

SCURBY
final draft
Cherry - REVISED
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EXT. CEMETERY -DAY

GABRIEL, acute, angry, shrewd, kneels in front of a headstone. GRUNDY, contentious, philosophical, sanguine, stands next to him.

GRUNDY

We may never know the why things
happen, but that they do is enough
to question the reason.

CHLOE, independent, affable, compassionate, steps up next to Gabriel, holding a white rose. She bends down, lays her hand on Gabriel's arm.

CHLOE

It was a beautiful service,
Gabriel.

She lays the rose on the top of the headstone.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

See you later?

Gabriel stares at the headstone. Chloe and Grundy walk away.

A FIGURE, wearing a hoodie, steps out from behind a tree in the distance.

Gabriel kisses the headstone.

GABRIEL

Love you Travis.

He walks away.

The Figure steps to the headstone, takes a picture, scuttles away.

INT. LAVANDAR'S BAR -NIGHT

Long and thin, a few tables. Chloe tends bar to the few customers in the place.

Gabriel comes in. Chloe makes him his drink, places it on the bar.

He goes to pay and she lays her hand over his, gently slides it back.

CHLOE

Not tonight. Keys?

A finger rosary is on the key ring. Her hand lingers under his as she takes the keys. She removes the finger rosary from the key ring and hands it back to him.

*
*

CHLOE (CONT'D)
You hold this.

*
*

Gabriel fingers it and slides it in his pocket.

*

CHLOE (CONT'D)
I'll drive you home.

GRUNDY (O.S.)
It is not driving, it's steering we do. We put the vehicle in drive.

Grundy leans over to Gabriel.

GRUNDY (CONT'D)
Like a shadow, you'll talk when you are ready.

GABRIEL
Thanks, Grundy.

They tap glasses and sip their drinks.

GRUNDY
They'll catch this guy.

GABRIEL
They can't go around pulling at collars looking for a tattoo.

Gabriel finishes his drink.

GRUNDY
Travis's collar gave him faith. Has to be some of that in you.

GABRIEL
I'm not my brother.

GRUNDY
You have more of your brother in you than you think.

Chloe trades his empty glass with a full one. Gabriel tocks his eyes to the pool table.

GABRIEL
Anyone playing?

CHLOE

Table is yours tonight.

Gabriel lays a \$20 on the bar, Chloe slides over 2 shotgun rolls of quarters.

BILLIARD TABLE

Gabriel peels the sleeve back and fits 4 quarters into the slots, the balls fall into the tray like a 100 hand grenades.

He racks up like he's going to play 8 ball, but pulls out all the even balls. This set up is Scurby.

He chalks his pool cue, runs it behind his back when he shoots, breaks and he sinks 2 balls. He circles the table, sizing up his shot, caroms a ball into a side pocket.

Sinks the 11 ball off the 5 ball, then the 5 ball.

He follows up sinking 2 more balls.

13 ball into a corner pocket.

EXT. LAVANDAR'S BAR -NIGHT

JULIUS, repentant, distressed, sarcastic, puts on his glasses, adjusts his beret. He dials into a Facetime call. A FACETIME MALE appears on the top of the split screen, he on the bottom.

JULIUS

The picture of the headstone isn't proof enough?

FACETIME MALE

Tick tock. Tick tock.

A GUY walks past Julius. Julius crowds the phone to his chest, turns away.

He stays on the call, puts his phone in the inside pocket of his jacket, follows the Guy into the bar.

INT. LAVANDAR'S BAR -CONTINUOUS

The bar is more crowded now. Chloe is busy mixing and pouring drinks. Grundy is talking up a GIRL, she watches the door.

Gabriel continues playing.

There are a few balls on the table, the first roll of quarters is almost empty.

The Guy enters, followed by Julius. The Girl rushes over to the Guy, hugs him tight. Grundy grabs 1 peanut from the bowl, leans back on his stool.

Julius sits at the bar.

CHLOE
You're a new face.

JULIUS
I know.

Chloe drops her head and wipes the bar. Julius closes his eyes, drops his head, looks in his jacket. The Facetime Male is on the top of the screen on his phone.

FACETIME MALE
Tick, tock.

Chloe looks up at Julius.

Julius pulls his wallet from his jacket pocket, opens it, Chloe notices the picture of Julius and his daughter.

CHLOE
She's adorable. How old is she?

JULIUS
My daughter, she made it to her ninth birthday.

CHLOE
Was she ill?

Julius forces a half smile, lays a \$100 bill on the bar.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Sorry. What can I get you?

JULIUS
Whisky sour. Makers Mark.

CHLOE
Jim Beam.

JULIUS
If that is all you have.

Julius looks over at Gabriel playing alone.

Chloe makes the drink, ice filled over the rim.

*

Julius turns back to the bar, his drink in front of him. Chloe comes back with the change. Julius slides a couple of bills her way. She puts a shot glass on the money.

He slides out a \$1 bill.

JULIUS (CONT'D)
Quarters.

CHLOE
Table is taken tonight.

JULIUS
What? Why is that?

Grundy leans over.

GRUNDY
What is the why? The why is what
we do and the what is why we do it.

JULIUS
Do you always speak in riddles?

Grundy stands up in front of him.

CHLOE
Grundy, no physical philosophy
tonight.

GRUNDY
The man is in mourning, leave him
be.

Julius leaves the bill on the bar, stacks the 2 quarters
looks over at Gabriel.

JULIUS
He any good?

Gabriel sets 2 balls by each pocket, the remaining 3 in a
triangle on the dot.

GRUNDY
He and his brother were billiard
team champions three years running.

He sits back on his stool. Julius turns back to the bar.

JULIUS
Who was his brother?

Grundy and Chloe stare daggers at him.

JULIUS (CONT'D)
He playing tonight?

Grundy downs his drink, Chloe tends to a customer.

INT. LAVANDAR'S BAR -LATER

Julius not in his seat. Gabriel at the bar, Chloe hands him his drink. Four quarters are stacked by Julius's bills.

CHLOE
I'm going to cut you off soon.

GABRIEL
Not tonight.

Gabriel stares at the ice in his drink. Walks to the billiard table. Julius passes behind him.

BILLIARD TABLE

Julius grabs his quarters from the bar, comes over.

Gabriel lines up a shot.

JULIUS
They tell me you and your brother
were champions. He not here
tonight?

Gabriel looks up.

GABRIEL
(eyeballs Julius)
You look familiar.

JULIUS
Julius Cerrano. And you are?

Gabriel faces Julius, takes his shot.

JULIUS (CONT'D)
You up for a game?

Gabriel taps his roll of quarters with his pool cue.

Julius stacks his quarters next to Gabriel's, watches Gabriel sink 2 balls. *

Julius sits at the bar.

Gabriel moves around the table, sinks another ball. He lays the pool cue on the billiard table.

BAR

Gabriel stands behind Julius.

GABRIEL
Eight ball?

JULIUS
Your brother not coming?

GABRIEL
Someone made other plans for him.

JULIUS
It's your table.

BILLIARD TABLE

Gabriel racks the balls. Rolls the cue ball over to Julius.

Julius sets his drink on the edge of the billiard table, breaks, the balls scatter like paranoid rabbits. Nothing goes in.

GABRIEL
Tough break.

JULIUS
Life is full of them.

Julius grabs his drink, sits at the table, studies Gabriel.

JULIUS (CONT'D)
What plans did your brother have
that he's not out tonight?

*
*
*

Gabriel cuffs his shot. The 5 ball goes nowhere.

*

Julius sinks the 5 ball.

*

Julius kisses the 12 ball, stops in front of the pocket, sets Gabriel up for an easy tap in.

*
*

JULIUS (CONT'D)
My brother, Eric, taught me.
What's your brother's name?

*

Gabriel shanks the shot, kisses the 12 ball, misses pocket.

*

JULIUS (CONT'D)
I didn't get your name.

*
*

Gabriel sits, stares at the ice cubes, sips his drink.

GABRIEL

Gabriel.

Julius looks down into his jacket pocket, exposes his neck tattoo. On the phone, the Facetime Male holds up his wrist, taps the watch.

Gabriel's eyes are laser locked on the eagle tattoo.

EXT. GABRIEL'S LAKE SIDE -DAY

Gabriel is fishing, tackle box and a small cooler next to him, a Heineken at his feet.

Gabriel squats down, grabs his beer, revealing Julius, well behind him on the walking path, not clearly seen.

A woman walks past him. He steps toward her, stops and goes back toward Gabriel.

Gabriel stands up, blocks Julius. He walks down the path away from Gabriel.

GABRIEL

Any luck over there Trey?

EXT. TRAVIS'S LAKE SIDE -DAY

TRAVIS, pious, humorous, resolute, kneels, baits his line.

TRAVIS

I'm having about as much luck as a nun in a mosque.

Julius, we never see his face, steps off the path, creeps toward Travis.

A selfie-stick stuffed in his waist band.

On the phone: the path behind Julius on the bottom of the split screen. The face of the Facetime Male is always on the top of the split screen.

Julius closes in on Travis, pulls out a switchblade, his hand shakes like an earthquake. He snicks it open and it flips from his hand to the ground. *

TRAVIS (CONT'D)

Gabe, that you?

JULIUS

Don't turn around, I do not want to
see your face.

Travis obeys.

TRAVIS

I can tell you I have no money on
me.

Julius picks up the knife, the selfie-stick slides from his
waist band to the ground.

BEGIN PHONE POV:

Travis kneeling, holds his fishing pole.

FACETIME MALE

My impatience is stretched thin.

Julius holds the knife to Travis's back.

JULIUS (O.C.)

Stand up. Slowly.

Travis stands, keeps hold of the fishing pole. The lower
halves of their bodies are in view.

JULIUS (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Drop the pole.

Travis steps forward, turns, and whips the fishing pole
toward Julius, out of view.

The knife falls to the ground.

The fishing pole flies into view, hits the ground.

Julius scramble's for the knife, points it at Travis, his arm
shakes like an earthquake. *

JULIUS (O.C.) (CONT'D)

Don't move.

END PHONE POV:

Julius's eyes go wide, holds his breath, at seeing Travis. *

Travis's clerical collar is anachronistic against his casual
clothes. The finger rosary on a chain around his neck,

JULIUS (CONT'D)

Father Jerkin?

TRAVIS
Julius, you walk in the valley of
sin.

Facetime Male and Travis's clerical collar on the phone,
looking over Julius's shoulder.

*
*

JULIUS
He's my Priest.

*

FACETIME MALE
Yes he is. That is why I chose
him.

JULIUS
Don't make me do this.

*

FACETIME MALE
I am not making you do anything.
I'm giving you a choice. 15 years
ago. You made a choice then.

JULIUS
There has to be a different way.

*

FACETIME MALE
Perhaps you need more incentive.

The Facetime Male pulls JULIUS'S 9 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER in front
of him, a gag over her mouth. He plays with her hair.

Facetime Male lowers the gag.

JULIUS'S DAUGHTER
Daddy, I'm scared...

Julius's mouth and part of Travis's neck on the phone.

*

JULIUS
(softly)
Bethany.

*

Facetime Male gags her and slides her out of view.

FACETIME MALE
Tick, tock. Tick, tock.

Travis swings his elbow at Julius's head. He leans back just
in time and Travis misses him, putting him slightly off
balance.

Julius wraps his arm around Travis's neck.

*

TRAVIS
Gay...briel!

*
*

Julius pulls him tight to his chest, covers his mouth.

*

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
(muffled)
Our father who...

*
*
*

Julius raises the knife, hand shakes like a earthquake...

His knuckles white around the knife...

The knife thrusts downward...

*

EXT. GABRIEL'S LAKE SIDE -DAY

Gabriel drops his fishing pole, trips over the cooler and tackle box, pushes through the brush.

EXT. TRAVIS'S LAKE SIDE -DAY

Julius holds the phone over Travis's bleeding chest. The selfie-stick on the ground.

Gabriel pushes through the brush. Travis pulls the back of Julius's shirt down, reveals an eagle tattoo on the back of his neck.

Julius pulls free of Travis's weak grip, runs into the brush.

Gabriel reaches Travis, bleeding out. He dials 911, lays his phone on the ground.

He leans on Travis's chest, Travis grabs his hand. They lock eyes.

FEMALE 911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
What is your emergency?

Travis's eyes.

GABRIEL (O.C.)
My brother's been stabbed.
Valencia Park, use my phone to
track the location.

Gabriel's eyes.

FEMALE 911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
Emergency vehicles are on the way.

Travis loosely grips Gabriel's hand. Gabriel slides it away, places Travis's hand on the finger rosary.

He darts into the brush after Julius.

EXT. LAKE SIDE BRUSH -CONTINUOUS

Julius vomits as he runs through the brush.

Gabriel pushes through the brush.

Julius plows through the brush, Gabriel gains.

Gabriel pushes through the brush, gains on Julius.

Julius vomits again, continues on through the brush.

Gabriel closer now.

EXT. LAKE SIDE -CONTINUOUS

Julius bursts through the brush. He stops at the edge of the lake, turns back to the brush, turns back at the lake.

Gabriel pushes through the brush,

We hear Julius dive into the lake.

Gabriel runs to the edge of the lake, watches helplessly.

Julius steps out the other side of the lake and sprints away.

INT. LAVANDAR'S BAR -NIGHT

Gabriel finishes his drink.

Julius looks behind him, checks if the space is clear.

Gabriel doesn't move out of the way, forces Julius to adjust his shot. He misses.

Gabriel sinks the 12 ball, then the 8 ball.

GABRIEL

Two out of three?

Gabriel drops \$100 on the billiard table. Julius, lays \$100 worth of bills over Gabriel's.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

You rack.

BAR

Gabriel splays his fist hands across the bar, knuckles white, lips pursed. He grabs and crushes a coaster.

CHLOE
Hey, talk to me.

Gabriel drops his shoulders, leans back off the bar.

GABRIEL
(to Chloe)
Two Gin Ricky's.
(to Grundy)
Get the police. Eagle tattoo.

Chloe hesitates, makes the drinks.

Grundy, rigid, steps to toward Julius, Gabriel grabs his arm.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Let the police handle this one.

Grundy sits down, punches in the phone number.

GRUNDY
Lou, it'll be good for your career to get to Lavandar's now. Would I call you if I did anything? I didn't do anything this time.

Chloe places the drinks on the bar, cups Gabriel's hands.

CHLOE
Think of your brother.

GABRIEL
He's all I am thinking about.

He picks up the drinks.

BILLIARD TABLE

Gabriel hands Julius a glass.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Gin Ricky. My brother, Travis's drink.

Julius looks into his jacket, the Facetime Male stares straight ahead.

FACETIME MALE
Tick. Tock.

Gabriel, drains half the drink. Julius sips at it, screws up his face, slides the glass across the little table and sips his own drink.

Gabriel leans his pool cue against the billiard table and takes all the even balls out of the rack.

Julius looks puzzled at the set-up.

GABRIEL

This is called Scurby. This is...was my brother's game.

Gabriel chalks his pool cue, walks around the table.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

Sink the balls in no particular order, just have to run the pool cue behind your back.

Gabriel runs his pool cue behind his back, breaks, balls scatter like anxious squirrels. Nothing goes in.

Julius, clumsily runs the pool cue behind his back, shanks the shot.

JULIUS

You have me at an unfair advantage.

GABRIEL

Someone always has the advantage.

Gabriel drains the rest of the drink. Moves around the table, lines up a shot.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

He was a priest...You know. He loved billiards just about as much as he revered the church. He wore his collar like a shield. He believed the power of prayer could change people.

Gabriel looks at the bar, Chloe nods.

*

Julius racks his pool cue.

*

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I would tell him a sinner may be absolved, but that part of the man still remains to sin again.

OFFICER THURMAN, sedate, baby faced, comes in from the rear.

Gabriel looks up at Julius.

*

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
I was there. I can't swim.

Julius shakes as he moves toward the bar.

*

Thurman steps toward Julius.

*

BAR

OFFICER LOUISE, direct, scarred, incisive, steps through the front door. Chloe gets her attention, tocks her head over to the billiard table.

CHLOE
Louise, playing against Gabriel.

OFFICER LOUISE
Why would he be here?

CHLOE
Coincidence?

OFFICER LOUISE
Can't believe in them. The real reason will flush out.

BILLIARD TABLE

Gabriel sinks another ball.

Louise steps in front of Julius.

*

OFFICER LOUISE (CONT'D)
Hands on the table.

Julius does nothing.

Gabriel holds his pool cue like a Templar Knight's sword.

Louise assists Julius over and plants his face on the billiard table like the jack of hearts, he's looking toward Gabriel. She pulls his collar down.

*

OFFICER LOUISE (CONT'D)
Your neck links you to the killing of Travis Jerkin.

*

The Facetime Male disappears, the call ends.

*

JULIUS
I have my little girl at home.

*

*

Louise cuffs his hands behind his back.

OFFICER LOUISE
You can keep quiet or not, but
whatever you say, or even think,
can and will be held against you.

*
*
*
*

JULIUS
(to Gabriel)
Before, I never said I'm sorry your
brother had to die.

She wrests him from the billiard table.

JULIUS (CONT'D)
What about my daughter?

*

OFFICER LOUISE
A badge will escort CPS to get your
daughter.

*
*

She walks him through the bar.

JULIUS
Put his drinks on my tab.

Chloe takes a lighter from someone sitting at the bar and
lights the bills on fire.

Louise pushes Julius out of the bar.

BILLIARD TABLE

Gabriel fishes out the finger rosary, rubs his fingers over
it. He places it by a corner pocket.

*
*

Gabriel, runs his pool cue behind his back, aiming the ball
at the pocket with the finger rosary.

*
*

The finger rosary by the pocket.

*

OVER BLACK

Billiard ball being hit, falls into a pocket.