# The Realization of Michael Jones

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# LIVING IN THE PAST.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

The smell of beer and hard alcohol stinks up the room as the morning dew sets in from the window. A tint of blue light glows softly from the clear barrier into the room. The empty bottles and cans lay lifeless upon the floor and counter. A foot hangs out from the bathtub, a man clearly passed out from a hard night of drinking but when we get closer to Michael, it looked like he needed it. Awakening slowly in the cold left over water that barely fills the tub, he groans. He's alive.

Michael attempts to stumble out of the bath tub, but clearly succeeds with a little struggle. Flopping onto the cold bathroom floor while trying to come to his senses, he feels a nasty battle in his body. A few moments later he threw up, still in a daze but felt better than he had. He rolls over to stare at the ceiling, paying no attention to the mess he's surrounded himself in. Because quite frankly life has decided to surround him in a mess, Michael has given up...

> SARAH (O.S.) Do you think maybe you love me?

> MICHAEL (0.S.) Why do you ask? Of course I do, why wouldn't I?

> > CUT TO:

LOVERS IN LOVE.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A lightly lit room occupies Michael and Sarah lying naked on the bed with the soft sound of a fan whirling in the background. Sarah lays upon Michael's chest as rubs his chest entertaining herself, she chins up to look at Michael.

> SARAH A lot of reasons really...

#### MICHAEL

Which are?

# SARAH

Well one, I've been screwed over so many times by the guys I've dated. Saying one thing and then saying another. Two, I just wanted to make sure you aren't playing me.

### MICHAEL

Sarah, I am not like that and you know that. I understand that you've had a hard past and I have too, you know? Besides, all I ever wanted was for a girl to care and love me...For me.

Sarah smiles and chuckles a little bit as she decides to crawl up towards Michael. She drags the blanket up with her and kisses him deeply with her bangs hanging loose over his head. Backing away slowly and stares at each other for a moment.

### SARAH

I know.

# MICHAEL

You know?

Sarah nods her head in agreement and continues to stare into his eyes and smiles.

SARAH I don't think I could ever hurt you, I love you.

With a sigh of relief, Michael looks at Sarah thinking how he could ever be so lucky. And he was. Michael grabs Sarah from the back of her head and pulls her towards him and kisses her. END SCENE. Michael sets himself up to sit against the wall and breathes as he ponders his past.

MICHAEL (O.S.) I love you too... Don't you ever forget that.

SARAH (0.S.) I won't. I promise.

Using what strength he can conjure up, he pulls himself towards the counter on his knees. Scanning the lines of empty beer bottles to find which of them have the brain killing liquid in it. He slowly comes up to one and yanks it from the counter, knocking a few over in its pass. Michael felt a great need to forget his past, but it can't help but to continue to haunt him. It tortures his him as he takes his sip to finish whatever's left within in it.

Michael drops the bottle and slaps his hands onto the counter and lifts himself up. As he hovers over the counter, he notices a reflection in the mirror that's not him. At least he's not the person he thought he knew. In the mirror, this was a totally different person, a lost soul. His eyes start to water as he gets up close and personal with himself in the mirror. You can see a slight anger that comes with his pain.

Michael covers his face with his palms and lashes out in anger, knocking over more bottles and crushing the cans on the ground. It's almost as if he's yelling at himself for feeling so stupid and hurt.

> MICHAEL No! Fuck you and fuck this shit! Ah!

He finds himself standing alone in a bathroom staring back at the stranger that stares back in his reflection. It becomes strangely quiet. CONTINUED:

SARAH (0.S.) Mike, we have to talk. It's important...

THE MIRACLE NEWS.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

MICHAEL Uh oh, did I do something I wasn't supposed to be doing?

He had a giggles to his sentence without realizing the seriousness of the conversation.

SARAH Michael, this is pretty serious.

Michael stops what he's doing and stands up to listen with a concerned look upon his face.

MICHAEL Oh. It... What's wrong? Is everything alright?

#### SARAH

Ι..

(Pauses)

SARAH Not really Mike...

MICHAEL

What? What is it?

Sarah has her arms folded and almost in tears. So scared of what's to come of it, until she finally just snaps.

SARAH I am pregnant okay!?

She stares at Michael with her watery eyes.

SARAH

I am pregnant...

Stormed with this outrageous news, Michael stood there with shock to his face. Sarah's eyes continue to water up and lets out a tear waiting for him to say something. Michael fights to find the words to say, anything.

> SARAH Michael? Please say something, please? Michael?

> > MICHAEL

I... Um, what? (He stutters)

MICHAEL We're pregnant? How'd this happen? We were so careful.

SARAH

I don't know! I am just a surprised as you are. But it happened... It really did.

Coming to a crossroad at this very moment in their lives. The big news has taken its toll on the couple and Sarah can't seem to get anything out of Michael. Waiting and hoping for an answer and comfort out of the situation.

SARAH

Look, I don't know what to do right now, Michael. I need you to answer me, I can't do this alone and I am not getting an abortion. It's out of the question. It just is. Please... Say something!

MICHAEL

No! No, no. We'll deal with it honey. I am sorry I was just trying to find the right words to say.

# SARAH

You mean it?

### MICHAEL

Mean what?

SARAH That we'll deal with it and be okay? CONTINUED: (2)

Michael puts on a smile while things start coming back to him. Reality sets in and he pulls her in closer, wiping her tears off of her cheek.

> MICHAEL Yeah, we'll deal with it. I mean, it's unexpected but I am happy and we'll be alright.

SARAH Really!? You're serious?

MICHAEL Yeah, we're having a baby!!

He leans in and kisses her and hugs her tightly.

MICHAEL Everything will be okay.

SARAH

You promise?

Michael pulls back and looks at her in the eye and brushes her hair to the side.

MICHAEL I promise... I love you

Sarah leans in to kiss him deeply with a smile and wraps her arms over the top of his neck. She has a burst of happy tears.

SARAH

I love you too!! END SCENE.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

SARAH (O.S.) We're having a little you.

MICHAEL (O.S.) We're having a little of both of us.

As Michael sat against the wall, he appeared to have been in the middle of finishing off yet another can of beer.

### CONTINUED:

He throws the can ahead of him onto the ground, making a aluminum sound echo throughout the bathroom. Shortly after there was a hick-up, he begins to fight and rush to the toilet to vomit into the wet bowl.

He coughs to catch his breath and stares blankly into the bowl of the toilet. Truly believing he belongs there. Clenching his eyes to try to stop thinking about the past, no matter what he tries. It follows... Michael flings back against the wall and wipes his mouth. Looking around in his own filth, he can't help but think what if?

JUMP CUT TO:

SHOPPING FOR AN IDEA OF FAMILY.

INT. STORE - DAY

SARAH So what do you think?

They're looking at a huge line of clothes that hang on the wall. It appears as if she's looking at girl clothes.

> SARAH I think it's going to be a girl!

MICHAEL What makes you think that?

SARAH Cause I said so! Plus it feels like it might be a girl...

She picks up a pair of pink clothing with a smile and holds it over her 5 month old belly.

MICHAEL Well I still say its a boy! I've always wanted a boy.

SARAH But I've always wanted a girl too...

# MICHAEL

How about... We just go with yellow for now until we go to the doctor's for the ultrasound?

SARAH

# Oh fine ... This one is pretty!

Michael steps back for a second and smiles while he watches his beloved pregnant fiancé. Thinking how he could be so lucky and couldn't be any happier than he is now. Sarah catches him and stops what she's doing and smiles back.

#### SARAH

What?

### MICHAEL

Hm? Oh nothing...

### SARAH

No, seriously what are you smiling about?

### MICHAEL

Just thinking about how lucky I am and how much I love the both of you. I still can't believe this is happening.

SARAH

Awe, well you know what?

#### MICHAEL

What's that?

# SARAH

I can't believe how lucky we are to have you too. We'll be a very happy family. Cause you'll be the best Dad in the world and we love you too!

Sarah walks over to grab Michael's hand and leans up to kiss him and cups her hand over his cheek. She giggles.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Michael and Sarah pushes a cart full of baby products and clothing while holding hands. They stop near the car as a family passes by them looking happy and talking.

MICHAEL That's going to be us pretty soon.

SARAH I know, I can't wait! Can you believe it?

# MICHAEL

No.

### SARAH

Neither can I... But it's going to be special and sooner or later we're going to have to believe it.

They turn to walk away and Sarah clings to Michael's arm as he pushes the cart forward. They're both smiling and giggling. END SCENE.

JUMP CUT TO:

# RUSHING TO EARN THE BUCKS.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

We see Michael rushing around the house picking up a few things while he attempts to get ready. Sarah's sitting on the couch reading her book looking another month or two pregnant.

# MICHAEL

Honey!?

Sarah doesn't hear this because she's too into her book. She often reads to get away from reality and Michael continues to rush for work.

MICHAEL

Honey!? Hello?

Michael tries again. Sarah finally looks up to Michael in surprise trying to figure out what's going on.

SARAH Huh? What are you doing?

MICHAEL I gotta get going for work honey.

SARAH

Oh, okay!

MICHAEL I won't be home till late and I am just letting you know.

SARAH Okay well, have a great day at work!

MICHAEL I'll try, I hate it there.

Michael jokes. Only because he hates labor jobs and its not something he wants to do. But he does like to make light of it.

SARAH

Oh stop it, you'll be fine. I love you.

He leans over the couch to kiss her good-bye.

MICHAEL I love you too and be good!

SARAH

I'll try...

Michael descends from Sarah to grab his coat and heads to the door.

SARAH Stay away from the candy! It's not healthy for you!

Sarah yells after him as he opens the front door.

# MICHAEL

I'll try!

He shuts the door behind him. END SCENE.

WORK & LIFE CAN BE TOUGH.

INT. MICHAEL'S JOB - NIGHT

Michael strolls the newly waxed floor at his work as he enjoys his first lunch break. Going over what looks good for lunch in the frozen aisle.

AL

(Over the PA) Mike Jones, can you please report to the office to see Al? Mike Jones to the back office please. (Clicks)

The announcement caught Michael off guard considering he has done nothing wrong as far as he was concerned. He assumed they may want him to do something after his break. Although he felt a slight cringe in his guts, Michael ascends from the frozen aisle.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

As Michael nears the back office the more nervous he became. Hoping it was next to nothing more than a request to have done. He reaches the office door and knocks gently on it, pushing it open.

> MICHAEL You wanted see me, sir?

Al spins around in his chair towards Michael with a surprised look on his face.

AL Ah yes, please close the door and have a seat. (MORE) AL (CONT'D) There's something I have been meaning talk to you about.

Al said sternly. Michael closes the door and takes a seat with a bit more curiosity and concern.

### MICHAEL

Is there something wrong?

AL

Um, well yes... There's been a complaint about you and it's not a good one. Then again, no complaint is good.

Michael's fear has been realized. He knew somehow it was going to be bad and he knows he's been good and hasn't doing anything wrong. Michael's almost certain of it!

> MICHAEL What do you mean? By whom? I've followed all the rules and done what any of the other managers have asked me to do.

AL I can't say who Mike, you know that... But I can say it's by another associate.

# MICHAEL

About what!?

Al sighs knowing he hates this part of the job but he continues on.

AL

Look, another associate claims that you left the bathroom without washing your hands and as comp...

Michael scoffs in disbelief on what he's hearing and cuts Al off.

### MICHAEL

I, what? That's insane! I've never left the bathroom like that! I always have washed my hands before AND after I go to the bathroom. (MORE)

### MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Anybody that knows me, knows I am a bit of a clean freak. Have you've not seen where I work? It's dirty Al!

AL

Well, be that as it may. It's company's policy that we just can't take the chance if there's a complaint about something like that cause you're dealing with food. So the bottom line is that we have to let you go.

MICHAEL

Company policy!? Are you kidding me?

AL

No, we're not kidding... I am sorry Mike.

MICHAEL So you're firing me even under false accusations?

AL

Yes, I am sorry. But there's nothing I can do about it.

Michael's mouth drops while leaning back in his chair. He doesn't know how he should feel, angry? Sad? Disbelief? It's a possibility of feeling all of them.

MICHAEL Al, I can't lose this job man. I have a child on the way and a family to support. You're telling me you can't do absolutely anything?

AL

I can't, I am sorry. You're fired. You'll get a check today and one in the mail two weeks from now.

Al hands him a check. Michael doesn't do anything for a moment and decides to stand up and grab the check from Al. Michael tears off his badge and tosses it into Al's lap.

### MICHAEL

Fine.

Michael storms out of the room and leaves.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Opening the door and hopping into his crappy car. He slams the door angrily, only to find himself sitting in silence. Reviewing what had just happened. A family of customers walked by, looking happy while chatting. As Michael studies them, he had convinced himself that it'll be alright. So he started his car and slaps his seat belt on and drove off. END SCENE.

# INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Michael opens the door to his apartment and tosses his keys onto the counter and heads to the bedroom. Sarah lays quietly in the bedroom with the lamp on. Not reading or anything. Just lying there and thinking. She turns around at the sound of Michael shuffling in. To her surprise, he's home early.

# SARAH

You're home early?

### MICHAEL

Yeah.

He undresses down to a T-shirt and boxers and crawls into bed and sighs. Michael attempts to cover any negative feelings he had on the car ride over. He puts on a positive attitude and lies.

> MICHAEL I looked at the schedule wrong. I didn't even have to work today, so I came back home.

> > SARAH

Oh... Goof Ball!

#### MICHAEL

Are you okay?

Sarah seemed a bit quiet and not quite herself at the moment. Michael caught on pretty quickly and turns her over.

### MICHAEL

What's wrong?

SARAH Oh, nothing... Just been depressed lately and tired is all.

MICHAEL Well is there anything I can do to make it better or?

SARAH No, I think it's just the pregnancy. I'll be alright... Don't worry.

Sarah rolls back over but Michael stopped her real quick and puts his hand on her belly and looks at her.

> MICHAEL Hey, it's my job to worry. (Whispers)

#### MICHAEL

And if there's anything I can do to make you happy. I will do it. Okay?

SARAH

I am fine. I am sure it's just the pregnancy and it'll pass okay? I'm sorry, I just don't feel like I am in good mood tonight.

#### MICHAEL

Okay then...

Sarah rolls back over and pulls the covers up. Michael looks over at Sarah with a worried look upon his face. He leans against the headboard of the bed and rolls over and slips under the blanket and lies down. They both stare off into a blank space. END SCENE.

JUMP CUT TO:

The cold water soars through the air from the shower head. Michael sits carelessly as the water drains down his face and soaks his clothes. He can't but to just burst out crying over all the things he's lost so fast and yet so confused on how it happened so fast.

He kicks the wall in anger and covers his face with his palms and moving his hands swiping over his wet hair from his face.

MICHAEL Oh god, why is this happening to me!? Damn it!

His phone sits on top of the counter on silent, it shows that he's missed 10 calls from Lisa. (phone rings) (0.S.)

THE LIES, THE TRUTH, & THE QUICK GOOD-BYE.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Michael stands in the middle of his living room alone with a yellow piece of paper that looks like a quick note. The note reads:

"Michael, I just can't do this any longer. I left for my Mother's and I am not coming back... I'm sorry. Sarah." (Phone continues to ring)

Michael answers it.

#### MICHAEL

Hello?

Sarah breathes softly on the other end and you can tell she's having a hard time making this phone call.

# MICHAEL

Hello? Sarah?

# SARAH

Michael...

#### MICHAEL

Sarah, what's with the note? Is everything alright? What's going on?

SARAH

I meant what I meant on the note Michael... And no, everything's not okay.

# MICHAEL

What are you talking about? Tell me what's going on!

SARAH

I am telling you I am not coming back.

MICHAEL

This is a bit random, I don't understand!

SARAH

The baby's not yours okay Michael!? It never was!

# MICHAEL

What!?

Michael appears to be shaken by this news with his eyes start to water up, he becomes angry.

#### SARAH

It was never yours and I've never loved you. Michael, I cheated on you and I am in love with another man. An older man!

#### MICHAEL

What... What about everything we ever had? The apartment? The baby stuff? Are you telling me this was all a lie!?

### SARAH

You were just a bull-shit reason to get by Michael. I lost contact with him and when I finally found him, I made it a responsibility to make sure he knew about his baby.

## MICHAEL

But I...

# SARAH

Good-bye Michael.

Sarah hung up before he could say anything more than that, stunned with tears rolling down his cheek.

MICHAEL

... Did everything I could ...

He's left with everything he can't afford. Michael lashes out and throws his phone and sits down on the couch next to the window. He sobs to himself, everything's falling apart. END SCENE.

THE NIGHT TO FORGET.

INT. BAR - DAY

Michael sits alone at the bar. Miserable as he takes a sip of his sixth iced cold beer of the night, he often pulls out his phone in hopes of someone, anybody contacting him. No texts, no missed calls, slipping his phone back into his coat. The woman bartender, Lisa walks up to check up on Michael.

> LISA Hey Mike, another one?

# MICHAEL

Sure, please.

LISA Okay, coming right up! Lisa turns around but hesitates before taking off. She folds her arms down onto the counter and leans towards Michael with concern.

LISA

Is everything okay? You're looking kind of more down than usual.

Michael wore a smile and tried to act like everything's okay just so he could avoid confrontation.

MICHAEL

I am fine.

# LISA

Are you sure?

MICHAEL Yeah! I am alright, thanks for asking though.

He answered quickly, Lisa still continued to look concerned and worried. She doesn't seem to buy it. But she decides to let it go while she re-assures Michael.

LISA

Mike?

# MICHAEL

Yeah?

LISA I am always here if you need me, you know that right?

MICHAEL

Thank you, I really appreciate that Lisa. But I am fine, really.

Michael forces a positive attitude towards Lisa to help make everything go away for now. Then Lisa grabs his arm and pats it with a smile.

> LISA Okay. I'll go fetch you that drink.

She turns away with a smile to go grab a beer. Michael aims to finish his current beer.

CONTINUED: (2)

After setting down his empty glass, he gazes around the bar to watch people have a good time and laughing. Especially the couples. A few moments later, two of Michael's friends popped up behind him to purposely scare him and surprise him. Michael jumped to realize his friends spotted him from across the bar. They got smiles on their faces.

#### GARRY

What's up Mikey!?

KENNETH

It's been awhile! Where have you've bee?

Garry and Kenneth cheerfully took a seat side by side of their buddy Michael.

MICHAEL

Nothing, just been pretty busy with life. You know how it is. What are you guys doing here?

KENNETH

Ah, well we were thinking it might be fun to come out and drink for a bit. We didn't know you'd be here, but that makes the night that much better.

Lisa walked back over to hand Michael his beer only to be surprised that Michael has company. She places her hands on her hips with a smile.

> LISA Can I get you gentlemen something to drink?

> > GARRY

Jack and Coke please.

KENNETH I'll just have a Heineken. Thanks.

LISA

Alright, coming up!

# GARRY

So how's the girlfriend and the baby coming along?

CONTINUED: (3)

Kenneth darted eyes with irritation towards Garry while trying to secretly silence Gary but sighs after it was too late. Michael raises his eyebrows in surprise, he would've thought he'd heard by now.

# MICHAEL

It's not coming along.

Michael takes a drink, hoping he didn't have to sit there and talk about it. Garry immediately looked like he regretted even asking the question. But it was too late and already reeled in.

# KENNETH

Sorry Mike, but apparently dumbass doesn't keep up with a simple Facebook status!

Kenneth reaches around Michael to smack Garry on the shoulder with an upset look on his face.

GARRY What!? I am sorry I didn't know...

MICHAEL

It's fine really. It's not my kid, she cheated on me with somebody older. I'd prefer if we didn't talk about this tonight.

KENNETH That sucks dude, that's messed up.

GARRY

I am sorry, you don't need her Mike. She's a whore and you deserve better! We're going to have fun tonight. How's that?

MICHAEL Hmph, sounds good to me.

Garry pats Michael on the back as a simple comfort. Smiling and turns his attention towards Lisa.

> GARRY Hey Lisa! Three shots please!

CONTINUED: (4)

Lisa walks over to the group and places her hands to the counter of the bar holding herself up.

LISA Three shots of what?

KENNETH Um, let's go with Whiskey!

LISA Alrighty, give me a second.

She pulls out three shot glasses and filled it with the dark liquid up half way. The three friends lift up their shots mid-air. Lisa tends other costumers.

GARRY

To moving on.

They mutter to themselves in agreement and knocked back their shots. After smiles and trains of shot after shots, they had a good night of fun and getting drunk.

CUT TO:

EXT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Michael stumbles drunkenly out of Lisa's car with Garry and Kenneth in the backseat, Michael said his good-byes to his friends. They hand him a pack of beer to carry with him. Lisa stops Michael before he stumbles off. Michael jogs around to her side of the car and leans upon the open window. They stare at each other for a moment.

#### LISA

Um, Michael?

# MICHAEL

Yeah?

Lisa seems to read into Michael's lies about being okay. She has a sad look in her eyes, she leaned over to give Michael a kiss on the lips. To his surprise, Lisa leaned back and bit her lips.

> MICHAEL What was that for?

She shakes her head slightly while she continues to look at him in the eyes.

LISA Just wanted to let you know that people do care about you... I care about you. And I don't want to see you get hurt.

### MICHAEL

I know... I am trying.

LISA I know you are and no one's blaming you for having a hard time with this... And hey?

Michael looks down and nods.

MICHAEL

Yeah?

LISA Please be careful.

MICHAEL

I will.

Michael steps away from the car as Lisa pulls away slowly. She couldn't help but to peek in the rearview mirror to see Michael standing alone in the road. Lisa lets out a single tear and wipes it away quickly before the guys saw anything.

Michael walked over to pick up his case of beer and makes his way to the door to his apartment door.

CUT TO:

INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Michael opens up a beer but halts to think and review his already dramatic past and what had happened tonight at the bar. He resumes taking a drink of his beer and grabs his case off of the counter and walks away to find himself closing the door the bathroom. <u>END SCENE.</u> INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

With the shower still spitting out water, Michael crashes onto the floor sopping wet from getting out of the tub. His eyes red from crying, and he attempts to fight to get up onto this knees. Michael crawls towards the bathroom counter to lift himself up to the mirror to take one last look at himself before cause it'll be the last. He stumbles back to his knees and grabs the black inked pen on his way down and starts crying every so hard.

He brings up his other hand while spitting out the cap to the pen onto the floor. He writes: (I'm sorry.)

The ink drains down his hand just like he felt his life drained from him so quickly and so hard. He grabs an object from the counter and pulls it into view. A black loaded gun sits in his hand as it sits by his waist.

He brings it up to his head, Michael can't help but to cry even harder to finally come to a realization that he can't bare the pain anymore. He can't live like this anymore... He's done... and as one last tear follows his cheek bone, he cocks the gun.

He begins to slowly pull the trigger.

CUT TO:

BLACK.

THE END.

Dedicated to Austin Robinson.

Screenplay By

Jeffrey M.B. Hibbard

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26.