

The Quarry

Written by

Jonathan Sieff

Based on

"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge"

By

Ambrose Bierce

© Jonathan Sieff 2017

Sieffy13@yahoo.co.uk

EXT. QUARRY - NIGHT

It's dark, deserted and raining. Construction equipment is sparsely scattered around, alongside crates and bits of rock. A limo is parked near the entrance.

There are people there, but it's difficult to see them in this light.

MATT (48) a bearded man, his face bloodied and beaten, an open, blood-covered shirt, tattered vest and torn trousers, teeters over the edge. He's staring down at the seemingly bottomless pit below, petrified.

Standing behind him, NICKY (50) a typical suited and booted mobster has his gun pressed against the back of Matt's head.

Someone steps out the car. TONY (56) a large and in charge, man wearing an expensive black suit. He walks up to Nicky and Matt.

TONY
Turn him round.

Nicky swings Matt around.

TONY (cont'd)
Gimme one good reason why I shouldn't drop you in that pit down there?

Matt is petrified.

MATT
I-I h-h-have a wife. She's... she's p-p-pregnant.

TONY
Don't worry, you'll be reacquainted. The police throw fancy funerals for rats like you. Girls, get out here.

?ALEXA (25) a young brunette girl in a long dress and a winter coat, followed by ?MICHELLE (26) a blonde in similar attire.

TONY (cont'd)
Michelle and Alexa are two girls I hold dear to my heart...

He hold up his hand, a wedding ring on his finger.

TONY (cont'd)
...but my wife's fine with it.

MATT
What's your point?

TONY
That despite my faults, her life goes on. Your wife's life will too, with or without you.

Tony punches Matt hard in the gut. Matt drops to the floor in pain.

TONY (cont'd)
Put him out of his misery.

Nicky drags Matt over to the edge of quarry. He points his gun at him.

INT. BAR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A small, local bar on the outskirts of town filled with PATRONS.

Sitting at one of the tables are a clean-shaven Matt and CHLOE (45) a pretty woman in casual clothes and in tears.

CHLOE
You can't go, you'll be away for months, maybe even years.

MATT
Don't worry, it's all part of the job. I'll be fine.

CHLOE
What if they find out you're a cop? They'll kill you.

MATT
Don't say that, it won't happen.

CHLOE
But what if it does?
(She puts her hand on her tummy).
Baby Harry'll grow up without a father.

MATT
It's just for a little while. Once we've got the information about what Tony Malone is up to, we can nail him and it'll all be over.

CHLOE
Are you gonna be wearing a wire?

MATT
Of course. But with modern technology
it's practically invisible.

Matt smiles and holds Chloe's hand to comfort her.

EXT. QUARRY - NIGHT (MATT'S IMAGINATION)

Matt shuts his eyes, waiting for the inevitable. A tear runs down his cheek.

MATT
I love you, Chloe.

Nicky pulls the trigger. Nothing happens. Tony is shocked. He scrambles to grab his gun.

Matt turns and wrestles with Nicky for the gun. He is successful. In that moment, Nicky kicks him off the edge.

Matt falls for what seems like eternity.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A limo drives across a dark and quiet road.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Inside, Matt and Tony are talking. Alexa and Michelle are opposite, chatting and drinking.

There's a shutter blocking them off from the driver.

MATT
Where's everyone else?

TONY
They've got the night to themselves.
After we took out the Irish the other
day, a night off seemed necessary.

Matt smiles.

MATT
Then why am I here?

TONY
There's something I want you to see.

MATT
What's that?

TONY
You've been part of our crew for a while now, so I think it's time to let you in a little secret.

Matt is intrigued.

MATT
Tell me more.

TONY
It's the future of crime, boy. An entire facility for the operation of drugs and weapons all over the country. It'll make us rich.

MATT
But how would you cover it all up?

Tony has a grin across his face.

TONY
The money I've accumulated over the years, combined with the recent success of getting rid of the local competition has allowed me to buy the land and start construction. Completely private. Out of town. Armed guards'll be posted at every entrance twenty-four-seven. If the police wanted to storm the place, they'd have a hard time trying. It's perfect. Grab yourself a drink, we can celebrate. You too, girls.

Michelle and Alexa smile, before going back to their conversation.

Matt goes to grab a drink from the mini bar. As he turns, his shirt lifts at the bottom, revealing part of a wire.

Tony can be heard grabbing his gun. Matt turns back round, a drink in his hand to see a gun pointed at him. He is scared.

TONY (cont'd)
If you're gonna wear a wire, kid, at
least do a better job hiding it.
Alexa, do your thing.

Alexa comes over.

ALEXA
Arms up.

Matt puts the drinks down, then raises his arms. She frisks
him up and down.

ALEXA (cont'd)
Don't move...
(She pulls out a switch blade)
...or it'll hurt.

She sticks the blade at the bottom his shirt and slices
upwards, opening it. Underneath a white tank top, the shape
of a wire travels up his chest, stopping in the centre. A
receiver connected to his trousers. She puts her hand up his
vest. Working her hand along the wire, she pulls it out.

Matt's calm and collected. He knows the drill.

Alexa puts the blade away. She throws the microphone out the
window and goes back to chatting with Michelle.

Tony presses a button to lower the blocker.

TONY
Nicky, take us to the site.

NICKY
Can do, boss.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The limo drives off into the night.

EXT. QUARRY - NIGHT (MATT'S IMAGINATION)

Matt wakes up on the quarry ground, groggy and staring up at
the night sky. His vision is blurry, he can just make out
Nicky standing on the edge of the pit looking back down at
him.

Nicky rushes away and out of his line of vision.

NICKY (O.S.)

You gotta see this boss. He ain't
dead.

Tony comes over. He looks down at Matt, astounded.

He pulls out his pistol and aims it at Matt. He fires a shot. It misses, landing a few inches away from Matt's head. Matt grabs the pistol next to him and scurries away, making cover behind some crates. He rubs the back of his head.

TONY

Girls, grab your guns. We're gonna
kill a rat.

Tony fires a few more bullets.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Matt waits. Guns are fired in his general direction.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

The shooting suddenly stops. He turns around and fires back.

A shot hits Michelle, she's dead before she even hits the ground. Her head bounces off the ground, her eyes staring yet lifeless.

More shooting.

Matt is behind the crate, waiting. Bullets PINGING off metal.

TONY (cont'd)

There's no use Matt, if that is your
real name. It's three against one.

Matt turns and fires a few bullets. One hits Nicky in the leg. He falls to the ground in pain. Tony sighs, then puts Nicky out of his misery.

More shooting, primarily from Michelle. Matt runs, bullets flying past, none hit him.

Matt makes cover near the other end of the quarry. He fires a shot. It races through the air, hitting Michelle square in the chest. She falls to the ground, motionless.

Tony is worried. He fires his gun, it clicks. He becomes frustrated. He looks up to see Matt aiming his gun at him in the distance.

BANG!

The bullet hits Tony. Killing him instantly. His body falls, making a loud thud as it hits the ground.

Matt sits down, heavily breathing. He rubs the back of his head again.

EXT. QUARRY - NIGHT (MATT'S IMAGINATION)

Matt is walking out of the quarry, tired, battered, but victorious.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT (MATT'S IMAGINATION)

Matt walks along the road. There's a sign that says "Welcome". He walks past it.

As he walks, there are flashes of Chloe crying. Then one of him holding her hand to comfort her.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT (MATT'S IMAGINATION)

Matt stands outside the bar.

INT. BAR - NIGHT (MATT'S IMAGINATION)

The bar is full. Matt stands at the door looking for Chloe. He spots her, she's sitting at a table, her baby bump has gotten bigger.

Matt makes his way over to her. He collapses suddenly, a pool of blood forms around his body, as does a crowd. Chloe breaks through the crowd, her face drenched in tears.

EXT. QUARRY - NIGHT (REALITY)

Matt's lifeless body with a pool of blood around it. The car he arrived in can be heard leaving.

FADE OUT: