

THE HURT

by
GLENN TOPPING AND DAVID VERNON

STORY BY
GLENN TOPPING

FIRST DRAFT

OVER A BLACK SCREEN WE HEAR:

Friends talking. The sound of cars driving on a street. People are joking. The mood is light.

The sound of a car making a LOUD TURN moves closer. Then we hear the BANGING of gunshots. People SCREAM. Run for cover. The sounds feel very realistic.

CUT TO:

INT. GLENN'S LIVING ROOM

This place is definitely a bachelor pad with a few beer cans laying around and an empty pizza box on the table. Glenn and his roommate Richey watch a police detective show on an old TV.

RICHEY

That doesn't look real at all.

GLENN

When people get shot they don't just fall to the ground.

RICHEY

That blood doesn't even look real.

GLENN

When have you seen real blood?

RICHEY

When I was a kid there was a guy who shot his wife and there were blood stains in the hallway.

GLENN

You saw that?

RICHEY

My brother did.

Richey grabs a beer from the fridge.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

Want one?

GLENN

We're working tonight. Don't want to get too tired.

Glenn, 28, a casual t-shirt and jeans guy, dependable and loyal, gets up and starts picking up around the apartment.

RICHEY
 Laura coming over?

GLENN
 Not till after work.

Richey, also 28, is smaller in stature but more wirey and full of nervous energy.

RICHEY
 (focusing on the TV show)
 I really should go to LA. I'm a much better actor than these guys.

ON THE TV SCREEN:

A detective interviews a suspect.

RICHEY (CONT'D)
 Look how plastic he is.

GLENN
 Hey, this is Matlock, show some respect!

Richey looks at himself in the mirror and does some martial arts moves.

RICHEY
 I could kick Matlock's ass.

GLENN
 He's like 70 years old. Of course you can. Anyone could.

TITLE CARD: 1981, HALLANDALE, FLORIDA

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

The crew is assembled inside the club. BIG BOB (late 40's), his physique lives up to his name, addresses the group.

Besides Glenn and Richey we have NICK, LAURA, JEFF, DAVE, MIKE, SANDY and SAM.

BIG BOB
 Listen up, everyone! Tonight, we have a mediocre band and a sold out crowd. What does that tell you?
 (MORE)

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

We're not dealing with a group of people with discriminating taste. Look out for the usual, drugs, people bringing in their own booze, people having sex in the shitters, people trying to get out for free, the drunk-and-soon-to-be-projectile vomiters--the pervs and the tough guys. Keep everyone from killing everyone else, and you've done your job tonight.

The crew laughs. They know that Big Bob is only half joking.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

Dave and Mike, you are stage left. Glenn and Richey, stage right. The rest take up your usual places. Check your flashlights in case you need to summon for assistance.

The meeting is over. Everyone leaves to do their job.

IN FASTER MOTION:

We see an evening at the club.

A line forms outside, down the block.

People are drinking in the parking lot. Laura breaks it up.

The doors open and people start piling in to the club.

Two bartenders work feverishly to take all the drink orders.

The opening band starts playing. Not a lot of people pay attention.

Glenn gets a call on his walkie talkie about two guys smoking weed in the bathroom. He walks through the crowd, finds them in the bathroom and makes them leave the club.

Dave finds an underage kid who snuck into the club. Dave makes him leave.

Glenn and Laura take a quick break and make out for a minute in a backroom. Glenn gets a call on his walkie talkie.

RICHEY (O.S.)

(over walkie talkie)

Glenn, someone puked in the men's bathroom on the second floor.

GLENN

Get Dave to do it, that's his section.

RICHEY (O.S.)

(over walkie talkie)

Soon as it got reported Dave disappeared
and he's nowhere to be found.

GLENN

Big surprise.

RICHEY (O.S.)

(over walkie talkie)

Tell me about it.

GLENN

You could talk to Big Bob about it.

RICHEY (O.S.)

(over walkie talkie)

Big Blob ain't gonna do anything about
his beloved nephew, and believe me Dave
knows it.

Glenn sighs.

GLENN

Be right there.

The main act goes on stage. By this point the club is
crowded. Most people rush to the front of the stage.

Laura walks over to Richey with a 20 year old kid, MAX.

LAURA

This kid was showing off to a lady and he
told her he had a gun. Can you pat him
down?

RICHEY

Him? This kid? I know this kid. He ain't
packing, are you Max?

MAX

No.

RICHEY

You just told that lady that you had a
gun cause you got a small dick. I know
you, man.

LAURA

Pat him down, please.

Richey quickly, and inefficiently, pats Max down.

RICHEY
No gun. Big surprise.

LAURA
Escort him out, please.

RICHEY
Him? I'm not throwing him out. It's not
against any rules to have a small dick,
is it Max?

MAX
(embarrassed)
Ah--no--

RICHEY
But if you ever talk about bringing a
piece in here I'll smack you down.

Richey smacks Max on the head.

RICHEY (CONT'D)
Now get out of here.

Max runs off.

LAURA
You know the rules.

RICHEY
I've known that kid since he was ten.
Believe me, he's no John Wayne.

BACK TO QUICK CUTS:

We focus on Glenn's feet as he runs up one flight of stairs after another until he gets to the roof top. He talks to someone then runs back down the flights of stairs. He gets another call and runs back up the stairs again. Amazingly he is not out of breath.

The concert is over. People start pouring out into the streets.

The staff help clear everyone out.

The doors finally close and are locked. Everyone sits down with a beer and relaxes. Big Bob calms out to the lobby.

BIG BOB

Good job everyone. You all deserve a cold one. But after that, please get your garbage bags out and pick up trash, vomit, shit and piss stains and let's go home.

Dave raises his hand.

DAVE

Ah, I have a school exam I have to study for.

Sam, who was just about ready to leave stops in his tracks.

SAM

I can stay.

BIG BOB

Thanks, Sam. I appreciate it.

Everyone picks up garbage bags and starts walking through the club.

SHARON

My parents are so proud--me picking up garbage.

SAM

It is just part of the job. We all do it.

SHARON

Oh, Sam, you're so young.

Sharon takes her trash bag and goes off in a different direction. Laura walks up to Sam.

LAURA

She thinks she's better than everyone else.

SAM

She is really pretty.

LAURA

That doesn't give her a right to be rude.

SAM

I think she's just misunderstood.

The crew continues picking up all the trash.

INT. GLENN'S BEDROOM

Glenn's room is decorated with photos and posters of heroes--the moon landing, the late President Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King.

Glenn and Laura just sit on his bed. They are both exhausted. The clock reads 4am. They are almost too tired to fall asleep.

GLENN
Goodnight.

LAURA
Night.

GLENN
Love you.

LAURA
(falling asleep)
Love you---

GLENN
Can you turn off the light?

LAURA
Can you?

GLENN
You.

LAURA
You.

GLENN
Please.

LAURA
Pretty pl--

Laura starts snoring again.

INT. GLENN'S BEDROOM

It is early afternoon. Daylight peeks through the shades. Glenn and Laura are still fast asleep.

There's a small knock on the door. Not loud enough to wake them. Richey walks into the room. He's only wearing his underwear.

RICHEY

Glenn.

Glenn doesn't move.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

(louder)

Glenn.

Glenn stirs.

GLENN

What?

Glenn peers up and sees Richey in his underwear.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Jesus, Richey--Laura's here.

RICHEY

You gotta come out and see this.

Glenn slowly gets out of bed and follows Richey into the living room.

INT. GLENN'S LIVING ROOM

The TV is on. There is a news report in front of a Florida night club. A NEWSCASTER talks to a NEIGHBORHOOD WOMAN.

NEIGHBORHOOD WOMAN

--and he kept cursing the guy out telling him to back off.

NEWSCASTER

Did he look intoxicated to you?

NEIGHBORHOOD WOMAN

He was definitely on something. But nobody took him seriously, then he pulled out this knife and started waving it around.

NEWSCASTER

What happened next?

NEIGHBORHOOD WOMAN

The security guard tried to get him to put down the knife and everyone was screaming and yelling at him, but then he stabbed the guard in the hand with the knife.

Glenn is riveted to the news story.

GLENN
Where did this happen?

RICHEY
Mickey's--the Irish place.

GLENN
Shit, that's just a few blocks away from us.

RICHEY
We have practically the same clientele.

Laura walks in wearing a robe. She heads straight to the kitchen and starts making coffee.

GLENN
Babe, there was a stabbing at Mickey's.

LAURA
The Irish place?

GLENN
Yeah.

LAURA
That's close.

GLENN
(to Richey)
Did anyone else get injured?

RICHEY
Nah, but everybody's real shaken up.

LAURA
Honey, do you want pancakes?

RICHEY AND GLENN
Yes.

INT. GLENN'S LIVING ROOM

Glenn, Laura and Richey are sitting down to a pancake breakfast.

RICHEY
See, that shit could never happen at The Hurt.

LAURA

Why not?

RICHEY

We got better security. We're watching people all the time.

There's a knock at the door. Glenn goes to get it. Sam is there.

SAM

Hey guys, did you hear about Mickey's?

RICHEY

We're just talking about it.

LAURA

Want some pancakes, Sam?

SAM

Sure.

Sam grabs a spot at the table and helps himself. These people are like family to each other.

SAM (CONT'D)

My mom doesn't want me to go to work tonight. She wants me to quit.

RICHEY

That's ridiculous.

LAURA

It's not ridiculous to worry about your son.

GLENN

But Richey is right, nothing is going to happen at The Hurt. We are totally in control there. You see how hard we work.

LAURA

But some guy comes in with a knife, how can you control that?

RICHEY

We take it away from him.

LAURA

You heard about that shooting in that club in London.

GLENN

But is the US. That stuff doesn't happen here.

LAURA

They killed Kennedy.

SAM

And John Lennon.

GLENN

The American people are good people. Sure, there are degenerates, but those people are their own worst enemies, usually. They mostly end in suicide.

LAURA

That's why I want you out of that job and working for the police force.

RICHEY

Just as dangerous.

LAURA

He gets a gun to protect himself.

RICHEY

Being a cop is dangerous.

LAURA

It's his dream.

GLENN

Yeah, it really is.

RICHEY

You got to go for it, man.

LAURA

Exactly.

We can see that this is an argument Glenn and Laura have had a few times.

GLENN

I'm going to.

There is an awkward silence.

Richey gets up and starts performing some of his martial arts.

RICHEY

This is why its safe to party at The Hurt. We got Kung Fu magic.

GLENN

We've been to Mickey's. The security people drink all night. You have to stay focused.

The phone RINGS. Glenn gets up and answers the phone. He starts a conversation.

SAM

Thanks for the pancakes. They were delicious.

LAURA

You've got some nice manners on you, Sam. Not like some people around here.

RICHEY

Who are you talking about?

LAURA

(to Sam)

I've fed this monster enough pancakes to feed a starving nation and the only thing I get out of him is a belch or a fart.

RICHEY

My way of saying thanks.

Glenn hangs up the phone.

GLENN

Big Bob is holding a meeting today at 2. It's mandatory.

LAURA

About Mickey's?

GLENN

Must be.

SAM

Want some help with the dishes?

RICHEY

Sam and I will do them.

LAURA

I'm not going to argue that.

Laura and Glenn goe back into the bedroom leaving Richey and Sam alone. Sam starts washing dishes and Richey dries and puts them away.

RICHEY

Do you want to keep working at The Hurt?

SAM

Yeah. It's the best job ever.

RICHEY

Want me to talk to your dad?

SAM

Would you?

RICHEY

Sure.

SAM

What would you say?

RICHEY

I'll tell him that his son isn't a pussy and he shouldn't be one either.

Sam thinks this is hysterical.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

Give me his number and I'll call him today.

INT. GLENN'S BEDROOM

Laura comes out of the bathroom with a large towel around her. Glenn comes into the room and sits on the bed.

LAURA

Are we alone yet?

GLENN

Good god, yes.

They both laugh. Glenn kisses her.

LAURA

We have to have our own place when we get married. I'm not having Richey walk down the aisle with us.

GLENN

You're the boss.

Glenn starts making out with Laura.

LAURA

We have to get to that meeting.

GLENN

We have exactly twelve minutes before we have to leave.

LAURA

I like where this is going.

The two continue kissing.

INT. THE HURT

All the workers are assembled. Big Bob comes out of the kitchen and addresses the group. People are deep in conversation.

BIG BOB

Hey, quiet down. So thanks for coming out on your day off. Most of you have probably heard about the stabbing at Mickey's. I called over there and they said Ed--the guy who got stabbed, is gonna be fine. It was only a flesh wound, no stitches.

NICK

So why are we here?

BIG BOB

To talk about safety. What could we do to make you guys safer here?

RICHEY

Get a better class of clients.

Everyone laughs.

BIG BOB

I know, it's a big joke, but this is serious.

Sam raises his hand.

SAM

Maybe we could install cameras and have a room where a security officer keeps watch?

BIG BOB

Who do you think I am, Michael Jackson?
This ain't Wonderland. I ain't got that
kinda money.

SANDRA

A metal detector, like at the airport.
Those things work, you know.

BIG BOB

Again, we don't have millions at our
disposal. We have to be creative.

DAVE

Yeah, let's get creative!

GLENN

Hire an undercover person to walk through
the crowd. That way, you can keep an eye
on people. These people know us and when
they see us coming they hide every bit of
contraband that they got.

BIG BOB

Finally, an idea that makes sense.

RICHEY

Why don't we do a commercial and it can
show us doing martial arts and talk about
how tough the bouncers are at this place.
It could be done pretty cheap, my cousin
has a video camera and we just do some
high kicks and that would make people
think twice about getting in our faces.

SANDRA

A commercial? Are you kidding?

DAVE

This club's crowd doesn't watch TV.

BIG BOB

Something you can do is make sure that
you report any suspicious behavior.

SAM

You mean if someone gets too drunk?

BIG BOB

Well, we don't want to discourage
drinking. That is what pays your
salaries. But you can tell if someone is
looking to start a fight.

SANDRA

How about dealing with the drunk guys
that grab your ass?

DAVE

I can honestly say that has never
happened to me.

SANDRA

And you're just waiting for the day,
aren't you?

The group laughs. Dave is embarrassed.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

I'm serious. Some of the guys are very
disrespectful.

Sandra looks at Laura to see if she'll back her up.

LAURA

(hesitantly)
Yeah, it happens.

BIG BOB

And how do you deal with it, Laura?

LAURA

Come over here and I'll show you.

Big Bob approaches Laura. He stands in front of her.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Now say something to me.

BIG BOB

Nice weather we're having here.

LAURA

Something a little raunchier than that.

BIG BOB

You got a nice rack on you there.

Big Bob smiles, as if he just got away with something. Laura springs into action. She pantomimes kicking Big Bob in his nuts. She makes him double over then helps him stand up straight. The whole move is so smooth and seamless that Big Bob is confused as to what has really happened.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

Yes, more of that.

GLENN

How about paying to have everyone take a martial arts class?

DAVE

And give up my free time? No way.

SHARON

I don't do martial arts.

LAURA

It would be fun to learn.

Big Bob nods to Dave who starts handing out small bags to everyone.

BIG BOB

Listen up, Dave is handing out goodie bags with some things that just might help save the day.

Everyone starts taking items out of the bag. There are whistles and big buttons that say SECURITY, and pepper spray.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

Don't use the pepper spray unless absolutely necessary cause it could result in a law suit if sprayed into the wrong person's eyes.

The staff is like a group of kids. They start playing with the items in the bag and blowing their whistles. Richey holds up a condom.

RICHEY

Hey, look what I got.

Everyone laughs.

BIG BOB

That did not come from the bag!

RICHEY

It says, 'Ribbed for Her Pleasure.' That's my newest secret weapon.

BIG BOB

Now leave! See all of you next week.

People blow their whistles even louder.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

Damnit. I knew I shouldn't have gotten those.

EXT. PARK-DAY

Glenn and Laura are in a beautiful park. There's still a little sunlight left. They walk and hold each other's hand.

GLENN

It feels like the whole day is gone.

LAURA

It is still nice out.

Glenn seems nervous.

GLENN

That meeting was crazy, wasn't it?

LAURA

Yeah. You never can be too careful but I think Big Bob over-reacted. I mean, this is Florida, it's not Vietnam or anything. People are still very civilized here.

GLENN

Growing up if we didn't see M'am and please and thank you, we'd get a smack as a reminder.

LAURA

Things are changing though. It is a different world.

GLENN

It's not that different. People are still people. They have dreams, they fall in love--

Laura looks at the night sky. When she turns back she notices that Glenn is kneeling--

LAURA

What are you--

GLENN

Whether we agree that the world is good, or bad, there is only one person I want to live this life with.

Laura covers her face. This is a big emotional moment for her.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Will you marry me?

Laura starts crying. She nods and pulls Glenn to his feet. They kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR

Dave sits and talks to Nick and two other guys at a table in this dive-y bar. Dave seems high as a kite.

DAVE

If that asshole came to our bar, if he tried anything--just tell them what we'd do, Nick.

NICK

We'd beat the shit out of him.

DAVE

Fuck yeah.

NICK

We don't let nothing slip by us.

DAVE

We're like, fucking Wonder Woman with those gold arm bands of hers.

Dave demonstrates, using the imaginary gold bracelets as shields against bullets.

DAVE (CONT'D)

We'd go, bam, bam, bam--

CUT TO:

INT. SHARON'S FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM

Sharon sits in the living room with her much-older parents. They watch Wheel of Fortune. Nobody speaks. Sharon looks lonely and a little sad.

SHARON'S MOTHER

(to the TV screen)

Now you just ought to buy yourself a vowel.

INT. BIG BOB'S LIVING ROOM

This is a nice house but the furnishings are out of style. There are photos of family members on the mantle but they look like ghosts from another life. Big Bob sits in a chair, by himself, drinking from a bottle of whiskey. He plays with a cat that sits near his chair. He dangles a piece of string and the cat frantically moves her paws to catch the string.

BIG BOB

(to cat)

You want that, don't you. Then come and get it. Come on, Gypsy, you can get it.

EXT. PARK-NIGHT

Glenn and Laura sit on a park bench. It is just after sunset. They seem excited and exhausted.

GLENN

The way I see it, we can either spend the money on a wedding or save it for a house.

LAURA

You know the answer to that. We're both practical.

GLENN

We can still have a nice wedding, we just have to be creative.

LAURA

When do we start telling people?

Glenn smiles.

GLENN

You're practical but you're still a girly-girl. You can tell people whenever you want.

CHRON: THE FOLLOWING WEEK

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Richey sits at a table with ANDY (50), Sam's father. They are both having coffee. A waiter brings Richey a slice of apple pie.

RICHEY

I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me.

ANDY

I only have a few minutes.

RICHEY

As I said on the phone, I'm one of the managers at The Hurt.

There is a TV set overhead. The news is playing, without sound. We see that Ed, the Bouncer from Mickey's is going back to work today. His hand is still bandaged. The Chryon on the news report says: ARE WE LIVING IN VIOLENT TIMES?

Andy watches the TV. Richey tries to get his attention away from the news.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

So I work with your son. Sam's a good kid.

ANDY

My wife and I have worked hard to make sure that he's raised right.

RICHEY

I don't know if Sam's mentioned it--do you have other kids?

ANDY

Sam's an only child.

RICHEY

Which makes a lot of sense. Of course you'd be protective of him.

ANDY

Are you going to try to talk me into letting Sam continue working at the club?

RICHEY

Don't you think it's good for him? He gets to be around people and interact.

ANDY

A lot of drunk, reckless people.

RICHEY

What was your first job?

ANDY

I worked at a hot dog stand. I made sixty dollars a week.

RICHEY

(smiling)

Probably the happiest sixty dollars a week that you ever made.

Andy nods.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

Have you ever been to the club before?

ANDY

A long time ago. Back when it was called The Argyle.

RICHEY

Ah, then you know what I'm talking about. It's a classic place. Lots of memories.

ANDY

I smoked my first doobie there. While I saw the Doobie Brothers.

RICHEY

Right on. Hey, Andy, we'll watch over Sam, ok? He's a smart kid and we'll kick his butt if he gets out of line. We got this, ok?

Andy looks at Richey, surprised that he has changed his position.

INT. THE HURT

The staff is assembled inside the club.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM

We can't tell where we are. It is a big empty room with bad overhead lighting. Laura sits in a chair talking to an unseen interviewer.

LAURA

It started out like any other night.
Maybe a little more hectic, but nothing
out of the ordinary.

CUT TO:

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

The staff waits to hear Big Bob's nightly spiel. We hear the house band practicing for the night's madness. Everyone is ready and in work-mode. Big Bob comes in and gathers everyone.

BIG BOB

Listen up, everyone. Tonight we are expecting a large crowd and this new singer is coming in with her band. Her name is Joan Jett. We sold out tonight so we have no tickets at the cashier. Dave and Nick, stage left. Glenn and Richey, stage right. Everyone else, usual places. I hear we also have an announcement.

Glenn and Laura step up to where Big Bob is standing.

GLENN

Laura and I are engaged to be married.

The whole group starts applauding. There are catcalls. Just then, Sam walks in. Everyone is surprised to see him.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Sam! Good to see you! Laura and I are getting married!

Sam goes crazy and runs up and gives an energetic hug to Glenn and Laura.

SAM

Let's hear it for love, people!

There is another, sincere round of applause. Big Bob takes over.

BIG BOB

Congratulations, you two. Now let's get to work!

The staff disperses and people get ready to take their positions. Sandra walks over to Glenn and Laura.

SANDRA

Congratulations you two. I hope I'm as lucky one day.

LAURA

You will be!

Glenn and Richey walks towards their posts.

RICHEY

So who is this Joan Jett chick?

GLENN

According to Nick she's pretty hot.

RICHEY

As long as they are breathing, they are Nick's type. Is she famous?

GLENN

She sold out. She's been on that new music channel, MTV.

RICHEY

Ah, another flash in the pan.

GLENN

I hate sold out nights. Brings out the crazies.

Big Bob walks over to Glenn.

BIG BOB

MTV showed up and they are going to film some of that chick's concert. Can you go bring them in and take them to her dressing room?

GLENN

Sure.

RICHEY

I can do it.

BIG BOB

Yeah, I don't need anyone making the moves on the talent. Glenn is a hundred times more trustworthy.

RICHEY

I'm trustworthy! Hey, I was on Miami Vice!

BIG BOB

You had no lines, which is a big deal
considering you never shut up.

Big Bob laughs at his own joke as he walks away.

RICHEY

No one respects me around here.

GLENN

(joking)

Maybe it's all the kung fu action.

Glenn makes a playful attempt at a kung fu kick.

RICHEY

Bastard.

CUT TO:

INT. THE HURT/DRESSING ROOM

Glenn stands in the hallway with a 3 person MTV crew. He
knocks on the dressing room door. JOAN JETT, 23, with a
shock of black hair opens the dressing room wearing an
oriental robe.

JOAN JETT

Yeah?

GLENN

Hi, I'm Glenn and I have the MTV camera
crew here.

Joan Jett gives Glenn a once over.

JOAN JETT

Thanks Glenn.

GLENN

Want me to send them back once you're
dressed?

JOAN JETT

This is dressed, for me. Come on in,
boys.

The MTV crew goes into Joan Jett's dressing room and she
closes the door. Glenn goes back to his post.

LATER:

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

There is now a crowd of people milling around the lobby. Glenn stands at his post. Robbie, holding his walkie talkie approaches him.

RICHEY

We have to go to the parking lot.

Richey continues walking. Glenn follows him.

CONTINUOUS SHOT AS:

Richey and Glenn walk through the club, through the front exit and into the parking lot outside.

GLENN

What's going on?

RICHEY

Rumor that there's some lady, and I use that word lightly, trading blow jobs for Quaaludes.

GLENN

This club only attracts the most high brow.

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

There is a black SUV with a few guys standing around. One guy gets out of the SUV and another one goes inside.

RICHEY

How long do you think we should wait?

GLENN

Till about right now.

Glenn walks to the SUV and bangs on the car.

GLENN (CONT'D)

What's going on in there? Everyone out?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

(from inside the car)

Leave us the fuck alone, we're not doing anything.

Richey joins Glenn.

RICHEY

Open up!

A DUDE gets out of the SUV quickly, pulling up his pants. He runs off into the night. The woman from the SUV, FEMALE IN CAR, 20, gets halfway out the door. She is stoned out of her head.

GLENN

Security.

FEMALE IN CAR

I don't care who the fuck you are, you have to wait your turn.

GLENN

And you are going to have to vacate the parking lot.

FEMALE IN CAR

I paid five bucks to park in here!

GLENN

And I'd say you got your money's worth.

RICHEY

Leave! Right now!

The woman gets back in her car. She attempts to back out and almost hits a few cars.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

Turn your wheel--right! Right!

She finally makes it out of the parking lot. Richey sends a message on his walkie-talkie.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

Situation in parking lot resolved. And she was a real dog.

GLENN

Hey, that's not nice. But true.

RICHEY

Would you fuck her?

GLENN

I have a fiancée.

RICHEY

Oh, you're gonna give me the whole, 'now I'm engaged my dick has fallen off' routine.

BIG BOB (O.S.)
 (through walkie-talkie)
 Glenn and Richey, we had a scuffle with a
 drunk patron and the police have arrived
 to escort him off. Just a heads-up.

Glenn and Richey go to the front of the club and they see
 police lights flashing. Two police officers have a guy in
 handcuffs and escort him into the back of the police car.

RICHEY
 You shooing off some skanky ho in the
 parking lot and you miss the big cop
 fight in the front of the club. Real shit
 show tonight.

Glenn and Richey pass by the front door bouncer. Glenn
 sees Laura by the entrance. He grabs at her butt. She
 quickly turns and slaps his hand away.

LAURA
 I'm going to have to talk to HR and tell
 them you are sexually harassing me.

GLENN
 If only we had an HR department--their
 heads would be exploding.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM

The same room that we saw Laura in. Now Laura sits in a
 chair and talks to an unseen interviewer.

LAURA
 The night started getting crazier. It was
 definitely a high-incident night.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE

The opening act plays, trying to drum up some excitement.
 The crowd mostly ignores them.

Glenn watches the crowd. He receives a call on his walkie-
 talkie.

BIG BOB (O.S.)
 (on walkie talkie)
 Glenn, can you provide backup--there is a
 young female, very intoxicated being
 escorted out, in the main lobby.

GLENN
 (into walkie talkie)
 On it.

Glenn moves past people quickly and races down the stairs. Glenn sees Nick and Laura carrying out the DRUNK CLUBGOER.

DRUNK CLUBGOER
 (slurring her words)
 Let me down.

LAURA
 (to Glenn)
 Careful, she just puked all over everything.

Nicka and Laura carry the drunk girl outside and sit her on a bench outside the entrance. Glenn looks down and notices a drop of blood hitting the pavement.

GLENN
 How did she cut herself?

LAURA
 She fell down the steps.

Glenn takes a closer look at the woman's head and sees that the bottom half of her right ear lobe is missing.

GLENN
 Call the paramedics.

Glenn rushes back inside the club. He sees other drops of blood on the carpet. He follows the trail until he reaches the stairway. He sees something flesh-colored on the floor. A patron is about to step on it.

GLENN (CONT'D)
 Hey, move away.

The patron steps back, missing the tiny piece of ear lobe. Glenn picks it up. He rushes to the bar.

GLENN (CONT'D)
 (to bartender)
 Cup of ice, fast.

The bartender quickly gives Glenn the cup with ice. Glenn puts the piece of ear lobe into the cup.

INT. ROOM

Laura is still in the room being interviewed.

LAURA

Glenn took fast action. You can always
count on him.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

Paramedics have arrived. Glenn gives them the ear in the
cup of ice.

PARAMEDIC #1

Can anyone tell me what happened?

DRUNK CLUBGOER

(slurring her words)

I tripped. It's their fault! They make
those steps too small!

PARAMEDIC #2

Is she with anyone?

LAURA

I asked around in the club but didn't
find anyone who knew her.

PARAMEDIC #2

(to Glenn)

You did the right thing by putting this
on ice.

GLENN

I thought about putting in a cocktail
umbrella but figured it might be in bad
taste.

Laura laughs. She loves how Glenn can say something funny
in such a normal tone.

INT. ROOM

Richey is interviewed by the unseen interviewer.

RICHEY

The job isn't all doom and gloom. It's a
very sexy job. A lot of good stuff
happens there too.

(MORE)

RICHEY (CONT'D)

And when you work security, you're the man. You get to decide who stays and who plays.

INT. THE HURT

Richey is on watch. He listens to the music and is enjoying it. An attractive woman walks by and Richey nods and smiles at her. He sees a large African-American man walk by and the two of them bump fists.

INT. THE HURT/BATHROOM

Richey walks into the men's bathroom. He sees a stall with two sets of feet in it. He bangs on the door.

RICHEY

You're doing drugs or having gay sex--
neither of which are cool in here.

Two men immediately come out of the bathroom stall. They've obviously been doing lines of coke.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

(to one of the guys)

Did he swallow?

Other guys in the bathroom laugh. The two guys, humiliated, rush out.

RICHEY (V.O.)

Yeah, it was a crazy night, but what do you think happens when you put a thousand drunk people together looking to celebrate life and just have a good time.

We hear Joan Jett being announced from the stage. The main show is starting.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE

A drunk patron is heckling one of the guitarists in the band.

ON THE GUITARIST:

He is trying to ignore the heckler but we can see that the guy is getting to him.

HECKLER

(yelling)

You can't play for shit! Get off the
fucking stage, poseur!

Finally, the guitarist puts his guitar on the ground and, from the stage, jumps the guy in the audience. People are shocked and try to move away. The guitarist starts pounding the shit out of the heckler. Richey and Nick push through the crowd to get to the fight. They pull the two guys apart.

Richey and Nick escort the bloodied patron out of the club. The guitarist climbs back onto the stage, picks up his guitar and holds it in the air.

The audience goes crazy, applauding.

RICHEY (V.O.)

It was all part of the show. It's exciting. But nothing bad, like this was ever supposed to happen.

INT. THE HURT/OUTSIDE THE WOMEN'S RESTROOM

Laura comes out of the bathroom escorting two women into the lobby. She walks them to the front of the club.

LAURA

(to bouncer)

Don't them back in.

ANGRY FEMALE PATRON

Fuck you, you bitch. I don't want to be in this filthy club anyway.

LAURA

Good. We both get what we want.

BOUNCER

(to Laura)

Crazy night.

Laura nods.

INT. THE HURT/UPSTAIRS LOBBY

Glenn walks through the upstairs lobby. He passes a club employee.

GLENN

Have you seen Dave?

The employee shakes his head. Glenn goes up to the second floor bar and leans over to the bartender.

GLENN (CONT'D)
Have you seen Dave?

BARTENDER
You know Dave, he just takes off sometimes.

GLENN
Yeah, I know.

Glenn walks away from the bar. In a dark corner he sees a guy standing away from everyone else. As he gets closer he sees a girl on her knees giving this guy a blow job.

GLENN (CONT'D)
What the hell? Zip up and get out.

The woman is so drunk she has a hard time getting up.

GLENN (CONT'D)
Both of you, leave, now.

BLOW JOB WOMAN
I can't leave. I'm with my boyfriend.

GLENN
Want me to find your boyfriend so I can tell him that his girl was thrown out for blowing another guy?

The woman actually thinks about it for a moment then shakes her head.

BLOW JOB WOMAN
Maybe not.

GLENN
Out!

Glenn is now angry. He finds a door that leads to an employee office. He goes inside and finds Dave smoking from a joint.

DAVE
Hey! Glenn! Want a hit?

GLENN
Are you crazy?

DAVE
What?

GLENN
You're on the job!

DAVE
I'm just loosening up a bit. I can focus better when I'm high.

GLENN
Does Bob know about this?

DAVE
He doesn't care.

GLENN
To hell he doesn't care. If he caught any of his employees smoking weed he'd can their ass.

DAVE
You're not going to tell him, are you?

GLENN
I have a responsibility. I can't have you stoned at work.

DAVE
This is the first time.

GLENN
I seriously doubt that.

DAVE
It is.

Glenn hesitates, trying to figure out what to do.

DAVE (CONT'D)
This would create some real trouble in my family.

GLENN
(frustrated)
Fine. Go home. Sleep it off. I'll tell Bob that you weren't feeling well. But if I catch you doing this again I will burn your ass over the coals.

DAVE
Got it. Thank you, Glenn.

GLENN
You're welcome.

DAVE
You're a real friend.

GLENN
Just go, Dave.

Dave gets his backpack together and puts his pipe and baggie of weed in it and leaves. Glenn is left alone, feeling very uneasy about the whole situation.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE

Joan Jett is raising the roof off the theater. The audience is loving her show. She has them in the palm of her hands.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

Laura and Sandra escort two cheap looking women, EILEEN and BETSY, both around 25, out of the club. Eileen and Betsy are both extremely drunk. Eileen almost falls and Sandra puts her hand around Eileen's waist to keep her up and moving.

EILEEN
Get your hands off of me you fucking bitch.

LAURA
Just keep walking.

BETSY
Don't tell us what to do.

LAURA
We are telling you what to do. This is private property and we're telling you to get off of it.

EILEEN
Our boyfriends are going to be super angry at you two.

LAURA
That's a risk I'll have to take.

Eileen walks off-balanced, slips and falls.

EILEEN
Fuck!

Sandra helps her up. Eileen is bleeding on her chin. Sandra pulls a handkerchief out of her pocket and gives it to Eileen.

EILEEN (CONT'D)

Haven't you done enough?

Eileen still uses the handkerchief and applies it against her chin.

LAURA

Do you need an ambulance?

EILEEN

Fuck that.

LAURA

(to Sandra)

What do you think?

EILEEN

Just looks like a scrape to me.

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

Eileen and Betsy are now outside. Laura and Sandra are blocking their entrance as they try to get back into the club.

EILEEN

Our boyfriends are in there.

SANDRA

We can go and find them.

EILEEN

Oh, they'll find you soon enough. And they won't be happy.

Danny Brack walks out of the club. He is mid 20's, well-built and a tough guy. He sees Eileen from a distance.

DANNY

Eileen, what's the idea?

EILEEN

They threw us out, baby.

DANNY

Who did?

EILEEN

These two dykes.

Danny charges over to Laura and Sandra.

DANNY
This better not be true.

SANDRA
They were drunk and disorderly.

DANNY
You can't throw them out.

SANDRA
We can. We are security guards for The Hurt.

DANNY
That doesn't give you the right. Let me talk to the owner.

EILEEN
And one of those bitches threw me to the ground.

LAURA
You slipped and fell because you are highly intoxicated.

Danny also slurs his words. Sandra takes out her walkie-talkie and calls for back-up.

DANNY
Don't you act like you're so important. You're just fucking security guards--that is the lowest job on the totem pole.

Laura and Sandra are used to this kind of talk. They just ignore Danny. Big Bob walks over to them.

BIG BOB
What's the problem?

DANNY
Who are you?

BIG BOB
This is my place.

DANNY
You should teach your employees to treat your paying guests with some fucking respect.

BIG BOB

My staff is very respectful.

(to Laura)

What did they do?

LAURA

Drunk and disorderly. They are getting sloppy.

BETSY

Fuck you, lady.

BIG BOB

And you're being disrespectful to my employees. Listen, these people are like family to me. So I am going to ask you nicely to leave.

DANNY

What? You're throwing all of us out?

Big Bob makes a motion to the bouncer at the door, indicated that none of these people can re-enter that club.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You are going to be sorry about this, you fat fuck. I may leave now but I'll be back to get you.

BIG BOB

Get the fuck out here and take those two fucking bimbos with you.

DANNY

I'm coming back, man.

BIG BOB

Big talker!

DANNY

You'll see!

BIG BOB

Go home, man. Sleep it off.

Big Bob walks away. As he goes to the entrance of the club he sees Glenn.

GLENN

What now?

BIG BOB
Drunk ass idiots. Hey, have you seen
Dave?

Glenn hesitates. He hates to lie.

GLENN
He wasn't feeling well. I sent him home.

BIG BOB
(in disbelief)
You? You sent him home.

GLENN
Yeah.

BIG BOB
Who gave you the right to make that
decision?

GLENN
It was no decision. He was sick.

BIG BOB
You're starting to overstep some bounds
here, Glenn. I know you're good at your
job, but you're not irreplaceable.

GLENN
What did I do?

BIG BOB
I make decisions here about who does
what. If the other employees see you
calling the shots then it undermines my
authority.

GLENN
Got it. I'm sorry.

BIG BOB
(concerned)
Is Dave going to be ok?

Glenn is awfully tempted to tell Big Bob the truth. He restrains himself because he's such a good guy and don't want to cause trouble.

Big Bob starts to walk away.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)
If you ever become a cop I hope you learn
how to make better decisions.

GLENN

Yes, Bob.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

The lobby is nearly empty. The bouncers are ready and standing in their locations. A message comes over to each of them over the walkie talkie.

BIG BOB (O.S.)

(through walkie talkie)

Show is ending soon. Be ready.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE

Joan Jett is finishing up her last song. The audience goes wild. Her and her band take a bow. People yell out for an encore.

JOAN JETT

(into microphone)

We've done as many as they'll let us do.
Good night everybody!

INT. ROOM

Same room as before. Sandra talks to an unseen interviewer.

SANDRA

Getting people to go home is one of the hardest parts of the night. This is when most of the vomiting happens. Or people are too drunk to leave or too drunk to drive or forget where they parked their car, or even sometimes forget where they live.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

Patrons leave the club in droves.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

Glenn and Laura watch as the customers depart.

GLENN

Thank God. Rough night.

LAURA

My Grandmother had a sign she kept in her store. It said that everybody brings some joy to the place--some by arriving and some by leaving.

Big Bob walks over to them.

BIG BOB

Good news--since it was such a crazy night and everybody did a good job, I'm bringing in a cleaning crew tomorrow. You guys don't have to clean the place.

LAURA

Big Bob, I could kiss you.

BIG BOB

Go right ahead.

LAURA

I think my fiancee would mind.

BIG BOB

He might but I wouldn't.

INT. ROOM

Nick is being interviewed.

NICK

It didn't happen very often but if it was really busy Big Bob would bring in a cleaning crew the next day. We were all pretty happy about that.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

The staff hang out and have a beer. Everyone is exhausted. Sam wears his backpack and says good night to everyone.

GLENN

Where are you going?

SAM

I've got to hurry to catch the last bus.

GLENN
I'll drive you home.

SAM
It's ok, I don't mind the bus.

GLENN
I'm happy to do it.

EXT. THE HURT/PARKING LOT-NIGHT

The employees are the last ones in the parking lot.
Glenn, Sam and Laura walk together.

GLENN
Do you want to come over tonight?

LAURA
No, I have to be up early. I'll call you
tomorrow.

Richey walks up.

RICHEY
What about we all head back to the house
for a drink?

LAURA
I can barely move.

RICHEY
(to Sandra)
What about you?

SANDRA
No, thank you.

RICHEY
It wouldn't hurt for you to say yes once
in a while.

Sam gets into Glenn's car. Glenn starts it up and begins
to back up.

Suddenly we hear a car driving quickly in their
direction.

SAM
(to Glenn)
Don't back up, there's a car coming.

Glenn stops back up. Suddenly a station wagon comes
barreling over towards them.

RICHEY
(yelling)
Glenn, look out!

There are three loud bangs. They echo into the night. On the second bang the front driver's side window shatters.

GLENN
Get down!

Glenn opens his door and lays on the ground next to another car that is parked next to his.

The station wagon takes off, screeching into the night. Sandra screams. Other employees run to the parking lot to see what is going on.

RICHEY
What the fuck?

Laura runs over to Glenn but he tells her to get down.

GLENN
They might circle around and come back.

RICHEY
Where's Sam?

Glenn runs over to the other side of the car. He opens the door and sees Sam huddled in the front seat, covered with blood. Glenn takes Sam from the car and puts him on the ground.

GLENN
(calling out)
It's Sam, he's been hit! Laura call an ambulance!

RICHEY
Those motherfuckers! We have to go after them!

Sandra starts crying.

Glenn sits on the ground and grabs Sam under the shoulders and pulls him into his lap in a sitting position. Richey runs over to take a look.

RICHEY (CONT'D)
Jesus!

GLENN
(to Sam)
You with me, Sam?

Sam nods weakly.

RICHEY
(getting crazy)
Those motherfuckers!

GLENN
Be quiet!

Glenn looks at Sam's back and finds the bullet hole.

GLENN (CONT'D)
I don't see an exit wound.

SANDRA
Where the hell is that ambulance?

Glenn puts his finger into the bullet hole in an attempt to control the bleeding.

GLENN
(to Sam)
Hold on, buddy.

SAM
(faintly)
Am I going to die?

GLENN
No way. The ambulance is coming and they're going to take you to the hospital and stitch you up. You have to make it so you can come to our wedding. Don't you want that?

SAM
Yeah.

Finally we hear the sound of the ambulance.

MOMENTS LATER:

The paramedics are loading Sam into the ambulance. The police have arrived.

As the paramedics put Sam in the back of the car Glenn comes up and asks if he can come along. The paramedic rushes him inside. The doors close and the ambulance takes off, leaving a stunned group of employees in the parking lot.

INT. AMBULANCE

One of the paramedics watches over Sam as the ambulance rushes to the hospital.

GLENN
(to paramedic)
Is he going to be ok?

PARAMEDIC #3
(whispering to Glenn)
Doesn't look good.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Laura, Richey, Sandra, Nick and Big Bob are in the waiting room. Glenn walks up, still wearing his clothes that are covered with blood.

RICHEY
How is he?

GLENN
He's in surgery. I left so I could come here and give my statement.

BIG BOB
Has anyone called his parents?

LAURA
The police have. They left straight to the hospital.

A POLICE DETECTIVE walks out of an office and approaches a group.

POLICE DETECTIVE
I just got a call and your friend, Sam, didn't make it.

Sandra starts sobbing. Then Laura. All of them start crying.

ON TV SCREEN:

There is a news report about the shooting.

NEWSCASTER
This violent shooting has sent shock waves throughout the city and even the state.

(MORE)

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

It brings up the issue of gun control and asks the question if we are now living in violent times. The suspect, twenty-five year old Danny Brack and his accomplice, BYRON SCOTT, are being held without bail. The DA's office state that the shooting was caused by an argument that Brack had with the club staff over his girlfriend being thrown out of the club for intoxication. The club, The Hurt has stayed closed for a week in memory of their deceased employee. The funeral for Sam Ackerman is being held today.

The TV is in the living room of Glenn's apartment.

INT. GLENN'S LIVING ROOM

Glenn wears a dark suit. Laura helps Glenn with his tie.

GLENN

I'm really not looking forward to today.

LAURA

It's going to be hard, but I'll be by your side.

Glenn nods. He appreciates this.

LAURA (CONT'D)

I've been thinking, Glenn--maybe we should put the marriage plans on hold for a bit. Just till this blows over.

GLENN

You don't want to marry me?

LAURA

The timing just feels off right now. It feels that everything has changed.

GLENN

(holding back his feelings)
Ok. We can wait.

LAURA

Just till things get better.

GLENN

Of course.

LAURA

Is Richey going?

GLENN

I haven't seen that much of him. He's taking it badly.

LAURA

I know.

GLENN

He's been drinking a lot.

LAURA

Have you talked to him?

GLENN

I've tried. But what can I do for him if I can't even help myself?

LAURA

Maybe you should talk to someone.

GLENN

Who?

LAURA

A therapist or something.

GLENN

That doesn't work.

LAURA

It can. My mother went to therapy when she was going through this depression.

GLENN

That's your mom. Our family does things differently.

Laura hugs Glenn.

LAURA

I know you're in pain over Sam's death. You need to admit it.

GLENN

(angry)

Of course I'm in pain--this kid, my friend, died in my lap. I tried to save him.

LAURA

No one could have saved him.

GLENN

Jesus, I said I don't want to talk about it.

LAURA

Maybe if you lived in the real world for a minute where people feel pain and anguish and shame.

GLENN

Maybe I don't want to live in a world where kids get shot in parking lots by drunk assholes. Maybe that is not a world worth living in. Maybe people shouldn't be able to get away with doing things like that.

LAURA

They caught him. He'll be on trial.

GLENN

And that is the only thing that is holding me together--the knowledge that he will pay for what he did for Sam.

Laura doesn't know what to do for Glenn--he is in so much obvious pain. All she can do is to hold on to him.

GLENN (CONT'D)

I guess Richey isn't coming. We should just leave without him.

EXT. GRAVE SITE-DAY

A miserable, rainy day. The ceremony is being held over a canopy. Next to the open plot and the casket is a large photo of Sam, smiling widely. It is a beautiful photo that really captures his loving spirit.

The crew from The Hurt is represented by Glenn, Laura, Sandra, Big Bob, Nick and a few others. Richey and Dave are absent.

Andy (Sam's father) stands next to his wife, LOIS, and an older couple who are probably Sam's grandparents. Andy and Lois look like their world has been shattered.

A PRIEST walks up to the podium and starts the ceremony.

PRIEST

Today, in the saddest of sad days we say goodbye to Sam Ackerman. He has been taken from us too soon.

(MORE)

PRIEST (CONT'D)

We have to believe that the Lord has other plans for his son and we must always respect the Lord's decision. I've been talking to those who knew Sam and they have described him to me as friendly, generous--always willing to help out a friend, trusting and someone who had a great future. He is remembered by his teachers as a voracious reader, a thinker and someone who tried to create peace and harmony every where that he went.

Richey arrives, wearing a wrinkled suit. He walks in the rain without an umbrella. He seems drunk. He walks quietly to the grave site and stands in the back row with a group of strangers. He looks terrible, like he hasn't slept in days.

Andy sees Richey and is incensed. He starts to walk over to Richey but Andy's wife grabs his arm. Andy pulls his wife's arm away from him and goes around the crowd, to Richey.

ANDY

(whispering)

What the hell are you doing here?

RICHEY

I'm saying goodbye to my friend.

ANDY

I don't want you here.

RICHEY

I'll say goodbye and then I'll go.

ANDY

You don't understand. You are not welcome here.

RICHEY

I will leave soon, I promise.

Andy can't believe Richey's audacity. He raises his voice.

ANDY

You are the reason that my son is dead.

People at the funeral turn and look at Andy.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You told me that you would watch over him at the club.

RICHEY

I tried.

ANDY

It wasn't good enough. My son is dead and he's never coming back.

The Priest stops talking. Everyone is focused on this conversation.

ANDY (CONT'D)

He was going to quit working at that club. You talked me out of it.

Richey tries to hold it together.

RICHEY

Hey, I didn't kill your son. I was his friend.

ANDY

You obviously had no other choice then work in a scum-filled cesspool, but Sam had options. He was going to go to college. He wanted a big, full life, and you robbed him of that.

RICHEY

Look man, I didn't pull the trigger.

ANDY

When you convinced me to let him continue working at that club, even when I told you how important Sam was to me, how he was our only child--you signed his death sentence. I blame you!

Andy is holding back tears and fury. His face is red and he is pointing at Richey.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Out!

Andy's wife walks over and grabs on to her husband.

LOIS

Leave him alone, Andy.

Andy stands there, frozen.

LOIS (CONT'D)
 Leave him alone.

Andy breaks down and starts sobbing. Lois holds on to him.

LOIS (CONT'D)
 (whispers to Richey)
 Please go.

Richey nods. He is embarrassed. He leaves, practically running away.

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Glenn, Laura, Sandra, Big Bob and Richey sit quietly in a coffee shop. They still wear their outfits from the funeral. There is food on the table but no one has eaten much of it.

SANDRA
 Why do funerals always happen on rainy days?

No one replies.

BIG BOB
 I'm opening The Hurt up again on Friday. I'd like to see all of you there, but I understand if you're not.

LAURA
 Isn't it a little soon?

BIG BOB
 I can't afford to keep it closed any longer. I'd have to pay off some talent.

GLENN
 I understand. It's expensive keeping it closed.

SANDRA
 I don't think I'm ready to go back there.

BIG BOB
 Like I said, I understand.

RICHEY
 Where's Dave? Why didn't he come today?

BIG BOB

He has an important test, otherwise he'd definitely be here.

RICHEY

That's bullshit and you know it. Dave is an asshole.

BIG BOB

Hey, that's my--

RICHEY

I know, which is why I don't talk shit about him at work. But here, in this coffee shop, I can say what I want.

BIG BOB

Dave's had a rough life.

RICHEY

Look, at the club you're my bus and if you say that orange is green, I have to agree with you. But right here, at this table, after this funeral, I only want to speak the truth.

GLENN

Hey, Richey, chill out, man.

RICHEY

Dave comes in late, leaves early, smokes weed at work, makes other people do his work. You know all of this and let it happen. He should have come to Sam's funeral. In fact, Sam lent Dave a hundred bucks that he never paid back. You should make him give that money to Sam's parents. That would be the decent thing to do.

GLENN

Richey--

BIG BOB

No, Glenn, it's fine. Let Richey speak his mind. After all, we're just telling the truth here. It's good.

GLENN

Are you sure?

BIG BOB

Sure. Because we all know the truth--that Sam is dead because Richey talked Sam's father into letting him stay on at the club. Otherwise, if it weren't for Richey, Sam would still be kicking around here.

LAURA

I don't think that is fair, Bob. Sam had a choice.

BIG BOB

And his choice was that he was going to quit. Till Richey talked to him. Cause Richey is always getting involved with things that don't affect him at all.

Richey gets up from the table, knocking over a cup of coffee.

RICHEY

Fuck you, Big Blob. Fuck all of you.

Richey leaves in a huff.

Everyone starts cleaning off the spilled coffee from off the table.

LAURA

You shouldn't have said that, Bob. Richey is already having enough trouble about this.

BIG BOB

I was trying to be nice, but if he's going to come after me then I'm going to say what's really up, you know.

SANDRA

I can't believe that everyone is fighting. Sam is dead. Don't you understand that?

GLENN

I think that is why everyone's fighting. Because they don't know what to do. We're all frustrated. I'm mad. I am really pissed at this guy coming in and shooting at our family. I mean, what the fuck. He got thrown out of a bar, so what? He has to come around and try to kill us? What kind of world is this? It's not the world I grew up in.

LAURA

Me either. My parents let me walk to school alone, now kids are getting kidnapped.

BIG BOB

You guys do understand that I have investors. I lose a lot of money each day that club stays closed.

GLENN

I get it.

BIG BOB

We have to come back stronger.

LAURA

We are a family.

SANDRA

I don't know guys. This is pretty harsh.

GLENN

Challenges come to families all the time and you have to face it together. Otherwise everyone just falls apart.

(to Laura)

Don't you agree?

Laura doesn't look at Glenn. She's not sure.

INT. GLENN'S CAR/PARKING LOT

Glenn and Laura sit in a car (a different car than the one that Sam was shot in.) There is silence between them. They are parked in a lot outside the coffee shop they just hung out in.

LAURA

I think we should quit.

GLENN

I don't agree. We have to band together. Or else that guy wins. He broke up our family.

LAURA

These people are not our family, Glenn. It's a job. It's not even a career. It's not safe. I don't feel safe anymore.

GLENN

I understand.

LAURA

I mean, if you were a cop at least you'd have weapons to defend yourself. You'd be doing something noble by defending citizens, or the city--not just herding around drunken assholes who, from time to time, are going to take shots at you.

Laura starts to cry. Glenn comforts her.

GLENN

I want to work for the police force--I think I do. I just need some time. My head is spinning with all of this. I have to figure it out.

LAURA

I need you to quit working the club.

GLENN

I might. I probably will. But I want to do it because that is my decision.

LAURA

What about us? What about our family? Let's say we get married and have kids--how will I explain to our child, 'guess what, your daddy died dragging a drunk guy out of a nightclub?'

GLENN

I get what you're saying.

LAURA

I'm starting to feel less and less like this is going to work out with us.

Glenn lovingly takes hold of Laura's face.

GLENN

This is hard, I know. We're being tested. I will quit the club, but in my own time, and probably soon. But I can't start doing things just because you order me to, otherwise I stop being the man that I am. Please understand that.

Laura nods.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Let's get through this together. If we can survive this, our relationship will be strong and healthy.

Laura nods again.

GLENN (CONT'D)

I love you.

LAURA

I love you too.

Glenn kisses Laura. She melts into it.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

Big Bob addresses the crew. Glenn, Laura, Sandra, Richey, Dave and Nick are part of the group. There are some new faces as well.

BIG BOB

Tonight's a big night. It's our first night back and people are going to be watching us to see how we're doing. And you know what? We're doing just fine. This club has had many incarnations before. It has survived. We are going to go out and show them how brave we are.

DAVE

Hell yeah!

BIG BOB

We, as a family, are going to heal. So for those of you who are traumatized by this, we will pay for your therapy. Not for life, but a few sessions to help get you back on track.

Laura looks at Glenn. She wants him to do this.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

As you can see, we've hired a few more bouncers. And Glenn is going to work the front door and he is going to make sure that every person that comes into this club is kosher. You up for that, Glenn?

GLENN

Yeah.

BIG BOB

Good man. Ok. Now, I want everyone to hold hands. We're going to say a prayer for Sam.

The crew is taken aback by this. Big Bob has never been religious. They awkwardly take each other's hands then put their faces towards the ground.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

Lord, you have given us trials, but I'd like to think that you believe we can overcome them. Tonight is for our fallen, our friend, Sam.

EVERYONE

For Sam.

They break hands.

BIG BOB

We don't have a big crowd tonight. People are still nervous about coming back here. So let's show them that they can come here and have a good time and be safe.

DAVE

Yeah!

The group breaks up. Big Bob walks over to Dave.

BIG BOB

If you smoke weed or get drunk tonight or fuck up in any way, family or no family, you'll be out on your ass. You hear me?

Dave is shocked.

DAVE

Yes, sir.

BIG BOB

Oh, and I found out that you quit college a year ago so there's no good reason for you leaving early. In fact, you can close up tonight.

DAVE

(speechless)

Ah--

BIG BOB

There's no, 'ahh', there's just, 'yes sir.'

DAVE

Yes sir.

BIG BOB

Now go out there and don't fuck up.

Big Bob walks away. Glenn walks over to him.

GLENN

So I brought it.

BIG BOB

Don't let anyone see it.

GLENN

Ok.

BIG BOB

And for God's sake, don't have any accidents with it. I feel uneasy about you having a gun on you, but if it makes you feel safer, I'm ok with it.

GLENN

Thanks.

EXT. THE HURT/ENTRANCE-NIGHT

Glenn works the front door. The line is long and moving slowly. PATRON #1 walks up to Glenn.

GLENN

Five dollar cover.

The man hands Glenn a five dollar bill.

GLENN (CONT'D)

What's in your jacket?

PATRON #1

Nothing.

Glenn taps the side of the guy's jacket and feels a bottle.

GLENN

You can't bring alcohol in here.

PATRON #1

I ain't got nothing.

Glenn takes his large metal flashlight and hits the bottle, breaking it.

PATRON #1 (CONT'D)

Shit.

Alcohol starts pouring out of his jacket.

GLENN

Guess your jacket is now leaking Jack Daniels, by the smell of it. Now leave.

PATRON #1

I don't need your club, man. Someone just died here--that's disgusting.

GLENN

Feel free to exercise your right to freely choose another club.

Patron #1 walks away, angry.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

Big Bob walks around. There is not a very big crowd. He sees Laura and walks up to her.

BIG BOB

We're really taking a beating here tonight.

LAURA

Give it time, they'll come back.

BIG BOB

I hope I can wait that long. It's expensive keeping this place open.

A drunk patron walks nearby and pukes on the carpet. Laura looks at the situation and sighs.

LAURA

I guess this is the wrong time to ask for a raise.

Big Bob laughs.

BIG BOB

Thank God Halloween is two weeks away. That's our busiest night of the year.

EXT. THE HURT/ENTRANCE-NIGHT

Big Bob walks to the entrance way and sees Glenn patting someone down. The line is still moving very slowly.

GLENN
(to the patron)
You're good.

The patron walks inside.

BIG BOB
How's it going?

GLENN
I've turned away about twenty people.
Five because of carrying knives, a few
for brass knuckles or other small
weapons, and the rest for flasks and
bottles.

BIG BOB
Is there a way to do it any faster?

GLENN
Bring someone else so there are two of
us?

BIG BOB
I'll see if I an spare anyone.

TITLE CARD: TWO WEEKS LATER

EXT. THE HURT-NIGHT

The club is decked out for Halloween with all kinds of
spooky decorations.

INT. THE HURT/BIG BOB'S OFFICE

A messy office. Big Bob sits in his chair while Laura,
Sandra and two other employees talk with him.

BIG BOB
Damnit. Ok, you made your point.

Big Bob uses his walkie talkie to call Glenn.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)
Glenn, come to my office and bring a
couple of the guys with you.

SANDRA
I hope you don't think we're making any
trouble.

BIG BOB

I understand. I don't like it, but I guess its the world we live in.

Glenn, Richey and Dave come into the office.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

After a discussion with some of the other bouncers I've decided not to let any toy guns come into the club for Halloween tomorrow night.

RICHEY

That's ridiculous. A lot of costumes have toy guns. There are usually five or six Rambos.

BIG BOB

Rambo is gonna have to party somewhere else.

DAVE

What are you going to do, have us check everyone's costume before coming in?

BIG BOB

Yep.

DAVE

This place is becoming a joke. Business has really slowed down. The lines take longer to get in. You should make a business decision instead of a personal decision.

BIG BOB

One more shooting at this club and we'll all be out of business. Glenn, you'll check people at the door.

RICHEY

And what about the guys who already purchased a ticket and now they can't come in with their full costume? Do they get their money back?

BIG BOB

Yeah, I guess so. Just put some signs out front letting people know. Also, I need two volunteers to judge the costume contest.

DAVE

I'll do it.

BIG BOB

Great. Glenn and Laura. You two have good taste.

Glenn smiles at Laura, enjoying the compliment.

INT. GLENN'S LIVING ROOM

Glenn looks in the mirror. He is dressed as Robin Hood, green tights and all. Laura walks in. She is dressed as Maid Marion.

GLENN

Do these tights work?

LAURA

You have skinny legs.

GLENN

They're not skinny, they're toned.

LAURA

(laughing)

That's your opinion.

GLENN

If you don't like them some other girl might.

Laura comes over and kisses Glenn.

LAURA

Ah, I guess they're ok.

Richey comes out of his room. He is dressed as Adam with skin-toned tights and an enormous fig leaf covering his privates.

LAURA (CONT'D)

You're going to have a hard time getting customers to take you seriously tonight in that.

RICHEY

If they get too close I'll threaten to throw my fig leaf at them.

Richey picks up a bottle of Bourbon.

RICHEY (CONT'D)

Anyone want a swig?

GLENN
It is right before work.

Richey starts to leave the room with the bottle.

RICHEY
More for me.

LAURA
(to Glenn)
He's really been pushing the bottle.

GLENN
He hasn't gotten over Sam's death.

LAURA
I don't think any of us have.

GLENN
He still feels responsible. I hear him
having nightmares. It's getting worse.

LAURA
Maybe he should take Big Bob up on the
therapy offer.

Laura pauses and stares at Glenn.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Maybe you should too.

GLENN
Not that again.
(in his best Robin Hood
accent)
But yonder my fair lady, we must go and
find the Sheriff of Nottingham.

EXT. THE HURT/ENTRANCE-NIGHT

There is a long line. Most of the patrons are in costume.
Glenn is at the front door. A person (RAMBO #1) walks in
as Rambo, holding a gun.

GLENN
Sorry pal, no fake guns allowed in
tonight, so go put it in your car.

RAMBO #1
It's part of my costume.

Glenn points to a sign.

GLENN

No fake weapons.

RAMBO #1

That's totally fucked up. What is Rambo without a gun?

GLENN

It's a Halloween costume, you don't need to fight your way out of Cambodia.

RAMBO #1

They didn't say anything about this when I bought my ticket.

GLENN

New policy. We had a shooting here.

Rambo #1 starts getting angry.

RAMBO #1

Fuck you guys, you're getting soft. Nobody wants to come to your shitty club anyway. I only got a ticket here when I couldn't get tickets for Wonderland or The Hide-a-way. Just because one of your bouncers was too stupid and got himself shot, the rest of us have to have our Halloween spoiled?

GLENN

Hey man, that bouncer was a friend of mine.

RAMBO #1

He's a fucking pussy. Rambo never gets killed, man.

GLENN

Hold on, Rambo.

Glenn picks up his walkie-talkie.

GLENN (CONT'D)

(into walkie talkie)

Big Bob, we got another Rambo situation.

(to Rambo #1)

You don't need to make this personal, it's just policy. The owner is coming out to talk to you.

RAMBO #1

Good. Finally someone important.

Big Bob came out.

BIG BOB
Happy Halloween sir, how can I help you?

RAMBO #1
Your bouncer here doesn't understand that Rambo doesn't go anywhere without his gun.

BIG BOB
We're not letting fake weapons come in here tonight.

GLENN
He also called Sam a fucking pussy and suggested that he was stupid enough to get himself killed.

BIG BOB
(angry)
Take a hike, Rambo.

RAMBO #1
What?

BIG BOB
You heard me.

RAMBO #1
I want my money back!

Big Bob gets into Rambo's face.

BIG BOB
And you would have gotten your money back. But when you insult a young kid, a friend of all of ours that was tragically murdered by some fucking idiot, you lose all rights to everything. You think you're a big man? You're not even in the top three Rambos we've had to kick out tonight. Move it!

Rambo #1 leaves, yelling into the crowd as he exits.

RAMBO #1
Fuck this place man! They're all pussies!

INT. THE HURT/SECOND FLOOR

Sandra keeps an eye on the crowd. She pulls out her walkie talkie.

SANDRA
 (in walkie talkie)
 I'm taking my ten.

Sandra starts walking toward an employee exit. A man wearing a stocking mask and a black cloak follows her. She tries to ignore him. He keeps following her. She gets more nervous. She finally turns around and faces him.

MAN IN CLOAK
 How do you want to die?

The man pulls out a realist-looking assault riffle. Sandra screams. Laura runs up, sees what is going on and grabs the man. Laura flips him over her shoulder. The man lands with a THUD on the ground. Laura grabs his weapon.

LAURA
 It's plastic.

Laura takes the mask off of the guy. He is a nerdy, skinny white guy. The guy looks terrified.

MAN IN CLOAK
 I was only playing. It's Halloween.

LAURA
 How did you get in here with this?

MAN IN CLOAK
 I hid it in my backpack.

LAURA
 I'm taking you out of here.
 (to Sandra)
 Are you ok?

SANDRA
 I'm done.

INT. BIG BOB'S OFFICE

Big Bob is adding receipts on his adding machine. Sandra walks in. She is breathing heavily.

SANDRA
 I can't do this anymore. I'm quitting.

BIG BOB
 Can you finish out the week?

SANDRA

I can't finish out the night. Sorry, Bob. Every moment I'm hear I keep hearing those gun shots. I keep thinking that there will be another shooting. I'm having nightmares. I cry and shake before I come to work.

BIG BOB

I understand. Good luck. Stay in touch.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-NIGHT

Glenn is in his car (the same one that he was in the night of the shooting.) Sam sits next to him. The station wagon drives by and starts shooting at them. The air is filled with gun shot debris. The car takes off.

Glenn looks down at Sam, who is bleeding.

GLENN

I let this happen again. I should have known.

SAM

Why didn't you save me, Glenn? I'm just a kid. I'm never going to go to college or see Europe, or have sex, or get married-- why didn't you protect me?

CUT TO:

INT. GLENN'S BEDROOM

Glenn wakes up in a start. He is terrified from his dream. He sits up and looks over at Laura who is sleeping soundly. Glenn starts weeping, quietly and privately.

The camera movies away from Glenn's bedroom, goes down the hall, and inside the bathroom. Richey takes a shower but stands silently, staring off into the distance.

TITLE CARD: ONE MONTH LATER

INT. JOYCE SOUTIER'S OFFICE

Glenn sits in a tidy office across from an attractive, well-dressed woman, JOYCE SOUTIER in her 50's. She is a therapist and has her degrees framed on all the wall.

JOYCE

How do you feel about seeing a therapist?

GLENN

Not crazy about it, to be honest with you. But I want to get help.

JOYCE

So what is going on with the court case right now?

GLENN

The trial is coming up.

JOYCE

And how are you feeling about that?

GLENN

I don't know. Excited. Dreading it. Nervous. I mean, this Danny guy can't get off--there's no way.

JOYCE

Are you going to attend?

GLENN

I'll be testifying. I'll also go in and watch the trial on my days off. But I feel weird about that too. I don't want to just sit there, I want to do something.

JOYCE

There really hasn't been much to do, has there?

GLENN

No. It's frustrating.

JOYCE

Why frustrating?

GLENN

Makes me feel less of a man.

Joyce stares at him to continue.

GLENN (CONT'D)

Well, just sitting and watching. And the waiting. I have these urges--

Glenn hesitates.

JOYCE

Yes?

GLENN

Nothing.

JOYCE

You can tell me anything. I'm not here to judge you.

GLENN

I feel like I want to go fucking beat the shit out of him. He killed Sam.

JOYCE

Is that what men do?

GLENN

Yes, they don't sit around passively and wait for something to change. They take action.

JOYCE

How long have you been frustrated about this.

GLENN

For a long time. I'm always the level-headed one. And I'm sick of that shit. Shit doesn't get done by just sitting and waiting. But it's my fault.

JOYCE

Why?

GLENN

It just is.

JOYCE

None of this has been your fault.

GLENN

From the beginning.

Joyce watches Glenn and waits.

GLENN (CONT'D)

I should have stopped them. I should have rammed my car into theirs.

JOYCE

Would that have been realistic?

GLENN

I should have known they were trouble. I could tell from the sound of the way they were driving.

JOYCE

Could you realistically have done something?

GLENN

Yes. I could have stopped it.

JOYCE

I don't think so.

GLENN

No offense, but you're a woman. Women talk things out. Men go and do something about it. And I didn't do anything. So I watched my friend die. And I watched them apprehend the guy. Now I'm going to watch them put that scumbag on trial. That's not being a man.

JOYCE

But, I'd suggest, that it is being a man to understand your limits--what is in your control and what is out of your control.

GLENN

I want to help them put him behind bars. That's what I want.

INT. COURTHOUSE

Glenn, Laura and Richey are in the courtroom among others, watching the start of the court trial. Glenn and Laura hold hands. The court clerk approaches the jury.

COURT CLERK

Please come to order.

A female African-American JUDGE resides. The jury is group of mostly older people.

The State Attorney, DONALD, is the first to speak.

DONALD

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the evidence in this case will show that the defendant, Danny Brack, was angry at the club security for throwing out his girlfriend. The witnesses will testify that the victim, Sam Ackerman, was not involved in the earlier incident. I will show you that Danny Brack was drunk, angry and a dangerous volcano that was waiting to spill over. He committed this act intentionally, as he left the club, made this plan, then carefully returned to the club to seek his revenge.

MOMENTS LATER:

The Defense Attorney, QUINTON, polished, in his 50's, and a very compelling speaker, approaches the jury.

QUINTON

Ladies and gentlemen the state cannot produce anyone who can positively identify my client as the shooter. Witnesses will tell you that my client was not at the club but at home with friends, thank you. My client does not own a gun and the vehicle in question was not even there.

JUDGE

Mr. Prosecutor please call your first witness.

DONALD

Mr. Richard Jones please take the stand and be sworn in

Richey gets up from the audience. He gets sworn in and takes the stand.

DONALD (CONT'D)

Were you working at the club on the night of the shooting?

RICHIE

Yes, I was.

DONALD

What was your job in the club?

RICHEY

I was one of the security team.

DONALD
Please tell us what occurred

RICHEY
I was working the front door at the club when an intoxicated female was ejected from the club. She then fell down and cut her chin.

DONALD
Who ejected her?

RICHEY
Laura our female security person.

DONALD
What happened then?

RICHEY
Her boyfriend then came out screaming at us because of what happened. He made threats that we will pay for what we did to his girlfriend.

DONALD
Do you see that boyfriend in the courtroom? And, if so please point him out and tell us what he is wearing.

RICHEY
That's him

Richey points to Danny.

DONALD
May the record show that the witness is pointing to the Defendant, Danny Brack.

DONALD (CONT'D)
Did you ever see the defendant before this shooting incident?

RICHEY
Nope.

DONALD
Thank you, no more questions.

JUDGE
Your witness.

QUINTON

Good morning, did the police show you a picture of my client at any time after the shooting?

RICHEY

Yes, at the police station

QUINTON

So in fact you did not see my client at the club but in a photo and that's why you pointed him out today?

RICHEY

No, I remember him from the club

QUINTON

Fact, my client had been at the club numerous times and you never saw him before?

RICHEY

No

QUINTON

You have a habit of injuring patrons at the club?

DONALD

Objection, argumentative.

JUDGE

Sustained.

QUINTON

No more questions

The jury made up of six men and six women are paying attention to the witnesses and making faces as to what they are hearing.

DONALD

I'd like to call Glenn Topping to the stand.

Glenn, nervous, gets up and gets sworn in.

We don't hear Glenn's testimony but we watch the jury as they listen to it. They are a difficult jury to read. Donald finishes up questioning Glenn. Glenn looks over and Laura gives him a 'thumbs-up.'

JUDGE
(to Quinton)
Your witness.

Quinton takes a moment just staring at Glen.

QUINTON
Are you employed at a club called The
Hurt.

GLENN
Yes I am.

QUINTON
What is your position there?

GLENN
Assistant Security Manager.

QUINTON
So basically that is a fancy way of
saying that you are a bouncer.

GLENN
Not exactly.

QUINTON
Seems like you have a difficult time
describing things.

GLENN
No.

QUINTON
So what was your involvement in this
case?

GLENN
I was working the night in question. The
club was closing and we were hanging out
in the parking lot, all of us employees
saying good night to each other. I
offered to give my friend, Sam Ackerman,
the victim a ride home.

QUINTON
Very generous of you. Had you been
drinking, Mr. Topping?

GLENN
No.

QUINTON
Nothing at all?

GLENN

Maybe a few beers throughout the night

QUINTON

So would it be fair to say that at this point you were intoxicated?

GLENN

No.

QUINTON

But you had several beers throughout the night.

GLENN

I'm sure I worked them off during the eve. I have a very active job.

QUINTON

So what happened in the parking lot?

GLENN

I was parked at the front of the parking lot, facing the door. I started to back up then Sam told me not to back up because there was a car coming.

QUINTON

Could you describe the car?

GLENN

It was a dark colored older station wagon with the fake wood panel on the sides.

QUINTON

Did you see anyone in the car, and if so, would you describe them, please.

GLENN

I didn't see the driver but the passenger was a white male with short hair.

QUINTON

Are there lights in the parking lot, where you were?

GLENN

Some.

QUINTON

Does it get dark there after work?

GLENN

Somewhat.

QUINTON

Does your vehicle windows have tint?

GLENN

Yes.

QUINTON

So you want this jury to believe that you saw my client in a fast moving car in a semi-lit parking lot?

GLENN

I am certain that I saw him.

QUINTON

How certain?

GLENN

Very certain.

QUINTON

You were close with your friend, Sam, weren't you?

GLENN

Yes.

QUINTON

And you'd like to find some closure with his murder, wouldn't you?

GLENN

Yes. And I'm happy that the police have caught the right guy.

QUINTON

No further questions.

INT. COURTHOUSE CAFETERIA

Glenn, Richey and Laura eat lunch together.

GLENN

The defense is playing a good game.

RICHEY

But they can't win, right? There's just too much evidence.

LAURA

I can't wait for this to be over. I wonder if they'll get to me today.

RICHEY
It's moving pretty fast.

INT. COURTHOUSE

The court is back from recess. Laura walks from her seat to take the stand. They swear her in.

MOMENTS LATER:

Donald is questioning Laura.

DONALD
Please tell us what happened on the night of the shooting.

LAURA
I was working the front door of the club when I was summoned by one of the other bouncers that some females were drunk and out of control.

DONALD
What did you do when you found them?

LAURA
They were too intoxicated to be in the club so I helped escort them out of the club. They would take a few steps then stop to curse me. I grabbed one of them by the arm and she tripped and fell, cutting her chin.

DONALD
Did you throw her to the ground.

LAURA
Of course not. I didn't have any ill will towards her. I just needed her out of the club as she posed a risk to the other patrons. She threatened that her boyfriend would come and get revenge on us.

DONALD
Did you believe her?

LAURA
We get threats all the time. People say things when they are drunk.

DONALD

Did their boyfriends eventually come out to get them?

LAURA

Yes. Moments later they came out and got into an angry exchange with us. One of the guys threatened to come back and get even.

DONALD

Is that person in the court room today?

LAURA

Yes.

DONALD

Point him out to us, please.

Laura points to Danny.

DONALD (CONT'D)

Please note that the witness pointed to the Defendant, Danny Brack.

Donald stares at the jury, trying to read them.

DONALD (CONT'D)

No further questions, your honor.

MOMENTS LATER:

Quinton starts his line of questioning for Laura.

QUINTON

Ms. Veroni, isn't it true that when you escorted the girls out of the club that you threw them to the ground.

LAURA

Absolutely not true.

QUINTON

Don't you have a history of brutality against the bar patrons.

LAURA

(exasperated)

That is ridiculous.

QUINTON

Did you actually see my client in the club last night?

LAURA

Yes.

QUINTON

Did you see my client in the car that drove through the parking?

LAURA

I'm not sure.

QUINTON

Not sure. Okay. I take 'not sure' to me there is a higher probability that you did not see him, would you agree.

LAURA

Yes.

QUINTON

So you have no evidence linking my client to the crime scene, is that correct?

LAURA

Yes. But I--

QUINTON

No further questions.

Laura, frustrated, steps off the stand. She sits back down next to Glenn and they hold hands, tightly.

LATER:

DONALD

You were the lead Homicide detective on this case correct?

DET. PIKE

Yes

DONALD

How many people did you interview in this case?

DET. PIKE

Many

DONALD

How many witnesses actually saw the defendant commit this crime?

DET. PIKE

There were three.

DONALD

During your investigation what did you learn about the whereabouts of the suspects in this case?

DET. PIKE

We discovered that the defendant fled to North Florida.

QUINTON

I object to the word fled.

JUDGE

Sustained

DONALD

Was the defendant found in South Florida?

DET. PIKE

No, he was found in North Florida at a friend's home, and brought back via an arrest warrant.

DONALD

Did the defendant admit to the crime during interrogation?

DET. PIKE

No, he wanted a lawyer, so we stopped all questioning.

DONALD

What happened to the vehicle that was used in this case?

DET. PIKE

We learned that after the shooting the car was taken to an auto salvage yard and crushed.

DONALD

Did you discover who the car was registered to?

DET. PIKE

Yes, the co-defendant in this case.

DONALD

What type of firearm was used in this case?

DET. PIKE

It was a 30-30 rifle.

DONALD

What happened to the gun used in this case?

DET. PIKE

We learned that the gun was tossed into the ocean.

DONALD

Who got rid of the gun?

DET. PIKE

The co-defendant in this case

DONALD

Was the gun ever recovered?

DET. PIKE

No

DONALD

So it's safe to say that most of the physical evidence was destroyed but due to the eye witness's that put the defendant in the car and holding the gun is why you presented this case to the state?

DET. PIKE

Yes, we felt we had a strong enough case to proceed.

DONALD

No further questions

QUINTON

Det. Pike, have you worked homicides where the eyewitness testimony was incorrect?

DET. PIKE

Unfortunately, yes.

QUINTON

Det. Pike, let me get this straight, no physical evidence, questionable eyewitness testimony and you feel you had enough to take this to the state?

DONALD

Objection, argumentative

JUDGE

Sustained

QUINTON

Nothing further your honor.

INT. GLENN'S LIVING ROOM

Glenn and Laura are decorating a Christmas tree. They play gleeful Christmas music. On the TV screen is a newscast about the trial. The sound is down. Glenn notices this and runs to turn the sound on.

ON TV:

A Newscaster speaks to the camera.

NEWSCASTER

And the jury is still in deliberation on the Danny Brack trial. It has been a very emotional trial with both sides presenting compelling arguments. Most recently, Brack's sister swore under oath that her brother, Danny was with her the entire night of the shooting. So far the prosecution hasn't been fully successful in setting up a time line. The jury is expected to be back any day now.

Laura walks over and turns the TV off.

LAURA

(to Glenn)

I'm not going to let it wreck our Christmas.

GLENN

I agree.

They kiss.

INT. COURTHOUSE

People are rushing in to the courthouse, grabbing a seat. A News Reporter (NEWS REPORTER #2) is being filmed.

NEWS REPORTER #2

We've been told that the jury is in on the Danny Brack trial. People are anxiously awaiting this verdict. On one side of the room is the Defendant's family, his parents and his brother--

We see WILLIAM and APRIL Brack, in their late 40's and TROY CLUBSTON, in his early 20's.

NEWS REPORTER #2 (CONT'D)

Friends and family of the victim, Sam Ackerman are also filling up the courthouse hoping for a victory.

We see Sam's parents as well as Glenn, Big Bob, Laura, Sandra, Richey, Nick and other employees from The Hurt.

The judge enters the court room. The jury is already inside.

JUDGE

Has the jury reached a verdict?

Everyone looks on, holding their collective breath.

JURY FOREMAN

Judge, we cannot come to a decision.

There are gasps from the room.

JUDGE

If given more time do you think you can come to a unanimous decision?

JURY FOREMAN

No you're honor, we are hopelessly deadlocked.

Andy, Sam's father stands and yells directly towards Danny.

SAM

You're a murderer! You killed my son!
(towards the Jury)
And you're letting him get away with it.

JUDGE

Please escort Mr. Ackerman out of the court room.

A Guard walks Sam's father out of the room. Andy is in tears.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I have no choice then to declare a mistrial.

DONALD

Your Honor, I would like to poll the jury.

JUDGE
We will poll the jury.
The Clerk walks to the jury box.

CLERK
Juror 1
Guilty

JUROR 1
Guilty

CLERK
Juror 2
Guilty

JUROR 2
Guilty

CLERK
Juror 3
Not guilty.

JUROR 3
Not guilty.

CLERK
Juror 4
Guilty

JUROR 4
Guilty

CLERK
Juror 5
Guilty

JUROR 5
Guilty

CLERK
Juror 6
Not Guilty

JUROR 6
Not Guilty

CLERK
Juror 7
Guilty

JUROR 7
Guilty

CLERK
Juror 8
Guilty

JUROR 8
Guilty

Juror 9 CLERK

Guilty JUROR 9

Juror 10 CLERK

Guilty JUROR 10

Juror 11 CLERK

Guilty JUROR 11

Juror 12 CLERK

Guilty JUROR 12

JUDGE

Thank you members of the jury for your
service, you are excused.

Glenn is stunned. He looks at Laura who is crying. Sandra runs out of the room, in tears.

EXT. COURTHOUSE-DAY

Donald talks with Andy's family and friends.

RICHEY

How could he get away with this?

DONALD

I'm sorry, we did our best. They created just the right amount of doubt. Where we take it up to hear depends on the Ackermans.

SAM'S MOM

I don't know if I can deal with this again.

ANDY

We're not going to drop it. We need justice for Sam. My son is dead and that scumbag walks free.

RICHEY

We can help set up a legal fund, maybe do a fundraiser at the club--

ANDY

You guys have done enough. My son is dead because of a fight that my son wasn't even a part of. His blood is on your hands.

GLENN

Hey, we had no control over--

ANDY

Get out. Out of my face!

Andy's wife tugs on his shoulder for him to stop.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I never want to look at any of you again. Leave my family alone!

Andy walks away, followed by his wife.

DONALD

A lot of families go through similar things in this situation.

INT. GLENN'S LIVING ROOM

Glenn and Laura sit across from each other, neither of them speaking. Richey is drinking whiskey out of a bottle. He is very wound up and upset.

RICHEY

That fucking asshole. It wasn't my fault. I didn't force him to let Sam work at that club. He has to take responsibility. He was the one that said yes. What the fuck? Why blame me?

GLENN

He's just venting.

RICHEY

Fuck him!

LAURA

It's not Sam's dad you should be angry at.

RICHEY

Who then? That asshole, Danny? His bitch of a girlfriend for lying? The fucking jury for falling for that load of shit. The judicial system for letting a killer loose? No? Ok, then let's just blame Richey. Fuck this shit!

GLENN

Buddy, calm down.

Richey is packing now.

RICHEY

I didn't kill anyone. I'm a stand-up guy. Fuck all of them. I'm done. I'm out of here.

Richey grabs a backpack and heads out.

GLENN

Should I go after him?

LAURA

He just needs to feel what he's feeling.

GLENN

And what are you feeling?

LAURA

A deep, profound loss. For Sam. But for so many other things. Feels like the end of an era.

GLENN

Business is still shit for the club. People are avoiding it.

LAURA

Also for us, Glenn. I think I need a break.

GLENN

What?

LAURA

I told you I needed you to quit the club, but you're still there. Your life doesn't seem to be moving forward. I need to think about what I want.

GLENN

This is the worst timing ever.

LAURA

I know.

GLENN

I feel like shit because of this. And now you break up with me.

LAURA

I'm not breaking up. I'm just suggesting that we take a little time to catch up with all these events.

GLENN

I don't understand.

LAURA

Sam's death has to be a wake-up call, or it was completely in vain.

Laura starts to leave. She looks back at Glenn.

LAURA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

Laura leaves his apartment.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

These scenes take place over the next few months.

A. Richey moves his clothes and belongings out of Glenn's apartment.

B. Sandra works in a restaurant. She takes the order of an elderly couple. She sees a group of 20 year olds acting stupid by throwing things at each other. She is weary of them.

C. Laura has a job at a car rental company. She walks someone to their rental car.

D. Richey is in Los Angeles. He is at an audition in a room full of other guys his age and type.

E. Glenn is at The Hurt. It is a very small crowd. He walks a drunk guy out of the club.

F. Danny Brack stares at himself in the mirror. He looks like a haunted shadow of his former self.

G. Glenn turns in his application to the police department.

H. Andy and his wife look at photos of Sam on his birthday. They hold each other's hands tightly.

I. Glenn is in a therapy session.

J. There is another trial for Danny Brack. We see that it is also a mistrial. Only Glenn from the Hurt is in the courthouse.

K. Richey is in his bathroom. He is desperate and near tears. He is shooting up heroin.

L. Glenn works out at the police academy.

ON A TV SCREEN:

A newscaster speaks directly to the TV screen.

NEWSCASTER

The family of slain club worker, Sam Ackerman finally got their wish today. Suspect Danny Clugson was found guilty of his murder and received life in prison.

INT. GLENN'S LIVING ROOM

Glenn is on the phone with a friend. His new roommate, PHIL, watches the newscast.

GLENN

(on phone)

Yeah, its great news--I mean, there's no good outcome, but I am glad that this guy is finally getting what he deserves.

(listening)

Yeah, life in prison. Oh, hey, I have another phone call. Thanks for calling.

PHIL

Man, the phones are ringing off the hook.

GLENN

(answering the phone)

Glenn Topping. Oh, a radio interview? For when? Tomorrow morning? I can do that. Where is your station?

Glenn motions to Phil to give him pen and paper, which Phil does. Glenn writes down the radio station information.

GLENN (CONT'D)

(into the phone)

Great. Thanks. Oh hey, I have to jump off, I have another call.

(clicks the button for call waiting)

Glenn Topping here.

(listens)

I'm sorry, who?

(listens)

Richey? I'm sorry, he lives out in LA now.

(listens)

What? Are you sure?

(listens)

When?

Glenn tries to hold it in but tears start falling from his eyes.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE

Glenn sits across from his therapist, Joyce.

JOYCE

I'm so sorry, Glenn.

GLENN

He killed himself before he found out about the verdict. He never knew that Brack got life.

JOYCE

That's terrible.

GLENN

If he had waited one more day--maybe he could have forgiven himself. Maybe he would have come back.

JOYCE

We'll never know.

GLENN

Fucking life--excuse my language--just a bunch of heartbreaks.

JOYCE

Is there a memorial?

GLENN

Big Bob finally sold The Hurt. It was just losing too much money.

(MORE)

GLENN (CONT'D)

It never found its footing after the shooting. He is going to keep it open one extra night just for past employees.

JOYCE

Are you going?

GLENN

Yeah. I wouldn't miss it.

JOYCE

Are you expecting to see Laura there?

GLENN

That is a complicated question. I mean, of course I do. I love her. I've missed her but I've kept a respectful distance.

JOYCE

You two were good friends with Richey.

GLENN

We were. I need to see her. I just don't know if she wants to see me.

JOYCE

So I also have to bring up that this is the end of the group of sessions that your insurance is paying for. I can continue to see you, but you would have to take on the expense. At least until your new insurance kicks in.

Glenn considers this for a moment.

GLENN

You helped me through a very difficult time. I'll always appreciate that. I think I am ready to take what I've learned and apply it now. Thank you.

Joyce smiles. She knows he's going to make it.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

There is music coming from the stage. There is a small crowd in the lobby. Glenn walks in and is instantly greeted by Big Bob.

BIG BOB

Glenn! So good to see you!

They hug.

GLENN

So you finally did it--you sold the place.

BIG BOB

Didn't have a choice, really.

GLENN

What are you going to do with all the money you made?

BIG BOB

Travel. I've been stuck in this club for so long, night after night--I want to sleep under the stars.

GLENN

That's wonderful. I'm excited.

Dave walks by. He comes over and says hi to Glenn as Big Bob walks away to talk to someone else.

DAVE

I wasn't sure that you'd come.

GLENN

Wouldn't have missed it.

DAVE

Sorry I was such a jerk back then. You were right to be on my back.

GLENN

Wow, I can't believe what I'm hearing.

DAVE

You opened up my eyes. Taught me how to be a stand-up guy.

GLENN

It was all worth it then.

Glenn looks out at a few other people that enter into the club.

DAVE

Looking for anyone in particular?

GLENN

Oh, you know, just seeing who is here.

DAVE

Looking for Laura?

GLENN

Ah--maybe.

DAVE

I was shocked when you two broke up. I heard she's getting married.

GLENN

Oh yeah?

DAVE

You didn't know?

GLENN

It's not like we keep in touch.

DAVE

Yeah, I see her a few times a week--we go to the same gym. Apparently she's in love.

Glenn does not want to hear about this.

GLENN

Cool, well, nice catching up.

The lights go off and on, signaling for everyone to come inside the theater.

INT. THE HURT/STAGE

Big Bob is on the stage. There is a large photo of Richey behind him. In the photo Richey looks young and cute and hopeful.

People come in and take their seats. Glenn sits down and he sees Laura come in by herself. There isn't a seat free next to Glenn so she sits on the aisle of another row.

BIG BOB

Richey. Richey was like no one else I ever met. He was funny, obnoxious, full of life and full of shit at the same time.

Everyone laughs.

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

I threatened to fire him about--eh--a dozen times. But here's my secret. I never really would have. I liked having him around. Tonight is for you, Richey.
(to the crowd)

(MORE)

BIG BOB (CONT'D)

And for all of you. Please laugh, dance, eat, drink and tell stories about Richey. We're the ones that are going to keep him alive. Now if anyone would like to come up and say a few words.

Sandra gets up and walks to the stage.

SANDRA

I looked up to Richey, like a brother. Yeah, sometimes he was an annoying brother, but still, you knew he had a good heart. Man, he loved Miami Vice. When I heard that he was moving to Los Angeles to try to make it as an actor, I thought--ok--ok--I can see that. But he never got over Sam's--you know--he never got over it. I'll miss you Richey.

Sandra is overcome with tears. She walks off the stage. Glenn stands up hesitantly and walks to the stage.

On the stage he sees Laura looking at him. He smiles at her. She smiles back.

GLENN

Funny to be saying goodbye to two things that have been very important to me-- Richey, and this club. I spent a lot of time with both of them. It is hard to accept that neither of them are going to be here anymore. It is a sign of the times--a learning experience--the beginning of wisdom--things you love in this world are going to disappear--so you better appreciate them every single day.

Glenn looks at Laura.

GLENN (CONT'D)

There has been so much loss lately. It is unbearable. But we have to live with it. We have to learn for those we've lost. And the secret to that is for us to stay a family. Check in on each other. Show you care. We need each other. And Richey-- I'm not going to forget you. I promise, man. Promise.

INT. THE HURT/LOBBY

It is getting close to closing time. There aren't that many people left. Glenn talks to Big Bob.

GLENN

So who did you sell this place to?

BIG BOB

It's going to become a market. Pretty fitting, ain't it? I mean, about ten times a night we had a 'pick up on aisle two.'

Glenn and Big Bob laugh. Laura walks over to Glenn. Big Bob excuses himself.

LAURA

I've been wanting to talk to you but you've always been with people.

GLENN

I figured we would talk. So how are you?

LAURA

Ok. It's been an interesting time. And you?

GLENN

I'm at the police academy, training to become a cop.

LAURA

I heard. That's amazing.

GLENN

Yeah. You had a lot to do with that. You pushed me to follow my dream.

Laura smiles.

GLENN (CONT'D)

I'll be Officer Topping pretty soon. What a mind fuck, eh?

LAURA

I could always see you in the uniform. You're going to make a great cop.

BIG BOB

Last call! Last drinks ever for The Hurt!

GLENN

Do you want anything?

LAURA

No, I'm good. I'm sorry I haven't called. Things have been crazy.

GLENN

Yeah. I get it. I understand that congratulations are in order.

LAURA

What do you mean?

GLENN

You know.

LAURA

No, I don't.

GLENN

I heard that you're getting married.

Laura laughs.

LAURA

Hopefully.

GLENN

Good for you.

LAURA

That Dave could never keep a secret.

GLENN

It's a secret?

LAURA

Yeah, well, things haven't been agreed upon yet.

GLENN

Ah.

LAURA

But I'm hoping.

Glenn wishes he could be anywhere other than here right now.

GLENN

Who's the lucky guy?

LAURA

You, stupid.

Dave walks over to them.

DAVE

Want to meet up at the Bee Hive for a sunrise diner breakfast?

GLENN
(floored)

Me?

DAVE
Ah, well, both of you, if you want. We
can get a big booth.

Dave walks away and invites others to breakfast.

LAURA
Yes, you.

GLENN
I'm shocked.

LAURA
I never wanted to break up. I just said I
needed some time.

GLENN
Ok.

LAURA
And I decided that this world has become
a scary place--some place new--some place
I don't understand. And I only feel safe
being here with you.

Glenn kisses Glenn.

BIG BOB
Everybody out. This is a wrap!

EXT. THE HURT-SUNRISE

People walk out slowly, almost in slow-motion. They seem to stop and say goodbye to the club. The marquee on the club is turned off. Big Bob struggles with the gate. A person wearing dark clothes emerges. This person stays behind Bob and carries a shotgun. Bob doesn't see this armed person as he says goodbye to The Hurt.

THE SCREEN TURNS TO BLACK