save his mother.

SCOTT

I think he will too! Do you still  
want me to kill Jesse?

GRANT

No! Don't do that! Break his right  
arm! That will be enough to teach  
him not to ever steal from us  
again. Stafford will probably be  
looking for him. If so, kill him.

SCOTT

Yes sir!

## INT. REGINA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

One week later, Larry and Leon go to see Regina. Turner and  
Tyler were listening from outside.

LEON

Regina it's us!

LARRY

Hi mom!

REGINA

Hey! Are you two still doing okay?

LEON

We're making it! We still need at \$500 to pay for your surgery. We're not giving up on you honey.

REGINA

That's good!

LARRY

Do you want anything to drink dad?

LEON

Go get me a cup of coffee Larry!

LARRY

What about you mom?

REGINA

You can get me a bottle of water!

LARRY

Okay!

Just before Larry walks out of the room, Turner and Tyler sneak away.

INT. HOSPITAL BREAK ROOM - DAY

As Larry walks to the vending machine, Turner and Tyler were waiting for him.

GRANT

Hello Larry!

LARRY (SURPRISED)

What the fuck do you want Turner?

GRANT

Relax Larry! I'm not here to hurt you.

LARRY

Why the hell are you here?

GRANT

To make you an offer!

LARRY  
What kind of offer?

GRANT  
How would you like to earn \$1000 to save your mother's life. I hear she doesn't have much time to live.

LARRY  
What the hell are you talking about?

GRANT  
If you deliver your friend Jesse Kramer to me, I'll pay you \$1000 Larry. I heard your father say you two need \$500 for the doctors to perform her heart surgery. Half of that will be used to save your mother and the other half for you if you deliver Jesse to me.

LARRY (ANGRY TONE)  
I won't do that! Jesse has been my best friend since kindergarten. I will not betray my friendship to him.

SCOTT  
What's more important to you Larry? Saving your mother's life or your friendship to Jesse?

Larry doesn't say anything!

SCOTT (CONT'D)  
You're thinking about your mother right? Correct me if I'm wrong Larry. You would do whatever it takes to save your mother's life wouldn't you?

LARRY  
Yes I would, but not at the expense of Jesse.

GRANT  
We're not telling you to do this Larry. We are just making an offer for you. I would think very hard about this. How much time does your mother have to live?

LARRY

A few days!

GRANT

I would start thinking about this right now Larry. I know you love your mother and you don't want to lose her.

LARRY

What do you want me to tell Jesse?

GRANT

Tell him if he pays back the money he stole from me, I will let him off the hook. I will not kill him and his brother.

LARRY

Jesse won't believe that!

GRANT

He won't believe that from us, but he will believe it from you. He trusts you Larry because you too have been best friends since kindergarten.

LARRY

All right! I'll think about it!

GRANT

You know my number! Call me when you make a decision.

Grant and Scott walk away!

INT. REGINA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Larry goes back to his mother's room!

LEON

What took you so long Larry?

LARRY

I had to do number two dad! I don't think you want to go in the bathroom now.

LEON

No thanks! I'll pass on that!

LARRY  
Here's your coffee!

LEON  
Thanks! Regina you hang in there  
okay. We're going to raise the  
money to save you. We have come  
this far to give up now.

REGINA  
Thanks for coming by you guys!

Both of them hug Regina and kiss her on the cheek before  
leaving her room.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - DAY

Ben goes to question Jesse's teachers!

BEN  
Lisa have you seen Jesse today?

LISA  
No! How did he get separated from  
you and Keith?

BEN  
Remember what I told you what  
happened when we went to the club?  
He disappeared without a trace  
while Keith and I were fighting  
with Turner's men.

LISA  
Oh shit!

BEN  
Lisa! This is really going to be  
bad for him.

LISA  
Have you checked with Brian?

BEN  
No! Since you mentioned that let me  
call him.

Ben calls Brian!

BRIAN (V.O.)  
Hello!

BEN

Brian it's Stafford! Has Jesse been back to the house?

BRIAN (V.O.)

No he hasn't Stafford! I thought he was with you.

BEN

Yes he was, but things got pretty bad when we went to see Turner. Brian look, if he comes to house call me immediately.

BRIAN (V.O.)

All right!

BEN

Where's Coach Creighton?

LISA

In his office?

INT. COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

BEN

Coach Creighton!

COACH CREIGHTON

Detective Stafford why are you here again?

BEN

I've got a major problem! That's why!

COACH CREIGHTON

What?

BEN

I found out why Jesse hasn't been coming to school, but he has run off somewhere and I need to find him fast. Have you seen him?

COACH CREIGHTON

No! I haven't seen him today. Is he in some kind of trouble?

BEN

Yes! He stole some money from two very dangerous drug smugglers and they want to kill him.

COACH CREIGHTON (SHOCKING LOOK)  
Are you serious about this?

BEN  
Hell yeah I'm serious! Listen! If  
you or anybody else sees him, call  
me immediately.

COACH CREIGHTON  
Most definitely!

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben goes to see Mr. Lyons!

SECRETARY  
How can I help you sir?

BEN  
I need to see Mr. Lyons!

SECRETARY  
He's in his office!

BEN  
Mr. Lyons!

MR. LYONS  
Detective Stafford why are you back  
here?

BEN  
Trying to find Jesse! By any chance  
have you seen him to today? I  
really need to find him.

MR. LYONS  
No! Did you find out why he hasn't  
been coming to school?

BEN  
Yes! He stole some money from two  
very dangerous drug smugglers and  
they now want to kill him for that.  
Could you page Mrs. Clay, Mr. Helm,  
and Mrs. Hughes down here.

MR. LYONS (ON SCHOOL INTERCOM)  
Will the following faculty members  
please report to the office. Mrs.  
Clay, Mr. Helm, and Mrs. Hughes.

The three faculty members walk into the office.



MRS. CLAY

Detective Stafford why are you here again?

BEN

Mrs. Clay, Mr. Helm, and Mrs. Hughes! I need you to listen to me very closely. Have any of you seen Jesse today?

MR. HELM

I haven't!

MRS. HUGHES

Me neither!

MRS. CLAY

I haven't either! Did you find out why he hasn't been coming to school?

BEN

Yes! He's in some serious trouble now! A couple of drug dealers want to kill him because he stole some money from them.

All three teachers react in a huge shock!

MR. HELM

Oh my god are you serious?

BEN

I'm afraid so Mr. Helm and I am very worried for him. Listen! I need all of you to keep a very close eye out for him. If any one of you see him, please call me immediately and don't let him out of your sight. I also need all of you to inform the other students he knows to keep an eye out for him because this is a very serious matter.

MR. LYONS

I definitely will do that!

MR. HELM

So will I!

MRS. HUGHES

Me too!

MRS. CLAY

Me too!

BEN

Thank you all for your cooperation!

Ben leaves the school!

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Jesse runs into Larry in the alley!

LARRY

Jesse!

JESSE

Shit Larry, don't do that! You scared the shit out of me!

LARRY

Sorry! Listen! I found out from Turner and Tyler that they're going to let you off if you pay back the money you stole from them.

JESSE

What the fuck are you talking about?

LARRY

I saw them today and they told me to tell you they will not kill you and Brian as long as you pay back the money you stole. I'm your best friend Jesse. Would I lie to you?

JESSE

Are you sure about this Larry?

LARRY

Yes I'm sure! They gave me their word on that.

Jesse debates!

JESSE

All right! Tell them to meet me at that deserted warehouse where you and I use to go sometimes after school. It's the building that used to be an old sawmill plant. Tell them to be there at 5 o'clock and I will have the money.

After Jesse walks away, Larry secretly calls Turner!

GRANT (V.O.)  
This is Turner!

LARRY  
Turner it's Larry!

GRANT (V.O.)  
Did you do what I asked?

LARRY  
Yes! He said come to the old  
sawmill warehouse at 5 o'clock. He  
will have the money for you.

GRANT (V.O.)  
Good job Larry! You will not regret  
this!

INT. CAPTAIN MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

BEN  
Kane come here!

KANE  
How did it go at the club?

BEN  
There's been a change in plan now  
you guys.

CAPTAIN MILO  
Change in plan! What the hell  
happened Stafford?

BEN  
When we went to the club to meet  
with Turner, Keith and I ended up  
getting into a fight with some of  
his men. Jesse ran during the fight  
and now he's missing.

KANE  
What!

BEN  
I know!

CAPTAIN MILO  
You don't think Turner and Tyler  
killed him do you?

BEN  
I sure are hell hope not!

KANE  
So what's next?

BEN  
I went to his school, and I've asked my wife, his principal and teachers to look out for him. I'm hoping they'll spot him before Turner and Tyler do because I know without a doubt they're looking for him too and they will kill him if they find him. I'm just hoping that we get to him first before they do.

KANE  
Is Keith also looking for him?

BEN  
Yes!

Ben's cell phone rings! It's Keith!

BEN (CONT'D)  
Speaking of Keith! This is him now!

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - DAY

BEN  
Keith! Any update on Jesse!

KEITH  
Yes! I just saw him walk into a deserted warehouse carrying a duffle bag.

BEN  
Is he by himself?

KEITH  
Yes he is! It's that old warehouse that use to be a sawmill plant. Do you want me to go watch him.

BEN  
No! I don't want to risk him running off again. I'm one my way there right now.

KEITH  
Okay!

INT. CAPTAIN MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

BEN

I know where he is Captain! I'm going there now!

CAPTAIN MILO

Okay! Kane you go with him and back him up. When you two bring him in we will question him about Turner and Tyler's operation.

BEN

All right!

Ben and Kane leave the station!

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Turner arrives to the warehouse with Larry. Tyler pulls Jesse out of a closet and pins him down on a table.

GRANT

Greetings Jesse! What's the matter? Not in a talking mood today?

JESSE

Fuck you Turner!

GRANT

Jesse! Now that's not a polite thing to say to a man you stole money from.

JESSE

I said I would pay you back Turner! I thought we had a fucking deal!

GRANT

Yes we did Jesse, but you violated the number one rule by stealing from me and that's a big no, no.

JESSE

All I needed was money to keep my brother and me from getting kicked out of our apartment Turner. I asked you if I could only borrow \$500. I would have paid you back in a short time.

GRANT

Remember the \$500 I loaned you before Jesse? You said you would pay that back in a week. It took you a month to pay that back. You went back on your word. I could've killed you then, but I let you off. You're not going to get off this time. You stole money from me, and now you're going to pay for that.

JESSE

Larry I'm going to kick your ass for this. You fucking set me up. I've been your best friend since kindergarten.

GRANT

Jesse there's one thing I learned about Larry. He is very loyal and because he delivered you to me, he is now able to pay for his mother's heart surgery and save her life. He earns his money from me. That is something you should remember now. Go ahead Scott!

Scott breaks Jesse's right arm as Larry watches! Jesse frantically yells!

JESSE (YELLING)

Ahhhhhhh! Ahhhhhh!.....

Jesse falls to the floor!

GRANT

Do not tell anybody about what you just saw in here Larry. You are also not to tell anyone where you got the money from to save your mother. Do you understand me?

LARRY (NERVOUSLY)

Yes Mr. Turner!

GRANT

No get out of here!

Larry leaves the warehouse!

GRANT (CONT'D)

Remember something Jesse! I own your ass now. I own your fucking life.

(MORE)

GRANT (CONT'D)

As for your friend Larry, I can't think of anything more painful than "A Friend's Betrayal." Scott there's a chance that Stafford will come here. When he does, kill him!

Grant leaves the warehouse!

EXT. WAREHOUSE PARKING LOT - DAY

Minutes later Ben and Kane arrive!

BEN

Cover the front Kane! I'll cover the back!

KANE

Okay!

Ben opens the back door to the warehouse and sees Jesse lying on the floor.

BEN

Jesse!

JESSE (YELLING)

Stafford look out! Tyler is going kill you!

Scott shoots at Ben from behind a dumpster and misses. Ben pulls out his gun and shoots Scott three times in the chest and kills him. He walks over to check the body. Jesse also comes over.

BEN (FUSSING AT JESSE)

Do you see this Jesse? This is on you! Even though I shot him this is still on you. Jesse you've got to make a choice now that somebody has been killed. Is this how you want it to end?

JESSE (CRYING)

No!

KANE (V.O.)

Stafford where are you?

BEN

Over here Kane!

Kane runs to the back holding his gun!

BEN (CONT'D)  
He's dead now Kane! Jesse this is Detective Mark Kane! It is now time for you to come forward and tell us what you know about Turner's drug smuggling operation. Is your arm broken?

JESSE  
Yes!

KANE  
I'll call Captain Milo!

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - DAY

CAPTAIN MILO  
This is Captain Milo!

KANE  
Captain Milo! We've got Jesse, but he's hurt. Stafford just killed Tyler!

CAPTAIN MILO  
What about Turner?

KANE  
He was gone when we got here!

BEN  
Let me talk to him!

Kane hands Ben the phone!

BEN (CONT'D)  
Captain we need an ambulance for Jesse. Turner had Tyler break his arm. Also call my wife and tell her to bring Jesse's brother here.

CAPTAIN MILO  
I'll get on it right away!

EXT. WAREHOUSE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

LISA  
Jesse what happened?

JESSE  
Larry tricked me into coming out here.



BEN (SURPRISED)  
Larry tricked you?

JESSE  
Yes!

BRIAN  
Why would Larry trick you like that?

JESSE  
Turner used him to get me so he can pay for his mother's heart surgery.

CAPTAIN MILO  
Jesse! I'm Captain Dan Milo! Can you tell me if Grant Turner is smuggling drugs in and out of the country?

JESSE  
Yes he is sir! He's smuggling heroin and marijuana.

BEN  
Do you know how he's doing that?

JESSE  
No! I only know he has some of it stashed in a private room at his house. That's all I know!

KANE  
That's all we need to know Jesse. Thanks for telling us this information.

BEN  
You let me handle Turner now Captain. I now have a personal score to settle with him. Kane I'm going to need your help.

KANE  
I'll be glad to help you Stafford!

Brian rides in the ambulance with Jesse to the hospital. Lisa followed them.

INT. KEITH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BEN

Hey Keith! I'm glad your here  
because I need one more favor from  
you. Hi Amanda!

AMANDA

Hi Ben! Who are you?

KANE

Detective Mark Kane! Nice to meet  
you!

Kane shakes hands with Keith and Amanda!

BEN

This is his girlfriend Kane!

KANE

I see! Nice looking lady you are!

AMANDA

Thank you!

KEITH

What do you need from me now Ben?

BEN

We're taking Grant Turner's ass  
down. That's what! Kane is going to  
help us. Jesse provided us the  
information we need to nail that  
son of a bitch.

KEITH

How is Jesse? Did you find him at  
the warehouse after I called you?

BEN

Yeah, but Turner and Tyler got  
there first. They broke his arm  
then Tyler tried to kill me. He's  
dead now, so it's only Turner we're  
dealing with now.

KANE

What's your plan Stafford?

BEN

We go to Turner's house to find the  
drugs Jesse said was there. If  
Turner is there which I'm sure  
he'll be, we nail that crazy fuck.  
(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)  
We're going to have to take out his  
men first. Afterwards, I'll take  
care of Turner's ass my damn self.

KANE  
We're with you all the way!

KEITH  
All right you guys let's do this!

EXT. SECURITY GATE - NIGHT

All three of them go to Turner's house!

BEN  
All right guys were here! Let's  
watch each other's back and we'll  
all make it out of here safely.

KEITH  
Got it!

KANE  
Got it!

They climb over the fence and spot a security guard.

BEN  
Hold it guys! Security guard!

KEITH  
I'll take him!

When Keith sneaks up on the security guard. He grabs him from  
behind and breaks his neck.

KEITH (CONT'D)  
Just bringing back those good old  
army days Ben.

BEN  
I see!

EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

BEN  
Let's see if the old credit card  
trick works on this door.

Ben unlocks the door with one of his credit cards.

KANE  
Pretty slick Stafford!

BEN  
Never lost the magic touch!

INT. TURNER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BEN  
We're going to have to split up  
guys! You two take the west side  
and I'll take the east.

KEITH  
No problem!

As Ben is walking down the hall he shoots two of Turner's  
men.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

When Ben walked into the backyard, Turner surprised him.

GRANT (HOLDING A GUN)  
Hold it right there Stafford! Drop  
your fucking gun now! Put your  
hands on the back of your head and  
turn around.

BEN  
What are you going to do now  
Turner? You know the department is  
onto your operation.

GRANT  
The department has always been onto  
me, but you know I always find a  
way to cover my tracks.

BEN  
True, but if you kill me now there  
is no way out for you.

GRANT  
You're wrong Stafford! There's  
always a way out. Too bad you won't  
be around to catch me.

Ben knocks the gun away from Turner and punches him! The two  
of them fight! Turner pulls a knife!

GRANT (HOLDING A KNIFE) (CONT'D)  
You're a dead man Stafford!

BEN (PUNCHING TURNER)  
In your dreams Turner!

INT. TURNER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

KANE  
Watch it Keith?

Keith quickly turns and shots the bad guy who had a gun aimed on him.

KEITH  
Thanks Kane!

They here a window break from outside.

KANE  
What the hell was that?

KEITH  
It's probably Ben! Let's go!

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Ben and Grant are still fighting. Grant elbows Ben in the stomach and then punches him to the grass. He goes for his gun.

GRANT  
See you in hell Stafford!

Keith and Kane shoot Grant in the back and kill him.

BEN  
Thanks guys!

KEITH AND KANE  
Anytime!

As they help Ben up his phone rings! It's Lisa!

INT. SPLIT SCREEN - NIGHT

BEN  
This is Stafford!

LISA  
Ben where are you?

BEN  
At Turner's place!

LISA  
You need to get down here to the hospital immediately. Jesse stole a security guards gun and is holding Larry hostage.

BEN  
I'm on my way!

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Ben, Keith, and Kane arrive to the hospital!

BEN  
Where are they Lisa?

LISA  
In the bathroom! Jesse said if anybody tries to walk in he will kill Larry. He will only let Larry's parents in.

BEN  
Where's Larry's father?

LISA  
He's with his wife!

BEN  
We need to get them down here now!  
Lisa go find a nurse and see what room they're in.

Lisa runs to the lobby counter!

LISA  
Excuse me nurse!

HOSPITAL NURSE  
Yes!

LISA  
Can you tell me where I can find Leon and Regina Miles?

HOSPITAL NURSE  
They're upstairs on the 3rd floor!

LISA  
Thank you!

INT. HOSPITAL ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Lisa goes to get Leon and Regina! Regina is in a wheelchair after her surgery. When Lisa gets off the elevator she sees both of them.

LISA

Mr. and Mrs. Miles I need you two to come with me. Your son Larry is in danger.

REGINA

What! Where?

LISA

Downstairs!

LEON

What the hell is going on here?

LISA

Jesse is holding Larry hostage in the bathroom downstairs. He said he will only let you two come in there. Are you okay Mrs. Miles?

REGINA

I'm fine now! The doctors told me Larry paid the remaining amount for my surgery. They gave me a new heart. Why is Jesse doing this?

LISA

You're going to find out very shortly.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

LISA

Here they are Ben!

BEN

Mr. and Mrs. Miles! Sorry to I have to bring you two down here for a bad situation. I need to get you two in there now, but I'm going to come in with you.

Ben opens the bathroom door!

BEN (CONT'D)  
Jesse it's Stafford! Can you hear me?

JESSE (V.O.)  
Yes!

BEN  
Jesse listen to me! I have Larry's parents with me. I know you only want them in there, but I need you to let me come in with them. Is that all right?

JESSE (V.O.)  
Throw your gun in first!

Ben throws his gun through the door!

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jesse kicks Ben's gun under the stall!

JESSE  
All right Stafford! Come in here with your hands on top of your head.

Ben slowly walks into the bathroom! Leon is pushing Regina in the wheelchair. Jesse is holding a gun to Larry's head. Larry is on his knees with his hands on top of his head.

BEN  
All right Jesse! I'm unarmed!

LEON  
Why are you doing this Jesse? Larry is your best friend. He's been your best friend since you two were in kindergarten.

JESSE  
You mean he was my best friend Mr. Miles. He's the reason why I have a cast on my arm.

REGINA  
What the hell are you talking about Jesse?



JESSE

He fucking set me up to Turner and Tyler so he could save you Mrs. Miles.

REGINA

Larry wouldn't do something like that?

JESSE

Ask him where he got the money to pay for your heart surgery.

LEON

He told me he got the money from one of his cousins.

JESSE

That's bull shit! That money came from Grant Turner. It was the same money I stole from him. Larry told me Turner was going to let me off if I pay back the money I took. When I got to the warehouse, Tyler grabbed me and threw me into a fucking closet. When Turner and Larry got there, Tyler laid me down on a table and broke my arm.

BEN

Mr. and Mrs. Miles I'm afraid he's telling the truth. When I got there Tyler tried to kill me. When I asked Jesse why he went there he told me Larry tricked him into coming. Look! I know he's your son, but I wouldn't lie about something like that and neither would Jesse.

LEON

Larry is this true?

JESSE

You better tell them the truth Larry or I will blow your fucking head off.

LARRY

Yes it's true dad! I did it to save mom. She would have died if I didn't.

BEN

Jesse look! I'm sorry for what happened to you. I know your mad because Larry betrayed your friendship, but you don't want it to end this way. Just put the gun down and I will take care of him.

JESSE

You don't understand Stafford. He took advantage of our friendship and he fucking tricked me. Look what almost happened to you because of it. Tyler nearly killed you. He's got to pay for that.

BEN

He will pay Jesse, but not this way! Jesse please give me the gun!

REGINA (CRYING)

Jesse please don't take my son from me. I'm sorry he betrayed you, but please don't do this. Your parents and brother wouldn't want this from you. Please give that gun to Stafford.

Jesse lowers the gun from Larry and cries!

BEN

Come on Jesse let's go!

Kane walks in and arrests Larry! Brian and Jesse hug!

BRIAN

It's okay little brother! I'm here for you.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

BEN

That was intense!

BRIAN

Stafford I want to thank you and Keith for helping us. If there's anything we can do to repay you two we will do it.

BEN

You should also thank Lisa for this Brian. She's the one who asked me to do this for her.

BRIAN

Thank you Mrs. Stafford!

LISA

You're very welcome Brian!

KEITH

Here's one of my cards for you to contact me Brian. As you know I'm a Private Investigator. So if you need me for anything I'm here for you and Jesse.

Keith hands Brian and business card!

BRIAN

Thanks Keith!

KEITH

No problem!

Samantha runs down the hall and hugs Jesse!

SAMANTHA (HUGGING JESSE)

Jesse please don't ever scare me like that again. Promise me you won't do anymore bad things.

JESSE (HUGGING SAMANTHA)

I won't! You have my word on that Samantha! Coach Stafford, I promise you I will never miss anymore school.

LISA

I'll be glad to have you back Jesse and so will everybody else.

JESSE

Stafford I'm sorry that you almost got killed and I appreciate you and Keith for helping me through this. Whatever happened to Turner?

BEN

He's dead! Keith and Kane killed him and saved my life.

BRIAN  
Thanks again Stafford!

BEN  
No problem guys! There is one other thing now that I have to do.

BRIAN  
What is it?

BEN  
Jesse I'm going to have to take you in for this because you have committed a felony.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Larry and Jesse had to appear in court for their charges.

JUDGE  
Larry Edward Miles! After reading your record, I see that you had no prior arrests until now. Would you explain to me why you were selling drugs on the streets.

LARRY  
To help my dad raise money for my mom your honor.

JUDGE  
To help your dad raise money for your mom. Why was he trying to raise money for her?

LARRY  
She was in the hospital dying from a heart failure. His medical insurance company was unable to pay for the entire surgery.

JUDGE  
Did your dad know you were doing this?

LARRY  
No mam!

JUDGE  
What made you decide to turn against your friend Jesse Kramer?

LARRY

I wasn't thinking straight your honor! I let my emotions get the best of me when my mom didn't have much time to live. The only thing I cared about at that time was getting the money my dad and I needed to save her life.

JUDGE

Larry! There's always an option for people who go through tough times like that. Turning your friend over to a drug dealer for them to break his arm is a very serious felony. This falls under the category of brutal assault. In addition to that, the drugs you were selling is also a felony. Normally I would put people in jail for a long time for crimes like that. Since you are a first time offender and have plead guilty to your charges, I'm going to place you on probation for seven years. Should you violate this probation you will be placed in a juvenile detention center for 10 years. Do you accept the punishment of your charges?

LARRY

Yes your honor!

JUDGE

Good! Before you leave Larry I need you to sign this agreement form. Bailiff!

The Judge hands the Bailiff the agreement form. Larry Signs it. The Bailiff hands it back to the Judge.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Next case!

Larry is escorted out of the courtroom! Jesse is escorted in!

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Jesse Andrew Kramer! After reading your record I see you had no prior arrests until now. I understand you stole some money from drug dealers Grant Turner and Scott Tyler. Would you explain to me why you did that.

JESSE

So my brother and I wouldn't get kicked out of our apartment.

JUDGE

I assume he fell behind in the rent.

JESSE

Yes mam!

JUDGE

Jesse will you now tell me what you were thinking when you decided to steal from two dangerous drug dealers like Turner and Tyler.

JESSE

I wasn't thinking at all your honor. I didn't know who else to turn to now that my parents have been dead for seven years now. Brian and I only have each other.

JUDGE

Jesse! I understand the pain that people go through when they suffer a terrible loss like you and Brian suffered. Some people manage to recover after something like that and some people don't. The ones that don't recover turn to doing bad things and have thrown their lives away. You have your brother and he has you. That's when the two of you needed to pull together and help each other through the loss of your parents. Although I didn't know your parents, but I'm sure they would have wanted you and Brian to move on without them and look out for each other. They definitely wouldn't want you to go and steal from a drug dealer and deal drugs on the streets. Do you understand what I'm saying?

JESSE

Yes mam!

JUDGE

I'm going to give you a second chance Jesse! You deserve it despite what you did!

(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

The reasons why I'm going to give you a second chance is because Officer Ben Stafford explained to me that he heard good things from your teachers at school. The other reason I'm giving you a second chance is because you are a first time offender. Is there anything you want to tell me before I tell you your punishment?

JESSE

No your honor!

JUDGE

Jesse Kramer! Because you assaulted a security guard, held a gun on Larry Miles at the hospital last week, and your involvement in selling drugs on the streets, I am placing you on probation for seven years. Should you violate this probation you will be placed in a juvenile detention center for ten years. Do you understand the charges against you and do you accept the punishment of these charges?

JESSE

Yes your honor!

JUDGE

Good! Before you leave Jesse I need you to sign this agreement form. Bailiff!

The Judge hands the Bailiff the form to hand to Jesse. He signs the form and the Bailiff hands it back to the Judge.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Next case!

Jesse is escorted out of the courtroom. Ben, Lisa, Brian, and Samantha were waiting for him in the hallway.

INT. COURTHOUSE HALL - DAY

BRIAN

What did the Judge give you?

JESSE

Probation for seven years!

BEN

You should very thankful for that!  
I won't say you got off easy, but  
that's better than being placed in  
jail for a long time.

SAMANTHA

Jesse! I forgive you for everything  
you did! I'm willing to give you a  
second chance on going out with me  
again.

JESSE

I'll be glad to go as long as my  
brother is willing to give me a  
second chance.

BRIAN

I have no problem with that at all  
Jesse. However there is a catch to  
that.

JESSE

What's the catch?

BRIAN

Whenever you're out with her, you  
have to be home at your curfew  
which is 10 o'clock. If you miss  
that curfew for any reason, I will  
punish your ass really hard just  
like mom and dad would've done. Do  
you understand me?

JESSE

I understand Brian and accept!

LISA

I spoke with your other teachers  
Jesse. They are also willing to  
give you a second chance as long  
you don't miss anymore school.

JESSE

Thank you Coach Stafford! Thank you  
again Stafford for helping me and  
getting the Judge to go easy on me.

BEN

Not a problem Jesse!



INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

MR. LYONS

It's good to see you back here  
Jesse! Because you missed all those  
days I recommend that you go to  
summer school this summer to make  
up the classes. You also have the  
option for after school tutoring to  
help you get caught up from the  
weeks you missed. My question to  
you now is, are you willing to help  
yourself get caught up?

JESSE

Yes Mr. Lyons!

MR. HELM

I'll be glad to help you after  
school for my class Jesse.

JESSE

Thank you Mr. Helm!

COACH CREIGHTON

Jesse! When you have brought all  
your grades back up I will allow  
you to be on the basketball team  
next year. However, if you miss one  
practice without a good reason, I  
will remove you from the team and  
not let you play again. Do you  
understand me?

JESSE

Yes Coach Creighton!

Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Hughes walk in!

MRS. CLAY

Oh my god Jess! It's good to hear  
that you're still alive.

MRS. HUGHES

You gave us a big scare Jesse!

JESSE

I'm sorry I had all of you worried  
about me. I promise all of you I  
will never do that again.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Brian and Jesse put flowers on their parents' grave.

JESSE (CRYING)

Mom and Dad! I'm sorry for all the  
bad things I did! Please forgive  
me! I promise I will never do those  
things again. I promise I will stay  
in school and miss no more days.

Brian and Jesse hug!

THE END