

Hardcore Hearts®

by
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FADE IN:

Sacramento, California. Circa 2005

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

A guy puts on eyeliner in the mirror, straightening hair and putting on skinny jeans.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Another guy puts on a hoodie and a hat, and slips into some chuck taylor converse shoes.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

A rocker-girl is getting ready to go out, putting on make up in the mirror.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

A punk kid puts on his SHARP jacket, and laces up his boots. Someone else puts X's on their hands with sharpie, puts on a studded belt, chain wallet, etc.

INT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

The Hardcore music, blaring from the stage, is overwhelmingly loud and heavy. The venue is packed. A merchandise booth separates the 21+ crowd at the bar. Eighteen and overs dance, sweat and mingle. The audience is comprised of emo kids, hardcore kids and metal kids. All are dressed in darker clothing, some with black military style hats, eyeliner etc. The banner behind the band: HAND OF BLOOD.

The band, is all dressed in hard-core apparel. LUKE (20) tattooed, Rocker/emo style, is jumping around on stage with a microphone in his hands, while his band plays along. Girls nearest the stage look up at him in adoration. *

MARK (22) the most clean-cut looking of the group, playing guitar. JAYCE, (early 20s) good looking, is wearing a Mormon CTR Ring, playing guitar also. He is wearing a wristband on both wrists. COREY, (early 20s) accompanies them on stage, playing bass. He has X's on his hands, and XXX tattooed on his neck. He is wearing a straight edge T-shirt. SAM (20, African American) plays drums. He looks very Skinhead-Punk.

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LUKE (V.O.)

The Hardcore Music scene in Sacramento, California. The only religion we could all agree on.

In the audience, several kids create a dance-pit. They are flailing their arms in a windmill fashion, punching and karate-kicking the air. Some are pushing each other as they stomp around in a circle.

LUKE (V.O.)

Hardcore was our outlet. We played at a club called "The Scene" cuz they let us be ourselves. And I screamed my lungs out.

Luke intensely screams into a microphone.

LUKE (V.O.)(CONT'D)

This is our Band: Hand of Blood. There was something about the energy and passion on stage that transformed us into Kings. We are all religious. Some of us are more traditional, some have belief systems. I am a Christian.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE OF GOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH - DAY

Large flat screen TV's on either side of the stage, display the performers. It is lit up like a Christmas tree. Written across the TV screens are the lyrics to "Shout to the Lord."

Luke is leading the band in front. He is singing into the microphone while strumming his acoustic guitar strapped on. He is wearing a dress shirt that doesn't fit, and wrinkled. His tattoos peek out of his shirt when he raises his arms to worship. Mark is next to Luke, playing bass. Other back-up singers accompany them on stage.

There are about 200 High School kids, all raising their arms in worship. They're jumping up and down, singing along to the music.

An older crowd of adults concentrate in the back. Some adults disapprove. Others are sucked into the power of the room, enjoying themselves and slightly participating. PASTOR SCOTT (early 30s) stands in the back, with a nervous look on his face. He's getting nasty looks from some of his peers watching with him. He watches Luke as the other adults are paying more attention to Mark.

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The music goes on establishing the excitement and power of the event ensuing. The last song goes quiet at the end, as Pastor Scott walks on stage.

LUKE

Yes, Lord!

Pastor Scott gives Luke a smile and quick hug on his way downstage. Pastor Scott grabs an available microphone and addresses the crowd with tons of energy.

SCOTT

Can't you just feel God's presence in here tonight? Yes. Yes. And how about that worship huh?....

CUT TO:

EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Pastor Scott pulls up to a new suburban house, in an S.U.V. full of guys. Freshly cut grass, and well maintained landscaping.

LUKE (V.O.)

I met Pastor Scott in High School. He led me to the Church and became my mentor.

SCOTT

Billy, do you mind if I talk to Luke for a second?

They pile out of the S.U.V., and goof around as they head inside.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Luke, I've been getting some complaints about your worship style.

LUKE

What kind of complaints?

SCOTT

I don't know how to put this. It's, it's too... punk'd.

LUKE

Punk'd?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

Yeah, it's too heavy. We have to be careful not to offend anybody. Is that a new tattoo?

Luke ignores the tattoo reference.

LUKE

What kind of people are we talking about? Didn't you see them in there? You said yourself you could feel God's presence.

SCOTT

Luke! Can you at least tone it down?

LUKE

For God's sake it's not like I'm screaming or anything.

SCOTT

Don't let that secular stuff you listen to influence what's acceptable in church. Now, if you don't tone it down, I'm afraid I'm gonna have to find another worship Captain. C'mon Luke, you're my number one bro. You know this. Now, would you let me do my job?

LUKE

Tone it down how?

SCOTT

Take a look at yourself, Luke. Your image is very threatening to some. Maybe start there?

LUKE

(reluctantly)
Alright, I'll try.

SCOTT

You're a faithful servant of the Lord, Luke. And he will use you to bring many into his arms. Now, I've got a little something for you. Happy belated twenty-first birthday, buddy.

He pulls out a neatly wrapped box from the glove compartment, and gives it to Luke. He opens it to find a leather bound Bible in it with the name, "Luke Masterson," embossed on it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUKE
(sincere)
Thanks, Pastor Scott.

SCOTT
You're welcome. Now let's dive
into that puppy, huh?

CUT TO:

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A nice house with pictures of a cookie-cutter family everywhere. Potpourri brewing in the kitchen. Knickknacks and crafts adorn every open space. The 5 guys (early 20s) Mark, and Luke sit around in the living room, in a semi circle like atmosphere. PASTOR SCOTT leads them all.

SCOTT
So, does anyone have anything
thoughtful to relate to the
passage?

LUKE
Actually, I don't get it.

SCOTT
What don't you get, Luke?

LUKE
My friend Jayce is trying not to
be gay. Why would God make him
that way? Is he setting us up to
fail?

SCOTT
Oh... um, well it's... sometimes
God puts temptations in our lives
to test our real faith. Everyone's
tests are different.

LUKE
So now GOD is tempting us?

SCOTT
Listen, God will not give us
anything that we cannot handle.
You can't trust your feelings. The
Spirit is willing but the flesh is
weak.

LUKE
But he was born this way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

No he wasn't. It's a choice. And it sounds to me like you need to continue to encourage your friend to uphold God's will.

Luke frowns in disapproval. He's obviously holding in his anger. The group shows interest in Luke's opinion, then nervously looks to Pastor Scott, unsure how to react.

LUKE (V.O.)

That's when everything started to change. I was having more and more questions, that Pastor Scott could not answer.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Luke sits on his couch reading his bible with a frown on his face. He aggressively circles a passage with a red pen putting question marks and explanation points next to it. Luke remembers a conversation with Pastor Scott.

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - CONTINUOUS

TYE (23) Gorgeous rocker/emo-girl, walks through the club. Her presence captures the attention of every guy in the club. The guys all stare at her as she passes by. We are at the same concert from earlier. Hand of Blood plays. Tye makes her way through the crowd to the front. JOHNNO (early 20's) is behind the merchandise table, notices Tye, and begins to stare. His girlfriend AUDREY (early 20's) catches him and pulls his face toward her, with an accusatory expression. *

Tye walks into the crowd and starts staring up at Luke. He looks over and catches her glance. They smile. *

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - BACK PARKING LOT - LATER

The band members load up their equipment into the truck. Gabbie (20) an obese, rocker-girl, enters. They all greet her with hugs and kisses.

GABBIE

Dudes, "Arbitrary Mass" show on Friday! Who's gonna be my date?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARK

I'll be your date, my darling.

SAM

Uh-Uh! You'll have to get through me first!

GABBIE

(laughing)

Boys, boys, There's enough of me for all of you!

JOHNO

That was never in question.

They snicker and Gabbie shoots him a glare.

AUDREY

I think you just lost your ticket to the show.

Gabbie quickly looks at Luke with longing, but he is watching Tye walk by.

LUKE

Guys, I'll be right back.

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - LATER

Luke hustles over to Tye, who's talking with friend, smoking cigarettes. They notice Luke just standing there and stop their conversation.

LUKE

Hi. I'm Luke.

TYE

I know.

LUKE

Okay. I saw you looking at me in there, so I...

TYE

Yeah, well you were kinda on stage.

LUKE

Right... So, what'd you think?

TYE'S FRIEND

You guys were better last time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TYE

Yeah.

LUKE

Touche'.

Luke gets embarrassed as he realizes his verbal clumsiness, and he feels silly.

Awkward silence.

Luke searches for something to say as Tye and her friend, smirk at each other, smoking their cigarettes.

TYE'S FRIEND

She's Tye.

TYE

Tye.

Luke looks down at Tye's "Arbitrary Mass" belt-buckle. It has a cross with a red line through it.

LUKE

Arbitrary Mass, huh? They're playing here in a few weeks.

TYE

I know. They're my favorite band.

Another awkward silence.

LUKE

K, so, I'll see you at the show?

TYE

(playful)
Most likely.

Luke walks away, and Tye watches him as he goes. Her friend mumbles something to her about Luke and Tye pushes her in defense. Luke looks back and notices her watching him walk away. They share another smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

The group is amongst a large crowd of Hardcore, emo, and metal kids, out on the front deck. They're all smoking, talking and hanging out. Audrey in Johnno's lap, Gabbie reading the posters on the wall, and Sam playing with his brass knuckles. Someone randomly starts tapping and another joins in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Before you know it, a full-on jam session begins. The moment carries on for a little bit before the group's attention is diverted to Luke as he walks in.

Luke walks to them, greeting everyone. His hair is nicely combed and he's wearing an obnoxious sweater with a wrinkled, un-tucked, dress shirt underneath. He still has a studded belt on and his chain wallet, showing that he doesn't ever dress like this.

JOHNO

What the fuck is that?

LUKE

What?

AUDREY

(sarcastic)

No, I love coming to shows in my mom's sweaters.

They all laugh. Luke takes off the sweater and dress shirt, and puts it in his side bag. There's a band T-shirt underneath. He un-tucks his chain wallet, and messes up his hair.

LUKE

Shutup. I'm supposed to start "toning it down." You wanna come with me next time, Johnno?

JOHNO

Ask me again and see what happens.

Corey laughs.

LUKE

Oh, you wanna come?

COREY

Dude, you couldn't drag me to that brainwashing shit.

LUKE

Here we go.

COREY

Nah, Religion alters the mind, just like drugs and alcohol.

JOHNO

Christians don't use drugs and alcohol.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

COREY

Whatever.

SAM

Shutup Johnno. And you, spare me the straightedge shit. And you need to start realizing that God is imaginary.

LUKE

What?

JAYCE

Sam, half of America still believes in Jesus Christ.

LUKE

Yeah.

JOHNO

More than half of America still believe Mulletts are kick ass.

COREY

Irregardless stop pushing your Jesus Christ Superstar on us "Gentiles."

Gabbie raises her arm like in elementary school.

GABBIE

Um, actually, gentiles are non-Jewish, Corey. Not non-Christian. You're all gentiles. Irregardless isn't a word, idiot.

They laugh.

COREY

Whatever, dude. You know what I meant.

SAM

(poking fun)
Too much weed?

Corey shoots him a look.

JOHNO

Wait a minute. Sam, you think you can give Luke or Corey shit when you're a SHARP? Is that even a real gang?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARK

(sarcastic)

And what is it you believe in,
Johno?

JOHNO

Your mom.

AUDREY

Okay, all you guys have one type
of religion or another. I mean,
the definition of Religion is: A
specific fundamental set of
beliefs and practices, generally
agreed upon by a group of persons
or sect. Or something that someone
follows devoutly.

*

They all look at Audrey confused, wondering where that
came from.

*

JAYCE

Okay?

AUDREY

What? Look it up, Joseph Smith
lover.

*

JOHNO

(trying to change the
subject)

We all going back to Luke and
Jayce's for an after party?

*

LUKE

Do we ever do anything else?

MARK

Sweet!

GABBIE

Well they're almost on. I'm going
inside.

A "Peckerwood" Skinhead guy (the SHARPs rival gang) walks
past Sam. His other gang members all with him, one guy is
very beat up. They stare each other down. Sam's fellow
SHARPs appear from the woodworks and stand behind him in
defense. The Peckerwoods bump Sam on the shoulder as they
walk past.

LUKE (V.O.)

When Sam was younger, his family
lived in one of the worst areas of
Sac.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LUKE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He never grew out of that gang mentality. When he was in high school, he joined the Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice. The SHARPS.

INT. TATTOO SHOP - DAY

The day before.

The shop has metal posters, and Gothic apparel on the walls. A typical tattoo parlor. PUCK (late 20s) is tattooing the skinhead guy from the club with a 40 next to him with headphones on. He's not beat up and is in the chair getting a swastika on his back.

LUKE (V.O.)

SHARPs look just like the Neo Nazi skins, only they hate racism. In Sacramento, the SHARPs are the more aggressive ones.

The SHARPs see the swastika immediately, and look at each other infuriated. Sam grabs Puck, by the arm, nearly messing him up.

SAM

Puck, what the FUCK do you think you're doing?

Puck glares at him, then puts his tattoo gun down. He gets up and walks out with Sam.

INT. TATTOO SHOP - BACK ROOM - DAY

Sam grabs a hold of Puck and throws him against the wall.

SAM

What the fuck's wrong with you?

Puck breaks loose. He then pushes Sam in retaliation.

PUCK

Dude, shop's not getting that much business lately. I need all the money I can get.

SAM

So you commit fucking treason? Alright, look. This is how you're going to finish that fucking tattoo...

INT. TATTOO SHOP - DAY

Puck finishes the tattoo, and gives him a hand mirror. The customer gets up to look at it in the mirror. It's a Swastika with each side made into penises with the writing: "pecker lover!" When he sees it, he becomes enraged. He leaps out of his chair and punches Puck. Sam and the other SHARP run in and start to beat the customer severely.

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

The band on stage rocks out while the crowd shares in their energy. Several kids try to crowd surf but it's short lived. Luke watches the band, thoroughly enjoying himself. The band finishes a song. Matt the singer addresses the crowd.

LUKE (V.O.)

Arbitrary Mass. If we were Kings,
they were Gods. Nobody loved them
as much as Tye.

MATT

Alright, this next song is
dedicated to all you guys, for
supporting us all this time. Don't
let 'em hold you down.

Tye walks next to Luke. He looks over and catches her glance. They smile. The music is deafening.

TYE

Hey, what's up?

LUKE

WHAT?

TYE

WHAT'S GOING ON?

LUKE

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

TYE

WANNA GO OUTSIDE?

Luke motions outside, she nods in confirmation. She turns, grabs his hand and leads him through the crowd. Luke is enamored at her holding his hand.

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Kids sit around smoking cigarettes. Luke and Tye walk out and sit down. Luke is still holding her hand. Tye looks at him smirking and looks down at their hands. Luke lets go.

LUKE

Oh, sorry.

Tye chuckles at him. She scoots over real close to him. He shifts a little. She is invading his comfort zone. She takes out a cigarette and lights it noticing a tattoo that catches her eye.

TYE

What's that one mean?

LUKE

Spirit.

TYE

Are you religious?

LUKE

Yeah, I guess you could say that.
You?

TYE

No. I used to go, but um, I hate it actually... It's just hard for me to swallow the hypocrisy.

LUKE

Like what?

She leans in close to whisper in his ear, very seductive like.

TYE

Like premarital S-E-X

Luke backs up a little, very uncomfortable.

LUKE

How's that hypocritical?

TYE

Well, I've searched the entire bible for it, and I never found anything concrete. I mean, I found all sorts of shit on all different kinds of sexual sin. Like um, Bestiality, incest, adultery, and hella shit on homosexuality.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Yeah, I'm not too fond of that last one.

TYE

You're gay?

LUKE

My best friend is. He's trying not to be, though.

TYE

(confused)

Oh. okay? Well um, what are you guys doing after the show tonight?

LUKE

Well everybody always ends up coming back to my house. You know, it's like sort of a safe place for everybody to be, so we always do that.

Tye looks at Luke awaiting an invitation. She laughs after the moment passes Luke by.

TYE

You're really bad at this for a local rock star.

LUKE

Ah, yeah. Rock star, I don't know about that. I do get hit on a lot though.

Tye raises her eyebrows at him.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Well, not a lot, just... I mean like... okay, not pretty ones. Okay, some are pretty, I just, um...

Luke, embarrassed, drops his head with a sigh.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You wanna come over?

TYE

I do.

LUKE

Okay, cool.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TYE

I guess maybe, I'll have to be the rock star, and uh, you can be the cute fan.

LUKE

(smile)

Deal. You're more of a rock star than I am anyway.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT, LATER

All of Luke's friends are here, except Sam. People fill each room completely. Smoke coats the top of every room. The kitchen is a hodgepodge of liquor, shot glasses, plastic cups, beer cans galore, munchies, and a mess of party trash.

Down the hall, in the bathroom, two random party go-ers do lines of cocaine. People in the living room smoke hookah. Kids all throughout the house have joints or a pipe in their hands.

INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hardcore music plays quietly to drown out the noise of the party downstairs. Luke and Tye talk on the bed.

TYE

So, do you always have parties like this, Christian boy?

LUKE

Well it's not how I like to party, but, I mean I'd just rather everybody be here. You know, safe.

TYE

You're cute.

Jayce walks in with a guy, flirtatiously laughing together. Jayce see's Tye and quickly looses his flirtatious smile, hoping it would go unnoticed.

JAYCE

Oh!... Hey, I was uh, um, looking for... for Mark. Um, h-have you seen him?

LUKE

He's not up here, man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAYCE

Ok, then I'm just gonna go, uh
find him.

Jayce leaves.

LUKE (V.O.)

I laughed inside every time Jayce
pretended to be straight. None of
us cared, except him and the rest
of his church. About a year ago,
he was on his mission. One of his
houses, was a little more
receptive than the rest.

INT. MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Jayce and the man are on the couch, kissing, in only
their underwear. They take each others underwear off and
begin to move down on each other. Jayce becomes
uncomfortable and stops. He gets up, grabs his clothes
and puts them on. *

MAN

Hey, uh, what's wrong?

JAYCE

Nothing, I... I'm sorry. I, I
can't do this. I have to repent.
Um, It's not you you're very sexy,
I just... I have to go. I can't do
this.

MAN

Aw, what a fucking tease!

LUKE (V.O.)

He made me swear never to tell
anyone about that day.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT, LATER
Present day.

Same as before, but Tye has taken off her jacket. They
sit and talk.

TYE

How 'bout a drink?

Tye gets up, trying to change the subject. Luke doesn't
know why she's bothered, but senses her discomfort.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

I don't know if I should.

TYE

Suit yourself.

(Seductive)

I wouldn't want to tempt you with
"Sin."

She kisses him ever so softly. She grazes her finger
along his face, and under his chin.

LUKE

Okay, I'll have a drink or two.

TYE

Yeah?

LUKE

But I'm not getting drunk.

TYE

Okay.

They kiss. Tye walks down the stairs. Johno pops his head
out from the closet. *

JOHNO *

She's getting you to drink? You're
gonna fuck, fuck, fuck!

LUKE

What're you doing here? Where's
Audrey? *

Audrey pops out to join them. *

AUDREY *

Yeah, where is Audrey? Oh, she's
gonna pop your cherry.

LUKE

(quietly)

I'm not going to sleep with her,
dude.

AUDREY *

Oh, c'mon, it's easy. You just do
this...

Johno and Audrey make out very silly.

JOHNO

And then, you could pull, you
could pull hair.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHNO (CONT'D)

And grope and stuff. And then grab. You can get your hands all over here. And then grab right down, down here, and just do some of that.

They grope each other. Johnno slaps Luke jovially.

AUDREY

And then 23 seconds later, you're a new man.

LUKE

You guys are stupid! Get out of here!

JOHNO

Don't worry, we're not going to tell anyone.

*
*

LUKE

Get the hell outta here!

JOHNO

Alright. Babe, let's give the rookie some privacy. Good luck dude!

The room is empty and Luke patiently waits. Tye returns with four shots, and a bottle of vodka.

TYE

Alright.

LUKE

What is this?

TYE

You've never had liquor before? have you?

Luke shakes his head embarrassed. Tye smiles at the thought of how much this will effect him.

TYE (CONT'D)

Here's to asking the hard questions. Cheers.

She interlocks her arm with his. They take a shot simultaneously. Luke violently coughs, trying not to vomit. She giggles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LUKE

Holy crap! It's like nail polish remover! Let's just get it over with.

Tye giggles. They drink. He coughs again and she laughs. She wipes his chin with her finger, then licks her finger. Luke is still coughing.

TYE

So um... where were we?

She leans into him.

LUKE

Oh, the uh, validity, the bible's validity through centuries of translation.

TYE

No, I mean... where... were... we?

She kisses him in between each word. Luke starts to lose focus.

LUKE

About to...

Kiss again.

TYE

(Quietly)
Lose your virginity?

She pulls him backward onto the bed, kissing him. Luke can barely get a word out in between her kisses.

LUKE

No...

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT
Present day

A bunch of people all crowd around the kitchen Island pouring shots. Audrey and Johnno do a shot and yell up to the ceiling victoriously.

COREY

Dude, Audrey, you seen Sam? Johnno?

Johnno grabs a beer and accidentally drops it. He picks it up, and cracks it in front of Corey, so it sprays all over him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COREY (CONT'D)

Yo! What the fuck dude! Fucking luses!

Corey gives up and heads down the hall, to the back bedrooms in a huff.

JOHNO

I'm sorry bro! It's poured, I poured it already. It's poured. I already poured it.

EXT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Corey walks down the street pissed off. He sees police lights in the distance and follows them. He approaches slowly and hides in the bushes to see what the commotion is for. He sees what looks like The SHARPs getting handcuffed. A cop spots Corey and walks up behind him.

COP 1

Hey! What are you doing here?

He tries to run away, but another cop catches him.

COP 2

Woah-oh-oh. Where you goin?

COREY

Oh, c'mon guys. I didn't even see anything, alright?

COP 1

Then why were you running?

COP 2

Wait, I know you!

LUKE (V.O.)

Corey's mom died of an overdose, when he was a kid. That's how his brother started dealing. So he started learning about straightedege.

CUT TO:

INT. COREY'S FRONT DOOR - DAWN

The front door bursts open, Police rushing in.

POLICE

GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR MOTHAFUCKA!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He's thrown to the floor with tremendous force and handcuffed aggressively.

INT. COREY'S HOUSE - DAY

Corey and his father sit on the couch in nothing but their shorts and some handcuffs. Corey squirms under the cushions to keep warm.

DAD

I told you, he hasn't lived here for months.

COP

Just like you told us there wasn't anything in his old room.

DAD

I told you that's my gun, and I have a permit for it.

COREY

That's MY room! And you're fucking everything up in there!

(shouting down the hall)

That poster is a rare signed collectible! Be careful with my shit for Christ's sake!

DAD

(to Corey)

First your mother, and now your brother.

Corey looks in his dad's eyes with anger holding back tears. Tears run down Corey's Dad's face. They hug each other awkwardly due to the handcuffs.

LUKE (V.O.)

That's when Corey went full-on Straightedge, abstaining from drugs and alcohol. Some of them were vegans and virgins. If you're hardcore about it, you're also an atheist. Corey was hardcore.

CUT TO:

COP 2

I know you! Come with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COREY

What? What the fuck? Where? I
didn't even do anything!

COP 2

Drunk in public.

COP 1

I can smell you from here.

COREY

I don't even drink. Give me a
Breathalyzer, right fuckin now!

COP 2

Don't have to. Let's go!

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Several people all scattered about, sleep on the floor, the couch, etc. Beer cans, bottles, cups and various other party trash is strewn about everywhere. Mark walks out of the room stumbling, appearing hungover. He walks to the kitchen. Gabbie mops the floor. The kitchen is almost spotless. Gabbie has been cleaning it all morning. Several full trash bags sit next to the island cabinet. Jayce sits at the table, talking with Gabbie. Mark walks in.

GABBIE

Morning, sunshine.

JAYCE

Rough night?

MARK

Well considering I don't remember
much of it and I woke up next to a
very beautiful girl, I'd say it
was a good night. Jayce, don't
tell Luke.

GABBIE

Uh, speaking of which, did um, you
guys see much of him last night?

JAYCE

Not really, he was with that new
girl all night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARK

Probably had his first french
kiss.

GABBIE

Huh huh, Yeah.

She puts her head down, avoiding eye contact with the
guys.

JAYCE

Gabbie, sweetheart. You can't keep
doing this to yourself. Either
tell him, or move on.

GABBIE

What good is telling him going to
do? I mean, why would he want to
be with me? He's Luke Masterson.

JAYCE

And what the hell is wrong with
you? You're amazing. If I
wasn't...

Jayce looks at Mark. Mark rolls his eyes.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

...having commitment problems, I'd
wanna be with you in a heartbeat.

MARK

Dude, I know you're gay.

GABBIE

Look, let's just say that I was as
pretty and as skinny as this new
girl okay, and he did like me
back. My parents would never let
me date someone who wasn't Jewish.

JAYCE

(bantering)
Wait, I thought you were your own
person?

GABBIE

Shut up. You don't know my
parents.

Luke bursts in from the garage and runs though the house
to the front door.

LUKE

Oh my god, oh my God!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He slams the door in a panic. Everyone looks at each other, confused.

MARK

He must be late for bible study.

They snicker. Tye comes out of the garage, still putting clothes on.

TYE

Hey guys. Morning. I'd stay and play "getting to know you," but...

A car horn sounds.

TYE (CONT'D)

That's my brother. I guess I'll see you soon.

She winks, then walks out the front door, following Luke. Everyone is paralyzed in shock as they look at one another in awe. Gabbie most in shock, turns to Jayce.

CUT TO:

INT. GABBIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gabbie's Dad sits on the couch, tapping his toes and twiddling his thumbs, waiting. He is dressed up nice.

GABBIE'S DAD

I swear to God, if you make us late, there's going to be hell to pay.

Gabbie walks in. He gets up and begins putting on his coat and such, getting ready to leave.

GABBIE'S DAD (CONT'D)

You gonna make your sister late to her own bat mitzvah?

Gabbie gets into the car. Her Dad looks at her waiting for her to say something.

GABBIE'S DAD (CONT'D)

What is it honey? C'mon, you've been moping around all day.

GABBIE

It's nothing, Daddy. Just, just boy problems.

Dad stops and sits on the couch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GABBIE'S DAD

Oh. Who is he? Did you meet him at synagogue? I, I could talk to his parents, we could have them over for dinner.

GABBIE

(with trepidation)

He's um... not Jewish.

GABBIE'S DAD

Yeah.

GABBIE

Hence the problem.

GABBIE'S DAD

Yeah.

GABBIE

It's Luke.

GABBIE'S DAD

Oh, no. Wait, wai-wai-wait. You can't be serious. That kid's a punk!

GABBIE

He is a good person, Daddy. He's a Christian

GABBIE'S DAD

Oh yeah. Well, so was Hitler! Hey c'mon. No, no, no, no, no. No daughter of mine is not dating outside the faith. And ther there's no chance he would convert, his Jewish father married a Catholic.

GABBIE

He wouldn't be interested anyway.

Dad gets up to leave.

GABBIE'S DAD

Do you have, Do you have any pride in your heritage?

GABBIE

Of course I do, Daddy.

They head out the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GABBIE'S DAD

Alright, well then, that's the end
of this. Okay? Do not even
Consider it. Thin ice, young lady.

CUT TO:

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - DAY

Mark is in the back yard smoking a cigarette. Country
decor, portraits of Jesus, and versus from the Bible in
frames, decorate the house. The sound of the garage door
opening is heard.

MARK

Shit!

Mark runs in, from the back door. He scurries over to his
room, sprays on cologne and some breath freshener in his
mouth. He then runs to the kitchen, washes his hands. He
rushes into the living room, and sits on the big, fluffy,
couch, where his guitar was waiting for him to finish re-
stringing it. His mother JUDY (early 40s) walks in. Judy
is overly tan with make up that looks as if it was
applied with a butter knife.

JUDY

Hi sweetheart. How was youth
group?

MARK

Good. How was big church?

JUDY

Enlightening. Pastor Dave taught
us all about the dangers of cults
and how too many people get caught
up in them. Like Mormons.

MARK

(offended, defensive)
My friend Jayce is a Mormon. It
seems to work for him. He's a
really nice guy.

JUDY

(Stern)
Oh, no sweetie. They're evil, and
brain-washing! They're wrong.
Period.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARK

(relenting)

Right. No, you're right, Mom. I'm,
I'm Sorry.

JUDY

Good.

She looks down at him in a monstrous way. Mark looks away. She walks to the kitchen with pride.

JUDY (CONT'D)

So, any cute girls on your mind?

MARK

No.

JUDY

(sarcastically
accusatory)

I bet you see them all the time at
those Rock Concerts.

MARK

Actually, there's this one on the
worship team, you might like.

JUDY

Oh, that's good. Every God-loving
man needs a strong Christian
woman's support...

Mark glues himself to his guitar, trying to block out his
mothers murmur.

CUT TO:

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LACY (18) a very sexy, beautiful, girl, is the girl we
saw earlier on stage with Luke and Mark on the worship
team. Mark, and his parents, Judy and TOM COOPER (40s)
all sit down at the dinner table eating a very well
prepared meal.

TOM

So Lacy, Mark's been telling us
that you're on the worship team
for the kids at House of God?

LACY

Yeah, I am. I also play in a band
outside of the church.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUDY

Oh, he didn't say you were in another band.

LACY

Yeah, it's real heavy rock, with a lot of screaming.

Judy gives a look of disgust.

LACY (CONT'D)

People are always surprised to hear that a girl like me, sings in a band like that.

JUDY

Probably because it isn't very Christian, is it?

LACY

Well, actually, we're all Christian, and I write most of my songs about God.

TOM

Well, it seems to me like your worship band would be a better way to honor the Lord with song.

MARK

DAD!

LACY

(biting her tongue)

Ya know, I feel like my hardcore band is better at getting the word of God out there to the people that need to hear it.

JUDY

Well, that's very noble of you Lacy. But I know I wouldn't feel comfortable with all that temptation around me.

LACY

Well, I guess I just prefer that than literally preaching to the choir.

TOM

What does a Christian girl want with all those Rock-n-Roll boys around her all the time?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TOM (CONT'D)

I mean it seems to me like something is a little out of place.

Mark offers a look of sympathy to Lacy and glares at his parents in disbelief and spite.

LACY

My band members treat me like their sister. They're very protective.

JUDY

Well, our Mark is going to be a pastor one day. And he needs a strong Christian woman who can protect herself.

Lacy looks defeated. She puts her silverware down and gets up.

LACY

Thank you for the meal, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper. But I should be getting home. See you around, Mark.

*

Mark offers a look of sympathy to his beaten date. As she walks off, he sits embarrassed. He glares at his parents, then gets up and storms off.

CUT TO:

INT. PRACTICE SPOT - NIGHT

The big warehouse, in the middle of an industrial park, is filled with over sixty rooms inside. Their room is crammed with equipment. A calendar made from a white board hangs on the carpet covered wall. Another white board, with a list of songs written on it, hangs next to it. "Hand of Blood" merchandise is spread throughout. A couch sits on one end of the room with Audrey and John sitting on it, who came to watch the band play. The band plays one of their songs with Luke absent. Halfway through, the song abruptly ends, upon Luke's entry. He's dressed nice again, but this time he is wearing a nice belt and his wrinkled shirt tucked in.

*

LUKE

Hey guys. Sorry I'm late.

MARK

You've been spending a lot of time at church, dude.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COREY

You need to decide if this band is even important to you.

SAM

Look guys, now that we're all here, I gotta tell you, this is my last show. I'm out on bail to play it.

COREY

What the fuck?

SAM

You know why I didn't show up to Luke and Jayce's party after the Arbitrary Mass show?

CUT TO:

EXT. SACRAMENTO STREETS - NIGHT

Sam and another SHARP are hanging out on a neighborhood street, assumably Luke's Neighborhood.

SAM

The show was good, but those guys showed up.

SHARP #2

Shoot.

SAM

Those guys from the tattoo shop?

SHARP #2

Oh, wow.

SAM

Fucking A, man.

Around the corner walks the peckerwood skinhead.

SAM (CONT'D)

Hey! Looking for me? You back for more, Peckerwood, Nazi, fuck? What's the matter? You didn't like my tattoo idea?

SKINHEAD

Let's finish what you started.

The peckerwood, throws a punch and the other two start fighting as well. They exchange a few good punches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sam knocks the skinhead to his knees, then kicks his face. He then gets on top of his dizzy opponent, punching him still. Sam is on top of his beaten enemy, pulling out his brass knuckles. BAM! He fires one last lethal blow, knocking the skinhead limp. All of a sudden, they are illuminated with a big, bright police light, then the chirp. Everyone Scatters, except Sam, hovering over his opponent. He stares in fear at the lifeless body. Corey in the background sneaks behind a bush and a Cop sees him.

CUT TO:

INT. TYE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Luke and Tye are laying in bed.

TYE

I don't get it. I mean, Sam is such a nice guy. I just can't believe he could kill someone.

LUKE

Well, I don't think he meant to do it. I've known Sam and Corey for like 4 years, they both try really hard to be tougher than they really are.

TYE

They're just, big Teddy bears?

LUKE

Yeah.

TYE

Do you guys think you'll ever make it big someday?

LUKE

I dunno. We always say we're gonna be Sac's next Deftones, but the way things are going right now, we'd be lucky if we're still a band.

TYE

My brother is a drummer.

LUKE

So he's the rock star of the family?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TYE
No. I am.

LUKE
Oh yeah.

TYE
Mm-hmm.

LUKE
And I'm your cute fan, right?

TYE
Mm-hmm. Exactly.

They kiss, roll over, and get intimate.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - JAYCE'S ROOM - DAY

The walls are covered in band posters everywhere, mainly guys. There are hundreds of CD's scattered about and stacked throughout the room. His mattress is on the floor with one blanket. A milk crate to the side with a book of Mormon sitting on top. Jayce lays on the bed talking on the phone. *

TRAVIS
You still talk to that guy?

JAYCE
No Trav, I don't keep in touch with him.

Intercut w/

INT. TRAVIS'S ROOM - DAY

Travis paces back and forth in his room. A bunk-bed sits in the corner with the top bunk draped in black linens. Posters are hung on the ceiling above the bed and on the walls above the top bed.

TRAVIS
I guess I kinda always suspected, but why'd you hide it from me for so long, bro?

JAYCE
I'M NOT HAPPY I FUCKING DID IT, OKAY? And you're not making it any easier.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRAVIS

How am I making this harder for you? Besides your band, I'm the only one still talking to you.

JAYCE

What's the use of defying Mom and Dad in talking to me, if you're just going to lecture me?

TRAVIS

They still love you. They said they'd start talking to you again if you went to that program.

JAYCE

It's not gonna do any good.

TRAVIS

Look, I don't care if Mom and Dad or the bible says being gay is wrong. You're my brother and I love you.

JAYCE

I gotta go, dude.

TRAVIS

Tell Luke, I said hi.

Jayce hangs up. He walks out into the living room.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Luke sits on the couch playing video games.

JAYCE

UGH!

LUKE

At least he's still talking to you.

JAYCE

Yeah, but he has no Idea what I'm going through. He thinks God can fix me. Are you ready?

Luke gets up and turns off the TV.

LUKE

Yeah.

They walk out.

EXT. SACRAMENTO STREETS - DAY

Jayce and Luke walk out of their apartment, heading down the street on the sidewalk. Bums linger on the sides and in alleys. The streets are full of people walking around going about their business.

JAYCE

Can I ask you something?

LUKE

Of course, dude. What's up?

JAYCE

I've been watching you guys go in and out of relationships for years. Here I am. Alone. With no one to love or even be close with.

LUKE

Well, you could go with Gabbie to S.F. and find plenty of guys willing to-

JAYCE

I'm serious!

LUKE

(rolling eyes)
Right. A girl. Sorry

JAYCE

I'm gay, Luke.

LUKE

Finally!

Luke reaches to embrace Jayce, but Jayce pulls away.

JAYCE

Nevermind.

LUKE

Oh, shut up, dude! listen to me. Now that you admit this, do you really want to live the rest of your life alone?

JAYCE

Hello? That's why I'm talking to you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Okay, then go, go find a boyfriend. Be happy with who you are.

JAYCE

Oh sure, Luke. I'll just go fall in love and get married... in the temple... to my husband. You know full well that I can't do that. Just close your eyes, open up your bible and put your finger down and it's gonna land on a verse that tells you how evil homosexuality is.

LUKE

So? You'll know in your heart what you believe. Isn't that what's most important?

JAYCE

That's what got me shunned. Besides, I-I can't knowingly sin, assuming God is gonna forgive me. John 3:36, clearly says that "Anyone who doesn't obey-

LUKE

Dude, I know what it says.

JAYCE

Well, you're acting like this isn't a big deal, and IT IS!!!

Jayce collapses down on a bench, in exhaustion. Luke joins him. His body language changes to a comforting demeanor.

LUKE

I'm sorry, Jayce.

JAYCE

Dude, you don't know how hard it has been to hold all this shit in all my life.

LUKE

I don't know what to tell you. I mean, God's not gonna fix you.

JAYCE

FIX ME? He made me this way! Do you think I'm choosing this torture?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUKE

Of course not, I-

JAYCE

(tearing up)

Do you remember when my dad said,
"God hates queers. They're an
abomination." That hella sticks
with you, dude.

(tries to fight back
tears)

I know, pretty cliché' right? Your
friendship is the only reason I'm
still here today, and, and
sometimes that isn't even enough.

He stops to laugh at himself.

JAYCE (CONT'D)

I just want to feel loved. Feel
normal. That's not a lot to ask.
Do you have any idea what that's
like? Trying to be someone you're
not ALL THE TIME? Feeling trapped,
a-a-and dirty, and perverted? I'm
a freak!

LUKE

You are not a freak.

JAYCE

Oh Yeah? Well go tell that to the
fanatics with all those signs,
"God Hates Faggots." I don't know
if I can handle this anymore. I-I-
I don't know what to do.

He falls into Luke, sobbing. They sit together, Luke
trying to comfort Jayce.

INT. LUKE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Luke is tying his shoes.

FRANK (O.S.)

Luke?

LUKE

In here, Dad.

Frank peeks his head in.

FRANK

Oh hey buddy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE (O.S.)

I'm almost ready.

FRANK

Where's Jayce at?

LUKE

He's around.

FRANK

So, he finally admitted it, huh?

LUKE

Yeah, but now he's just freaking out about it.

FRANK

So what's the problem?

LUKE

Well, he doesn't want to be gay.

Frank comes into the room and sits down in front of him.

FRANK

Luke, I've been going to temple my whole life and what I realized is that people take the bible way too literal and out of context. The bible was written ages ago in a time and a place that is very different than our society today. Let me put it this way. If the whole of the United States was homosexual and they asked you to resist your heterosexual feelings and be Gay, would you be able to do it?

LUKE

Well, it's not just Society, Dad, it's God. The bible says it's wrong and Pastor Scott teaches us that God's word is final.

FRANK

When your mother was here, the one thing that we agreed on is that we both had different perspectives. Not everything is black and white. There is some grey.

LUKE

That's not really helping me, Dad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FRANK

I dunno look, you just be there for your best friend. He needs your love and your support right now, and be accepted the way he is.

Luke is not satisfied with his Dad's advice. He tries to be attentive, but is getting disappointed in the confusion.

LUKE

Yeah.

FRANK

C'mon. Maybe a full stomach will help you clear your head.

Luke reluctantly gives up and they leave.

INT. PASTOR SCOTT'S OFFICE - DAY

There is a small window, books, various binders and translations of the Bible, behind Pastor Scott. Various snowboarding, extreme sports, and Christian band magazine clippings hang around the room. Luke walks in.

LUKE

Pastor Scott, is this a bad time?

SCOTT

No, not at all. C'mon in. Grab a seat. So, what's on your mind, Luke-myster?

LUKE

A lot. Uh, I'm having... doubts.

SCOTT

Okay, let's talk about these doubts.

LUKE

I don't even know where to begin. Um, Jayce is really struggling with his homosexuality, I was talking with this girl about premarital sex, and she said that there's nothing in the bible about it being a sin. So, I look, and then she's right. And I-

SCOTT

Luke, did she lead you into sin?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Well, is it even really a sin?

SCOTT

Luke, did you fornicate?

LUKE

Do you know how silly that sounds?

SCOTT

Yes or no?

LUKE

Yeah.

SCOTT

(devastated)

Oh jeeze, Luke.

LUKE

But the Bible is so unclear about-

SCOTT

The bible is crystal and until recently, you have never questioned it. I'm sorry, you're gonna have to step down from worship leader.

LUKE

Just like that?

SCOTT

I can't keep doing this, Luke. You have strayed so far from God, that I can't even see you anymore. Boy, that death rock, has really has changed you.

LUKE

Death Rock?

SCOTT

That secular music you play.

LUKE

I thought we were friends.

SCOTT

I'm your pastor!

LUKE

Yeah, and I'm you're number one. Remember?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SCOTT

I won't have my kids looking up to you, Luke. I mean, look at you with all those tattoos, then your swearing. I hear about you drinking, and now you're fornicating with some harlot.

LUKE

Fornicating? Harlot? I'm the one who fills this parish!

SCOTT

Not anymore. Mark will be filling your position starting Sunday.

LUKE

You know what? Fuck this!

Luke lunges toward the desk, throwing his bible down. In a fit of rage, he rips down the "Sonic Flood" poster on the wall, knocks over his seat, rips up a group photo of church camp, and throws a cross from the wall on the floor, while yelling:

LUKE (CONT'D)

Fuck all of it! Fuck church, fuck worship, fuck God! Most importantly, FUCK YOU!

Luke throws all the stuff on Pastor Scott's desk into his lap. He stares at him, in fear, anger and confusion, provoking a fight. Pastor Scott, with little emotion, stares at Luke and presses the intercom on the phone, lying on the floor.

SCOTT

Terry, could we get someone to help me escort Luke out of here?

LUKE

Ya know what? Don't bother. I'm gone.

Luke storms out the door.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

He walks into his house with the six pack. There are a bunch of people here already, partying. Luke joins in double fisting two shot glasses. He downs both shots. Feeling good, he hops up on top of the furniture and raises his arms in the air, making "Rock and Roll" symbols with his hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He falls off the back end of the couch. Tye watches, and rolls her eyes at him, shaking her head. Luke grabs another shot glass and stands up on the counter. Tye runs up trying to make sure he doesn't fall.

LUKE

I have a toast, everyone, I have a toast.

The crowd all scoffs and cheers him on.

LUKE (CONT'D)

We only live once right, so let's have some fucking fun!!

CUT TO:

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mark and his parents are in the living room arguing. Mark has his guitar in his hand.

LUKE (V.O.)

My extravagant scene, and my night with Tye, spread around the church, pretty quickly. I wasn't exactly revered any longer.

JUDY

He's dragging you down with him, Mark.

MARK

But, he's one of my best friends.

TOM

He has fallen away from God with that girl, and now you want to sin with him?

MARK

Since when is it a sin to love your neighbor?

JUDY

He's a punk, Mark.

MARK

C'mon mom, don't act like you know what you're talking about. He's not a punk.

Tom takes the guitar out of Mark's hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM

You are not playing in that Satan band any longer, and you are definitely not going to that devil music concert tonight.

LUKE (V.O.)

Mark snuck out and went to the show anyway.

INT. EVANGELICAL CHURCH - NIGHT

A band is on stage. The people in the audience are worshipping. They're crying, shaking, having seizures, and shouting out gibberish in the air for the band.

LUKE (V.O.)

The only place in Sac for all ages shows, if you're weren't at The Scene, was churches. So our last show was quite ironic.

The crowd is pumped and locked in to the band.

LUKE

Thanks, Thank you guys. Thanks so much for coming out, and supporting us through all the years. This is gonna be our last song. It's about how hypocritical all of this is!

(motioning around the room)

The crowd gets offended. Corey and Sam smile at each other.

SAM

Holy Shit! 1,2,3,4!

Jayce and Mark glare at Luke. They start to play.

EXT. EVANGELICAL CHURCH - NIGHT, LATER

The band is talking while loading gear.

JAYCE

Luke. What the hell was that about?

LUKE

What? Sam and Corey don't believe in God.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARK

So you're following Sam and Corey now?

LUKE

I'm not following anyone.

MARK

Dude, that was out of line. We're in a church, for crying out loud! You offended hella fans.

Luke rolls his eyes and takes out a flask. He takes a swig.

JAYCE

Dude, you can't be drinking in a church!

SAM

Give me some!

Sam takes the flask and toasts to Luke.

SAM (CONT'D)

Here's to our last show, and to you finally living life in the real world.

COREY

And to his awesome comment.

JAYCE

Yeah, there you go, Corey. Encourage him.

COREY

It's true. Christians are fucked.

JAYCE

And who are you to judge?

COREY

A rational, sane person, who can see that religion is nothing more than another system of control.

JAYCE

You're so closed minded!

COREY

I'm closed minded? Your religion "is the only true religion" right? Luke was smart to get out of that shit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAYCE

You know what? I'm gonna go enjoy my last show.

LUKE (V.O.)

And just like that, our dream of becoming Sac's next Deftones, was gone.

INT. JAIL - SAM'S CELL - DAY

Sam sits in his bunk, in thought.

LUKE (V.O.)

Sam lucked out. His dad was his Defense Attorney. And the jury was easily biased. Half of the jury was made up of black jurors, staring at the displayed pictures of the skinhead.

SAM'S FATHER (V.O.)

Your honor, MY CLIENT was the victim here. He was the victim of a hate crime. His assailant has a history of hate crimes and violence toward African Americans. Also many tattoos that are assimilated with neo-nazi skinhead beliefs and practices...

LUKE (V.O.)

He only got sixteen months, with parole. *

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL - COMMON ROOM - DAY *

Sam enters with a black eye and cuts on his face, to see his father waiting for him. The life in him deflates with embarrassment of his father's disappointment.

SAM

I was wondering if I was ever going to see you again.

SAM'S FATHER

What the hell happened to you?

SAM

It's rough in here, Pop.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM'S FATHER

I bet. And don't you think for second you don't deserve it.

SAM

They were the most racist mother-I mean, you should have seen them.

SAM'S FATHER

I don't care Samuel! I moved us up here to get you away from the gangs down there in Oak Park. And you still doing the same shit, hiding behind a code of ethics, and you think it's okay. You just like the gang bangers, down there. I mean you killed a man. You in here for killing a man.

SAM

But, Dad it's not the same thing, really, I mean these guys-

SAM'S FATHER

And you still ain't learned your lesson. I mean, look at yourself.

He gets up to leave.

SAM

I'm sorry.

SAM'S FATHER

Are you? Goodbye, Samuel. I love you.

He walks away. Sam's head falls down in shame.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - DAY

Luke is asleep on the couch. He wakes up to a pillow being thrown on his head.

TYE

Morning.

LUKE

(groggy)
What was that for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TYE

I thought it was time we had some fun together. C'mon, get up, take a shower, we're going out.

Begin Montage:

EXT. LUKE'S TRUCK - DAY

Tye picks out one of Luke's CD's and puts it in, covering who it is, and turns it up. Luke smiles. They simultaneously start singing/screaming at the top of their lungs along to the music.

INT. JAYCE'S ROOM - DAY

Jayce is in his room folding clothes.

EXT. FOLSOM LAKE - DAY

Luke and Tye flirt and play with each other like 2 children.

INT. JAYCE'S ROOM - DAY

Jayce is cleaning his room.

INT. TATTOO SHOP - DAY

Puck is adding more work to Luke's tattoos and Tye laughs at him wincing in pain. Tye picks out a tattoo and gets into the chair. Luke laughs at Tye making painful faces.

INT. JAYCE'S ROOM - DAY

Jayce is writing a suicide note.

EXT. LUKE'S NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Luke and Tye walk together snuggling, happy to be together.

INT. JAYCE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jayce stares into nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

END MONTAGE.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Luke, Tye, and Gabbie sit, smoking cigarettes.

GABBIE

Hey guys. Have you talked to Jayce? How's he doing?

LUKE

He's just being emo. He'll be fine.

TYE

You sure though? He seemed pretty bad earlier.

Luke shrugs.

GABBIE

He was asking me if you wanted his "Arbitrary Mass" poster.

LUKE

That's like his favorite poster.

GABBIE

He said you wanted it.

Luke's phone rings. He grabs it.

LUKE

Hey Johnno, what's up?

The other side of the conversation is muffled. His face seems to lose all color, as a look of horror takes over. Luke hangs up and turns around.

TYE

What's up, babe?

LUKE

Jayce is dead.

TYE

What? What?

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - JAYCE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Luke walks into Jayce's room, sits on his bed and notices the poster that Jayce bequeathed to him. He takes it off the wall to reveal a note behind it.

LUKE

(to himself out loud)
 "I'm sorry you had to be the one
 to find this Luke,

JAYCE (V.O.)

But you know more than anyone, the betrayal of God. This is for all my closest friends and loved ones. I've heard it, and said it all. When it comes down to the Bible, Heaven is not awaiting me. God and I share a mutual detest for each other according to Leviticus 20:13. Without hope of afterlife why live in this painful, cruel, world anymore? First Corinthians 6:9 made my destination quite clear. So suicide isn't any worse. I'm sorry to those that will miss me. I'm sorry I'm gay. I'm sorry I'm a freak. I'm sorry for all the disappointments I've given everyone. I'm sorry I was so disappointing that you shunned me from the family. If you could live one day as me, you'd see how pointless it was for me to carry on in a world devoid of compassion, hoping for a heaven I will never see. Peace, love, empathy. -Jayce Hodges"

LUKE

Oh my God! JAYCE!

Luke picks up Jayce's bible and throws it at his cross on the wall, breaking it. He punches the pillow repeatedly, then grabs it and squeezes it in a desperate embrace. He purses his lips holding back tears.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - DAY, LATER

Luke and Johno walk out of a liquor store, still wearing black from the funeral. Pastor Scott walking down the street notices them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT

Hey, Luke. Hey man, how you doing?
The kids miss you at youth group.

LUKE

How the fuck you think I'm doing?

Pastor Scott flinches to Luke's language.

LUKE (CONT'D)

We just buried our best friend who
took his own life because of
bullshit religion!

Scott thinks for a second, then realizes.

SCOTT

Jayce?

LUKE

(clenching his teeth)
It's people like you did this to
him, you know?

SCOTT

I know, I know it's upsetting
knowing that he isn't with God,
but-

Luke gets up in Pastor Scott's face.

LUKE

Oh, how fucking dare you! This is
your fault.

Luke clenches his fists and puffs up his chest
intimidatingly. Pastor Scott just stands there with a
face of complete pity. Johno sees the commotion and
rushes to Luke's side.

JOHNO

Hey, c'mon Luke. Not here, bro.
Alright? Leave this fucker alone
to think about what he's putting
into kids heads.

SCOTT

I know this is upsetting for you
guys, but...

LUKE

You don't know shit!

Luke lunges at Pastor Scott in an attempt to hit him, but
Johno stops him. Pastor Scott is not frightened.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He rips off Pastor Scott's cross necklace and throws it on the floor.

LUKE (CONT'D)

It's people like you that make me ashamed I even shared your faith.

He reaches for Luke's arm. Luke pulls away quick, turns around and gets back in Pastor Scott's face. He looks at Luke in the eyes, searching for the boy he once knew.

SCOTT

Awe, Luke, you used to be such a good servant.

LUKE

Oh, get the fuck off me!

Johno pulls Luke away and they storm off.

SCOTT

Look, I'm sorry you think like this but-

LUKE

I bet you fucking are! You should be.

JOHNO

C'mon, man.

Johno persists in leading Luke away.

SCOTT

Don't blame God for the devil's handy work!

LUKE

Fuck you!

Luke, shaking in anger, glares back in disgust and keeps walking away. Pastor Scott's head falls down in exhaustion and defeat.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The wake. The house is filled with all of the friends and loved ones all talking to each other. Pictures of Jayce everywhere. Luke walks from room to room with a bottle of vodka in his hand, half full. *

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Luke drinks the rest of the bottle and heads out into the kitchen, bumping into walls. He grabs a full bottle of vodka, and takes a huge swig. He walks up to Tye, who's talking with Johno and Corey. He forces himself into their conversation. Corey is looking at a picture of Jayce and his Missionary partner. Audrey and Gabbie sit on the couch holding each other crying.

JOHNO

(to Corey)

You hella are, and you're blind to it. Your anger toward your mom and your brother have made you so goddamn arrogant. You think that anybody who has a faith, or tries drugs, or sleeps with the person they love, is below you. What makes you any better? If anything, I think it makes you worse.

LUKE

Ain't that the truth.

Tye swats Luke for his rudeness, and tries to grab the bottle from his hands to no avail.

COREY

You know what? Fuck you guys. You're all fucking lost! You can sit there and do your drugs till you fucking die, but I'm not going to sit around and watch that shit anymore.

(to Luke)

Especially you, you fucking drunk!

He storms out of the wake causing a scene. Luke takes a huge gulp from the bottle.

LUKE

(drunk)

Psh! Well... Mark's a hypocrite.

TYE

Okay! Time to put the bottle down, babe.

Luke pulls it closer like a child.

By now most of the group is listening to the conversation. Mark steps in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARK

Hypocrite? Fuck you. *

TRAVIS

C'mon you guys. Let's not argue,
for Jayce's sake.

LUKE

You live in the fucking grey. You
can't pick a side.

Mark starts to leave.

MARK

Why don't you call me when you
realize what a friendship is.

Mark leaves rolling his eyes.

LUKE

What about Jayce, huh? Nobody
loved him. You didn't love him!
Nobody else did. Not you! Not even
fucking GOD! God didn't even love
him. Not like me. I love him.

Luke finishes off bottle #2. And searches for another,
clearly drunk and swerving. Tye tries to grab every
bottle in Luke's path. He sneaks a bottle of Gin without
her seeing.

AUDREY *

Luke, bro, put the bottle down.

LUKE

Fuck off, you don't know what this
is about.

(takes 2 swigs)

And I loved him like my, he was my
brother.

(starts to get sick)

Not like me. Not like me.

Luke repeats it over and over as he stumbles to the
bathroom. Tye chases him over.

TYE

Luke!

Time passes as the wake is drawing to an end. Most of the
guests have cleared out with a few stragglers left.
Gabbie cleans. Audrey and Tye are banging on the bathroom
door, calling to him. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHNO

Luke, open up!

Johno comes over and kicks in the door. They find Luke face down, on the floor, in a pool of his own vomit, looking very pale, pants down at his ankles. Tye rushes to him, cradling him. *

TYE

Oh, my God! Babe, wake up. Wake up!

JOHNO

Call 911!

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Blackness. Beep. Beep.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Luke lies in the bed; Tye still at his side, along with Frank. Luke wakes up.

TYE

Hey! How you feeling?

LUKE

Fucked up.

FRANK

Well, what do you expect? God, you scared the shit out of us.

LUKE

What happened?

TYE

You aspirated in your lungs.

LUKE

Which means?

FRANK

It means you inhaled your vomit, Luke. You were unconscious for hours. If it wasn't for your friends, you could be dead.

LUKE

Where are they?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TYE

Everyone was here for the first day, but when you didn't wake up, they had to go to work.

LUKE

How long have I been in here?

FRANK

Two days. It's Monday afternoon.

LUKE

Damn. I'm so sorry, Tye.

FRANK

Tye? Excuse me son, I almost had a heart-attack. Luke, you, you have to stop all this, okay?

LUKE

(trying to avoid the subject)

Thanks dad. Really. Thank you.

FRANK

(persistent)

You're not getting off that easy, now we, we have a lot to talk about, okay?

Audrey and Gabbie enter.

*

GABBIE

Luke, Oh my God. Oh my God. I was so worried, are you okay?

She rushes to him and hugs him. She kisses him on the forehead and gets up to not make Tye uncomfortable.

AUDREY

I just got off work, and Johno's gonna come when he get's off. Are you feeling any better?

*

*

*

LUKE

Yeah, now that they have the tubes out.

AUDREY

Yeah, that was intense. You hella scared us, dude.

*

Frank looks behind him, noticing someone in the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FRANK

Luke, there's someone else here to see you.

Pastor Scott enters with arrogance.

SCOTT

Hello Luke.

Gabbie rushes out with her head down, tearing up and saying nothing. Tye notices the peculiar behavior.

LUKE

Dad, what's he doing here?

FRANK

He came and spoke to me the other day after he saw you. He was concerned. I thought it would be a good idea if you talk to him.

Luke rolls his eyes.

AUDREY

I'm not sticking around to listen to this shit.

TYE

Yeah, sorry, Babe.

Audrey and Frank walk out. Tye follows, looking back to Luke with concern. Pastor Scott, feeling comfortable, walks over to the seat next to him and sits down.

*
*

SCOTT

So...

They sit and stare at each other for what seems like an eternity before anything is said.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

How much longer are you going to let this sin control your life?

EXT. HOSPITAL SMOKING AREA - DAY

Gabbie sits alone, crying remembering a conversation with Luke.

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Luke and Gabbie sit outside talking amongst a large crowd of Hardcore, Emo, and metal kids, out on the front deck. They're all smoking, talking and hanging out.

LUKE

You're moving?

GABBIE

It's only 2 hours away. And I'll be back for breaks. You can always come visit me in the city.

LUKE

I guess.

GABBIE

I'm sorry. But you know I'll always be here for you, right?

LUKE

No you won't. You'll be in San Francisco. I mean, you know what's best for you. There's no good schools out here, anyway.

Gabbie stares at Luke in adoration. *

GABBIE

(with meaning)

I love you.

LUKE

(in stride)

I love ya too.

She stares at him. Luke is oblivious to the moment.

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Audrey walks out, Tye following. They find Gabbie crying.

AUDREY

You okay sweetie?

GABBIE

I'm fine.

TYE

Look at me.

Gabbie lifts her head avoiding eye contact with her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TYE (CONT'D)

He's gonna be okay. They're letting him go today.

AUDREY

He's gonna be fine.

Gabbie, hiding the real reason she's upset, takes their comfort.

TYE

You really care about him don't you?

Gabbie looks her in the eyes for the first time. Audrey knowing more than Tye, immediately gets uncomfortable. There is an awkward silence for too long.

TYE (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Do you love him?

GABBIE

C'mon, he's like my brother.

Tye stares in her eyes, persistently, with a look that tells Gabbie she's figured it out. Gabbie looks to Audrey for help, but knows there's no lying to her friend and begins to cry.

TYE

Gabbie, Sweetie, why didn't you tell me?

GABBIE

You're the last person on earth that I would tell.

TYE

Honey-

*

GABBIE

Why would I tell the most perfect girl in the world, how I feel about her boyfriend?

TYE

I am far from perfect. I could go on and on about my imperfections.

GABBIE

Okay, well you take your imperfections and you multiply them times a hundred, 'cuz that's where I'm at. We're complete polar opposites.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TYE

You really think I'm perfect? My parents died when I was 12 and my brother was 9. We had nowhere to go but the parish they spent all their time at. And I spent a lot of time with Father O'Connell. He seemed to really liked me. The fucker wanted to get his rocks off to a 12 year old girl. I was too young, Gabbie. I didn't know what to do. So I just got out of there. To this day, I can't step foot in a church without feeling sick. My brother still doesn't even know. I could not tell him if I wanted to. So you know what I did?

Gabbie shakes her head.

AUDREY

You went to all your brothers parent-teacher conferences?

They giggle.

TYE

No, I kept livin. So as far as Luke is concerned, just do what you gotta do and keep livin. K?

GABBIE

Thanks, Tye.

Tye sheds some tears but tries to stay calm for Gabbie. Gabbie leans into Tye in exhaustion. Tye holds her while stroking her hair in comfort.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Luke and Pastor Scott sit and talk.

SCOTT

God needs you, Luke.

Scott stares at Luke with an authoritative demeanor.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

God never said following him would be easy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Satan has many tactics in getting us off the focus of God's will. She's one of those. I think you know what you need to do.

*
*

LUKE

(pleading)

Do I have to decide now?

SCOTT

No. But God's waiting.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Several scene-kids stand around hanging out in front, smoking, mingling, etc. Luke is sitting down, smoking a cigarette. Johnno notices him and makes his way over. Luke is lost in thought.

JOHNO

Hey, Luke. Where's Tye?

LUKE

Bathroom.

JOHNO

Doin' alright, bro?

LUKE

I'll be fine. Hey Listen, thanks for... you know... saving me.

JOHNO

I had to. I couldn't let you die too...

(pause)

You know you're not the only one saddling up guilt for Jayce's death, dude. We're all in the same boat. We gotta stick together or we'll end up just like him.

*

LUKE

Dude, I don't... I don't feel like talking, okay?

JOHNO

(undeterred)

How are you and Tye?

LUKE

Fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Johno's face shows he knows otherwise.

JOHNO

Are you sure that you're alright,
bro?

LUKE

Look, dude, I said I don't feel
like talking!

Johno sighs in disappointment and concern.

JOHNO

Fine. When you're ready-

LUKE

I'll call ya.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - JAYCE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Luke, sits on Jayce's bed holding a framed Picture of the band. Tye comes in and watches him in mourning for a bit before she says anything.

TYE

Miss him?

No response.

TYE (CONT'D)

Think he went to heaven?

No response.

TYE (CONT'D)

Maybe you should go back to
church.

LUKE

Stop it! I don't push you to talk
to me, okay? So just drop it. And
why would you suggest church, miss
Anti-Religion?

TYE

I'm just saying, you were much
happier then.

Tye leans into Luke trying to give him affection, but he shrugs her off. She tries harder to turn him on, and he wards her off again. Struggling to find a reason to stay persistent, she reluctantly succumbs.

INT. JAIL - COMMON ROOM - DAY

Gabbie and Mark walks in and sits down in front of Sam.

SAM

God damn it's good to see you
guys.

MARK

How are you holding up? Get raped
yet? *

SAM

No, thank God. Been jumped by
skinheads a couple of times, but
It doesn't last long though. A lot
of brothers in here. So, I'll get
my revenge. *

GABBIE

Revenge? When are you going to
learn? *

SAM

What?

MARK

You missed Jayce's funeral because
you had to be the prejudice
police. Was it worth it?

SAM

That Nazi fuck got-

GABBIE

There's more to life than
differences and hatred. It breaks
my heart to see you in here. But
you are so hellbent on kicking
anyone's ass who opposes your
beliefs.

SAM

Well, if I don't- *

GABBIE

Just listen to me for a second.
The people that you hate... Hate
is hate. How is your aggressive
approach any different than
theirs? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
 (trying to lighten
 the mood)
 Well I don't hate you guys.

MARK
 (sarcastic)
 Yeah, you've got a great heart.

GABBIE
 I just wish you'd use it more
 often. I'm never gonna visit you
 in here again. I'm not taking the
 Bar next year to defend your
 stupid ass. *

Sam tries to laugh off the serious moment, looking to
 Mark to join him, but Mark and Gabbie are unrelenting. *
 Sam nods in silence, submissive to his friends. Gabbie *
 gets up to leave and notices Corey's Dad sitting at a *
 table.

SAM
 Is that Corey's Dad and brother?

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH #3 - DAY

Luke walks into the lobby with his bible and his head
 held high, and on his best behavior. He is wearing a *
 short-sleeve dress shirt showing his tattoos. An old man
 glances over to him and quickly glances back. He whispers
 to the group of people he's standing with. They all look
 back at Luke. They give a disgusted look and whisper
 amongst themselves more. Another couple with their child
 see Luke. The mother whispers to her daughter and brings
 her closer to her side. Luke walks up to a middle aged
 MAN, with a bible in his hands.

MAN
 Um, hello son? Uh, are you sure
 you're in the right place?

LUKE
 (disturbed)
 Mm Hmm. Actually, I was just
 hoping maybe I could meet with
 some elders, or perhaps you have
 some pamphlets about...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAN

Sure, sure. I got one right here.
Take a look at this one, son. "God
loves you"

LUKE

(offended)
Sir, I know God loves me. I've
spent a long time in the church.
Actually, I just wondering uh,
what it is that this church
believes in.

MAN

I think you'll find the answers
you're looking for at our twelve
step program. It meets here on
Thursday nights.

LUKE

(pissed off)
Are you serious? Nevermind.
Actually, can you do me a favor?

MAN

Sure, son.

LUKE

Okay, now it's been bumped to two.
First, stop calling me son. You're
not my Father. Second, why don't
you give James 4:12 or even John
7:24 a look, huh?

Luke walks out. The Man looks into the bible he had in
his hands and searches to find the page. His friend next
to him, that overheard, searches also. The man reads it
and looks up to his friend and reads aloud.

MAN

Here it is: "7:24 Stop judging by
mere appearances, and make a right
judgment."

FRIEND

Hmm. The kid knows his bible.

MAN

Yeah.

They look at each other sheepishly.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke is sitting down reading his bible, with an empty bottle of rum next to him. Tye walks in with sweats and a over-sized Arbitrary Mass T-shirt on, holding a movie and some groceries in her arms. *

TYE

Hey babe. What was the new church like?

LUKE

Fucked up.

She puts the stuff down and goes to comfort him.

TYE

Oh, no. Why?

LUKE

'Cuz you screwed it all up for me!

TYE

What?

LUKE

I was right with God, until I met you. I was a respected leader. And then you came along and put all these doubts in my head with your theories, and your seduction and-

TYE

Seduction? Come on. I was just trying to make the first move, cuz I liked you. C'mon, you couldn't even come up with anything good to say, when we met, remember? *

LUKE

You seduced me!

TYE

Oh Jesus Christ, Luke!

LUKE

Yeah, Jesus Christ exactly! He and I were close, and then you fuck it all up for me.

TYE

You know, I regret ever suggesting you go back to church. I was just trying to help you. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Yeah, help me become more like you
and your hell-bound ways.

TYE

Oh, so now I'm going to Hell? Fuck
you, Luke!

LUKE

Yeah, we've already done that,
thanks to you.

TYE

Oh, my God! You obviously have no
idea what you're talking about.

LUKE

You're the one who makes up shit
to better fit their agenda.

(mocking Tye like a
child)

Ooh, sex. Sex isn't a sin, ooh!

TYE

I can't believe you're doing this
right now. Do you have any idea
how much of myself I gave up to be
with you? No, you don't. I was
trying to be your rock. The only
thing that wasn't leaving you. I,
I fucking let all of my guards
down with you, and I don't do
that. I, I trusted you. I thought
I saw something special in you
like a heart. But now that shit is
so buried under all your anger, I
don't even know if you still love
me, or you just like me around.
I'm just beginning to think you're
like every other asshole.

LUKE

You know what? Pastor Scott was
right, you're holding me back.

*

TYE

Come on, Luke. Just tell me the
real reason why you're actually
breaking up with me right now. The
real reason, c'mon. It's because
what? It's Beecause-

LUKE

It's because you're NOT A
CHRISTIAN!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The words echo through the apartment. Time stands still for a few seconds. Tye stares at him, with validation for her assumption. She starts to cry. Luke realizes what he just said and is shocked at himself.

TYE

You go to hell, Luke! There's not enough room in this bed for three of us anyway.

She grabs her purse to walk out.

TYE (CONT'D)

And for the record, I love you despite of what you believed in!

*

She walks out and slams the door behind her. Luke shouts out at the door.

LUKE

At least I believe in something!

CUT TO:

INT. COREY'S HOUSE - DAY

Corey sits on his couch playing his Bass. The doorbell rings and he gets up to answer it. When he opens the door he sees Jayce's Missionary partner with a book of Mormon in his hands.

COREY

Are you FUCKING kidding me?

MISSIONARY

(taken aback)

Um. Hello, I'm here to talk to you about the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day-

COREY

Yeah, I know who you are. I saw a picture of you. You people disgust me.

MISSIONARY

I'm sorry? And you are, uh?

COREY

My best friend killed himself because of you people. Get the fuck outta here. Get the Fuck out of here, before I take this bible...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He grabs the book of Mormon from him.

COREY (CONT'D)

And shove it up your ASS!

He throws the book at his head and hits him square in the nose. His nose starts to bleed as it is now broken. They stare at each other in shock for a few awkward seconds.

MISSIONARY

(like a tattletale)

You're not going to get away with this you know.

LUKE (V.O.)

And he didn't. Since he had a record, he went straight to jail.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL, COMMON ROOM - DAY

Sam hesitantly walks in and sits in front of Corey. Sam laughs in disbelief when he notices his friend sitting in front of him in jail attire.

SAM

You know, black suits you much better.

COREY

What do you want, druggee?

SAM

I saw your brother. He misses you, man.

COREY

This place gives me the creeps. I miss my Bass, man.

SAM

Yeah, I know what you mean, I keep banging on random shit in here. How is everybody?

COREY

I don't care.

SAM

Look, you gotta stop all this hatred shit, alright? I used to hate all the time too, and look, it fucked up my life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COREY

Good God, dude. You "found Jesus"
now? Is this where you start
preachin' at me about God, and how
I need to quit being Straightedge?

SAM

No. Fuck Jesus. Look, believe what
you want, alright? Just don't let
it fuck up your life. Look, no
religion has it right anyway. But
you, my friend, are angry at
everyone outside of Straightedge.
And you're on the fast track to
becoming Hate-edge.

COREY

It's a little more complicated
than that.

SAM

Is it? You need to start realizing
that you're the one in control of
your life. You want to blame
everything on everybody else. My
advice is, believe what you want.
It's what's in your heart that
matters. Look at me. You can be
straightedge and forgive your
brother.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke sits on his couch reading his bible with a cigarette
in his mouth, and a beer in his hand.

INT. JAIL - SAM'S CELL - DAY

Sam lays in his bunk staring at a newspaper clipping:
"LOCAL SKINHEAD GANG FIGHT ENDS IN DEATH"

INT. JAIL - COREY'S CELL - NIGHT

Corey lays on the bottom bunk and stares at the picture
of "Hand of Blood" on the bottom of the top bunk.

INT. GABBIE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Gabbie gazes in longing at a picture of her and Luke.

INT. TYE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tye sits alone on her bed. She is reading The Bible.

TYE
What am I doing?

She throws it down out of frustration and exhaustion.

End montage

CUT TO:

EXT. JAIL - DAY

Corey walks out the front door with his bag of belongings. Corey's brother walks up to him from his car.

COREY
What the fuck are you doing here?

CB
You want a ride home or not?.

Corey swallows his pride and gets in the car.

COREY
Can we at least listen to good music?

CB
(smiles)
Hey, I met a guy when we were on the inside. He said his name was Sam.

COREY
I heard.

CB
He was telling me about straightedge. I think it's kinda cool.

Corey looks at CB and smiles. They drive away.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S ROOM - DAY

*

Luke sits on his bed playing guitar. Gabbie comes in and watches him for a bit before interrupting, announcing her presence.

GABBIE

Sounds good.

Luke is startled, but tries to muster out a smile to be polite to his peppy friend.

LUKE

Oh, hey. What're you doing here?

GABBIE

I just came up for the weekend.

LUKE

It's good to see you.

Luke is noticeably in another headspace. Gabbie, noticing her friend is distracted, sits down next to him, trying to cheer him up.

GABBIE

Give me a hug already.

*

LUKE

Oh, sorry.

*

They hug. Gabbie can tell Luke she won't be able to cheer him up, so her demeanor changes.

GABBIE

So, I heard you left Tye.

LUKE

Yeah.

*

GABBIE

Why?

*

LUKE

You wouldn't understand.

*

Gabbie tries to think of a way she can relate to Luke on his own ground. She sees a picture of Luke's family, and has an epiphany.

GABBIE

Did you know that our Dads used to be friends?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Really? But your dad hates my family.

GABBIE

Yeah, now. 'Cuz, you know, your Dad married your Mom.

LUKE

So?

GABBIE

Catholic, Jewish, you know.

LUKE

That's dumb.

GABBIE

Yeah, well it matters a lot to some people... Like you.

LUKE

No. This is different.

GABBIE

Always is. What does it matter? We're all human.

LUKE

Yeah, but there's only one true God.

GABBIE

Luke, You have got to let go of that. Everyone has a their own truth. I mean look at your parents. They believed in different things.

LUKE

Yeah, but Tye doesn't believe in anything!

GABBIE

Can you blame her?

LUKE

What's that supposed to mean?

Gabbie realizes that Luke doesn't know. She takes a deep breath. Her eyes say she is reluctant, but she knows he needs to hear this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GABBIE

Tye was molested when she was
younger. By her priest.

*

Luke stares into nothingness in awe and shock. He sits there speechless for what seems like an eternity, before he finally mutters.

LUKE

Why are you telling me this?

GABBIE

Because, Luke... I love you.

She stares at Luke and he gives her a long look. She tells him with her eyes that it is a romantic love. He processes it, then it clicks. He gets it. He looks deep into his beloved friends eyes and finds love, regardless of his religion. He sees her belief in him. After a long moment between the two of them, she breaks the silence.

GABBIE (CONT'D)

You love her. Then you should be
with her.

Luke stares into the distance.

INT. TYE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tye lays on her bed staring at the TV. Her brother, Jackson, walks in.

JACKSON

Hey, Sis. You gonna stop moping
anytime soon, cuz I wanna go out
tonight, and you're my best
wingman.

TYE

I just don't feel like, it Jackie.

JACKSON

I just don't feel like taking "No"
for an answer. You're coming!
Besides, I met a cute girl and
said she'd be there tonight.

CUT TO:

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT, LATER

Luke walks in and puts his keys down next to a clock that
reads 1:15.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He grabs a bottle of rum and sits down on the couch, and starts to sing. Luke looks over at a picture of his mom and dad. His dad is wearing a star of David necklace, His mother is wearing a cross. A light goes off in his head. Luke grabs the phone and dials.

FRANK (V.O.)

When you're mother was here the one thing that we agreed on was that we both had different perspectives.

INT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Tye looks at her phone and lets it go to voicemail.

INT. LUKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tye's voice mail message is heard.

LUKE

Hey, it's me. Um, you were right.

Luke hangs up and dials again. Tye picks up, bar noise in the background.

INTERCUT:

INT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

The bar is packed. Jackson is hitting on a cute emo-girl. Tye sits alone with a beer.

TYE

What do you want Luke?

LUKE

I, I wanna talk.

TYE

I'm out, Luke. I gotta go.

She hangs up her phone.

LUKE

TYE! Fuck.

He sits for a minute, then gets up out of determination and runs out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. SACRAMENTO STREETS - NIGHT

Luke starts his truck up. The tires screech, and he speeds off, barely missing a parked car. He speeds down the streets of downtown Sacramento. He's running stop signs, and swerving in the street. Hardcore music is blasting on his stereo.

Luke has no peripheral vision. The lights glow very bright and swell across the whole windshield. Luke screams and cries along to the music. He is racing down the streets looking out at the bars frantically, yelling "TYE!" He focuses on a bar that has a crowd of people in front.

Luke sees Tye and slams on the brakes, skidding the truck into a 180. He slams on the gas and heads down the wrong way of a one-way street. He speeds up to Tye standing next to the street. The lights of the oncoming traffic grow closer.

The oncoming car approaches and sends Luke swerving out of the way. The car veers away from him, his tires squeal, he slams on the brakes, and BAM! Black.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Luke sits next to Tye. Time passes.

LUKE

I'm so sorry.

Time passes as her friends and her brother come in and out.

INT. HOUSE OF GOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH - DAY

*

Mark stands on stage leading worship. One song ends and Mark plays a few cords softly as the band follows along.

*

MARK

You know? I've been thinking lately. Do you guys remember your old worship leader, Luke?

The crowd of kids cheer in excitement. Pastor Scott abruptly shifts his attention to Mark.

MARK (CONT'D)

Well, I'm Sorry, he's not here. But judging by your reaction I can tell you guys all really liked him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They cheer even more energetically.

MARK (CONT'D)

But you guys don't know what really happened to him. See Luke, he was just, he was having some struggles with, with some doubts he was having with his faith. He was a fellow believer in need of help. Just like any of us. And this church, turned it's back on him.

The band stops playing along and stares at Mark in shock.

MARK (CONT'D)

And your fearless leader Pastor Scott...

Pastor Scott runs toward the stage. Scott walks on stage and stops, waiting to hear what Mark is going to say next.

MARK (CONT'D)

Turned his back on him too, when he went to him for answers about our gay friend who committed suicide!

He grabs the mic from Mark in haste. The crowd gasps. Mark throws his guitar down and storms off stage.

SCOTT

Okay, that's quite enough! That's quite enough.

MARK

That's all I needed!

Scott stands in front of the crowd like a deer in front of a pack of lions waiting to be devoured. Half the crowd of kids walk out.

SCOTT

Okay, Okay.

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - DAY

*

Mark walks into the living room, confident and unyielding. His parents waiting, infuriated.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM

Oh, you are in big trouble, young man. We heard about your little scene last night.

MARK

I'm moving out. With my band.

TOM

Young man, I thought I told you-

MARK

You told me that if I wanna live in your house I gotta play by your rules, right? Well I'm not living in your house anymore.

TOM

Excuse me? I did not raise-

MARK

If you would just realize, for one second, Dad. I am my own person, with my own dreams, beliefs, and passions. And none of them are what you people are trying to make me. So with all due respect, Dad, fuck your rules. I'm not your God-Damn puppet anymore.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Tye lays in her bed. Her brother, Jackson, sits next to her. Luke enters with some flowers.

LUKE

Hey, Jackson. Sup man?

Jackson offers a sympathetic hello.

TYE

What are you doing here?

LUKE

Look, I know that I don't even deserve the chance to talk to you...

TYE

Yeah, you don't. You cripple me and you think some cheap flowers are gonna make it all better?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Of course not. You were right.
About everything.

TYE

Yeah, I know. It's a little late
now.

LUKE

Look, if you would just listen to-

TYE

I don't want to listen to you
anymore, Luke. I tried and tried.
I thought maybe if you had someone
to lean on and love you like I
did, that you'd be able to get
through those times. I understood
that those are the most difficult
times in life. You just spat on my
efforts.

LUKE

I know, I'm-

TYE

Just listen! I thought you had a
good heart. I thought you loved
all these people around you. I
thought you loved me. Turns out,
the only person you care about is
yourself. You're unhappy because
you want to be. Not because of
God, or because of Jayce, or
anything else you try and blame it
on. It's YOU. You were so wrapped
up in your own misery you couldn't
even notice that your best friend
needed you. I can't be dragged
down with you anymore.

LUKE

You're right. I want to focus on
what makes me happy, I wanna turn
my life around-

TYE

Do it without me.

Luke turns to Jackson with a look for help. Jackson looks
up at him with sly compassion.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Luke walks up alone. The venue is over-packed with punks and "Arbitrary Mass" T-shirts on people of all ages. He walks to the porch and lights a cigarette.

LUKE (V.O.)

A few months later Arbitrary Mass was back in town. I just couldn't resist.

Travis walks up.

TRAVIS

Luke! Hey, dude, what's up?

LUKE

Oh, hey Trav! What's up, man?

TRAVIS

I joined a band. We're hella good, dude. You should hear us!

LUKE

Yeah, I'd love to.

TRAVIS

Actually, if you're not doing anything, we need a singer...

LUKE

Really? Yeah, I'll come check it out.

TRAVIS

Sweet. What's new with you?

LUKE

Well to be honest little man, I kinda fucked up some shit in my life. I'm just trying to repair it.

TRAVIS

Yeah, I heard about Tye.

LUKE

Yeah, I was kinda hoping she'd be here-

TRAVIS

Yeah, well, I think she's still a little banged up, man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE
Yeah.

TRAVIS
Yeah, but we're here to have fun,
right?

LUKE
Yeah

TRAVIS
So, we'll talk later?

LUKE
Definitely.

TRAVIS
Alright.

LUKE
Later.

CUT TO:

INT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK, VIP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Luke walks in to find Arbitrary Mass all hanging out. They stop their conversations and look at Luke. Luke looks around the VIP room with fond memories.

NEIL
Isn't Far from here?

LUKE
I haven't been in here for a
while.

MATT
Are you playing tonight?

LUKE
No, actually my band Hand of Blood
broke up a little while ago.

BRIAN
I know you guys. You're from here
right?

LUKE
Yeah, wow. You've heard of us?
Wow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MATT

It's not really my style, but I heard you guys were good.

LUKE

That's awesome.

BRIAN

So, did you just come back here to hang out?

LUKE

No, actually, I was kinda hoping for a miracle.

CUT TO:

INT. EVANGELICAL CHURCH - DAY

Luke walks in and gets greeted by a guy with tattoos. He shakes Luke's hand and they smile. More rocker looking people approach and greet him. Luke looks around with a look of belonging. A smile rises from his face and they mingle with each other, laughing.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE OF GOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH - DAY

Luke drives by in his truck and stops in front of the church where Pastor Scott is raising the American Flag on the flagpole in front. Pastor Scott looks over and notices Luke. He smiles, but before he approaches he looks around to see if the elders are watching. They are. Pastor Scott continues raising the flag. Luke and him share a moment. Luke knows he will never change and drives away.

INT. PRACTICE SPOT - NIGHT

A similar spot to Hand of Blood's place. Luke enters.

TRAVIS

Hey Luke, uh, thanks for coming. Guys, this is Luke.

JACKSON

(smugly)
Hey, Luke! What's up? Holy shit, small world.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Jackson, what the hell are you
doing here, man?

TRAVIS

This is our band: "New Noise." You
know Mark and Corey.

MARK

Hey.

LUKE

You gotta be fucking kidding me.

They run up to him and exchange big hugs.

MARK

It's good to see you.

COREY

Hella good.

LUKE

You guys aren't still mad or
anything? *

COREY

Water under the bridge, dude. *

LUKE

Cool. Holy shit. You guys must
make some amazing music with all
the talent in this room. Huh? *

JACKSON

You wanna hear a few of our songs?

LUKE

Yeah, I'd love to.

They start to play. Luke gets into it. He looks around,
turns on the P.A., and grabs a mic. Luke starts to sing.
The band looks at each other, smiling.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

The club is sold out and over-packed. The band is on the
stage. CB is on the side of the stage smiling, watching
the band. Tye is watching in the back, on crutches, in
shock. A banner behind them: "New Noise."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Thank you guys so much for coming out! It feels so good to be back up here on stage, huh? That song was about a girl that got away. This next song is our last song. It's for the late Jayce Hodges, my best friend.

The crowd erupts with applause.

LUKE (CONT'D)

It's an old one. Some of you might know it. Thank you so much. We're "New Noise."

The band starts to play. Johnno, Audrey, Sam and Gabbie stand in the crowd watching. They all look at each other and smile. Sam enters and joins in on the fun of watching them. *

The band finishes their set. Corey walks to his brother and hugs him. Luke jumps down off the stage, and pushes through the congratulatory crowd looking for Tye. He see's her scrambling for outside.

EXT. CLUB, THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Tye bumps into someone, stopping her dead in her tracks.

TYE

Sorry.

MATT

Oh, my Gosh, I am so sorry. Are you alright?

Tye looks up and sees that it's Matt the lead singer of Arbitrary Mass. She drops one of her crutches, catching it before it falls to the ground. She tries to be cavalier, but cannot help but be a little star-struck.

TYE

You're...

MATT

Matt. Nice to meet you.

She mutters out sentence fragments due to her speechlessness.

MATT (CONT'D)

Hey, is there any chance I could get you to do me a huge favor?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MATT (CONT'D)

I'm trying to get this inside to a friend, but it's a little crazy in there.

She looks down at the CD in his hands. It's a blank CD with "Live at the Boardwalk, for Tye" written on it.

TYE

I... I'm Tye.

MATT

(jokingly skeptical)
Are you really Tye?

Luke was watching the whole thing from behind her.

TYE

Yeah

LUKE

Yeah, she's really Tye.

MATT

What's going on, Luke. Sorry we missed your show, man. We tried to rush down here but God, this promoter keeps trying to stiff us.

LUKE

That's cool, dude.

MATT

Anyway, I gotta get going. The guys wanna get back on the road.

Tye still in utter shock from the whole situation, bursts out in random excitement.

TYE

Oh my God!

MATT

(chuckles)
You're welcome. Okay, I gotta go.
I'll see ya, Luke. Tye, it was nice to meet you.

He grabs her hand, shakes it and then kisses it like a gentleman. She is blushing and still in shock. He gives Luke a wink. Matt heads into his tour bus and they drive away.

TYE

How did you, uh... Did you, do this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUKE

Guilty. Tye, I'm so sorry, I-

She pushes him up against the wall and kisses him, letting her crutches fall to the floor. She gazes in his eyes with relief.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Still mad at me?

TYE

You're the first person I think of when I wake up, and the last I wanted to remember. I can't help it, I love you.

LUKE

I love you, too!

They kiss, and hold each other. Johno and Audrey, peek around the corner. They run in behind Luke and Tye.

AUDREY

I love you guys too!

The whole group enters and chime in, laugh, and hug.

COREY

Awe!

JOHNO

Can we all get drunk now?

TYE

Yes, thank God.

COREY

And I'll drive you guys home.

Sam enters.

SAM

Sup you fucking pussies!

COREY

No way!

MARK

Holy Shit!

TYE

SAM!!

They all hug him in excitement cheering his return.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

COREY

Dude, man.

SAM

Almost missed your show. Glad I didn't.

LUKE

Dude, I'm so glad you're here.

SAM

It's good to be here. Alright, let's give them a minute. Who's buying?

JOHNO

I'm buying.

SAM

Let's go.

MARK

I'm with him. My man.

AUDREY

Oh, you're buying? Alright.

They all turn and head inside.

TYE

So what? Did Jesus tell you it was okay to be with me?

LUKE

Something like that.

EXT. FRONT OF THE CLUB - NIGHT

Luke carries Tye on his back piggy-back style. That walk off into the night.

LUKE (V.O.)

What Jayce never got to realize was that the love we all shared was the Love that God had in mind when he spoke of Agape: Unconditional love. It was what he was looking for. It just took us a while to learn that for ourselves. Tye was always the Rock Star. She had it figured out the whole time.

The end.