

CASSIE'S GRANDPA

an original screenplay by

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FADE IN:

EXT. STATE PRISON - DAY

The heavy metal door swings open. A man steps out on to an empty single wide paved road. The door slams shut behind him. OBEDIAH (Obie) SHEPHERD, 60, holds a brown cowboy hat and a small suitcase.

He looks east along the high cement wall with razor wire at the top. He looks west. Bleak. He takes a deep breath and bangs the well worn hat against his leg. Small dust cloud mushrooms. He puts the hat on and ambles out onto the road.

Obie sees a rattle snake moving toward a stand of sagebrush. He steps back out of the way and watches it disappear into the brush.

Obie begins walking. A late model, white pickup truck with extended crew cab swings up next to him and stops. The driver's window rolls down. Obie squints to see in.

OBIE

Too late to visit, Junior, I'm out.

Driving the pickup, PASTOR LAURENCE SHEPHERD, 40, wears a suit and tie. The suit coat lies behind on the crew seat.

PASTOR

Get in.

Obie checks the street again. Nothing either way. Reluctantly he walks around to the passenger side and gets in.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY

Obie and the Pastor ride without speaking. The pickup pulls in front of the Meadow's Motel in Paradise City and stops.

The Pastor reaches and jams a motel key card into Obie's shirt pocket.

PASTOR

Room is paid for a month.

Obie looks around.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

We don't want you in Deuteronomy.  
Move on. Do something decent with  
your life.

Obie steps out of the truck.

EXT. MEADOWS MOTEL, PARADISE CITY - DAY

The Pastor accelerates back into traffic. Obie stands watching as the truck, a block away, takes the entry on-ramp to South I-15. Obie swings the suitcase to the other hand, re-adjusts his hat, and starts walking.

He walks past the sign that reads "ON RAMP, SOUTH I-15" Obie turns, saunters backward, and sticks his thumb out. Vehicles pass him as they enter I-15 south.

A delivery truck with a sign: CHARLESTON GRANGE & CO-OP pulls over and stops. Obie climbs into the cab.

INT. DELIVERY TRUCK TRAVELING SOUTH - AFTERNOON

Two men in cab of the truck. The driver, NICK STABLER, 44, wears a work jacket with the letters CHARLESTON GRANGE on the back.

OBIE  
Charleston?

NICK  
You too?

OBIE  
Deuteronomy.

NICK  
I'm Deuteronomy actually. I will be that is. Building a new home there. Should be ready in two months, but you know how that goes. You seem familiar.

OBIE  
I should.

NICK  
Your The Pastor's old man.

OBIE  
Guilty.

NICK  
Nice to meet you. Hey, your kid's new medial clinic is super impressive...up and running to.

OBIE  
That's where you can let me off.

NICK  
He walked me through it couple weeks back.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

He's got one of those sound imaging machines. I guess a specialist spends one day a week at the clinic or something.

It starts to rain. The windshield wipers commence there hypnotic rhythm.

The conversation ebbs as Nick pays more attention to the driving conditions.

EXT. DELIVERY TRUCK - EVENING

The truck slows to a stop. Obie steps down.

OBIE

Thanks.

NICK

See ya around.

Nick drives off.

Not wet this far down state. Obie crosses the freeway, descends the embankment, and throws his leg over an old bobwire fence. He crosses a two lane paved country road, and enter's the Deuteronomy City Cemetery.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY CITY CEMETERY - EVENING

Suitcase is sitting on the grass. Obie on his knees, sweeps his deceased wife's gravestone with his hand. Pulls weeds. Headstone reads OBEDIAH'S HEART LIES HERE, SABRINA JEFFS SHEPHERD, 1956 - 2005.

OBIE

I'm back baby. God how I missed you.

Obie leans against another headstone across from Sabrina's.

OBIE (CONT'D)

I'll get my truck running tomorrow and go see the kids. Shit head hasn't changed. I know. I haven't either. Can you believe it? He wants me to move away from Deuteronomy. I could never leave you.

Obie picks up the suitcase.

OBIE (CONT'D)

And yes, I'm still thinking the nurses got the babies mixed up.

Obie starts walking.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Gonna drag his ass out here, honey.  
Maybe we can talk with you around.

Obie takes off walking.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY CITY, WILLOWS RD - EVENING

Obie walks toward a sign that reads "Jake's Bar and Grill".

INT. JAKE'S BAR AND GRILL - EVENING

BURT WATERS, 70 a sometimes regular sits at the bar. He wears a white cowboy hat. HAZEL GOODING, 58, short, gray hair and blue jeans sits at the bar. JAKE STEVENS, 58, is behind serving drinks.

Short-order cook is in the kitchen. Two men are playing pool in a rear area of the bar. The door opens. Obie enters the bar and sets his suitcase down.

OBIE  
Any chance this joint serves cold  
beer?

JAKE  
Oh, for God's sake.

OBIE  
Warden R. W. Johnson, Jake. Not  
God.

Obie takes a bar stool.

JAKE  
On the house Obie.

Jake sets a bottle of beer in front of him and offers his hand.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
Cook's still here. You want a  
burger?

OBIE  
Sure.

Obie shakes his hand, re-adjusts his butt on the stool.

Cook sticks his head through the window to the kitchen and waves his spatula at Obie. Obie waves back.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Still fits.

Burt squints.

BURT  
What's it been, Obie a year?

Obie answers with his hand showing two digets.

BURT (CONT'D)  
I got the next one, Jake.

OBIE  
Hazel is that you?

HAZEL  
Who else, Old Man?

OBIE  
I'm impressed. You came to welcome me home.

HAZEL  
Don't get yourself all puffed up. What I'm doing is called community service.

OBIE  
How's that work?

HAZEL  
There's a Judge want's to know when you get back.

OBIE  
And here I though I wouldn't be missed.

HAZEL  
Stop being an ass. There is something you need to know.

OBIE  
Can I at least drink my beer?

HAZEL  
I can see prison didn't change you one damn bit.

OBIE  
Is that what was supposed to happen?

HAZEL  
The only time you get in trouble is when you drink. Shut up and listen to me. This is important. Laurence is putting Cassie in a school in Paradise.

OBIE  
Okay. What's in Paradise?

HAZEL  
She is being committed for  
treatment. It's called behavioral  
modification.

OBIE  
And just what the hell is  
behavioral...?

Hazel cuts him off.

HAZEL  
Laurence thinks Cassie is a lesbo.

OBIE  
Lesbo as in gay?

HAZEL  
It's called Reparative Therapy.

OBIE  
Reparative, as in fix something?

HAZEL  
It's for three months. They will  
break her spirit just like they did  
my nephew.

OBIE  
Your nephew went through this place?

HAZEL  
You don't have to repeat everything  
I say, Obie. There is a clinic in  
Paradise where they fix homosexuals.  
My nephew did three months. His  
father said he wanted a son not a  
daughter. When he was released he  
blew his brains out with his  
father's twelve gage.

Tears in her voice.

OBIE  
True story?

HAZEL  
He couldn't even make it though one  
night. My sister still isn't right.

OBIE  
What the hell did they do to him?

HAZEL  
Electric shock for one thing.

JAKE  
I can't imagine.

OBIE  
Suicide.

HAZEL  
These kids attempt suicide four times more on average than straight kids.

JAKE  
Jesus!

HAZEL  
It's a church thing, Jake. What's more important, a religious belief or a nine year-old little girl?

JAKE  
Family. You mean family, Hazel.

HAZEL  
You're right. It destroys families.

Obie, dumbfounded, sits staring.

FLASHBACK TO: EXT. SHEPHERD RANCH - DAY

Obie's old pickup truck drives the long dirt road to the driveway at the side of the Ranch House and parks. He wears a different colored shirt and cowboy hat.

Obie enters the house.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES: INT. SHEPHERD KITCHEN - DAY

Obie hangs his cowboy hat on a hook as he enters the kitchen.

OBIE  
Your off the hook. Silas is gonna drive me.

CAROL SHEPHERD, 38, always wears a dress and an apron in the house.

CAROL  
I hear the most awful things about prisons.

OBIE  
Oh hell, Carol, I can do this standing on one foot.

CASSIE SHEPHERD, 7, runs into Obie's arms.

CASSIE  
Grandpa, grandpa.

OBIE  
There's my Cassie.

She hugs his neck.

BARRY, 11, and BRIAN, 8, run through the room shooting at each other with toy guns.

BARRY  
You're a spy with the CIA, aren't you, Grandpa. That's why you're going away for a long time, isn't it?

OBIE  
How did you find out?

BRIAN  
Dad said we can't talk to you cause you got excommunicated.

Barry and Brian storm out of the room shooting at each other. Cassie follows.

CAROL  
This is impossible, Obediah.

Obie drops a checkbook on the table with a signature card next to it.

OBIE  
You, my grandkids. You're all I've got since Sabrina died. I need to put you on my checking and savings accounts. His Eminence, Pastor Shit Head, doesn't need to know.

Carol gets a pen from a drawer.

CAROL  
I don't know what to do.

OBIE  
I do. I know exactly what to do.

Carol dabs at her eyes with a hanky. She pours orange juice into two glasses - returns the pitcher of juice to the fridge.

CAROL  
We don't talk anymore, Obediah.

OBIE  
I didn't raise him that way and  
Sabrina sure didn't.

CAROL  
All I am to him is a way to ....

Carol searches for a word.

OBIE  
Increase the size of the herd?

CAROL  
I can't tell you how much I hate  
thinking of myself that way.

OBIE  
I wish Sabrina were still alive.  
She had a way with him.

CAROL  
She had a way with both of you.

OBIE  
Emily at school? I want to say  
goodby.

CAROL  
Final bell at two twenty-five. She  
loves you so much, Obediah. We all  
do. Pastor's Council Meeting is  
this evening so you need'nt hurry.

Cassie comes running back in the house.

OBIE  
I need a big hug, little fish. I'm  
going on vacation.

CASSIE  
Not neither. You're going to the  
hoosegow.

Cassie begins to cry and won't let go.

Carol has to break her grip on Obie's neck.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
I want to go too.

Obie tears up, grabs his hat and leaves.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. DEUTERONOMY CITY, BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - NIGHT

Clear night. Full moon.

Obie carrying small suitcase ambles through the trailer park to a five-foot, diamond-wire fence at the rear of the facility. He sees the gate is locked, drops suitcase over the fence, and follows.

Two trailers, three cars, an old jalopy, a Harley Bike, and Obie's pickup are stored in this rear area. Obie goes to the rear of his trailer bends down and extracts a small magnetic box with a key in it.

He opens the trailer door and steps into the dark. Windows open.

INT. OBIE'S TRAILER, BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - NIGHT

Obie opens his suitcase, removes a picture of his deceased wife, and puts it on the wall with a magnet. In the reflected moon glow he stands looking at Sabrina's picture. Obie lovingly touches the picture. He closes the trailer door.

EXT. OBIE'S TRAILER - MORNING

SALLY WINTERS, 48, too much make up, false eye lashes, opens diamond wire fence gate lock and walks to Obie's trailer. KNOCK. KNOCK. She opens the trailer door.

SALLY  
Obie, is that you?

Sally enters the trailer.

INT. OBIE'S TRAILER, BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - MORNING

Obie sleeps fully clothed on top of the mattress. Cowboy boots on the floor. Sally, steps over to the bed.

SALLY  
Obie?

Obie sleeps.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Obediah.

Obie rubs his face.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Well ain't you a sorry sight.

She steps close to the bed, puts her hand on Obie's crotch.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Two years. I'll bet you could use a little fornication.

OBIE  
Adultery.

SALLY  
Burt died.

OBIE  
Coffee.

He sits up. Sally hands him her mug of coffee. He takes the mug, sees lipstick, turns the mug around, and sips.

Sally pauses in front of the picture of Sabrina, Obie's deceased wife.

SALLY  
Don't say I never gave you nothing.  
You staying?

OBIE  
Yeah.

Sally turns and exits the trailer.

SALLY  
Space twelve is still open.

Sally stops looks back.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
Rents gone up.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY SERVICE STATION - MORNING

Obie comes out of a service bay pushing a hand truck with a new battery. He turns in the direction of the Beehive Trailer Court and continues pushing the hand truck down the middle of the road only switching lanes to let cars go by.

Sheriff's patrol car slows next to Obie. He watches Obie pushing the hand truck. Obie watches the Sheriff watching him.

OBIE  
What you want, Butch?

SHERIFF  
Your dumb ass behind bars gives me a bodacious hardon. You got three days to report to your parole officer. You be making me happy if you missed it.

Sheriff drives away.

Obie stops walking. He stands motionless watching the Sheriff's car getting smaller and smaller.

Obie gives him the bird. The Sheriff sees it in the rear view mirror. He returns the bird then reaches for his cell phone.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY CITY, BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - MORNING

The Sheriff's patrol car idles into and parks in front of space number twelve.

INT. OBIE'S TRAILER, BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK [CATALYST PG 12] - MORNING

Obie is in his long underwear, a cup of coffee in his hand. Loud BANG, BANG, BANG at trailer door. Obie spills the coffee on himself.

Obie opens the trailer door and leans out into the face of the Sheriff.

OBIE.

Hey, It's only a twenty foot trailer  
for Chrissake.

The Sheriff stuffs a folded paper down Obie's coffee stained wet underwear at the neck which is hanging open.

SHERIFF

Obediah Martin Shepherd, you been  
served.

OBIE

What the hell?

The Sheriff starts back to his car. Obie follows in bare feet. He stops to read the large print at the top of the page. TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Hey.

Obie wads up the paper and throws it at Butch. It falls to the ground.

SHERIFF

You violate that restraining order,  
Obie I guarantee things will get damn  
ugly for you.

OBIE

I would call you a shithead, shit-  
head, but as fertilizer you ain't  
worth a fart in a whirlwind.

The Sheriff pays no attention to Obie. He drives off. Obie picks up the paper and begins reading it.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Two hundred what?

EXT. DEUTERONOMY'S ELEMENTRY SCHOOL - DAY

Obediah's pickup truck pulls to a stop near the old Gymnasium. On the seat next to Obie is the restraining order. He pick it up and holds it as though weighing it. A group of students come out of the Gym. Cassie is among them. He puts it in the glove box. Obie exits truck. Cassie, now nine years old in leotards, sees grandpa, runs to Obie.

CASSIE  
Grandpa, Grandpa!

OBIE  
There you are. How's my girl?

Cassie jumps into Obie's arms.

CASSIE  
I'm the best, Grandpa.

OBIE  
You're heavy. What you been eating,  
lead?

She takes his hand and bounces in circles around him.

CASSIE  
People don't eat lead, Grandpa. Can  
we get Ice Cream?

OBIE  
Ice Cream? Is that that cold stuff?

CASSIE  
You know what Ice Cream is.

They walk toward Obie's truck. She skips backwards in front of him still holding his hand.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Your pulling my leg, aren't you. I  
have to tell Emily. She's waiting  
at the high school.

OBIE  
Well, let's go tell her.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY CITY, HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Obie and Cassie in the truck roll around the corner and go down the street in front of the high school. A few students stand around talking. Emily is one of them.

CASSIE  
There's Emily. There's Emily.

Cassie puts her head out the window.

CASSIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Emily! Emily! Grandpa's out of the  
hoosegow. We're going to get ice  
cream. Come with us.

Students stop talking. Obie winces. They stare at Cassie and Obie. Emily goes to the truck and kisses Grandpa on the cheek.

EMILY  
I'm so glad you're home, Grandpa.  
Does daddy know you're here?

OBIE  
He knows I'm out. Your mother told  
me where to find you guys. Can I  
count on you to bring me up to speed  
on things?

EMILY  
And I have exciting news to tell  
you.

He sits staring at Emily as she returns to her friends in front of the school and waves back at Grandpa and Cassie.

OBIE  
Wow, has she grown up.

CASSIE  
She's got a boy friend too.

OBIE  
I'll kill him.

A horn tells Obie he is holding up traffic.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Okay. Okay. Hold you're water.

They drive off.

EXT. ELDRIDGE FARM - AFTERNOON

Obie and Cassie drive past a small home-made wood sign that reads "ICE CREAM" with an arrow pointing to the driveway they enter. The truck parks at the side of the Eldridge Farm House.

Barn, sheds and Chicken Coop out back. Alfalfa fields. Obie and Cassie walk to the rear porch of the house.

SISTER ELDRIDGE, 60, 5 foot and round wears a peach colored apron. Cassie peers into the refrigerated glass case with six containers of home made ice cream.

SISTER ELDRIDGE  
Welcome home, Obediah.

OBIE  
Thanks.

SISTER ELDRIDGE  
What a wonderful day the Lord has made.

She looks at Cassie.

SISTER ELDRIDGE (CONT'D)  
Is it nice to have grandpa home?

Cassie nods big time.

SISTER ELDRIDGE (CONT'D)  
Will it be the cherry vanilla again?

Cassie continues nodding.

Sister Eldridge makes the ice cream cones.

SISTER ELDRIDGE (CONT'D)  
Obadiah, did you feel that mushy spot on the porch you just walked over?

OBIE  
Water damage.

SISTER ELDRIDGE  
I need it fixed. Can I enlist your services?

OBIE  
Sure. I'll have a look later in the week. See what's involved.

SISTER ELDRIDGE  
Well you should know. You built the porch.

OBIE  
Along with thirty-nine or so others.

They meander in the direction of Obie's truck. He drops the tailgate.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Step into my office.

He takes Cassie's cone. She jumps up and sits. Obie sits. He looks past her out over the field of Alfalfa.

CASSIE

Daddy doesn't tell Barry or Brian not to play in the barn. Just me. It's not fair.

OBIE

Uh-huh.

The smell and sight of the field takes Obie back. He is quiet. The ice cream drips on his hand.

FLASHBACK TO: EXT. ELDRIDGE FARM - DAY

A young, shirtless Obadiah is hefting bales of hay onto a flatbed truck. At the edge of the field a young girl, SABRINA JEPHS 16, walks by. She stops and waves at the young man.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. ELDRIDGE FARM, PRESENT DAY - DAY

Obie wipes the ice cream off his hand.

OBIE

It was your grandmother's favorite too.

CASSIE

What, Grandpa?

OBIE

Cherries, cherry vanilla ice cream.

CASSIE

Mother says I look like her.

Obie nods.

OBIE

Freckles too.

CASSIE

Can I ask you a question?

OBIE

You don't have to ask if you can ask, Little Fish. Everybody else does, but not you. Not my Cassie.

CASSIE

What does *shame* mean? Daddy told mother I shame him.

Obie crushes the cone in his hand. He comes off the truck and throws what's left of his ice cream in the irrigation ditch next to them. He stands and stares down in the ditch.

Ice cream drips on Cassie's leotards. Obie takes a deep breath and hands her another napkin.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

You're all scratchy, Grandpa. You always have a hangover when you don't shave.

OBIE

My hangover ain't from booze.

CASSIE

I want to live with you. We can live in a cabin in the woods. We can go fishing and you can smoke your cigars and everything.

OBIE

Your old man would shit a brick.

Cassie doubles over laughing.

CASSIE

You're not supposed to swear, Grandpa.

OBIE

Sometimes it is the only thing gets me through the day.

There is ice cream on Cassie's nose.

OBIE (CONT'D)

You done with that?

CASSIE

I want to eat all of it.

Obie points to her nose.

OBIE

Here's another napkin.

CASSIE

You're not mad at me, huh?

OBIE

Who said I was? I'll use his head for a football.

CASSIE

You love me the most of everybody, huh?

OBIE  
That would be dead solid, right-on,  
correct, and God help any dumb  
sombitch says otherwise.

Cassie giggles.

CASSIE  
You're not supposed to swear,  
Grandpa.

OBIE  
Good....

Cassie chimes in and says the words with him.

OBIE/CASSIE  
...freaking luck with that.

Cassie laughs so hard that Obie, watching, begins laughing  
with her.

INT. SHEPHERD HOME, KITCHEN - DAY

Carol stands next to Cassie who stands in front of her  
father. He dabs an antiseptic swab to a quarter size  
abrasion at her forehead. Cassie's lip is quivering.

Cassie hiccups a quick breath to keep from crying.

CASSIE  
Boys have all the fud.

PASTOR  
Young ladies don't climb in  
dresses...and where is your dress?  
Why aren't you wearing a dress? I  
buy them for you. Don't you love  
your father?

Tears explode. Cassie runs away. The Bishop sits with his  
hand in the air holding the swab. He turns to his wife.

PASTOR (CONT'D)  
Where are her dolls?

CAROL  
They don't interest her.

PASTOR  
Where does she get the jeans?

CAROL  
Her brothers.

The Bishop slumps in his chair. Carol begins cleaning up  
the First Aid supplies.

PASTOR

Tell me this is just a phase she is going through.

CAROL

You mean tomboy, or do you mean...

PASTOR

Don't say it.

CAROL

...Homosexual?

PASTOR

I will not have that word spoken in my home.

(stands)

I forbid it.

CAROL

She's done nothing wrong, Pastor.

He reacts to the word Pastor.

CAROL (CONT'D)

To her you're her father not her Pastor. She loves you. Show her some affection she will do anything for you.

PASTOR

She is too...she's so...

CAROL

Tomboy?

Pastor slumps back down in the chair.

PASTOR

I pray for wisdom, answers. I get none.

CAROL

I need answers too. She said she won't go to homemake classes. I enrolled her in the gymnastics class at the old gym. The lead instructor from Paradise said she has Olympic potential and wants to coach her one-on-one.

PASTOR

How long have we been married?

CAROL

Not all women who are professional athletes are homo's, Laurence.

PASTOR  
Obviously you don't see it.

The Pastor leaves.

INT. SHEPHERD KITCHEN NEXT DAY - DAY

Obie enters the kitchen. Carol wipes her hands on her apron.

CAROL  
Praise God. You really are out.

OBIE  
Got bored. Broke out.

Carol chortles.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Much needed rest. I recommend it for everybody.

CAROL  
Only you would say that.

Carol pours an orange juice for each of them.

OBIE  
I expected to see Butch when I got here.

CAROL  
Emily won't say a word to the Sheriff and Cassie sure won't. You and I are the only ones who know there is a Restraining Order.

OBIE  
What's going on?

CAROL  
I feel like I'm sitting on a fence. I love Laurence, but he won't talk to me anymore.

Carol fights tears with a hanky she has in her apron.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Isn't that something? You get out of prison and all I can do is complain. I absolutely do not know what to do.

Obie takes his hat off.

Phineas noeses Obie's hand. Obie pets Phineas.

OBIE

What's with the cattle?

CAROL

If you are sure you want to do it?  
Laurence should be paying you.

OBIE

Don't need money. Not going to take  
up golf. Only need to make sure I'm  
not here when he's through at the  
clinic.

CAROL

Who does it mention?

OBIE

Only the kids. Not you, not the  
ranch. He knows I keep my tools in  
the Tack Room.

CAROL

Something has to change. I'm not  
sure I can do this anymore.

OBIE

An old yard bird who I hung with in  
prison always said, "Take it one  
thing at a time. Most of the crap  
we worry about is waisted energy.

CAROL

I've got the pickup parked against  
the gate. I keep asking myself why  
God would put you in our lives if  
there was no purpose to it?

OBIE

My kind of religion.

(he stands)

Gonna hit the head before I fix the  
gate.

Obie heads for the bathroom in the hall on his way out.

OBIE (CONT'D)

I met some interesting people doing  
time. Left some good friends in  
there, but I don't miss them like I  
did my grandkids.

The bathroom door closes behind him.

INT. SHEPHERD HALLWAY - DAY

Bathroom door opens. Obie comes out and into the hall. He  
sees Carol going up the stairs to the bedrooms.

He starts to leave, stops, and follows her to the stairs.

Obie stands on the stairs where he can see part of Cassie's bed and hear Carol. Phineas sits watching Obie.

INT. SHEPHERD HOME, CASSIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Carol enters Cassie's room and sits at the foot of the bed.

CAROL

It's time to wash the blanket.

The big drawer under the bed slides out. A yellow colored blanket follows. Carol picks up the blanket. The drawer slides back to the closed position.

CAROL (CONT'D)

How about Teddy Bear? Does Bear need a bath?

CASSIE (O.S.)

No.

CAROL

Aren't you hungry yet?

CASSIE (O.S.)

Why does daddy hate Grandpa?

CAROL

Oh, honey. He doesn't hate grandpa. He is trying to protect you.

The drawer comes back out followed by Cassie. She stands in front of her mother.

CASSIE

Grandpa loves me.

CAROL

Of course he does. There are other things, things hard for you to understand right now.

CASSIE

Grandpa won't let nobody hurt me. Even the boogyman. He said, You tell the boogyman I'll come looking for him.

Carol holds Cassie close.

CAROL

I know.

They are quiet for a moment.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Let's go make pancakes.

Obie leaves, Phineas follows.

EXT. SHEPHERD STABLES - DAY

Obie is working on a gate with a broken hinge. Finished, he tests it. The gate swings nicely.

He picks up his tools, walks to the tack room, and goes inside.

INT. SHEPHERD STABLES, TAC ROOM - DAY

Obie enters. He flips the light switch. No light. Phineas follows. Obie sets his tools on the floor and leaves.

Obie walks over to the utility shed.

EXT. SHEPHERD RANCH. UTILITY SHED - DAY

Obie lifts a rock and retrieves the key to the shed. As he does Cassie comes running toward him.

CASSIE

Whatcha doin' grandpa?

OBIE

Fixen. I'm the fixit guy. Lights are out in the stables.

CASSIE

Been out for long time. Can I fix it?

OBIE

Nope.

CASSIE

Why?

OBIE

You know why. Tell you what I'll do. I'll learn you what I'm doing if you promise never to do it.

CASSIE

Okay.

OBIE

See this box up here?

CASSIE

Yeah.

OBIE

Long story short. The electricity all goes through this box. All I do is reconnect the ground wire. See where it over heated again and disconnected itself.

Obie points.

OBIE (CONT'D)

I reconnect it to the ground wire and we have lights again.

CASSIE

Why can't I do that?

OBIE

Cause I said so. Lot of old outdated panel boxes like this in old buildings. You're dad needs to have this whole mess changed out - put a whole new box in with fuses or breakers so the ground lead won't melt.

CASSIE

Tell daddy.

OBIE

Fixes people. This is differnt. Now watch. If I were to touch this ground lead to the box it might knock me on my ass. So I throw this main switch to off while I reconnect the ground. Then when I throw it back I haven't been hurt and guess what?

Cassie waits for the answer.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Go on. Look in the stables.

She runs to the stables and back.

CASSIE

The lights on.

OBIE

Let there be light. I'm I the fix it guy? Will you lock the shed for me?

CASSIE

Sure.

OBIE

When the power company comes you  
show 'em where the key is, okay?

CASSIE

Is the power company coming?

OBIE

Tell me what your old man says when  
the safety inspector calls. Gotta  
get my kicks somewhere.

Cassie hugs grampa, has a huge grin on her face.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Turn the light out in the tac room.

Obie drives off.

INT. JAKE'S BAR AND GRILL - MORNING

Obie sits with a coffee in front of him. Jake is behind the  
bar working. The bar telephone rings. Jake answers.

JAKE

Jake's bar where saint and sinner  
celebrate life's little wonders.

He listens, looks at Obie, and puts the phone on the bar.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Next time I'll just say, '*Obie's  
answering service.*'

Obie puts the phone to his ear.

OBIE

Yeah?

EMILY (O.S.)

Grandpa will you take us swimming?  
It is already hot and it's not even  
noon.

OBIE

The river?

EMILY (O.S.)

Yes.

OBIE

So who's going?

EMILY (O.S.)

All of us.

OBIE  
The boys too?

EMILY (O.S.)  
Yes.

OBIE  
Why not!

He hangs up.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Guess I'm goin' swimmin'.

JAKE  
Good. I'll let the neighbors know  
you're gonna bathe.

Obie steps down off the bar stool.

OBIE  
And here I thought that smell was  
coming from your side of the bar?

EXT. SWIMMING HOLE AT THE RIVER - DAY

Obie's truck works its way to a bend in the river. He parks in shade of several Maple trees. Phineas is out of the truck first. The boys and Cassie are half way to the water when they hear grandpa's high pitched, loud whistle. He waves them back.

OBIE  
No rapids. Only on this side where  
the current is slow. Nobody swims  
underwater. Make sure you can see  
each other at all times. Any  
questions?

They run to the water. When he looks away Emily is standing in front of him.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
That's a funny look. Am I in  
trouble?

EMILY  
Would you hold my engagment ring  
while I swim.

She hands it to him.

OBIE  
No, no. No one in this valley is  
good enough for you.

EMILY  
He's from Paradise.

Obie is watching the kids in the water. Phineas is barking.

OBIE  
None of that kissy face stuff. Not 'till I have vetted this guy.

EMILY  
I love him, grandpa.

OBIE  
Yeah, well, that sort of overrides everything doesn't it. What does shit head think of him?

EMILY  
They are great together.

OBIE  
Two shit heads.

EMILY  
Stop it, please. Promise me you will come to the reception. The ceremony is in Paradise, but the reception is here in our chapel.

OBIE  
That's a problem.

EMILY  
You mean because of the excommunication?

OBIE  
And the other thing.

EMILY  
Restraining order.

Obie nods.

EMILY (CONT'D)  
I'll talk to daddy. It's my wedding reception. You have to be there.

OBIE  
If I missed it and your grandmother were alive she'd shoot me. Going to be an interesting evening.

EMILY  
Promise me you won't fight, grandpa.

OBIE  
Can I defend myself?

EMILY  
The Brethren won't start anything.  
I know all of them.

OBIE  
When is it?

EMILY  
Next Saturday. In the evening.  
There is something else. I don't  
quite know how to tell you.

He drops the tailgate on the truck.

OBIE  
Step into my office.

Obie sits where he can watch the kids.

EMILY  
Mom and Cassie are going to  
Paradise.

Obie waits.

EMILY (CONT'D)  
The Monday after my wedding. I'm  
really scared, Grandpa. What will  
happen to Cassie?

Emily stifles tears.

EMILY (CONT'D)  
Will they make her different?

Her words drive Obie inward.

EMILY (CONT'D)  
Daddy won't tell me anything about  
it and we are not to tell Cassie  
untill Monday.

FLASHBACK EXT. SWIMMING HOLE AT THE RIVER - DAY

Younger Obediah, Laurence and Butch at 15 years-of-age. Ten  
15 year olds from the tenth grade, both boys and girls, in  
cut offs and swim suits are getting out of the heat after  
school.

JAY FILLMORE, 15, feminine characteristics, is hovering Near  
the waters edge. Laurence and Butch mosey near him.

LAURENCE  
Hey Queerjay. Suck any dicks today?

BUTCH

Your mother said you like it in the  
ass.

Laughter from Laurence, Butch and others.

Jay starts to leave.

Butch gets behind Jay and pushes him.

JAY

Leave me alone.

A younger Obie is walking toward the swimming hole. He is  
wearing a carpenters apron holding nails and hammer.

Laurence pushes Jay back toward Butch.

LAURENCE

Show us how you do it Queerjay.

BUTCH

Let's pants the little fucker.

Some kids are laughing, others not.

Obie walks onto the beach. Butch sees Obie who pushes  
Laurence who turns with a fierce look on his face.

OBIE

Never.

Kids react.

OBIE (CONT'D)

In my whole life I would never have  
expected this from you.

Obie pushes his son again.

OBIE (CONT'D)

You embarrass the hell out of me.  
You too Butch. You pick on anyone  
who who can't defend themselves you  
are cowards.

Laurence, red faces, says nothing.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Come out of the water, Jay. Do you  
need a ride home?

JAY

No sir.

Looks back at Laurence.

OBIE

I see anything like this coming out of you find another home. You got me? How about you Butch? You got anymore bullshit in you?

BUTCH

Someday I'm going to kick your ass.

Obie shakes his head. Turns to return to where he was working.

OBIE

Jay, they bother you...you know where to find me.

BLASHBACK ENDS.

EXT. SWIMMING HOLE AT THE RIVER - DAY

Carol is still talking to Obie.

EMILY

I didn't want you to find out after.

Grandpa kisses her on top of her head.

Emily puts on a swim cap and walks to the river.

OBIE'S POV. He watches them play. Cassie goads her brothers into splash fights. There is a rope swing. It hangs from the overhanging limb of a tree. They run and jump from a high wall of land behind and catch the rope in mid-leap.

Brian tries sometimes missing the rope to splash down in the river. Barry and Cassie run, leap, and grab-catch the rope, then swing out and away to let go at the last instant for the widest highest arch.

Cassie jumps up and down laughing at everything that happens.

Grandpa's weathered cheeks turn pale. Phineas stands watching Obie. Obie explodes.

OBIE

God damn it.

All stop and stare at Grandpa. They look at each other. A few minutes later Brian comes and sits on the tailgate of the truck with grandpa.

BRIAN

Are you okay, Grandpa? You're all white!

Obie ruffles his wet hair.

OBIE  
I'm good. You hungry yet?

BRIAN  
Yeah.

Obie whistles.

OBIE  
Let's eat.

Emily spreads out a blanket. Obie sets the ice chest on it. The four kids sit on a blanket and eat and drink sodas. Grandpa remains seated on the tailgate of the truck. He does not eat. Phineas goes to Emily and sits watching Obie.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY CHURCH BLDG, PARKING AREA - EVENING

Obie's pickup pulls in next to a white, extended cab truck, and parks. He stands down, closes the truck door and slowly, deliberately enters the church.

INT. DEUTEROMONY'S CHURCH, PRESENT DAY - DAY

Obie walks down a hallway to a door with sign that reads "PASTOR'S OFFICE" and knocks and opens the door. The Pastor is sitting at his desk, a pen in his hand.

PASTOR  
I'm busy.

OBIE  
We're gonna talk.

PASTOR  
You already know where I stand.

OBIE  
No! I really don't.

PASTOR  
Stay away from my children.

OBIE  
See. Now that's what I mean. I haven't a clue what hell you're talking about. That Restraining Order is a complete mystery to me.

PASTOR  
You brought that on yourself.

OBIE  
I'm totally in the dark here, because it is impossible that you are talking about my grandchildren.

The Pastor stands.

PASTOR

You poison everyone around you. You are an evil influence on this community.

OBIE

What hell planet do you live on? I'm the guy donated maintenance on the old church and on this new building God knows how many years before your mother died.

PASTOR

You leave mother out of this.

The Pastor comes around his desk.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Mom is dead. You murdered her. In the next life she will be with us. You won't. You are a son of perdition...excommunicated and removed from the line of succession in the priesthood of God for eternity.

OBIE

When did you get your lobotomy? That's the most fucked up thing I ever...I don't even know how to make sense of that.

PASTOR

How dare you defile this church with your profanity?

Obie shakes his head. He looks down.

OBIE

I will put this as simple as I can.

Obie looks up and directly into the eyes of his son.

OBIE (CONT'D)

You put Cassie in that exorcism school for Homo's you will answer to me.

PASTOR

You are no longer part of my family.

OBIE

You know what, Junior, why don't you skip on down to the cemetery and tell it to your mother.

Obie turns to walk away.

PASTOR

And have the decency to take your  
hat off in the house of the Lord.

Obie stops, takes a half step back.

OBIE

You got a restroom in this joint?

PASTOR

You know we have.

OBIE

You ever take a shit in the house of  
the Lord?

Obie turns and walks away.

PASTOR

You defile this house of worship.

Obie stops, turns, and steps back.

OBIE

You ever known me to be insincere?

Pause.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Cassie doesn't leave Deuteronomy.

As he walks out.

PASTOR

Get out.

INT. SHEPHERD HOME - MORNING

Obie steps into the kitchen. He surprises Carol doing  
dishes.

OBIE

You left a message with Jake.

CAROL

Oh. Wasn't an emergency.

She dries her hands.

She walks in the living room. Obie follows.

INT. SHEPHERD HOME - MORNING

Carol looks at the fireplace grate.

CAROL  
I'm afraid this is and accident  
waiting to happen. Is this  
something that can be fixed?

OBIE  
Nothing. A little welding.

He picks up, folds, and sets the fireplace screen aside.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Let me lift it out for a better  
look.

CAROL  
I'll get gloves.

She leaves the room.

Obie puts his hand on the fireplace mantle. He leans while waiting. He idly begins looks at the pictures on top of the mantle while he waits. He stares at the pictures that have Sabrina in them. It is evident there are no pictures with his image in them.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
I can't tell you how much I hated it  
when he did that.

Obie doesn't offer comment. He doesn't put on the gloves. He uses them as laps to handle the grate. He moves the grate forward where he can look more closely.

OBIE  
Yeah. It is broke. Weak in a couple  
of places. A little wielding. I'll  
need an old sheet or something to  
wrap it in.

She leaves. Obie studies a wall that displays many pictures of the family and friends. There are no pictures with Obie in them.

CAROL  
Here we go.

Obie and Carol spread out the sheet. He lays the grate in it and wraps it up. He picks it up and can't help glancing up at the wall as he walks out of the room.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Back when you were excommunicated.  
Before prison. That's when he did  
it.

OBIE  
I'll let you get the door for me.

She holds the door. Without saying anything further Obie puts it in the bed of his truck and drives off.

EXT. ROAD TO SHEPHERD RANCH - DAY

Two pickup trucks are driving toward each other on the long, gravel road that leads to the Shepherd Ranch. The Pastor is driving home. Obie is leaving. As they pass each other Obie gives Laurence the finger.

INT. SHEPHERD KITCHEN - DAY

Pastor Shepherd enters. Carol is preparing food.

PASTOR

What was *he* doing here?

CAROL

He saw cattle in the drive way. I think he fixed a fence or something.

PASTOR

Did we lose any cattle?

CAROL

I don't know. I'm not a ranch hand.

FLASHBACK TO: INT. OBIE AND SABRINA'S HOME, DEUTERONOMY CITY, "THREE YEARS BEFORE"- DAY

Sabrina is in the final stages of bone cancer. Obie is holding a bowl of clear broth. He spoons some to her. It leaks out the sides of her mouth. Her voice is a whisper.

SABRINA

I can't.

Obie sits back.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Put the spoon down. Let me talk to you.

He puts the soup on an end table.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Husband.

Obie can't talk.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

You know if we could do it over I wouldn't do it any different.

Carol stops to breath. She whimpers in pain.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

I want you to say goodbye to me.

She puts one hand on top of his. He listens, but doesn't want to.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

I have loved you. From that first moment you walked around the corner of the Delbert's Grocery Store, I have loved you. It was my first day in town. You stood looking at me as if I were something from outerspace. I actually thought you were a deaf mute for three days.

Sabrina paused to breath.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Now I need to ask you to do something for me. The pain. It is a deep ache. The medicine doesn't work anymore. Every day...it's worse.

Tears run down his cheeks.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Make it go away, Obediah. Make the pain go away.

He rocks back and forth slowly for a moment.

OBIE

Without you. I don't...

She pats his hand.

SABRINA

But, you will.

Obie takes both her hands and places the open palms against his face. When he lays them back down he takes a deep breath and looks at the medical supplies next to the bed. He goes to the fridge and collects a vile of morpine.

He loads a syringe with a triple shot. Throbbing grief overtakes him for a moment. A deep breath he takes eight vicodin pills, crushes them, and adds a small amount of juice.

He puts everything on a table close to Sabria and looks at her. They look into each others eyes for a beat. Sabrina pats his leg in acknowledgement. He slides his arm behind and brings her to an upright position and puts the glass to her lips.

Slowly she sips at it until it is gone. It takes Obie several tries to speak.

OBIE

How do I go on without you?

She puts her finger to his lips.

SABRINA

Stay close to family. The children need you.

He holds her in his arms, his face against hers.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

Promise me.

Obie nods.

SABRINA (CONT'D)

No. Promise me.

He looks in her eyes and nods again.

OBIE

Okay. Yes. I will.

After a moment her hand taps his shoulder. He lays her back down and injects her with the needle. Obie climbs on the bed, cradles her against him, his arms around her.

END FLASHBACK

FLASHBACK TO: INT. DEUTERONOMY CITY COURTROOM - DAY

JAKE STEVENS, 58 brother of MITCHELL STEVENS, the deceased at age 49, MILLICENT STEVENS, 78 mother of MITCHELL STEVENS. Court stenographer, The Bailiff SILAS BALLARD, 52, Deputy District Attorney ELROY GRIST, 45, DEPUTY SHERIFF BUTCH DUNCAN, 38, sit directly behind Obie. They wait for JUDGE CARLTON (CARL) HERSCH 60, balding in black judicial robe to enter courtroom. Two unidentified people sit in the audience. Judge Hersch enters the courtroom. Bailiff stands.

SILAS

All rise.

They rise.

JUDGE HERSH

Sit. Bailiff, who are those people in my courtroom?

Bailiff walks to the gate.

SILAS

Stand up. State your business in Judge Hersh's courtroom.

HARRY MARSDEN, 40, and SANDRA HELLER, 24, stand.

MARSDEN

I'm Harry Marsden and this is Sandra Heller, Intermountain News, from Paradise, your honor. We were not aware this was a closed session.

JUDGE HERSH

It is if I deem it closed.

MARSDEN

This is uncharacteristic. Is it because the accused is a friend of yours, Your Honor?

JUDGE HERSH

Whose courtroom is it Mr. Marsden?

The journalists leave. Judge Hersh looks at Elroy Grist.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)

Skip the formalities, Elroy. We all know why we're here. You're up.

GRIST

Manslaughter with intent your honor. We're asking for a million dollars bail. Obediah Shepherd struck and killed Michell Stevens. Obediah has no solid ties to this community outside of Jake's tavern where he spends a great deal of his days.

OBIE

Bullshit, Elroy. I've got four grandkids in Deuteronomy... my wife is buried here... oh, and my asshole son lives here.

JUDGE HERSH

Cool it both of you. Obie, I don't see anyone sitting next to you. Tell me your attorney is late.

OBIE

I'd have to have one first.

JUDGE HERSH

Tell me you are not representing yourself.

OBIE

O.K. I'm not representing myself.

JUDGE HERSH

Damn it, Obie. Are you representing yourself?

OBIE

I am, Carl . . . a,a,a . . . your honor.

JUDGE HERSH

Do you understand what that means?

OBIE

Well, yeah, I could hire an attorney. But when all is said and done he's going to tell you what I tell him to. Seems like a waste of dollars to me.

All is quiet in the courtroom for a moment.

JUDGE HERSH

How do you plead, Obie?

OBIE

Guilty. Nolo contendere.

He pronounces it with a hard "e" on the end. Obie turns to Elroy.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Did I say it right?

GRIST

Yeah. That was excellent, Obie. Damned excellent.

JUDGE HERSH

Tell the court what happened, Obediah.

OBIE

Mitch Stevens prays on under age impressionable high school girls. Reputation to prove it.

GRIST

If it please the court, may I speak?

JUDGE HERSH

What do you want, Elroy?

GRIST

Are we in trial?

JUDGE HERSH

Not sure yet. What's on your mind?

GRIST

There was clear intent to kill, your Honor. Mitch was being stocked by Obie.

The Judge addresses Obie

JUDGE HERSH

Did you intend to hurt Mitch Stevens?

OBIE

Hell yes.

JUDGE HERSH

Did you intend to kill him?

OBIE

I wanted to beat his brains in. Is that the same thing?

JUDGE HERSH

You were angry. Tell us what happened.

OBIE

(looks behind to the audience)

Oh, sorry Mrs. Stevens. I was in Charleston at the Grange waiting for feed when Mitch pulls into the Summit Motel across the street. Already paid, just waiting for the skinny kid works there to throw the feed in my truck. Few minutes later high school girl from Charleston pulls in and uses her cell phone. She hangs up and marches directly to the room Mitch is in. My feed comes and I start back to Deuteronomy. Then it dawns on me - what hell am I doing? I swing back and kick the door in. I push Mitch away from the girl.

GRIST

Your honor.

JUDGE HERSH

Let him finish.

\*

OBIE

Anyway he hit his head on a corner of one of those half tables. I begged him to get up. I wanted to teach him a lesson, but Mitch didn't move. That's when I felt for a pulse. Nope. Mitch is done. His career as a defiler of young girls is over. Butch said something about a massive hemmorige.

GRIST

You wielded a hammer for a lot of years Obie. You're pretty strong. Don't you think you overdid it?

OBIE

I did. His pants were around his ankles. I should have waited till the bastard got dressed and then beat his brains in.

GRIST

Your Honor!

JUDGE HERSH

Go ahead, Elroy.

GRIST

Why was she with Mitchell Stevens that evening?

OBIE

I don't know, Elroy. You'de have to ask her.

GRIST

Is it possible she was there for a different reason?

OBIE

You got a point, Elroy. Maybe she was there so he could teach her how to play his french horn. Does the fact that she had to get dressed mean anything? Just sayen.

GRIST

Real funny, Obie. She is a material witeess at this point.

Grist turns to the Judge.

GRIST (CONT'D)

He can't hide behind Privilege, your Honor. Full disclosure is imperative now.

All quiet for a moment.

JUDGE HERSH  
I'm pissed at you, Obie. You know  
why?

OBIE  
I can guess.

JUDGE HERSH  
Not for loosing control. That was  
only human.

GRIST  
Objection, Your Honor.

JUDGE HERSH  
Cool it Elroy. You got a  
confession. Easiest case in your  
career. Let's spare the young lady's  
reputation.

Courtroom is quiet.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)  
Obie, you'er making me put an old  
friend in prison. That makes you a  
damned fool and me unhappy. Even  
Sabrina, rest her soul, said you  
were the hardest man to love she  
ever knew.

OBIE  
She said that?

JUDGE HERSH  
You know damn well she did. You and  
I've been playing chess once a month  
for over ten years. She said if she  
could figure out a way not to love  
you there were days she'd be  
tempted. Now you tie my hands I  
feel the same way.

The Judge picks up the gavel.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)  
I see no reason to delay the  
inevitable.

Elroy Grist stands up with one finger in the air.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)  
Not a word Elroy. There was no real  
premeditated intent. Obediah Martin  
Shepherd please stand.

Obie rises.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)  
I sentence you to three years in the  
State Prison for negligent homicide.

BANG. The gavel hits wood. Breaks.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)  
Court dismissed.

SILAS  
All rise.

JUDGE HERSH  
Bailiff, explain how it works to  
that stubborn ox.

Judge leaves the courtroom.

Obie turns toward Millicent and Jake Stevens. Millicent  
looks away. Jake steps over to Obie.

JAKE  
I know how my bother was, Obie.  
Stop by the bar before you go if  
your able?

Jake follows his mother out of the courtroom.

The room empties except for Syllas and Obie who remains  
standing. Syllas sits down across from Obie.

SILAS  
Sit down, Obie.

OBIE  
Syllas I can't break out of jail  
until you put me in jail.

SILAS  
I saw the Judge write on his  
calender two years hence, call  
Prison Warden Re: O. Shepherd for  
possible early out.

OBIE  
Got it. That it?

SILAS  
No. This is a personal request. I  
am asking you for a favor. When you  
get telephone privileges call the  
Judge tell him it ain't such a bad  
deal and that you are being treated  
well.

All quiet. Obie studies Silas.

OBIE

I'll do it. I'll call that stuffed shirt. How's this sound? "Hey you Old Coot. Just thought I would give you a heads up on things at the point of the mountain. The food sucks, but without exception, I'm meeting a better class of people than I ever knew on the outside and I can't think of one exception to that."

Obie's hands go out.

OBIE (CONT'D)

That okay?

SILAS

Thanks Obie. I've never seen him like this. The judge hasn't remanded you back to County Jail. You've got two days. Sell your truck. Sell or store your trailer, what ever. Have someone drop you off at the North Gate of the prison by Friday Noon latest.

OBIE

Got it. We done?

SILAS

What ever you do, guarantee me you won't miss that date.

Obie stands.

OBIE

I guarantee it.

SILAS

How? How do you guarantee it?

Obie puts his hat on.

OBIE

Because you're going to drive me.

SILAS

Can't. I have court that morning.

Obie starts toward the door.

OBIE

Don't worry about it Silas. I know a Judge.

END FLASHBACK

FLASHBACK TO: EXT. WILLOWS ROAD - DAY

Two years before the Pastor's pickup overtakes Obie's old pickup running Obie off the road. The Pastor gets out and confronts Obie.

PASTOR  
Coward. Get out.

Obie exits his truck. The Pastor has tears in his eyes. He strikes Obie. He hits him several times. Obie does not protect himself.

PASTOR (CONT'D)  
You murdered my mother.

Pastor goes into his pocket and brings out a small container of pills and a vial of liquid.

PASTOR (CONT'D)  
Eight pills missing. Twelves cc's  
of Morphine missing. I know what  
you did.

The Pastor soldiers back to his truck and leaves Obie lying on the side of the road.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. SHEPHERD STABLES - DAY

Obie walks through the stables where Barry is forking hay over the fence for the live stock. Phineas bounds over to Obie who pets him.

OBIE  
How did the gate get broke?

Barry shrugs and looks away.

BARRY  
Probably the Bull. Dad doesn't want  
you around us. Why are you always  
here?

OBIE  
That's the way grandma wants it.

BARRY  
Grandma's dead.

OBIE  
Don't matter to me.

Barry leans the pitchfork against the fence.

OBIE (CONT'D)

If Grandma were alive do you have any idea what she would do?

BARRY

No.

OBIE

She'd tear your old man a new asshole.

BARRY

Really?

OBIE

She could get angry. Not very often but she could. Don't you remember her?

BARRY

I remember her. We had dinner together every Sunday until she got sick.

OBIE

She made me promise to stay close to you guys. I haven't been very good about that. I had a lot of time to think in prison. Unless your dad shoots me or something I'm going to be around a lot more.

BARRY

Why?

OBIE

That's a question you already know the answer to.

BARRY

You love us?

OBIE

Yeah, absolutely, love's in there, but it's something else too. It's like - it's like we are a piece of each other.

An awkward pause.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Okay. Where's the welding gear? I need to fix the fireplace grate for your mother.

BARRY

Dad sent it back.

OBIE  
It was rented?

Barry nods.

Obie turns to leave.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Ya know, you just did something  
brilliant.

BARRY  
What?

OBIE  
You asked a question.

Obie walks away.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
If you don't ask questions you don't  
get to make choices.

FLASHBACK TO: EXT. BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - DAY

The Pastor drives into the Beehive Trailer Park. He stops in front of Obie's trailer. Pastor knocks on the trailer door. No answer. He tries the door. It opens. Obie is not there. He sees the picture of his mother pinned on the wall. He steps inside and places a beige envelope on the small table. He checks his watch and leaves.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES

EXT. DEUTERONOMY CHURCH BLDG, PARKING AREA - EVENING.

Obie's truck pulls in and parks. He enters the church carrying a beige envelope.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES

INT. DEUTERONOMY'S CHURCH - EVENING

As the Church door closes behind him Obie pauses, sees no one, and goes to the stairs leading to the basement.

FLASHBACK TO: INT. DEUTERONOMY'S CHURCH, LOWER LEVEL,  
RECREATION HALL - EVENING

Obie comes down the stairs of the church, where there are class rooms and a small rec room. He reaches to open the door to the rec room. It will not open.

Someone on the inside of the room opens the door to allow Obie to enter.

FLASHBACK CONTINUES

## INT. CHURCH RECREATIONAL ROOM - EVENING

The man, a deacon, closes the door and stands against it barring anyone else from entering. There are seven men sitting in a semicircle, Pastor Laurence Shepherd at the center. An empty chair stands facing the seven men.

PASTOR

Brother Shepherd the chair is for you.

Obie looks around the table. He shakes his head.

OBIE

*Brother?* You talkin' to me Junior?

PASTOR

This is a Court of Love. Please remove your hat and respect these proceedings.

Obie walks to the chair picks it up and puts it down directly across the table from the Pastor. Obie removes a paper from the beige envelope he is carrying. He sits and puts the paper he is holding on the table in front of his son.

OBIE

Don't do this.

The Pastor does not look at the paper. He refers, instead, to a printed out prearranged schedule for the court proceedings which lays in front of him.

PASTOR

Brother Eldridge will you offer an opening prayer to these proceedings.

Brother Eldridge stands.

EYAN ELDRIDGE:

Our Father that art in Heaven, may thy holy spirit rest upon us this day, may we be filled with thy love,

Obie stands.

EYAN ELDRIDGE: (CONT'D)

as we seek to understand how to help and guide ....

OBIE

Belay that Eyan. I'm not a member of your church. Never have been.

Obie turns his attention back to the Pastor.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Only reason I attended couple times  
a year was because your mother  
bribed me.

PASTOR

Obediah Martin Shepherd, you have  
been called before this disciplinary  
council to answer for accusations of  
euthenasea murder in defiance of the  
Lord's law. How do you answer these  
claims?

OBIE

Break your mother's heart.

Pastor Shepherd stands up.

PASTOR

You mock your God, and we can no  
longer allow you to do so.

Obie looks at some of the men.

OBIE

Yeah, well, you sure don't need me  
on this railroad. Fact is three of  
you in this room still own me money  
for work I done on your homes. Hell  
I dought there's a pair of swinging  
huevos in the whole damn room.

Obie starts toward the door.

OBIE (CONT'D)

I'm done with you clowns.

Obie stands in front of the Deacon assigned to guard the  
door. Obie puts his hands on his hips.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Court of Love? You sure you don't  
want to open that door?

The Deacon moves. Obie opens the door. As Obie walks  
away...

PASTOR

With your own mouth you have sown  
your condemnation. Brethren, by a  
show of hands...

The Pastor raises his right hand.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

...is Obediah Martin Shepherd to be excommunicated for having committed the mortal sin of euthenasia?

Seven hands go up. Obie walks to the stairs shaking his head.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

It is unanimous. By the authority and power of his priesthood you are excommunicate. You are now counted a Son of Perdition.

As Obie mounts the stairs.

OBIE

Unbelievable.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. DEUTERONOMY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

Class break at school. The playground is filled with children. Two teachers on patrol. Cassie is the only girl with short hair. She kicks a soccer ball into a soccer net. She kicks better than most. HOLDEN BUTTERS, 9, JIMMY GRAHAM 9, and HARRY JONES 9, male class mates come upon Cassie.

HOLDEN

Hey Lesbo, why don't you go play somewhere else.

JIMMY

Yeah, go play somewhere else freak.

Cassie stops playing. She walks away.

HOLDEN

Hey, check it out. The Lesbo is crying.

Cassie takes off running. HARRIET REGESS, 41, a teacher follows, but cannot keep up.

HARRIET

Cassie. Cassie stop!

Cassie disappears into a stand of trees.

HARRIET (CONT'D)

Cassie. Please talk to me.

Harriet shortly returns. The three boys scatter.

INT. SHEPHERD KITCHEN - DAY

A phone rings. Sister Carol Shepherd enters, wipes her hands on her apron, and answers.

CAROL

Hello.

(pause)

Oh, Hi Sister Regess. What do you mean, missing?

(pause)

If she returns on her own you will call?

Carol hangs up and dials a number.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Jake is Obie there?

(pause)

Just tell him Cassie has run away from school.

Carol hangs up and dials another number. TERESA RODRIGES, 24, answers.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Teresa I need to talk to Laurence.

A short pause.

CAROL (CONT'D)

I don't care if he is doing a prostate exam on God. Put the damn phone to his ear.

A moment passes.

CAROL (CONT'D)

The school just called. Cassie is missing. Unless you want to help look for her, I'm calling Obediah.

A short pause.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Well, of course, I'm going to look for her. I thought maybe you would want to know.

(pause)

Think about it, Laurence. Kids at school bully her. Her own brothers tease her. Obediah is the one that sticks up for her. If she goes looking for anyone who is it going to be?

INT. JAKE'S BAR - DAY

Obie sits quietly. He does not finish his beer.

JAKE

Coffee?

OBIE

Sure.

Obie unwraps a cigar. He lights it. He takes the mug of coffee and casually walks outside.

EXT. JAKE'S BAR PARKING LOT - DAY

Obie walks to the front of his truck. He leans back against the grill, his heel on the bumper. He tugs thoughtfully on his cigar, and sips his coffee.

Obie's POV. He observes the small figure of Cassie in the distance walking toward Jake's bar. He observes his son's white truck coming toward him on Willows road. As the Pastor's turn signal indicates he is making a right turn onto the street Cassie is on she runs behinds some bushes. After the white truck is out of sight Cassie resumes walking toward Jake's. She picks up rocks as she walks and throws them at imaginary targets. When the white truck comes back toward Jake's Cassie again hides.

The Pastor drives into Jake's and parks next to Obie. His window is down.

PASTOR

Is this the way you help us find  
Cassandra?

OBIE

Why is she lost?

PASTOR

I think you know she is.

OBIE

She's not lost, Junior. You are.

PASTOR

You can't possibly love her like I  
do.

OBIE

Yeah. Ain't that a shame.

Awkward pause.

PASTOR

If you see her will you call me?

OBIE

Fuck no.

PASTOR

How could you possibly have been married to my mother?

OBIE

I suggest you get that piece of shit out of my sight before I forget you're my son.

The Pastor drives off. Obie scans the road. Her head pops up from behind some bushes.

A moment later Carol drives into Jake's. As her window rolls down Obie leans down to the window.

CAROL

Have you ... ?

OBIE

I know where she is.

Carol tears up.

CAROL

Thank you, Obediah.

The Sheriff's patrol car pulls into Jake's parking area. The DEPUTY SHERIFF rolls his window down and speaks to Carol.

SHERIFF

I will keep an eye out?

CAROL

Thank you Butch.

Butch looks at Obie with the coffee and cigar. He drives away. Carol leaves also. Obie leans against his grill again and looks up the road. Cassie comes out from behind a house and continues throwing rocks and walking toward Jake's.

INT. DEUTERONOMY, SHERIFF'S PATROL CAR - DAY

The crafty Sheriff is sitting in his vehical stationed further down Willow's road where his car is almost completely hidden by line of sight from Jake's. His arm is on the back of the passenger's seat, the mic in his hand, ready to key in and make a call.

EXT. JAKES TAVERN PARKING LOT - DAY

Cassie watches grandpa tap out his cigar on the bumper of his pickup. She walks up to him and stops.

OBIE  
Having a tough day little fish?

CASSIE  
I'm done with school. I want to be  
in your office.

OBIE  
Sounds serious.

Obie drops the tail gate on his truck. Cassie climbs up and sits.

Jake walks up to them and hands Cassie and orange soda.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
This is Jake. He is a friend of  
mine.

CASSIE  
Thank you Mr. Jake.

JAKE  
Nice to meet Obie's friends.

CASSIE  
He's my grandpa.

Jake heads back across the parking lot.

Cassie drinks. She is thirsty and breaths hard after.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Why am I a freak?

OBIE  
You're not.

CASSIE  
What does Lesbo mean?

OBIE  
Who called you that?

CASSIE  
Jimmy and Holden. I'm gonna bust  
their chops.

OBIE  
Do you know what a bully is?

CASSIE  
An asshole.

Obie bites his lip.

OBIE  
Do they push you?

CASSIE  
Uh huh.

OBIE  
What makes them that way, when they  
push you and call you names?

CASSIE  
They're assholes.

She drinks her soda.

OBIE  
What do you think makes them  
assholes?

Cassie shrugs.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
They're people we gotta feel sorry  
for.

Cassie looks at grandpa like he just lost his marbles.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
A strong person helps a weaker  
person, right?

Strong nod while still looking at grandpa.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
A bully is a coward who is afraid  
people will think he is a coward.  
To prove he is not a coward he picks  
on people who are weaker or smaller.  
That's why we should feel sorry for  
cowards.

CASSIE  
Suit yourself. I'm gonna bust their  
chops.

Grandpa tries to keep a straight face.

The Pastor in his white pickup pulls in next to them. He  
gets out of his truck.

The Pastor takes the orange soda out of Cassie's hands and  
tosses it in the dirt. He picks Cassie up and walks back to  
his truck. Cassie looking over the shoulder of her daddy  
cries.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
I want to be with grampa.

The Pastor with Cassie drives away. A grimace of grief bordered by her two hands against the side window is what Obie is left with.

Jake stands in the door way with his hands in his pockets. His foot holds the door open. Obie meets his gaze for a brief second. Jake shakes his head and goes back inside.

Obie puts his hands on the bed of his pickup and rocks it violently.

INT. GYMNASIUM, DEUTERONOMY CITY - DAY

Tumbling equipment, mats, etc. Third, fourth and fifth Grade girls wearing leotards. They are at various stages of development working with instructors. There are bleachers at the sides where parents and visitors watch.

Obie, at one end of the bleachers, sits watching Cassie exercise.

PENNY HOLSTEDER, 36, AGNES REYNOLDS, 37, and BERNICE STABLER, 51, are some of the mothers on the bleachers who talk as they watch their daughters learn tumbling.

PENNY

When did they start letting ex-cons hang out with children?

Obie turns and tips his hat.

OBIE

You don't have to shout, Ladies.

Penny and Agnes recoil, frown, but continue talking among themselves.

AGNES

You'de think there'd be a law.

PENNY

Bernice, you must be close to moving in.

AGNES

The new house is beautiful. How did you finance a house that size in Deuteronomy?

BERNICE

Nick did it with the venom sales. Ended up we only had to finance about a quarter of it.

PENNY

Oh, that's right.

(MORE)

PENNY (CONT'D)  
I forget you husband juggles two jobs. Well, it sure paid off.

BERNICE  
The house warming is in two months. You have to come.

Emily comes through the door and walks toward Obie. She carries school books, sits next to Obie, and laces her arm through Grandpa's arm.

OBIE  
Hi Toots.

He pats her hand and points at Cassie about to perform on the horse on the far side of the gym.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
They moved her up with the Fifth Graders. Watch this.

Cassie executes flawlessly.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Damn she's good. You know they start Olympic gymnasts when they are five years old. What's with you?

They watch Cassie while they talk.

EMILY  
Daddy doesn't want you there.

OBIE  
Where?

EMILY  
My reception.

OBIE  
I bought a new hat.

He pats her hand again.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
I'll be there.

EMILY  
I told daddy I'm going to ask you anyway. He said, 'In that case, he will cancel the reception.'

Emily tears up.

OBIE  
 You've not seen this side of your  
 father before?

Emily nods.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
 Easy to fix.

Emily uses a hanky on her tears.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
 Tell shit head I told you I'm not  
 coming. I'll pop in late, go  
 through the line like grease through  
 a goose. Be gone before anyone  
 notices. Okay?

Emily puts her head on Grandpa's shoulder. As he talks he  
 sees the Sheriff's white cowboy hat come through the door at  
 the other end of the gym. He pulls a wrinkled paper from  
 his pocket, presents it to Emily.

EMILY  
 What's this?

OBIE  
 Got it couple days ago.

Obie watches BUTCH, the Sheriff, walk toward him as he talks  
 to Emily.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
 What you got there is a temporary  
 restraining order executed against  
 me by your loving father. I'm not  
 to come near you guys - like two  
 hundred feet.

EMILY  
 I don't understand.

OBIE  
 You will in about fifteen seconds.

EMILY  
 How did he know you were here?

OBIE  
 Butch? I called him this morning.  
 Mentioned he might come by the old  
 gym and kiss my ass.

All heads in the bleachers turn to watch the Deputy Sheriff  
 of Steel County walk to Obie.

SHERIFF

I hear things Obie. I heard you violated a restraining order. I cuff you here or outside, you're choice.

Obie does not resist. He stands, puts his hands behind him.

EMILY

No you won't. I'll call my Fathe...

The Sheriff puts the manacles on Obie's wrists.

A high pitched siren-like scream pierces the air. Both men turn to see what the noise is.

No time to react. Cassie has used a corner of the bleachers to gain height and now descends on the sheriff like a hawk on a field mouse. She slams into the sheriff's shoulder. Her velocity takes them all down.

Obie, cuffed on the bottom, has the wind knocked out of him. Cassie, on top of the sheriff, is grinding away with her teeth in an abandoned rage on the sheriff's now very bloody ear.

INT. CAB OF OBIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Obie pulls into the Deuteronomy Medial Clinic. The Sheriff is sitting next to him holding a white towel to the side of his head. The Pastor ushers the Sheriff into a treatment room.

Obie makes a phone call.

HAZEL (O.S.)

Sheriff's office, Hazel speaking.

OBIE

Come get me.

HAZEL (O.S.)

Obie?

OBIE

I'm at the medical clinic. Use the siren.

INT. DEUTERONOMY MEDICAL CLINIC - DAY

Obie is leaning against the nurses station counter talking to a nurse-receptionist. The sound of a Sheriff's car siren ends. Hazel comes through the door.

Obie uses his thumb to indicate that she is suppost to go into the treatment room.

INT. TREATMENT ROOM - DAY

Hazel stops dumfounded. Deputy Sheriff Butch Duncan wearing a blood stained Sheriff's shirt sits on a stool in the Pastor's medical clinic emergency room. Pastor Shepherd, stitching and nurse, MARGE PARKER, 52, assisting are working on the Sheriff's ear.

HAZEL  
Obie did that?

Before anyone can speak.

SHERIFF  
Book him.

HAZEL  
Obie?

SHERIFF  
Book him.

Hazel leaves. The Pastor pulls his gloves off. Marge removes the steril cloth.

PASTOR  
What do you think?

MARGE  
It's a hero's scar, Sheriff.

SHERIFF  
This is going to put Obie back  
behind bars.

PASTOR  
Marge can you clean up later?

Marge leaves the room.

PASTOR (CONT'D)  
Ordinarily I would agree.

The Pastor hands him a hand mirror.

SHERIFF  
He violated parole.

PASTOR  
Yes, and it is the right thing to  
do. I've got a problem.

Sheriff continues looking at his ear.

SHERIFF  
I can't hold him unless...

PASTOR

If he goes back to prison he will be out in a year.

SHERIFF

Yeah.

PASTOR

I don't want him out in a year.

SHERIFF

What do you want?

PASTOR

Is there a chance he will end up doing something that will not be just a parol violation?

SHERIFF

That will add years to his time?

PASTOR

Stay seated. Marge will do the bandage. Thanks, Butch. I knew you would understand.

INT. DEUTERONOMY CITY JAIL - DAY

Obie sits on a steel cot in the jail. A tray of food sits untouched on another cot across from him. Sound of a door opening. Butch is finding the key he wants as he walks. Butch wears a bandage on his right ear. Hat slightly askew.

OBIE

You know, Butch, I probably shouldn't say this, you wearing that piece and all, but next time maybe you should pick on somebody your own size.

Butch unlocks the jail door.

SHERIFF

Can it, Obie.

Obie is fighting not to laugh.

OBIE

Isn't a hundred pounds and she took us both down.

SHERIFF

You're still on parole. I guarantee you if I report this violation of the Restraining Order you'll be back in prison before the paper work is done.

The Sheriff unlocks the jail door and leaves.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

You understand?

OBIE

Not really.

SHERIFF

Hazel has your personals. Get out of my jail.

Obie scratches his head.

INT. SHEPHERD HOME, PASTOR'S HOME OFFICE - EVENING

The Pastor is on his knees. Phineas is on the rug next to him.

PASTOR

...I feel so helpless Father. In all that you have put in front of me to become a good shepherd of men this is the most difficult. It is a cross I do not know how to bear. Without your help I am lost. Be with Cassandra. Let me know how to help her, I beseech you. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Pastor Shepherd wipes his eyes with a handkerchief. He pets Phineas then sits at his desk. He looks up a phone number before dialing. A voice answers.

A WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

This is the Institute. How may I direct your call?

PASTOR

Dr. Bruce Zelcher please.

Click.

DR. ZELCHER (O.S.)

Dr. Zelcher.

PASTOR

It's Pastor Shepherd. Just a follow up call. Did you receive my email regarding my daughter, Cassandra?

DR. ZELCHER (O.S.)

We did, Pastor. When can we expect her?

PASTOR

Monday next. My wife will bring her and if you feel it is necessary Carol can layover one or two nights.

DR. ZELCHER (O.S.)

Excellent. We will be ready for her.

PASTOR

Thank you.

The Pastor hangs up, dials another number.

REVEREND SPRINKLES (O.S.)

This is Reverend Sprinkles.

PASTOR

Good morning Reverend. It's Pastor Shepherd.

REVEREND SPRINKLES (O.S.)

Good morning Pastor. How are you?

PASTOR

I wonder if I might have a moment tomorrow? There is a delicate matter I wish to discuss with you.

REVEREND SPRINKLES (O.S.)

Of course. Is it regarding the matter we talked about last time you were here?

PASTOR

Yes. After much prayer and fasting I want to go ahead.

REVEREND SPRINKLES (O.S.)

Let me save you a long drive. The matter we discussed - I will see that it is set in motion.

PASTOR

Will he report to me?

REVEREND SPRINKLES (O.S.)

No.

PASTOR

Oh?

REVEREND SPRINKLES

From this point you are out of the loop.

PASTOR

Oh!

REVEREND SPRINKLES (O.S.)

We will not speak of this further,  
by the way.

Pause.

PASTOR

I, I, I see.

Click. Pastor Shepherd stares at the phone.

EXT. HERPETOLOGY LABORATORY BEHIND NICK STABLER'S NEW HOME, DEUTERONOMY - DAY

Nick Stabler unlocks the all-metal door to his lab. The new almost finished home is at his back. He steps in and closes the door.

INT. HERPETOLOGY LABORATORY BEHIND NICK STABLER'S NEW HOME, DEUTERONOMY - DAY.

Nick removes his jacket and hangs it up. He steps in front of a small cabinet, unlocks it, and opens the small door. He reads something on the inside of the door.

NICK

In the name of our Lord, I now  
promise and swear, truly,  
faithfully, and without reserve,  
that I will serve with a perfect  
heart. I dedicate myself to the  
sacred work of the Quorum of blood  
atonment specialists that serve and  
keep the Eternal Covenant. With my  
life I pledge and so promise to  
protect the secrets of this order.  
Amen.

Nick closes and locks the small door. He puts on latex gloves and opens a small tool box with a refrigeration lining and battery plug in. Nick inserts and plugs in a battery pack in one end. He goes to a bank of drawers and extract a black rattle snake from a drawer.

He milks the venom into a small jar, repeats the process with another black rattler. He then loads a syringe with all the venom, caps it, and places it in a holder in the small tool box.

He flips a switch turning on the refrigeration. Nick takes another black rattlesnake cuts off the rattle without hurting the snake, puts the snake in a bag, ties it off, and puts it in the box.

Nick opens another drawer filled with pocket knives that all look alike. He puts one in the box. He goes to a large refrigerator and takes out a vile with printed label reads Antivenom: Arizona Black (Crotalus cerberus).

He puts it in the box with another unused syringe. As he closes and locks it he pauses. He checks a list on a clip board. As he checks each item a memory reinforces his actions.

FLASHBACK TO: INT. OFFICE BUILDING ANOTHER CITY - NIGHT.

Dark office. Nick wearing latex gloves closes the door behind him. He sits a refrigerated box on top of an office desk, opens a large lower desk drawer, unties a cloth bag, throws it in the drawer, and quickly closes it.

Nick leaves a \$100 dollar bill sticking out of the drawer. Noise of a car pulling in and turning off its engine. He takes the box and steps behind a set of window drapes.

A well dressed man in a tan suit enters the room, turns on the lights and takes off his coat. He sits at the desk. The man notices the \$100 dollar bill and opens the desk drawer. The rattler hits.

The man leaps backward knocking the chair and himself over. Nick looks at the second hand on his watch. Ater a moment he steps out lifts the man back in the chair and puts him at his desk. Nick opens the box.

He takes out the syringe incerts the needle in one of the puncture wound holes and slowly injects the full amount of venom in the man's body. He monitors the man's pulze.

At a certin moment he takes out the pocket knife, opens it and makes a large cut at the site of the bite. He puts the man's fingerprints on the knife. He then hangs the man's arm down letting blood drip on the rug.

Nick takes a paper out of the box, lowers his head, and reads.

NICK (CONT'D)

Holy Father, our neighbor having committed the cold-blooded sin of speaking out against Your holy church wishes to atone for his sins. As a loving neighbor I here and now assist my brother in the spilling of his blood that he may join his eternal family in the next estate. I am willing to kill him to save his soul, thereby loving my neighbor as myself. In your holy name, Amen.

Nick puts everything in the bag which he then puts in the box and locks it. Leaving the snake somewhere in the room and the knife on the desk he slips out of the building.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HERPETOLOGY LABORATORY BEHIND NICK STABLER'S NEW HOME, DEUTERONOMY - NIGHT.

Nick holding a clip board makes a note. His hand writes:  
*"Leave rattle on the floor to look as if snakes rattle fell off naturally."*

He opens refridgerated box, retrievees a rattle from another drawer, and puts it in the cool box.

INT. OLD MUNICIPAL BUILDING HALLWAY - DAY

HAZEL GOODING sits behind a desk with a large envelope in front of her. Her desk is in the Foryer hallway of the building near the entrance. She is reception/security for all the offices in the old Steel County Municipal Building.

Obie enter's through a door that leads down stairs where the jail is.

OBIE

I don't think Butch takes a leak,  
 but my shit head son tells him to.

She tips the envelop up emptying its contents on the far corner of her desk.

HAZEL

You don't know everything, old man.

Hazel holds a pen toward Obie. He signs.

Obie starts putting his things in his pockets. He threads his belt though the belt loops inserting his all-tool at the right loop.

OBIE

Bullshit. I know more than I wanna know.

Hazel gets up, walks to an office behind her, and looks in. She walks back to the coat rack and picks up Obie's hat. She walks back to Obie and stands in front of him. He reaches for the hat. She does not let go.

HAZEL

Ordinarily this is none of my business, but Sabrina asked me to look out for you before she died.

OBIE

Well, hell, Hazel, you're not doing  
a very good job.

HAZEL

Shut up, Obediah. Shut up and  
listen to me. Do not let that  
little girl...

They are both holding the hat. Hazel's eyes fill with water.

HAZEL (CONT'D)

...go to that degrading school.

Obie doesn't move. He lets go of the hat. His eyes lock  
onto hers.

HAZEL (CONT'D)

They will turn her into damaged  
goods.

Hazel places Obie's hat on his head.

HAZEL (CONT'D)

Now go, get out of here!

She sits. He looks at her for a moment, walks slowly to the  
elevator down the hall and pushes the up botton. She looks  
away. Obie steps into the elevator. He is still staring at  
her when the doors slide shut.

INT. OLD MUNICIPAL BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR - DAY

Obie steps out of the elevator and moves down a hall looking  
for a door with a name plate that reads Judge Carlton Hersh.  
Obie knocks.

JUDGE HERSH (O.S.)

Yes.

INT. JUDGE HERSH'S OFFICE. THIRD FLOOR - DAY

Judge Hersh is at his desk. He looks up to see Obie  
standing in the doorway. He closes the book and the file he  
is reading and stands offering his hand. They shake.

JUDGE HERSH

I was beginning to think you never  
wanted to see me again.

OBIE

I was in the neighborhood.

JUDGE HERSH

Are you okay?

OBIE

I'll get over it. The first time I kick your ass at chess.

JUDGE HERSH

Yeah? Well, I'm still pissed at you. Another judge would have thrown the book at you. Sabrina and Lily were close, you will remember. I think Lily would have kicked me out if I had recused myself.

OBIE

I've always liked Lily. The big mystery - why does she put up with your ornery ass?

JUDGE HERSH

A relevant question, I admit to.

OBIE

Speaking of questions. I need some legal advice.

JUDGE HERSH

Shoot.

OBIE

Are you familiar with something called the Social Services Insitute in Paradise.

JUDGE HERSH

Vaguely. Something ... Psychological treatment for converting homosexuals into heterosexuals.

OBIE

What is a Stay Order?

JUDGE HERSH

A useful tool...sometimes. Not for this.

Obie begins to pace.

OBIE

Laurence is going to commit Cassie to three months in that place.

JUDGE HERSH

His youngest, right?

OBIE

Nine years old.

JUDGE HERSH

Obie, sit down.

Obie puts his hat on a table and sits.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)

What are you thinking? Some things can't be fixed like a clogged drain.

OBIE

I've made some calls. They brain wash people in that place.

Obie pauses.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Goddamit, she ain't broke.

Judge Hersh thinks for a minute. He reaches for a memo note pad and writes while he talks.

JUDGE HERSH

Call this guy. An attorney in Paradise. Ask him about an OSC, "Order To Show Cause." It is a demand on a person to justify an action. In this case the commitment of a minor to a school that attempts to play God with someones psyche. This attorney knows all that. He knows the consequences could be harmful and permanent. Tell him I recommended him.

Obie looks at the piece of paper.

OBIE

What are my chances?

JUDGE HERSH

Laurence is a physician, Pastor of the local church, whereas you are...

OBIE

...a felon on parole, yeah.

JUDGE HERSH

The right judge - I'd say your chances might be as high as ten percent.

OBIE

I'm back inside if I breath wrong.

JUDGE HERSH

Think of it this way.

(MORE)

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)  
 You will be here when she gets out.  
 That will mean a lot.

INT. JAKE'S BAR - EVENING

Obie finishes his beer. Burt sits on the other side of the bar. Jake washes glasses. Several people are playing pool in the rear.

OBIE  
 Let's have another.

JAKE  
 Goin' at it pretty hard, Obie.

OBIE  
 You my mother?

Burt laughs.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
 What's funny?

BURT  
 You. I never thought of you as  
 having a mother.

Jake takes the empty and puts a fresh beer in front of Obie. Obie knocks over the beer when attempting to pick it up.

JAKE  
 Obie, you're eighty-sixed. Drink  
 coffee or leave.

Obie sits up. Righteous indignation oozing out his pores. He swings around, puts his back to the bar, and stares at the door.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY'S CHURCH - EVENING

Obie's truck comes to a bouncing stop in front of the only church in Deuteronomy. Obie wobbles unsteadily inside.

INT. CHURCH FOYER - EVENING

Obie looks to be sick. Two ladies with children stop talking. Obie goes to an artificial plant parts the foliage and vomits.

INT. DEUTERONOMY'S CHURCH, THE CHAPEL FOYER - EVENING

Feeling better he pulls the double doors wide open leading from the foyer into the chapel.

CHAPEL HALL - EVENING

A Church service is under way.

PASTOR

The Brethren have admonished us, get  
your house in order for the day of  
the Lord is upon us...

Obie wobbles inside.

Carol and Cassie are in the audience. Obie staggers half way  
down the aisle until the Pastor, standing at the podium,  
comes into focus. Obie tries to steady himself by holding  
onto a pew.

His hand lands on top of a rather large lady's breast. He  
pulls his hand back like he just burned it. She pushes him  
away. He refocuses and points at his son.

OBIE

You. You self-righteous piece of  
radical...

Red faced Obie searches for a word. Cassie's eyes are big as  
silver dollars. Carol's hand moves to her mouth.

OBIE (CONT'D)

...You put her in that loony bin  
over my dead body.

The Pastor is embarrassed. Two of the Pastor's Councilors  
jump into action. First Councilor, Eyan Eldridge the high  
school coach starts toward Obie. Second Councilor, WALTER  
SMITH, 61, follows.

They grab Obie and are joined by two Deacons from the  
audience. He is no match for them. Cassie drops to the  
floor, crawls under benches, and runs out the back door of  
the church. Obie shouts.

OBIE (CONT'D)

You can't fix what ain't broke, Shit  
Head?

The Deacons haul Obie out of the church.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY'S CHURCH - EVENING

They half drag and carry Obie and dump him on the front  
grass. Another Deacon steps in close, winds up, and drives  
a fist into Obie's face.

Cassie comes around the corner of the church, screams, jumps  
on top of Obie, and puts her arms around him so they can't  
hit him without hurting her.

EYAN

Leave it go. This isn't who we are.

Eldridge and another Deacon pull the man off. They return to the chapel.

Carol comes out of the church, picks up Obie's hat, and looks at Cassie.

CAROL

Get Barry.

EXT. BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - MORNING

Obie, hungover, exits his trailer and starts to walk to his truck. He stops. The words SON OF PERDITION have been painted on his Pickup. He walks around his truck. The other side reads MURDERER and DRUNK.

Sally Winters walks by. She carefully holds a piece of paper between her finder and thumb. She is holding her fingers apart airing her newly painted finger nails.

SALLY

They spelled you right anyway.

Obie takes out his keys, unlocks the tool box in the back of his truck, removes a can of flat black spray paint and begins painting over the words.

Sally returning from delivering a rent receipt stops, cocks one hip, and watches Obie.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Coffee's fresh. Free to you.

Obie continues spraying.

OBIE

It's never free.

Sally huffs off.

INT. JAKE'S BAR - MORNING

The door opens. Jake looks up and sees Obie's truck behind him. Obie takes a stool. Jake puts a coffee in front of him. The two men are alone.

JAKE

Your truck got the measles?

OBIE

Kids.

Obie sips his coffee.

OBIE (CONT'D)

What day is it?

JAKE  
Wednesday. My money's on the roof.

OBIE  
Roof?

JAKE  
I'm betting the roof caves when you walk in the church?

OBIE  
Well, I should go. Sabrina doted on Emily. She's a sweetheart.

Jake takes some garbage in black plastic sacs to the back room. He returns and begins washing and rinsing glasses.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
I been fixin' things all my life. Hardly anything I can't fix if it's broke. About Cassie? I'm lost.

Jake finishes the glasses, straightens his back, and looks at Obie.

JAKE  
What's this I hear about Butch? Burt said something about a bandage on his right ear.

OBIE  
I didn't think you would believe me.

JAKE  
Try me. I'm up for a good story.

OBIE  
Butch was cuffing me at the old gym...

INT. FLASHBACK. THE OLD GYM - DAY

Emily is pulling Cassie off the Sheriff.

SALLY  
Get her off me. Get her off.

Emily puts her hand on Cassie's jaw. Cassie lets go. Crys. Blood everywhere.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

INT. JAKE'S BAR - PRESENT DAY

Obie and Jake are talking. Jake is wagging his head.

JAKE

I'de a payed good money to see that.

OBIE

What puzzles me? Four hours later  
he let me out. He just unlocked the  
jail door and walked away.

Jake stops in the middle of moving glasses from the drying  
area to where they belong.

JAKE

You're crazy if you go to that  
reception.

OBIE

Really. You think....

JAKE

Put money on it. Gotta be a set up.

OBIE

They want me in prison for ever.

JAKE

No. Longer.

EXT. STAND OF TREES NEAR BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - NIGHT

Dark. A movement. Someone moves between trees. Difficult  
to see. Forty yards away we can make out that we are off to  
the side of the Beehive Trailer Park. A silhouette imerges.

Nick Stabler makes his way out of the trees and back to his  
black, pickup truck. There is a small tool box in the bed  
of the truck. Quietly nick opens the box takes out the  
cloth bag by holding it above the tied off portion. The  
contents of the bag move of its own volition.

He starts through the trees toward trailer space number  
twelve. On the far side of Obies truck Nick tests the truck  
door. It will open. He unties the string making it  
possible for the snake to escape.

Nick opens the door, deposits the bag inside, and quickly  
closes the door. He looks about to make sure no one has  
seen him. Nick returns to his own truck. When Nick opens  
his truck door no light comes on.

Nick puts the box inside the truck and drives behind a  
vacant building a block farther away. He parks where he  
still has a clear view of Obie's place. A set of binoculars  
rest beside him on the seat. Nick waits.

EXT. OBIE'S TRAILER - MORNING.

Barry and Brian carrying back packs walk into the trailer park. Barry knocks on Obie's trailer door.

INT. NICK'S TRUCK - MORNING

Nick through his binoculars observes Brian and Barry.

NICK

Shit.

Nick realizes a screw up has taken place. He takes out his cell phone. Realizing there is nothing he can do he sits the cell phone next to him on the seat.

INT. BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - MORNING

Obie wears a blue levi shirt and is buttoning his levis. He hears a knock and opens the door. Barry and Brian are standing there loaded with backpacks and scout gear.

BARRY

Hi, Grandpa. We are supposed to go to Scout Camp, but it must have been cancelled or something.

BRIAN

Nobody showed up.

OBIE

You walked here from the church?

BARRY

Yeah.

OBIE

Jump in the truck. I'll run you home.

Obie leaves the door open. He reaches for his boots. We see the boy's tossing their gear into the bed of Obie's truck. Noise of truck door opening.

Brian screams.

BARRY (O.S.)

Grandpa. There's a Rattlesnake...

EXT. BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK, OBIE'S TRUCK - MORNING

Obie exits his trailer wearing one boot. Brian is sitting in the truck kicking his feet. Barry is standing five feet away from the open truck door pointing into the truck. Obie reaches for Brian. The snake hits Obie on the left forearm.

Obie has the snake just below the head. He squeezes the life out of the snake and throws it in the bed of the truck.

OBIE  
Barry. Get in.

Obie starts the truck and sends gravel flying.

INT. NICK'S TRUCK - DAWN

Nick watches in horror.

NICK  
God damn it!

After Obie's truck leaves Nick drives to the highway onramp, parks, and waits with his cell phone next to him.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY MEDICAL CLINIC - MORNING

Obie brings the truck to a tire screeching stop. Still early the door is locked and no one inside. Obie carrying Brian tells Barry to stand back and slams his foot against the door. They enter.

INT. DEUTERONOMY MEDICAL CLINIC - MORNING

Obie comes through the door carrying Brian, Barry follows.

OBIE  
Call you father. Get the lights.

Obie carries Brian through reception to a treatment room and puts him on a medical table. The lights come on. Obie takes his all-tool out of its holster on his belt, flips the knife blade out and cuts the trousers away from Brian's leg.

There is a pinkish translucent oozing at the sight of the puncture wound. Obie wipes it away with his shirt sleeve. Obie begins looking for the room with the pharmaceuticals. Locked, he breaks that door in and blinking, shakes his head.

He finds the anti venom on a shelf, grabs three small viles and takes them to a tray next to Brian. He starts pulling drawers open until he finds syringes and puts one next to the antivenom.

Sound of a vehical grinding to a stop outside. The Pastor enters the building. Obie points to the pucture wound.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Got him here. Snake that bit him is  
an Arizona Black.

Obie points to the viles of antivenom on the tray.

OBIE (CONT'D)

I found these. Barry, get the snake. Show it to your father.

The Pastor makes a phone call. While he waits for an answer he applies a small suction device to the wound and places a blood prssure cuff on Brain's leg above the bite.

Obie, woosey, blinks and holds on to the door frame. The Pastor works while he talks.

PASTOR

Nick this is doctor Shepherd. I have a snake bite, code blue. It's my son. I need an antivenom for an Arizona Black viper.

INT. NICK'S TRUCK - MORNING

Nick is sitting in his truck near the on ramp with his cell phone at his ear.

NICK

Where are you"

PASTOR (O.S.)

At the clinic.

Nick shifts into gear.

NICK

I'm close. I'm on the highway to Vegas with a venom deliver. Open your backdoor.

Nick tosses his cell. He lets out the clutch spewing rocks as he accelerates.

INT. DEUTERONOMY MEDICAL CLINIC - MORNING

The pastor opens the back door to see a black pickup truck, tires howling, crossing the on comming traffic causing on comming vehicles to swerve dramatically.

The truck then crashes through a wire fence and gets bogged down in a ditch. Nick flips his truck into four wheel drive and comes grinding out of the bushes between the clinic and the highway.

Nick opens the small refridgerator box next to him and takes out the antivenom he carried just-in-case for himself. He goes into the clinic with the antivenom.

Nick takes over suction on Brian's leg. Pastor injects the specific antidote. The Pastor monitors Brian's heart sounds. He makes an incision and drains veinous blood from Brains leg.

Obie finds a chair, steadies himself with it and watches the suction instrument pull red and pink liquid out of Brian's leg.

The pastor reads Brian's blood pressure several times. When satisfied he looks at Obie.

PASTOR  
What happened?

MARGE PARKER, his nurse enters the room.

PASTOR (CONT'D)  
Good. Marge, gloves only. I need magnification. Give me a number three xxxxx silk and needle to close a vein.

MARGE  
Snake bite.

Marge threads a xxxxxx needle and places a magnification lense on a strape that fits around the Pastor's forehead. He focuses on the vein and begins micro sewing.

MARGE (CONT'D)  
Is that thing dead?

OBIE  
It was meant for me.

BARRY  
The snake was in Grandpa's truck.

The Pastor talks as he sews.

PASTOR  
Let me ask you a question, Dad?

Marge with forceps dabs at Bairy's incision between stitches.

PASTOR (CONT'D)  
If you were not in Deuteronomy would this have happened?

They look at each other. The Pastor looks at Marge.

PASTOR (CONT'D)  
Release the cuff pressure slowley. I don't want to close until I know it will hold. Start a bag.

He glances at Obie.

PASTOR (CONT'D)  
Thank you for acting quickly.

Obie leaves. The Pastor turns to Nick.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

His rhythm is beginning to steady.  
You saved my son's life, Nick. God  
was with us this day.

INT. OBIE'S TRUCK, PARKING AREA MEDICAL CLINIC - MORNING

Obie leans on rim of the bed of his truck. He blinks. Slowly he works his way into his truck doing everything with his right hand only.

He gets the truck started, puts it in first gear, and drives onto the road in front of the clinic. He can't make the turn and has to back up first.

INT. BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - MORNING

Obie's truck comes to a stop in his parking place. He usually backs in. Not today. He exits his truck and starts to work his way around it when he almost steps on a dead cat. Obie stares at it. The body is still warm.

He recognizes it as Sally's cat. He gently puts the cat aside and staggers into the trailer.

INT. OBIE'S TRAILER, BEEHIVE TRAILER PARK - MORNING

He tosses his hat and sits. He looks at his arm. The underside is turning deep purple.

It doesn't seem to matter. He Leans down, and opens a drawer, pushes some clothing around, and picks up a quart of bourbon. He sits the burbon on the table. He glances at his picture of Sabrina.

Obie remembers something, opens a book and lifts out a small thin plastic container on a chain. He slides it open and touches a lock of Sabrina's hair. Obie closes it and puts the chain around his neck.

He can't remove the bourbon lid with only one hand. Obie brings the neck of the bottle down hard on the edge of the table. He tips the bottle up and drinks like it is a glass. He falls back on the bed. Hopeless, clueless, and drunk Obie is beaten.

INT. JAKE'S BAR - MORNING

The bar phone rings. Jake, reading a newspaper, answers it.

JAKE

I haven't seen him, Mrs Shepherd.

(pause)

Yesterday either. Hold it. That's his truck pulling in now.

Obie comes through the door. He's carrying an empty cloth bag which he puts on the bar.

JAKE (CONT'D)

It's for you.

Obie takes the phone.

OBIE

Hi. Sure. How is he this morning?

Obie hangs up the phone. He goes behind the bar and pours himself a coffee. Jake raises his mug. Obie tops it off and takes a stool. Jake watches Obie. Obie keeps his left hand out of sight.

JAKE

How is the boy doing?

Obie stares into his mug.

OBIE

Laurence got the antidote into him fast.

JAKE

Keep that stuff in stock do they?

Obie looks at Jake.

OBIE

No. It doesn't store well.

JAKE

Stabler was there.

OBIE

Almost before I was.

Both are quiet.

JAKE

In your truck?

OBIE

It was. Sheriff said Nick Stabler is too obvious to be a credible suspect.

JAKE

Story I heard - Stabler saved the boys life.

OBIE

Snake was meant for me.

JAKE

What kind?

OBIE

Arizona Black. First one I've seen  
below the tree line...

Obie puts his coffee down and reaches for the cloth bag.

OBIE (CONT'D)

...and the first one I have ever  
seen without a ...

The door closes behind him.

Jake's coffee hangs in the air as he hears Obie punch the  
throttle and send rocks spraying behind him.

INT. DEUTERONOMY MEDICAL CLINIC - DAY

Obie's truck stops in front of his son's medical clinic.

INT. DEUTERONOMY MEDICAL CLINIC WAITING ROOM - DAY

Obie is standing in front of the receptionist. An older  
lady and a young couple are seated waiting.

OBIE

Teresa, tell his holyness to get his  
ass out here.

TERESA

He told me not to let you in, no-  
matter-what. You are going to get  
me fired.

OBIE

Impossible. You don't make enough.  
Go get him.

TERESA

Oh dear.

The Pastor enters the room.

PASTOR

It's all right, Teresa. I think  
prison is the only place suited for  
you.

The Pastor puts his hand on Teresa's shoulder.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Get the Sheriff on the line.

OBIE

Laurence, I'm gonna look at that black snake I don't care who you call.

PASTOR

That's it? Then you leave.

OBIE

I can't see Bryan?

PASTOR

No and that's firm.

INT. DEUTERONOMY MEDICAL CLINIC - DAY

They enter a cold room. The Pastor opens a drawer. Obie stands on the Pastors left, reaches into the drawer with his right hand, and lifts out the dead snake by it's tail. There is a tag attached to the snake: *Crotalus oreganus cerberus*.

OBIE

You ever hear of a rattle snake leaves home without its tail?

Obie drops it back in the drawer and leaves.

INT. SHEPHERD STABLES - DAY

Obie is in the tack room rifling through a tool box. He works mostly with his right hand. He finds a fourteen piece lock-pick set with thin black steel handles. Using a vise he practices opening a spare key cylinder with the lock-picks. We see the cylinder click and release. As he puts the picks in his shirt pocket Carol enters. Obie hides his left hand.

CAROL

Do you know the story of Abraham in the Bible.

OBIE

Not so much.

CAROL

It's the one where God tells Abraham to sacrifice his first born to prove his love for God?

OBIE

Okay.

CAROL

I don't understand that story and I don't think I ever could.

OBIE

I never got *that* far.

CAROL

I'm thinking where was the kid's mother or his uncles or his grandfather? Did no one care about the boy?

Carol wipes off the arm of an old leather couch and sits.

Obie blinks. Listens carefully.

CAROL (CONT'D)

If Cassie were to disappear I would die alittle. I know that. But if she were to go to that behavioral place in Paradise I don't think I could live with myself.

OBIE

What are you saying?

CAROL

Hazel called me.

OBIE

Oh!

CAROL

I would rather die than see Cassie committed to that place for three months. Laurence is becoming a complete stranger to me. He says *If I won't drive her on Monday he will.*

OBIE

Carol, the ego my son carries around would cripple a team of Clydesdales. If you want to get his attention kick him in the testicals.

CAROL

I'm about to ask for a divorce.

OBIE

Bold move, but you would loose everything.

CAROL

I would get the kids, the house.

OBIE

He holds all the cards, Carol. You would loose everything.

CAROL

It's hopeless.

OBIE

Not yet. Don't do anything. Give me couple days.

CAROL

What are you going to do?

OBIE

Not sure yet. Don't do anything stupid.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY, AREA WITH TREES, NEW STABLER RESIDENCE - NIGHT

The Stabler new house is almost finished. The small new building with no windows behind it is. From behind foliage Obie stands watching. He watches Nick exit the building, get in his black pickup, and leave.

Obie fetches the lock pic set from the glove box in his truck. He approaches the small building and begins working on the lock mechanism. Click. Open. He turns the door knob and peers into darkness.

Hesitant. He steps inside and closes the door behind him. Lights come on. There is a work table. He looks at a bank of drawers at the end of the room. Obie knocks on a drawer with a knuckle.

The distinctive sound of viper rattles multiplies from all the drawers. Goosebumps the size of marbles. Obie looks in the fridge.

The glass viles are labled with the type of viper being milked for venom with its scientific classification. One reads; *Crotalus oreganus cerberus*.

OBIE

Bastard.

Obie carefully opens a 8" x 20" box with carrying handle sitting in the middle of the table. He notices it is refridgerated by battery. He views holding slots for various syringes and instruments. He slowly slides a drawer open under the work table.

It is filled with several cloth bags. He compairs one to the bag in his pocket. An exactly duplicate. He sees an odd looking pocket knife in the box. He looks at it carefully. He begins opening drawers under the table.

One contains several pocket knives all the same make and color of the one in the box. He opens a blade, finds it extremely sharp. Another drawer.

Inside he finds several kerotine rattles that have been removed from snakes.

He puts one in his pocket with one of the knives. Obie freezes. He hears a truck drive up. The engine dies. House door opens and closes. He waits. A few moments the truck starts up again and drives away.

Obie disconnects the refrigeration unit from the battery. He begins knocking on drawers. He gets to one that doesn't make a noise, but he senses movement in side. Obie looks for Nick's snake tongs.

He quickly figures out how they work, takes a big breath, and opens that drawer. Obie puts the rattleless black snake in the 8" x 20" box and closes the lid. Re rearranges the box as it was when he entered the lab.

Obie opens the fridge and puts all the antivenom immunoglobulin in his pocket. Obie leaves.

INT. SHEPHERD KITCHEN - DAY

Obie and Carol talking. Carol pours ice water for each of them.

OBIE

Brian?

CAROL

Laurence is keeping him at the clinic. Already talking about adding the first wing for a hospital.

Obie looks releaved.

OBIE

It was Nick Stabler.

CAROL

How do you know?

OBIE

I know.

CAROL

Are you going to the Sheriff?

OBIE

Don't trust Butch. If only Sabrina were alive.

CAROL

I miss Sabrina, our talks.

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)

She is the only woman I know that got away from the Fundamentalist polygamists in Short Creek. She told me how she fell in love with you.

Obie is puzzled.

CAROL (CONT'D)

*Said* she never told you.

Obie forgets and takes his hat off with his left hand.

OBIE

Hell, I'de have broke out of prison to hear that story.

CAROL

Obediah. Your hand.

Carol grabs his hand pushes his sleeve back. Two fingers and part of his wrist are dark purple and swollen. She unbottons his sleeve.

Obie attempts to rebutton his sleeve. She slaps his hand away.

CAROL (CONT'D)

You were bitten.

OBIE

Brian was hit first. Fangs went clean through on me. Found myself sitting in snake venom.

CAROL

This is terrible. I'm taking you to Laurence.

OBIE

Back up. It's over. Please, what did Sabrina tell you?

Carol leaves the room. She returns with two towels. She puts a plastic bag under the ice spigot, zips it shut and using the towels she wraps Obie's arm with an ice pack while they talk. Carol is thoughtful.

CAROL

Do you remember the name Rick Chipman?

OBIE

Isn't he the one the one with the hot car, did the escapes?

CAROL

He helped Sabrina and her mother...

OBIE

Nola.

CAROL

...escape when she was fourteen and about to be married to one of the old Patriarchs. Then in 1972 she met another run-a-way who was there when Nola died. In Phoenix I believe. . .It seems there is a standing reward for anyone who leads them to escaped wives.

OBIE

Girl children too. Days I worked on someones house after dark Sabrina would join me. Got pretty good with a hammer.

Obie smiles at a memory.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Chased me with it once.

CAROL

The polygamists found her mom and brought her back to Short Creek. She died of malnutrition. They starved her. Rick Chipman was never heard of again - something about blood atonement. As you know Sabrina ended up taking a companion position here in Deuteronomy. Said she met you her first day in town.

OBIE

I couldn't take my eyes off her.

Obie winces as Carol reajusts the cold pack.

CAROL

She said she knew she was going to marry you within two days.

OBIE

She walked up to me one day, put her arm in mine, and asked what I was waiting for. When she was standing nextto me I couldn't tell you my own name.

CAROL

Do you know why?

Obie wags his head.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 She knew if she was ever discovered  
 and taken nothing would stop you  
 from finding her.

Quiet for a moment. Watery eyes. Obie swallows, looks away.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 What?

OBIE  
 I think I know what she would say.

CAROL  
 What?

Obie adjusts his hat back on his head, smiles with one side  
 of his mouth, and leaves.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY CITY CEMETERY - DAY

Obie is sitting on the grass leaning against Sabrina's grave  
 stone. His arms are drapped over his knees. A family  
 several graves away are visiting a grave site. A LITTLE  
 GIRL 12ish watches Obie. She wanders over, stands, and  
 watches him.

Obie smiles at her.

OBIE  
 Hi.

LITTLE GIRL  
 Are you resting?

OBIE  
 No.

LITTLE GIRL  
 What are you doing?

OBIE  
 Visiting my wife.

The Little Girl searches for something to say.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
 Let me intoduce you to Sabrina.  
 She's buried here.

LITTLE GIRL  
 Aaaa Hi.

OBIE  
 She says, Hi.

LITTLE GIRL  
Does she talk back?

OBIE  
We were married for forty-six years  
so my head is full of her...so I  
would have to say, yes.

LITTLE GIRL  
Memories?

OBIE  
Lots. When I have a problem I like  
to sit here until I know what she  
would say.

LITTLE GIRL  
You loved her.

OBIE  
It doesn't go away.

THE LITTLE GIRL'S MOTHER  
Time to go, honey.

LITTLE GIRL  
Did she talk to you?

Obie nods.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)  
What did she say.

OBIE  
She told me to tell you that you are  
the most important person in the  
world.

LITTLE GIRL  
Me?

Obie pats the grass next to him.

OBIE  
That's what she said.

LITTLE GIRL  
Your funny.

OBIE  
That's what she said, too.

The little girl smiles.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Goodbye mister.

INT. OBIE'S TRAILER - EVENING

Obie finishes shaving. He looks at his black eye in the small mirror over his sink. He shrugs and tugs on a pair of black cowboy boots with a white shirt, string tie and black western cut suit.

Obie opens a hat box and takes out a new white Stetson. An odd looking pocket knife and a snakes rattle rests next to his keys on the table. He puts the rattle in his pocket. He looks at the knife before he also slips it in his pocket.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY, OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE ROAD - NIGHT

Obie drives through the parking lot out onto an old unused dirt road, parks under some trees and walks to the back of the Church.

EXT. DEUTERONOMY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

Obie takes out his lock picks and unlocks the rear door to the church. He steps inside.

INT. DEUTERONOMY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

Obie passes two ladies carrying food trays into the kitchen area off the large activities hall where the reception is taking place.

OBIE

Good evening, ladies. Allow me.

He holds the door for them. They go through into the kitchen. Obie follows.

INT. DEUTERONOMY'S CHURCH - NIGHT

Obie tips his hat as he walks through the kitchen full of ladies serving Cake, ice cream, and punch. He strolls through the area where people are eating and talking at tables and steps out into the middle of the hall where he stops. The hall goes quiet.

Three Deacons at the main entry start toward Obie. Cassie runs across the hall from the Brides Maids line and takes Obie's hand. The men stop and look toward the Pastor who wags his head.

CASSIE

The line starts over here. Cool hat, Grampa.

He puts his hat on Cassie's head and follows her lead. Cassie smiles. The Sheriff gets up and walks behind the line to the Pastor. Quietly they exchange words. The Sheriff sits back down, leans his chair back, folds his arms and watches.

Obie is the picture of propriety. He teases the brides maids and shakes the hand of THOMAS TANNER, 21, the groom.

OBIE

Finally, I meet the luckiest man in these parts. Are you aware that you are married to the smartest, most beautiful woman in the county?

Thomas is about to speak.

EMILY

You are so full of it, Grandpa. I love you so much. It means the world to me that you came.

Emily kisses him on the cheek. As he steps in front of Carol the Pastor backs out of the line and leaves the room followed by Eyan and the Sheriff.

Cassie still holds the first two fingers of Obie's left hand. Obie shakes hands with the grooms parents who look puzzled.

The Pastor re-enters and takes his place back in line. The Sheriff resumes the chair where he had been chatting and sitting with Nick Stabler. Eyan steps behind Obie.

EYAN

Thanks for coming, Obie. I will walk out with you.

OBIE

I think I wants me some of that there cake and ice cream.

Obie takes a seat at the same table where the Sheriff and Nick Stabler have been talking casually. Cassie wearing grandpa's hat sits next to him.

People begin talking again. Obie reaches in his pocket for the rattle from a rattle snake and looks at Nick.

The rattle slides across the table making its chilling noise. People draw back. It comes to a stop in the middle of the narrow table in front of Nick.

OBIE (CONT'D)

When you put that snake in the cab of my truck why did you cut the rattles off first?

Obie doesn't pause for an answer. Nick stands flipping the folding chair he was sitting on behind him.

Obie raises high his naked left arm. Everyone can see his swollen dark purple fingers and arm.

People *ohhh* and *awe* audibly.

The Sheriff comes forward in his chair all ears.

NICK  
It did get you.

Close enough to hear the Pastor looks puzzled. The Sheriff is stumped for a moment attempting to process what he just heard. Obie leans toward Cassie.

OBIE  
Better get lost little fish.

Nick catches himself.

NICK  
What the hell are you talking about?

Nick stands, puts his foot against the table, and shoves it into Obie knocking him to the floor.

Chairs fly. People scatter. Women scream. Obie and Nick exchange blows. The Sheriff attempts to break it up. Nick hits the Sheriff. Big fight. Several Deacon's wade in.

Emily and Carol hold Cassie. It takes both of them.

Obie is handcuffed and out cold. The Sheriff stands.

SHERIFF  
Where's Stabler?

EXT. CHURCH FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

The Sheriff's patrol car pulls in front of the church and stops. The Sheriff and Eyan exit the patrol car. They walk toward the Pastor.

SHERIFF  
He ain't gonna make trouble now.

EYAN  
He was still out when Butch locked the Jail.

PASTOR  
After tonight he's the damn town hero.

SHERIFF  
I sill have him on a restraining order. I need to get an APB out on Stabler. Does anyone know his address in Charleston?

CLIVE REYNOLDS, 45, a Deacon in the Deuteronomy church speaks.

REYNOLDS

Check his lab first. We live next door. He is always there.

EYAN

I'll come with you.

They return to the Sheriff's car.

EXT. NICK STABLER'S LAB - NIGHT

Nick's black pickup pulls around behind his laboratory. Lights off. Nick open his lab and enters. He doesn't bother to close the door.

He goes to the bank of drawers holding snakes and pulls out the bottom drawer. The plastic transparent lid remains latched, the Copper Head Viper inside.

He slides it out of the way, gets on his knees and reaches deep in the hole where the drawer was. His hand comes out with five bundles of banded \$100 dollar bills which he puts on the table.

Nick reaches for the box on his work table in which he intends to carry the money. The box open, a snake strikes Nick hitting him in the neck. Nick staggers backwards. He quickly realizes it hit him in the carotid artery.

As his brain begins to cease function he opens the fridge to get the antidote medicine only to find it empty. He collapses to his knees, calls 911 on his cell phone, falls forward on his face, the phone lying open next to his head.

OPERATOR

This is the operator. What is the nature of your emergency?

INT. JAKE'S BAR, DEUTERONOMY CITY - NIGHT

Jake is alone in the bar. He is changing out a keg of beer, empty for full, when Judge Carl Hersh enters.

JUDGE HERSH

Always this quiet in here?

JAKE

Sunday Morning. Most of my customers are in church.

JUDGE HERSH

My wife ask me to meet her here.

(MORE)

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)  
That being the case, I have a question. Since when are you and Lily on a first name basis?

JAKE  
Good God Carl. We were in the same class all through high school. You were five years ahead of us.

JUDGE HERSH  
Yeah, well, do you have any idea why I'm here?

JAKE  
Not really. Can I get you something to drink? Coffee, beer?

The Judge takes a stool at the bar.

JUDGE HERSH  
Coffee's fine.

Jake put a mug in front of the Judge and reaches for the coffee.

There is a noise behind the Judge. The bar door opens. Two women enter. LILY HERSH, 56, the Judge's wife, followed by Carol Shepherd.

LILY  
Thanks, Jake.

Jake nods.

Lily walks to the Judge. Carol stands quietly holding her purse in front of her just inside the door. Lily puts her hand on the Judges shoulder.

LILY (CONT'D)  
There is something you need to hear, honey.

She looks at Jake.

LILY (CONT'D)  
Jake can we lock the door for a few minutes.

Jake puts a Closed sign on the door and locks it. At a corner of the bar they all sit, except Jake who has a stool behind the bar.

CAROL  
Cassie is gone. Laurence won't tell me where she is. I'm done.

(MORE)

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 Jake, Obediah did not kill your  
 brother. I did.

She begins digging for her hankie in her purse.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 I'm glad Obediah is not here. He  
 would stop me.

Carol takes a deep breath.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 This is what happened.

FLASHBACK INT. CHARLESTON, SUMMIT MOTEL - NIGHT

A semi dark room. Two people are in an embrace, MITCH STEVENS, 46 and Carol Shepherd. They break. Carol has tears in her eyes. Mitch is rough. He fumbles with her blouse. Carol pulls back. She attempts to stop Mitch.

CAROL  
 I can't do this.

Mitch has her skirt at her ankles. Carol resists. He opens his belt, unzips his pants, and pushes her on the bed. Mitch lays on top of her.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
 Please, I'm sorry Mitchell. This  
 was a mistake.

Carol squirms loose, manages to get her legs in front of her, and pushes with all her might. Mitch, pants around his ankles, is repelled backwards. Unable to balance himself he hits his head on the corner of a table.

The motel room door explodes open. Door jamb trim flies everywhere. Obie steps into the room. Mitch is motionless on the floor.

Obie leans over Mitch ready to beat the hell out of him. Mitch doesn't move. Obie checks for a pulse. He checks again, looks at Carol.

OBIE  
 He's dead.

CAROL  
 I just....I just pushed him away.

OBIE  
 He was forcing himself on you?

He checks Mitch's pulse again. Obie sits on the bed. Carol stands looking at Obie.

Obie looks at the open door and at her lack of clothing. He points at the open door.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
Block it with a chair.

Carol blocks the door. Obie sitting and Carol standing stare at the body.

CAROL  
What do I do?

OBIE  
You pushed him?

CAROL  
I changed my mind.

Obie looks at her for a moment.

OBIE  
Laurence cannot find out.

Obie bends down, picks up her skirt, and hands it to her.

OBIE (CONT'D)  
What did you touch?

Carol looks about, thinks.

CAROL  
Nothing. I knocked on the door.

OBIE  
Door nob?

CAROL  
Aaaa, I don't remember.

OBIE  
Bathroom.

CAROL  
No.

OBIE  
We gotta get you out of here.

CAROL  
All I wanted was a little human warmth.

Obie ignores her.

OBIE  
No one must know about this.

Obie quietly goes to his truck and finds a can of spray lub. He sprays everything Carol or he have or may have touched. He moves the chair away from the door, turns the lights out and they step through the door.

EXT. FLASHBACK CONTINUES, SUMMIT MOTEL - NIGHT.

Obie looks around until he is satisfied no one is watching.

OBIE

Okay. Go to the Charleston Hospital. Park and turn your lights off. Wait for me.

She leaves. Obie brings the door almost closed on his hand while still holding the chair at a leaning angle inside against the inside of the door. He slides his hand out and lets the weight of the chair close the door.

Obie takes a deep breath and tries the door. The chair successfully leans on the inside just under the knob. It will not open. Obie gets in his truck.

INT. FLASHBACK CONTINUES, CHARLESTON, HOSPITAL PARKING AREA - NIGHT

Carol's interior car light comes on when Obie opens the passenger side car door and sits. Light turns off when he closes the door. Carol sits crying into a handkerchief.

OBIE

Are you all right? I mean are you going to be okay?

CAROL

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

OBIE

Stop. Don't say I'm sorry. Drives me crazy. Say I'll never do it again, say fuck you, say mind your own business, but don't say I'm sorry.

CAROL

All I wanted was to be loved, some affection.

OBIE

I didn't raise Laurence that way. Sabrina sure didn't.

CAROL

How could I do this?

OBIE

Where is Shithead?

CAROL

A two day Pastor's meeting In  
Paradise. Obadiah are you going to  
tell him?

OBIE

Are you really asking me that? Damn  
girl, you are the single best  
decision he ever made. That's what  
Sabrina said and I agree.

CAROL

What now?

OBIE

The obvious. No one is to know  
about this, ever.

Obie puts his hand on the door handle.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Take the back roads home.

END FLASHBACK

INT. JAKE'S BAR - PRESENT DAY - DAY

All are quiet.

Carol reaches for her purse and climbs off the bar stool.

CAROL

My question for you Judge...after I  
find my daughter should I report to  
the Sheriff or to you to turn myself  
in?

The Judge blinks, inhales and lets it out. No one moves.  
All eyes are on the Judge.

LILY

Carl!

JUDGE HERSH

I'm thinking. Can any of you think  
of a reason that would cause Obie to  
admit to any of this?

JAKE

There ain't enough water for *that*  
waterboard.

All study the Judge who is processing what he just heard  
against everything that has happened. Finally, in a quiet,  
careful manner the Judge speaks.

JUDGE HERSH

Do not go to the Sheriff ... ever.  
Do you understand me?

Carol nods.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)

Tell no one about any of this ...  
ever. Any questions...of any  
kind...come to me and only me.

The Judge looks at the floor.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)

What am I overlooking?

JAKE

Obie's still on Parole.

JUDGE HERSH

And I am the Judge of record. The  
peoples case against Obediah  
Shepherd has been satisfied. Case  
closed.

The Judge takes a deep breath, sits up straight, and pushes  
the coffee away from him.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)

Jake. There comes a time, on rare  
occasion, when a salute to an old  
and dear friend is in order.

Jake unlocks the door and retrieves his closed sign.

The ladies walk toward the door.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)

Mrs. Shepherd.

Carol and Lily turn to the Judge.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)

If I could sentence you with  
anything at this time, it would be  
peace of mind. You've beat yourself  
up long enough.

Carol reaches for a hanky, dabs at her eyes, and looks back  
at the Judge. Lily digs a hanky out of her purse.

LILY

Now you've ruined my makeup.

Judge Hersh throws his hands in the air. The ladies leave.

Jake chortles as he opens a cabinet and reaches for a bottle. He puts two wide mouthed, heavy-base glasses on the bar.

He pours a finger of single malt, Glenmorangie Scotch into each glass. The two men touch glasses.

JUDGE HERSH

Ya know... It's good to see you once in a while, Jake.

JAKE

You need to stop in more often.

JUDGE HERSHEL

Aaaaa, our business only.

Jake nods.

JAKE

Absolutely. To Obediah then.

JUDGE HERSH

To Obediah.

They drink.

JUDGE HERSH (CONT'D)

Mercy. That's the smoothest scotch that ever laced my palet.

Jake puts a finger in the air, goes in the back room, and returns with an unopened bottle of Glenmorangie single malt scotch.

JAKE

Allow me. A gift.

The Judge pulls two twenty dollar bills out of his money clip and leaves it on the bar.

JUDGE HERSH

Allow me to leave a tip for the coffee.

The Judge leaves.

INT. DEUTERONOMY CITY JAIL - DAY

Obie sleeps in a jail cell. The Sheriff unlocks the door and enters. He nudges Obie's boot with his own.

SHERIFF

What should I tell the Pastor, Obie?

Obie sits up.

OBIE

You don't tell him nothin. He tells you.

SHERIFF

Don't go looking for any rewards for exposing Nick.

OBIE

He all but killed my grandson. Only thing I want he goes to my old cell block. I got some good friends in there.

Obie attempts to stand. Thinks better of it.

SHERIFF

Hazel's got your personals. Upstairs now.

The Sheriff begins walking toward the stairs.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Let's go. Now!

OBIE

I like this cell the best, Butch.

Obie comes out of the cell and begins to follow The Sheriff.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Can't we get a plaque made...my name on it?

INT. COUNTY COURTHOUSE, HAZEL'S DESK - EVENING

Obie is putting his personal items in his pockets.

OBIE

What day is it?

HAZEL

Sunday.

Obie threads his belt in his pant loops.

OBIE

You stealing car keys now, Hazel?

HAZEL

Why? Your truck's not worth a junk fee any more than you are.

She put a pen in front of Obie. He signs.

OBIE

Where are my keys?

Hazel leaves Obie standing with his hand out. She goes to the coat rack. She brings Obie's white hat and hands it to him with two hands.

HAZEL

You're keys are behind you.

Obie turns to see the Sheriff holding the entry door open.

SHERIFF

This way.

Obie follows the Sheriff outside.

EXT. FRONT STEPS OF OLD MUNICIPAL BUILDING - EVENING

Obie exits into daylight. Sees his truck and his trailer hooked up and ready to travel with the Sheriff's patrol car parked directly behind. Obie stands on the steps looking down at the caravan. His hand begins to fist.

The Sheriff puts his hand on his piece.

OBIE

Ya know, you used to be a pretty good kid, Butch, back when you and my kid were on the football team together.

SHERIFF

That Restraining order is good for six months. Show your face in Deuteronomy and you will be back in prison. I garuntee it.

EXT. U. S. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Small caravan; Obie's truck and trailer, followed by the Sheriff's car travels north on the freeway.

INT. CAB, SHERIFF'S PATROL CAR, FREEWAY - NIGHT

Sheriff is looking at the rear of Obie's trailer. Speedometer reads fifty miles/hour. He checks his watch. At the next off ramp he pulls off the highway, turns left, drives under the freeway and takes the on ramp south. The Sheriff heads back to Deuteronomy.

INT. CAB OF PICKUP TRUCK, U.S.HIGHWAY - MORNING

Obie, unshaven, mumbling, and with a black eye pounds on steering wheel.

OBIE

I've failed you, Honey. I am nothing but a worthless, good-for-nothing old man.

Moments later tears form and work their way down his cheeks.

EXT. PICKUP TRUCK, HIGHWAY - DAY

Obadiah's truck passes a sign that reads, BIG PARADISE BREAKFAST - 24 HOURS. His truck pulls into a large parking area in front of the Big Breakfast restaurant between two twenty-one wheel rigs and next to a large empty lot. He shuts down the pickup. Obie goes to the trailer.

INT. TRAILER, TRUCK STOP RESTAURANT - DAY

Obie puts his hat on a peg by the door, sits on the bed, and begins taking off his boots. He stares at the picture of his deceased wife. Obie puts his boots back on, grabs a hand full of quarters from an old coffee can and goes to a phone booth inside the restaurant.

INT. TRUCK STOP RESTAURANT - DAY

Obie puts in quarters.

JAKE (O.S.)

Jake's bar where saint and sinner  
celebrate life's little wonders.

OBIE

Jake, it's me.

JAKE (O.S.)

Where are you?

OBIE

Don't ask.

JAKE (O.S.)

Carol Shepherd has been calling.  
It's about Cassie. Call me back.

Click. More quarters.

CAROL (O.S.)

Hello.

OBIE

Can you talk?

CAROL (O.S.)

Oh, thank God. Obadiah, Laurence  
has put Cassie in that place. He  
didn't even tell me.

Teary voice.

OBIE

What's the name?

CAROL (O.S.)

I heard them talking before they left. It is called the Social Services Institute.

OBIE

Who Carol? Who left?

CAROL

Butch and Laurence. Right from the house they used the siren. That was like two hours ago. Find her Obediah. Please find her.

OBIE

Count on it.

Click.

EXT. PARADISE CITY, SOCIAL SERVICES INSTITUTE - NIGHT

Obie's truck sands trailer pulls around the corner of an old building next to the Institute in an alley parking area. Obie walks between buildings and comes up at the side of the Institute, another old building. The lower windows are obscure. In one, a light.

There is a door at the rear. He descends five steps to find the door locked. His lock picks come out of his pocket. The lock clicks open. Obie steps inside and closes the door.

INT. SOCIAL SRVC INSTITUTE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Dark. Obie makes his way to another door with light showing under it.

That door opens easily. He peers out, watches a man open a door into a well lit room. Dr. BRUCE ZELCHER, 44, PhD Psychology wearing a suit.

DR. ZELCHER

Are we ready?

Two nurses, PATSY AMERILLA, 34, and NOREEN WALLS, 50, are attempting to strap Cassie down for her first electric shock treatment.

NOREEN

She's too wiry.

DR. ZELCHER

I'll get help.

Zelcher leaves the room and disappears up a set of stairs. Immediately two security types, one man, Bill HECKMAN, 44, and

a woman, SAM SMITH,35, come down the same stairs followed by Zelcher.

They all disappear into the room. Much commotion. Obie hears a muffled scream from Cassie.

INT. TREATMENT ROOM, BASEMENT SOC SERVICES INSTITUTE - NIGHT

Cassie is being strapped down on a treatment table. She is crying. Two security guards are holding Cassie's arms and legs while Noreen and Patsy apply the straps that keep her from hurting herself during treatment.

Cassie has a tongue depressor wrapped with white tape in her mouth that is secured with a rubber strap behind her head. Cassie has leads on both sides of her head at her temples.

NOREEN

You only make it harder on yourself,  
Cassandra.

Cassie screams.

The door opens violently, swinging so hard it does a 190 and hits the outer wall making a loud noise. Dr Zelcher has his hand on the switch that would send a current of electricity through Cassie's brain. Obie looks at Zelcher.

OBIE

You flip that switch I'll shove it  
so far up your ass your mother will  
will light up.

DR. ZELCHER

Call the police.

Obie looks at the two nurses and motions behind him with his thumb. Obie reaches and works to release one of the straps on Cassie's. He looks at the two security guards.

OBIE

Are you assholes going to do anything  
stupid?

The nurses run. Sam pushes the treatment table into Obie who throws Sam out of the small room.

LARGE REC ROOM OUT SIDE OF TREATMENT ROOM

Security Guard named Bill pushes Obie and follows him where both security guards surround Obie. They fight.

Zelcher shouts up the stairs.

DR. ZELCHER

Noreen, did you call the police?

Zelcher watches. Cassie screams.

OBIE

Little fish, I'll be right there.

Bill leans in to deliver a blow. Obie deflects him into Sam. Bill disappears into one of the small rooms. Obie and Sam square off. Sam smiles.

SAM

I know exactly how to break your balls old man.

OBIE

Mind if I resist.

Sam and Obie fight. We hear a police siren in the distance. Bill knocks Obie out with a police baton.

Zelcher attempts to keep Cassie strapped down but hearing the police siren leaves her to meet the police. On his way Zeltcher sees Obie on the floor.

ZELCHER

Tie him up.

Cassie has freed herself and as backs are turned goes upstairs.

INT. SOC SERVICES INSTITUTE, MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

Cassie sees police in the hall talking to people in the office. She goes up to the third floor and hides behind another door.

INT. SOCIAL SRVC INSTITUTE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Zeltch, Sam, and Bill are standing over Obie.

SAM

You got cuffs?

BILL

No.

SAM

We gotta do something fast.

Zelcher grabs obies feet.

ZELCHER

Use the treatment table. Don't worry about her. She's not going anywhere.

Together they lift Obie to the treatment table. Zelcher leaves, goes up stairs.

Bill and Sam strap him down and follow.

INT. PARADISE CITY, SOCIAL SERVICES INSTITUTE - NIGHT

Zelcher enters the main office and begins talking to the police.

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING BASEMENT - NIGHT

Cassie enters the basement. She hears some one behind her and runs back into the treatment room, sees grandpa and hides under a counter behind some equipment.

INT. SOC SERVICES INSTITUTE - NIGHT

The Pastor and Butch come through the front door. Butch with badge in plain sight begins talking with Police.

SHERIFF

I'm from Dueteronomy. This is the little girl's father. Has an Obediah Shepherd been here? He would be attempting to kidnap the...

ZELCHER

He did. He tried.

PASTOR

Where's Cassie?

Noreen looks at Zelcher.

NOREEN

Isn't she in the treatment room?

The Pastor goes down stairs. He finds Obie who is still out cold. He does not see Cassie under the cabinet. The Pastor notices the two leads for the sides of the head. Immediately he knows their function and puts them on Obie.

Cassie is watching her father. She sees the underside of the panel and quickly unclamps the ground wire from its connection to the building. For a minute she doesn't know what to do with it.

The Pastor rotates the switch. Nothing happens. Cassie shrugs and connects it to the housing. The Pastor leans over, putting one hand on the side of the panel housing, in order to read the nomenclature under each dial and switch. The Pastor sees the on/off switch and flips it to 'on'.

While still holding on to the panel housing the Pastor rotates the dial with his other hand. The current shoots through the Pastor's body putting his heart into a state of fibrillation.

Cassie unstrapes and wakes Obie who stands and watches his son shake.

OBIE  
What happen.

CASSIE  
I grounded his ass to the electrical panel in the shed.

Cassie and Obie hear commotion upstairs.

OBIE  
Quick. This way.

CASSIE  
Don't worry, Grandp. I let all the patients out of their rooms.

OBIE  
You're as kick-ass smart as your grandma.

Obie opens the door of the room where he entered. They exit.

EXT. OBIE'S TRUCK, ON PARADISE STREET - NIGHT

Obie drives. Cassie kneels backwards on the seat, watching behind them.

CASSIE  
Where're we going?

OBIE  
Damned if I know.

CASSIE  
I don't want to go home.

Obie stares at Cassie for a moment.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Barry told me their going to cut my dick off in that place.

INT. OBIE'S TRAILER, TRUCK STOP RESTAURANT - DAY

Cassie is looking at Obie.

CASSIE  
What's wrong Grandpa?

He blinks. Obie turns, looks at his watch, then back at Cassie.

OBIE

I'm going to ask you a very important question. I want you to think about it before you answer, Okay?

CASSIE

Okay.

OBIE

What if you didn't see your mother for a long time, a loooong time?

CASSIE

Serious?

Obie nods.

Cassie starts to cry. Stops herself.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I don't want to go home.

He takes a deep breath. Color returns to Obie's face. Obie moves to the sink. He opens the door under and reaches deep inside and pulls hard. His arm jerks something loose. He has a small gym bag in his hands. He unzips the bag. It is full of green backs.

OBIE

Hand me Grandma's picture.

Cassie hands him the picture of Sabrina he had pinned up on the trailer wall.

OBIE (CONT'D)

From the day we were married grandma saved something from every job I done.

Obie puts the picture on top of the money, zips it shut and looks at Cassie.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Serious?

CASSIE

God damn right.

OBIE

No cussing.

CASSIE

Good freaken luck with that.

OBIE

Awe hell.

Cassie laughs. Obie grabs a levi jacket from his closet, and hands it to Cassie.

OBIE (CONT'D)

For now.

They exit the trailer. Cassie stops. She points.

Cassie's finger points at a small rattle snake ten feet away. Grandpa looks up. He studies the snake. After a moment he looks at Cassie and points.

OBIE (CONT'D)

See that big snake with black and white rings moving behind that bush. Watch.

The black and white snake moves in the direction of the rattle snake. The black and white snake moves with lightening speed, bites the rattler, coils, and holds it helpless.

CASSIE

Are they fighting?

OBIE

It's called breakfast.

CASSIE

Snakes eat snakes?

OBIE

King snakes do.

He hands her the gym bag.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Get in the truck.

INT. SHEPHERD HOME - DAY

Sheriff Butch Duncan knock on the back door. Carol opens it.

CAROL

Come in Butch.

Butch takes his hat off.

SHERIFF

Thank you, but I can't. Have you heard anything about Larry?

CAROL

They called me, but no new news.

SHERIFF

I just left the Sheriff in Charleston. We have put out an All States APB. It shouldn't take long and we will have them. I guarantee you we will find Cassandra.

CAROL

Thank you, Butch.

SHERIFF

You might want to go to the church later. The members are gathering for a prayer meeting.

CAROL

I will. Anything on Nick?

SHERIFF

Nick Stabler is in a hospital in Vegas.

CAROL

What happened?

SHERIFF

One of his own snake got him.

CAROL

Is he going to be okay?

SHERIFF

I was told he's in a coma and they don't expect him to come out of it. I'll keep you posted.

The Sheriff leaves.

EXT. OBIE'S TRUCK, PARKING AREA, LARGE MALL, PARADISE - DAY

Obie and Cassie pull into the crowded parking area. They exit the truck and make their way toward an entry. He tosses his keys in a car with an open window.

INT. LARGE MALL - DAY

They enter the shopping mall.

OBIE

Here.

Obie gives Cassie money. He points to a store.

OBIE (CONT'D)

Go buy some jeans.

(MORE)

OBIE (CONT'D)

What ever else you need. I'll be over there. He points to a mall bar where several people are drinking.

Cassie goes in to the store. Obie sits at the counter in the bar.

BARKEEP

What will you have?

Long pause.

OBIE

Coffee. Black.

INT. SHEPHERD HOME, CASSIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Carol stands in Cassie's room and looks around. She removes the blanket from under the bed and folds it. She stands looking out the window. Carol lies down on Cassie's bed. She pulls the blanket over her legs and with a faint smile closes her eyes.

INT. PARADISE MALL. BAR - DAY

Obie drains the last of his coffee as Cassie walks to him. She is wearing a T-shirt, Levi's, and new sneakers.

CASSIE

This okay, Grandpa?

OBIE

What about a jacket?

CASSIE

I like yours.

They start walking toward an exit.

OBIE

Did I hear your mom say you were taking Spanish in school?

CASSIE

Si.

OBIE

Talk English.

Cassie laughs.

CASSIE

Okay, Grandpa.

Crowd noise.

OBIE  
You ever fly in an airplane?

CASSIE  
Nope.

OBIE  
Passports. We need passports and  
new identities.

CASSIE  
What's a Passport?

OBIE  
Something hard to get unless you  
know where to go.

They blend in the crowd until all we see is crowd.

CASSIE (O.S.)  
Do you know where to go?

OBIE (O.S.)  
Little Fish, I got the best  
education in the world. It's called  
prison.

Crowd noise.

OBIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
You know where Baja California is?

CASSIE (O.S.)  
No. Yes. Mexico?

OBIE (O.S.)  
I know a guy . . . lives in Cabo San  
Lucas.

FADE OUT