Shattered

an original screenplay by

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Third draft © 14/1/2009 by Martin Hooijmans Martin Hooijmans martin.hooijmans@gmail.com FADE IN:

EXT. KEEP - MORNING

A foggy, grassy landscape. A boy, YOUNG STAN, age 10, walks up a hill as the soft moaning of a man can be heard close-by.

As he reaches the top of the hill, an intimidating keep is revealed. Stan stands in awe for a moment.

> STAN'S MOTHER (O.S.) Stan! Stan! Get away from there, that's no place for a child!

STAN'S MOTHER, 30's with RED CURLY HAIR and BRIGHT BLUE EYES, appears from behind a tree, wiping her mouth. A ragged MAN appears as well, closing his trousers. Stan is pulled away by his arm.

YOUNG STAN Ow, you're hurting me!

STAN'S MOTHER Well, that'll teach you to stay away from there!

He's released.

STAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D) Now go on home, I'll catch up with you in a minute.

Stan runs off while his mother walks back to the tree towards the man, holding up her hand.

STAN'S MOTHER (CONT'D) Alright, let's have it, I have a son to feed.

A final closer look at the keep as the man hands her a few coins.

INT. KEEP CORRIDOR - 10 YEARS LATER

GABE, late 20's, slowly walks through a dark corridor, chained and not resisting. He is accompanied by two intimidating GUARDS. They approach a heavy metal door.

INT. KEEP DUNGEON - CONTINUOUS

STAN, early 20's and twitchy, sits alone in a dark dungeon. The only light comes from a small opening high up, casting a RAY OF LIGHT.

STAN It's a beautiful day outside, don't you think?

Stan's head turns as sounds of clinging metal can be heard on the other side of the door.

INT. KEEP CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Gabe and the guards have reached the door. While one guard unleashes Gabe's chains, the other unlocks the door.

INT. KEEP DUNGEON - CONTINUOUS

Gabe is thrown inside, slowly stands up and sits down against a wall. Stan skitters up to him, his eyes wide open.

STAN

Hi.

GABE

• • •

Stan plays nervously with his hands.

STAN (hesitantly) I'm Stan.

GABE

• • •

STAN

Hello?

A beat. Gabe finally looks up at Stan.

GABE

I'm Gabe.

STAN What are you in for?

GABE

Murder. You?

STAN I stole from the archbishop.

GABE Painful mistake.

STAN (sighing)

Yeah...

A short pause.

STAN (CONT'D) Why'd you kill someone?

GABE

For revenge.

STAN

Revenge?

EXT. FOREST - FLASHBACK

Gabe is kneeling at the corpse of a brutally murdered MAN.

GABE (V.O.)

I used to be a peacekeeper. A murderer had been roaming the region and because of it I hadn't been home for days...

JOHN, Gabe's partner, 30's, approaches from behind, a sad look on his face.

GABE This is definitely Theodore's doing.

A short pause.

JOHN

Gabe...

Gabe turns around.

GABE

What?

JOHN

I'm...sorry.

GABE (suspicious) Sorry for what?

JOHN

• • •

GABE

(uneasy) John, sorry for what?

JOHN

It's Lisa...

Gabe freezes, then explodes towards the part of the forest John came from.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - FLASHBACK

Gabe stands at a grave.

GABE (V.O.) From that day forward I have looked for the man who robbed me of everything I had, vowing to rob him of everything...

INT. KEEP DUNGEON - PRESENT

GABE

...he has.

A short pause.

STAN So you found him?

GABE

Yes.

STAN And that's why you were arrested?

GABE

No.

STAN

What?

GABE

(cold) I killed his wife.

Suddenly a weakened man in his 40's, THEODORE, appears from the shadows. His facial expression is blank, and he is completely famished.

Gabe stands up and walks up to him, disillusioned.

GABE (CONT'D) This is it? This is the sad excuse for a man who destroyed my life?

Merely a blank expression.

Gabe stares for a moment, then explodes and punches Theodore hard in the stomach. He hits the ground hard, face-down, shaking.

GABE (CONT'D) (furious) Three years I have looked for you! Three years and all I find is a sack of bones? (silent, tears in his eyes) It's not even worth it to kill you anymore... He walks back to the wall and rests his head against it, sobbing loudly. A moment later he bounces back, blinded by his rage. GABE (CONT'D) (roaring) Did you know your wife was a whore? INT. STAN'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK Gabe sits on Stan's mother's bed, Stan's mother in a tight grip, knife on her throat, a terrified look in her eyes. GABE (V.O.) She screamed and moaned, screamed and **moaned**, loving it, her red hair firmly in my hand, her bright blue eyes piercing me, right before I slit her throat! INT. KEEP DUNGEON - PRESENT Stan looks disturbed, a sense of recognition on his face. GABE She didn't even call out to you. She just cried about a prison and... Gabe pauses as he realizes something. GABE (CONT'D) ...a name... He turns to Stan, shocked. GABE (CONT'D) (silent) ...Stan. Stan stumbles backwards. STAN Mother...

GABE

Oh no...

A shattered look appears in Stan's eyes as they shift to Theodore, who is still on the ground, no longer shaking, but looking sadly at Stan.

STAN (muttered) Father...?

Stan falls to his knees, defeated.

Gabe stumbles back to the wall again and leans against it, struggling with himself.

GABE What have I done. If I'd known she had a...no, no, no, no...

A final overview of all three men. All three mentally defeated.

FADE OUT: