

Brats

The play takes place during a single night by a camp fire. Each teenager tells his or her story as it is acted out in other parts of the stage. The set should be minimal and props should not be used during the acted out stories. All current action should have sets and props. I.E. tents, packs, etc.

Cast:

Steve - Narrator

Russel Hawkins - Alcoholic

Veronica Mangel - Prostitute

Jeffrey Smith - Drug Dealer

Hope Winfrey - Arsonist

Adam Silke - Thief

Jeanette Sanders - Gang Banger

Loretta Thompkins - Hacker

Bobby George - Involuntary Manslaughter

Lenny Sirk - Male Counselor

Trina Sirk - Female Counselor

This play was written to be performed as the 2007 Fall Play for Plano High School, Plano, Illinois. Home of the Reapers.

...A word about the language of the play and situations. These are not supposed to be good kids. If everything was ok there would be no conflict and these would be good kids. This play is written to make teens think about making good choices. To hide the bad part of life is not going to do anyone good...

ACT ONE

JEANETTE:

(as they are entering
she is pushed by
Jeffrey however she
blames Veronica)

Don't you push me. I will not take
your shit.

VERONICA:

Get off me. You crazy. Go tattoo
your face.

TRINA:

(not far behind)
Sanders...Mangen... 50 for fisticuffs
and Sanders 30 more for your mouth.

JEANETTE:

I only said...

TRINA:

Want to make it an even 100? Get
with it Mangen.

VERONICA:

I didn't do nothing. She was all..

TRINA:

You didn't do *anything*. 30 more for
poor grammar. You will speak correct
English or you will not communicate,
do you understand?

VERONICA:

Yeah...I mean. Yes, ma'am.
(She begins to do her
60 push-ups. They
both count them out.)

During the previous action the cast finds their way on stage exhausted from what seems to be a long hike. When Steve speaks throughout the play the cast freezes.

STEVE:

My grandma used to say there is no
such thing as a bad kid. She never
met these kids. These are my friends
and I can tell ya...they are bad
kids. Take Jeannette here...she is
the number two in her gang...I don't
know which one or what their sign
is, but I do know she can break my
arm and she's tried. She and the
other kids are part of a camp or
incarcerate program...yeah that's
what I thought...how is this supposed
to work?

ADAM:

(going down to her
level)
Go tattoo your face? That's one I
never heard before. Do you mind if
I use that or is that copy wried?

STEVE:

That's Adam...He and Jeffrey here,
have elected themselves the leaders.
(MORE)

STEVE: (CONT'D)

They have no followers but that does not stop them...

JEFFERY:

You ain't gonna get none of that by sweet talkin' her that way. Let me show you how it's done.

(getting right in her face as she is doing push ups)

Baby you are getting so strong. I like my women strong. What you say we go out on a date tonight when every one falls asleep? Just you, me, and...

LENNY:

(he picks up Jeffrey by his belt and stands him up)

My foot up your wazoo. Get by the others.

JEFFERY:

Yeah...ok...

LENNY:

Go!

JEFFERY:

I'm there...

STEVE:

Besides being leaders...Jeff and Adam deem themselves ladies men. One day they'll find their calling.

ADAM:

I tried to tell him.

LENNY:

Was I talking to you?

ADAM:

No...

LENNY:

Do you want to have a conversation with me?

ADAM:

Well I...

LENNY:

We can have a one on one if you like?
(MORE)

LENNY: (CONT'D)
Just you and me...chatting about the
good old days...

ADAM:
(putting his arm around
Lenny)
That'd be real nice Lenny.

LENNY:
Only one problem with that. I don't
have one on ones with thieves. If
you want to talk to me you will have
to do it during group. Am I clear?

ADAM:
As the day is long.

STEVE:
Lenny is one of the counselors, his
wife Trina is the other. I don't
know why they do this...they never
talk about themselves...it's always
about the campers. Even when they
act out...One kid tried to
leave...Lenny let him go...he came
back the next day dehydrated and
Lenny acted like nothing was
different. Another time a banger
was all up in Trina's grill; we
thought Lenny was gonna knock him
out. Trina didn't give him the
chance, she had him on the ground in
4 seconds. He was cuffed to a log
that he had to carry for 3 days...plus
his gear.

TRINA:
Ok campers huddle up.
(they do)
We are going to make camp here.
Hawkins and Smith on wood. Mangen
and Winfrey on female quarters.
Silke and George on male quarters.
That leaves Sanders and Thompkins on
mess.

JEFFERY:
That's the best word for it when
they cook...mess.

JEANETTE:
I'm about to mess you up. We about
to have dope dealer for dinner.

JEFFERY:

Yeah...real funny. How's your arm feel after them push-ups?

JEANETTE:

Strong enough to knock you out.

LENNY:

Smith...wood. Sanders...mess. NOW.

JEFFERY:

Man.. This is my 5th straight night on wood detail. Why can't Adam go fetch.

LENNY:

Because you have yet to do it right. Get a sufficient amount and maybe tomorrow you can have mess.

JEFFERY:

That's why I like you Lenny. You are always straight. You lay it on the line. You tell me the way it is.

LENNY:

If you continue to kiss up you will be on wood the rest of your natural born life. Now go.

The Brats go off to do their various tasks as Trina approaches Lenny.

TRINA:

When do you want to tell them?

LENNY:

During group.

TRINA:

With this job you always think about the worst possible thing that could happen but I never imagined this.

LENNY:

We may well have anarchy on our hands after we tell them.

TRINA:

I disagree, I think they are going to be adults about this.

LENNY:

Come on...look who we're dealing with here. Thugs, thieves and a murderer.

TRINA:

They have come a long way. Russell is completely different kid than when he showed up.

LENNY:

That's because he has been sober and hasn't had the excuse. Look...I know this program works, but none of these kids have had a break through and sending anyone home before that taints the whole process.

TRINA:

Then we better get break-throughs tonight.

LENNY:

Are you wearing contacts.

TRINA:

No...why?

LENNY:

Because I don't see rose colored glasses on you face.

TRINA:

You are such the comedian...you'll see.

LENNY:

For the sake of the kids, I hope you're right.

STEVE:

Lenny seems to know when we are ready to leave. When I was a camper I saw some kids show up and leave in a few days, others took a few months, I was there 4 months.

Jeffrey and Russell enter carrying abundant armfulls of wood.

JEFFERY:

(purposely dropping
the wood right in
front Lenny)

Is this enough to get me off wood tomorrow?

LENNY:

Where did you find all this?

JEFFERY:

Just down that path a bit.

LENNY:

It was just there already chopped like this.

JEFFERY:

Yeah it were just lying there.

LENNY:

Objects lay; you lie.

JEFFERY:

No honestly...it was just laying there.

RUSSELL:

No you idiot...your grammar.

(to Lenny)

I think it was abandoned by other campers. I can show you where we found it.

TRINA:

Jeffery.. Pick up this wood and bring it to the mess area and then you and Russell set up a campfire.

JEFFERY:

I can't get no breaks.

RUSSELL:

Any.

JEFFERY:

You can say that again.

STEVE:

I was probably the closest to Russell when I was here. He and I would talk after everyone else was sleeping...about anything. He seemed like a normal kid...really I didn't understand why he was here.

They go offstage to the "mess" area. The quarters crew have been setting up the tents upstage. Veronica and Hope approach Trina and Lenny downstage.

VERONICA:

Lenny we can't find a pole and our tent is lopsided.

TRINA:

Who was on quarters last night?

HOPE:

Me and Jeannette. But I swear we put everything away.

LENNY:
Apparently not.

HOPE:
It was there.

LENNY:
What do you want me to do about it?

HOPE:
Fix it.

STEVE:
Hope, here, has not figured out that even when Lenny is wrong he is right and Ronny...well lets just say she's pretty.

LENNY:
Who was responsible for the tent?

HOPE:
Me and Jeanette, I guess.

TRINA:
You need to learn that your ignorance effects more than you. This is your responsibility. If you want the tent to stay up tonight, I suggest you do something about it.

HOPE:
What am I supposed to do about it?

LENNY:
That's for you to figure out and I suggest you two get it done before your friends find out.

VERONICA:
I didn't lose nothing. I ain't gonna help her.

TRINA:
First it's anything and ain't is not a word. What's that Lenny? 60?

VERONICA:
(rubbing her already
sore arms)
Alright, I'll help her. Jeez...

They go back to the tent area.

LENNY:
You have the pole don't you?

TRINA:

Hey...they aren't going to make breakthroughs on their own. Somethings gotta be the catalyst.

LENNY:

You think a tent pole is going to get them all to make a break through?

TRINA:

Maybe, maybe not.

ADAM:

(yelling from the
boy's tent)

Lenny...Bobby won't get out of the tent. Come on dude. I want to put the sleeping bags in.

TRINA:

I'll check on the mess...this one is all yours.

(she exits)

LENNY:

Thanks...

(he crosses up to the
male's tent)

Bobby...come out.

(nothing)

Bobby...OK Adam...spill...what did you say to him?

ADAM:

Nothing, I swear.

LENNY:

I swear.. When are you guys going to learn that your word means nothing to me no matter how much you swear.

ADAM:

Look...I didn't say anything to him. I was over there by the packs getting the sleeping bags and he ninjaed the zipper so I can't open it and you know he doesn't talk. I think he's lost it out here. Don't worry Bobby, I'm not far behind.

LENNY:

Enough.. Adam go help the girls with their tent...they're having issues.

ADAM:

No problem...

(MORE)

ADAM: (CONT'D)
 (going without
 hesitation)

LENNY:
 Bobby...I am going to say this once
 before I rip you out of the tent.
 Will you please come out?
 (he waits)
 Ok.. You give me no other choice.
 (Lenny takes out a
 big knife and cuts
 out the front of the
 tent)

Out!
 (he comes out)
 I don't know what's going on in your
 head, but you are not in charge.
 You have no control. You must earn
 any privilege and time alone is a
 privilege. Now you will have to
 deal with the consequences. Pick up
 the sleeping bags and put them in.
 (he walks over to the
 girl's tent to check
 on Adam)

STEVE:
 I don't think I ever met anyone like
 Bobby. Every camper has said that
 he is crazy. For the most part he
 does what he is told, only thing he
 has never done is talk. Lenny and
 Trina don't buy the crazy diagnosis
 and have kept him with them for almost
 six months. He was there when I got
 there and when I left. I never found
 out why he was here. That's one of
 the rules. You can only talk about
 the reason your here during group.
 If you speak out of line; there are
 a variety of punishments depending
 on Lenny and Trina's moods. Push-
 ups, carrying rocks, the worst ever
 at least for me was camp TV. You
 must become the evening's
 entertainment.

LENNY:
 Very creative.

ADAM:
 You see it was engineering problem.
 The ladies were looking for a stick
 to replace the pole, but all we needed
 to do was tie it off to a tree..
 (MORE)

ADAM: (CONT'D)

Bam it's done. Next problem. Ladies you can repay me later tonight.

HOPE:

Repay you? If by repay you mean knock you silly then you will be repaid. I had this idea before you even showed up.

ADAM:

Ok..ok.. Next thing you are gonna do is tattoo my face.

VERONICA:

Very funny. Don't go to sleep tonight.

ADAM:

Ooo baby.. Now you talking my language.

TRINA:

(entering)

Adam go set up the campfire with Hawkins and Smith...food's almost ready.

JEANETTE:

(from offstage)

Come and get it.

Adam runs as fast as he can offstage to get grub the rest follow. Trina and Lenny hold back for a second.

TRINA:

We're starting during dinner.

LENNY:

There's a game I want to try first, then you can be the boss.

TRINA:

That's right, I'm the boss and don't you forget it. That's why you married me.

(She puts her arms around him)

LENNY:

Not here the kids are right over there.

TRINA:

Just a peck. They know were married.

(MORE)

TRINA: (CONT'D)
 (she kisses him as
 Adam and Jeannette
 enter)

ADAM:
 Now that's what I'm talking 'bout.
 Jean how come you never kiss me like
 that.

JEANETTE:
 First of all.. Your breath. Second..
 Your too skinny. Third.. You got
 no game. Shall I go on?

ADAM:
 No...
 (Trina and Lenny go
 offstage to get food)

JEFFERY:
 MMMmmm...nothing like a plateful of
 crap.

ADAM:
 Crappy Joes, crap salad,..

JEFFERY:
 Yesterday was crap legs and crap bre
 ole'

LORETTA:
 Do you two know how stupid you are?

JEFFERY:
 No, sorry...that does not compute.

LORETTA:
 If I pull your plug I can reset you.

JEFFERY:
 I love it when you use your geek-
 talk.

ADAM:
 Jeffro..? Is that the game your
 talking about? I don't think that's
 gonna help your case.

LORETTA:
 Adam, I always knew you were the
 smart one.

ADAM:
 Hear that? I'm the smart one.

JEFFERY:

She said nothing about being hot.

HOPE:

Did someone call?

LORETTA:

What because you play with fire, you think you're funny?

HOPE:

I prefer arsonist. It sounds more glamorous.

VERONICA:

Can you two just shut up. The sooner we eat the sooner we can sleep and the sooner we can get up and get out of here.

LENNY:

Not tonight. Tonight we have group.

ADAM:

We just had group last night. Tonight's schedule is sleep.

JEANETTE:

Yeah you know how important routine is for us? We need structure.

LENNY:

You're right group can wait. Let's play a game while we eat.

JEANETTE:

No offence Lenny but your games are getting old. It's always the same thing. Trust each other...work together...how about you let one of us pick the game?

STEVE:

It looks to me that Lenny has been called out. If there was one thing I learned. That was not to call Lenny out. This will not be pretty.

LENNY:

Ok.. Jeanette you choose the game.

STEVE:

Wait a minute...

(to Lenny)

You are supposed to tell her who's boss. Who are you and what have you done with Lenny.

JEANETTE:

Well.. Let see.. How about a mind game?

LORETTA:

Are you sure? I don't think Jeffrey has one to play with.

LENNY:

OK.. Jeanette.. How do you play.

JEANETTE:

Just follow along and see if you can figure this out...

ADAM:

No problem.. This will be easy.

JEANETTE:

Just shut up and listen fool...

(Trina clears her throat in disapproval)

..Please...Ok I have a hat. I give the hat to Bobby. He wears it around for a week then he gives it to Loretta. It doesn't match her shoes so she gives it to Adam. Who has the hat?

JEFFERY:

You just said who has it.

JEANETTE:

Well then smarty pants who has it?

ADAM:

I do!

JEANETTE:

Nope.. Jeff does. Lets try it again. Jeff has the hat he gives it to Lenny. Lenny thinks the hat might have been bought with drug money so he gives it to Trina to check it out. She checks it out and then gives the hat back to Lenny. Who has the hat?

LENNY:

I do.

ADAM:

Nope. Jeff has it again.

JEANETTE:

Lenny's right he has it. Lenny do you know this game?

TRINA:
He knows every game.

LORETTA:
I have it figured out. All you gotta do is...

LENNY:
Don't tell anyone let them figure it out. Do it one more time and if you don't figure it out, think about it and we'll play it later.

JEANETTE:
Lenny gives the hat to Hope. It's one of those flame retarded hats so she pawns it off to Jeffrey. He is glad that he finally has the hat and won't give it away. But Adam misses the hat so he steals it. Who has the hat?

ADAM:
Why do you gotta say I stole the hat?

TRINA:
Who has the hat Adam?

ADAM:
She just said I stole it. Everyone knows that I don't steal. So that means someone set me up...it must have been Bobby. Bobby has the hat.

JEANETTE:
Nope Adam you have it.

ADAM:
This game is stupid. Trina can we start group now?

JEFFERY:
I'm still eating.

LENNY:
It'll be dinner theater.

JEFFERY:
As long as there are dancing girls, I'm in.

LENNY
Jeffrey you can put on your red dress when we're done.

JEFFERY:

Hardy har har...Trina I do not have to take that...I can sue you know.

TRINA:

Jeffery you're right...you can wear any color dress you like.

STEVE:

Trina is known for her one liners. Don't get me wrong for the most part she is all business, but if you leave it open for her, she won't let the opportunity pass her up.

TRINA:

OK...who is going to start?

(a pause)

Jeanette? How about you?

JEANETTE:

I just did the game thing. Why I always gotta start?

TRINA:

You don't have to start if you don't want to. Why don't you pick some one to start.

JEANETTE:

Is this a joke? You ain't never let someone else pick someone to start. What's the catch?

TRINA:

No catch.

JEANETTE:

F'real?

TRINA:

F'real.

JEANETTE:

Cool...then...I ...pick...Bobby.
(all laugh)

TRINA:

Ok Bobby would you like to start.

(no response)

When your ready Bobby.. We're here to listen. Alright Jeanette, pick someone else.

STEVE:

You would think all the work that Lenny and Trina make you do would be the worst thing. But this is...group. You can make a kid talk about themselves when you don't want them to, but the second you ask them to talk about themselves they either clam up or lie.

JEANETTE:

OK Adam you're up.

ADAM:

(all of a sudden very serious)

If you wake up and don't want to smile, If it takes just a little while, Open your eyes and look at the day, You'll see things in a different way. Don't stop...

(Jeffrey joins in and they start to sing the rest of the Fleetwood Mac song)

Thinking about tomorrow, Don't stop, it'll soon be here, It'll be, better than before, Yesterdays gone, yesterdays gone.

LENNY:

(Standing up)

Adam....

STEVE:

You know your in trouble when Lenny stands up.

LENNY:

You do not have to speak. If you have nothing to say you don't have to make something up.

ADAM:

It's just a joke. Man...why you always gotta be so serious?

LENNY:

Why can't you ever be serious?

ADAM:

You want serious...ok you got it....I have stolen more money than most men make in their career. And the worst thing about it is that it was easy.

(MORE)

ADAM: (CONT'D)

I can't believe how many stupid people there are out there. Most of the houses I didn't have to break a window...the door was unlocked in a lot of the cases the door was open...as in ajar. Once you get into the house you can get car keys, credit cards, everything. One house alone I was able to fence everything I got for sixty grand. I only get about thirty or forty cents to a dollar and I still got sixty grand for one night's work? It was all risk. Calculated risk. I knew that if I got caught I could be put away.. I knew that if I crossed the wrong person I could get dead.

JEFFERY:

Are we gonna hear how you were the master of thieves again? If I have to hear that again, I swear to God I am going to choke you.

LORETTA:

I've only been here two weeks and I'm sick of it already.

JEFFERY:

Every night the same thing...

(mocking Adam)

I am the smartest thief in the world. I know everything about my mark. I never get caught, except the time that I got caught, but that wasn't my fault. I was framed.

STEVE:

That's pretty much it. From the day he arrived, he has boasted about his endeavors. Adam likes himself more than he could possibly like anyone else. He is all about the dollar. On his first day he showed up in this designer outfit. He made a big deal out of the uniform that Trina gave him to wear. I think he ended up doing about 100 push-ups his first day.

ADAM:

Man...this isn't right...Lenny, they ain't supposed to do that. They ain't supposed to make fun of me in group.

LENNY:

Smith, Silke is right...this is no place for making fun of others.

ADAM:

Yeah...that's right this is a safe place. Group is for showing growth.

JEFFERY:

Yeah your showing growth...growth in your ego.

ADAM:

Flattery will get you no where.

JEFFERY:

This is bull...everyday it's the same thing. We wake up. We eat. We pack up. We walk. We set up camp. We eat. Then you shoot of your mouth about how great you are. In my neighborhood, if you shot off your mouth like that everyday, someone shoots you.

ADAM:

Oh so now we hear about how bad your neighborhood was...it's not just me it's everyone...you all say the same thing every night. Russell....I'm a bad person, cause I'm an alcoholic. Ronny...no second chances. Even Bobby does the same thing... he just sits here.

JEFFERY:

Alright then...only new stuff tonight. Something that no one else knows about you. Adam you start...come on.

(he waits)

Can't do it can ya...o.k. I'll be the first one. Something nobody knows....my brother has down syndrome.

ADAM:

That's not about you, that's about your brother. Unless you're a retard too?

JEFFERY:

If Lenny wasn't in between us you would be in that fire...you realize that don't you.

ADAM:

You said something different about you. That's not about you.

JEFFERY:

It's about me, he's the reason I got into dealing in the first place.

ADAM:

How can he get you into dealing?

JEFFERY:

Duane, that's my brother, was born when I was three. I remember how happy I was that I was going to get a baby brother. My parents were upset about the baby and always tried to hide that he was retarded from me. I really didn't know anything was wrong until I was about 8 years old.

RUSSELL:

(as Jeff's father)

Jeffery... go and change your brother.

JEFFERY:

I was potty trained when I was like a year old and here Duane is 5 years old, he grunts to communicate, and needs his diaper changed.

(to Russell as Jeff's
Father)

Why can't Duane use the potty?

RUSSELL:

(as Jeff's Father)

Just do it and don't ask questions.

JEFFERY:

I knew then that something was wrong. I asked a lot of questions and finally my mother said...

LORETTA:

(as Jeff's mother)

Darling... Duane is different from me and you. He is very sick. He has a disease called Down Syndrome. He will never be as smart as you.

JEFFERY:

Even though I was told that he would never be smart, I always tried to teach him. It didn't always work out. Duane what is 2 plus 2?

BOBBY:

(as Duane - grunting
sounds)

uh...uh...

JEFFERY:

My parents didn't try anything with him. They didn't care if he spoke or grunted. He just sat home and ate. He was getting dumber and dumber every day. I was the only one who knew there was more to him than just a retard. I had learned of a school in our neighborhood that helped kids like Duane.

RUSSELL:

(as Jeff's Father)

The cost is too much, besides you've seen him he won't learn anything.

LORETTA:

(as Jeff's Mother)

Your father's right we can't afford it. Duane is happy the way he is and we will take care of him.

JEFFERY:

He was 10 years old and he was still wearing a diaper. There is no way that he was happy and neither was I. I was desperate to find him help...I was desperate to make some money. But who's gonna give a 13 year old a job? That's when I met Tyrese. Well maybe not met him.. I always knew of him..

RUSSELL:

(as Jeff's father)

Jeffrey you stay away from him, he is bad news.

LORETTA:

(as Jeff's mother)

He sells drugs and you know that drugs are bad don't you?

JEFFERY:

My mother was such a hypocrite. The only reason she knew he was a drug dealer was because he was her pusher.

ADAM:

(as Tyrese)

What can I do for you kid?

JEFFERY:
How's business?

ADAM:
(as Tyrese)
Just fine...what can I get you?

JEFFERY:
A job?

ADAM:
(as Tyrese)
You don't sound very sure of yourself.
What can you do for me?

JEFFERY:
I'm 13 years old. I am liked by the kids in my school and I can get new customers. Young ones that can be customers for a long time. He liked this idea and I was pushing to Junior High kids and some 4th graders. I enrolled my brother in the school and took him there in morning and picked him up after school. I just told my parents that Duane had gotten a scholarship...They bought it. I kept this up for three years and Duane was starting to talk and was out of diapers when Tyrese slipped up and said to my mom...

ADAM:
(as Tyrese)
This is on me, I owe your son that much anyway.

JEFFERY:
When I got home that was the end. My mom told my dad. My dad didn't know she was high all the time. Then my mom left and my dad called the cops on me. I had a stash in my room and that's how I ended up here. I have no idea if Duane is still going to school or if he is even at home.

LENNY:
Why didn't you tell the judge what you were doing?

JEFFERY:
I was afraid something worse would happen to Duane. I know I am going home eventually. I want my little brother there when I get back.

ADAM:

Why didn't you tell me about this before?

JEFFERY:

Really it's none of your business. I am just minding my ps and qs till I can get out of here and back home.

STEVE:

Jeff's always been a joker, but he never talked about dealing like that before. Most of time he would compete with Adam about the amount of money he brought down.

JEFFERY:

Ok Adam your turn...what don't we know about you.

ADAM:

I didn't agree to nothing. Bobby and me do not have to talk if we don't want to.

LORETTA:

That's ok Adam...I'll take your turn. I'm not sure if we can take all the gloating about yourself.

ADAM:

Thanks Lori...I owe you a pocket protector.

LORETTA:

You see that's the way everyone sees me. A nerd. I do well in school. I'm a nerd. I can design a web page. I'm a nerd. I can tutor you in math. I'm a nerd. I play the oboe in concert band and I'm a nerd. I couldn't help it if I was good at things and liked different things than most people.

ADAM:

Yawn...we have heard all this...where is the new stuff?

LORETTA:

Ok Adam...what's the most you stole?

(no answer)

Come on tell me

(no answer)

Sixty thousand right?

(MORE)

LORETTA: (CONT'D)
When they caught me I stole 4,000,000
dollars and that was just that time.
You talk about what a master thief
you are...you got nothing on me.

ADAM:
4,000,000? Yeah right. There's no
way to do that.

LORETTA:
Trina...tell him.

TRINA:
You know I can't discuss your case
with other people.

LORETTA:
Is it true though that I am in for
more money than Adam is?

TRINA:
All I can say is that if you were
tried as an adult you would be put
away for at least 30 years.

LORETTA:
There you see?
(no response)
Are you that dumb. That's a class
one felony...at least 30 years. You
have to steal well over 1000000 for
that.

ADAM:
So what... you stole more than
me...You didn't have to break in
like me. You only need a computer.

LORETTA:
You are really an idiot.

ADAM:
Look who's talking...you got caught
like the rest of us.

LORETTA:
No I didn't...I turned myself in.

ADAM:
You're a huge idiot then. Who turns
themselves in?

LORETTA:
There Jeff.. You wanted to know
something about me that no one knows?
That's it. I turned myself in.

JEFFERY:

Why would you do that?

LORETTA:

I'm a nerd....I wanted to be noticed. Everyday I see kids getting in trouble for stupid stuff at school...like fighting or cheating...and they have tons of friends. The only friends I have are on the chess team. I wanted to be cool. The cops, the company I stole from, and the judge are the only ones that know I turned myself in. That's why I got to go to this thing instead of jail. I stole from an oil company that transfers a lot of it's holding between the middle east and the US. I just hijacked some code that reroutes the transfer. I thought after I did that all the kids in school would think that I am the coolest kid ever. Nobody knew...and if they did I am sure they wouldn't care.

VERONICA:

(as a lawyer)

Alright Miss Thompkins...because of your cooperation the judge has agreed to be lenient. If you play your cards right you won't miss the next school year. You can be back by next summer and since you are a minor, he agreed to expunge your record on your 21st birthday as long as you go to college.

LORETTA:

So know one will know about this?

VERONICA:

(as a lawyer)

You are very lucky. Your parents are telling your family that you are just going away to camp and since you are a minor the local news can't use your name or image, so they just stay away from cases like this.

LORETTA:

No I want to do an interview. I want everyone to know...how sorry I am about this.

VERONICA:

(as a lawyer)

That is completely out of the question. Your father has given me precise instructions about this matter.

LORETTA:

When do I leave?

VERONICA:

(as a lawyer)

In one hour, a van will be here to pick you up.

LORETTA:

What about my parents?

VERONICA:

(as a lawyer)

They are still out the country. They will be in contact with you.

LORETTA:

So I got in the van, you were all here when they dropped me off. No word from my parents. It's like I don't exist.

LENNY:

What have you learned from all this?

LORETTA:

That there are lucky people and unlucky people. If you are lucky you will always be lucky. If not, you will never be.

TRINA:

Do the rest of you think that is true?

JEANETTE:

It's skill. It has nothing to do with luck. My grandfather always said plan your work and work your plan. That works for any situation.

TRINA:

Do you think you are here because you were unlucky?

JEANETTE:

No...I am here because I didn't plan good enough.

STEVE:

Before Trina came here she was an English teacher. In most cases she will give a camper a second or third chance, but when it comes to bad...I mean poor grammar, she has very little patience.

TRINA:

What did you say?

JEANETTE:

I am here because I didn't plan good enough.

HOPE:

Superman does good, you do well.

TRINA:

Thank you Hope. I'm curious Jeanette, what was wrong with you plan?

JEANETTE:

Not gonna happen Trina. All I need to do is say the wrong thing and I am up on new charges.

STEVE:

She's right...there was a guy, Alfonse, here about a month ago who was here for a week and in group he talked about a guy he killed for taking his girlfriend. He wasn't here for that crime and Lenny and Trina turned him over to the courts. Ever since then Jeanette has guarded herself against talking about any crimes she committed.

TRINA:

Look Jeanette...theres a difference between you and Alfonse. He was a cold blooded killer. We can help just about anybody as long as they aren't evil to the core. He admitted to first degree murder. I couldn't have him here for all our safety and it is going to take more than just me and Lenny to change him.

JEFFERY:

Come on Jean.. We are supposed to tell something new about us tonight. What was wrong with you plan? Or are you just like Alfonse...beyond saving...a cold blooded killer...

JEANETTE:

Do not compare me him....I am no murderer...you want to know what was wrong with my plan?I couldn't pull the trigger.

HOPE:

(as gang leader)
Jeanny...they got Nay Nay. It's time to settle the score. What's the plan?

JEANETTE:

It's a numbers game. We need to make sure we are never caught alone. That's how they got Nay.

HOPE:

(as gang leader)
I am not asking you how keep from dying...I want to know how we are going to make them die.

JEANETTE:

Up until now we just did gambling and had a few drug dealers. We never killed anyone.

(she looks right at Trina)
Never.

HOPE:

(as gang leader)
So number two, if you wanna stay that way, what's the plan?

JEANETTE:

We wait...they will mess up.. They will be in the wrong place at the wrong time. We don't go find them. They'll get cocky and find us. We partner up and watch. It's simple but it'll work.

HOPE:

(as gang leader)
And when we see one by themselves we shoot 'em.

JEANETTE:

Wanda, she was number one, and me partnered up and so did everyone else and just hung in different places for a few days. We saw them, but they were always together in big groups...we didn't say anything even when they shot their mouths off.

VERONICA:
(as other gang member)
Hey Jeanny hows Nay Nay?

LORETTA:
(as another other
gang member)
You next....watch your back.

JEANETTE:
Then it happened along came Treasure..
Alone. I saw her before Wanda. I
froze. Next thing I knew Treasure
was about 10 feet from us and that's
when Wanda turned around saw her.
Wanda went to pull out her piece and
Treasure beat her to it. Slam. The
bullet felt like it flew buy in slow
motion as it ripped a hole in Wanda's
head and blood splattered all over
me. Treasure ran. I stood there
looking at the body. Just staring
at it. Cops came fund a piece on me
hand-cuffed me and next thing I'm
here as an accessory to murder. I
watched my friend die because I could
not pull the trigger. I'll tell one
thing...I am out. The second I am
back there, I'm dead or they will
beat me out.

TRINA:
Do you want to be out?

JEANETTE:
I have no choice.

RUSSELL:
You always have a choice.

TRINA:
If you could have things the way
they were, would you go back?

JEANETTE:
If I say no...can i go home?

TRINA:
That's not how it works. I don't
make deals.

JEANETTE:
I am no killer. I don't any part of
that. I was out before Wanda died.

STEVE:
I don't know what to say. I never
seen Jean like that.

HOPE:
The fires dying out.. I'll grab
some more wood.

LENNY:
Silke's on wood. Sit Winfrey.

TRINA:
Since you want to be helpful...Why
don't you provide the camp t.v for
the night?

STEVE:
I can't watch this, I'll come back
when it's over.

HOPE:
Do I have to?

ADAM:
Absolutely!

JEFFERY:
News!

VERONICA:
Sitcom...

RUSSELL:
Reality.

ADAM:
This is reality. I vote talk show.
The Hope -ra Winfrey show. How's
you Aunt anyway?

HOPE:
She's not my aunt.

JEFFERY:
I change my vote to talk show.

RUSSELL:
Me too.

LENNY:
Well I out rank you and I say...talk
show!!

(Lenny begin to sing
some intro that
includes the words
'get with the program')

HOPE:

This is the Hope Winfrey show with my special guest today...Bobby George. The silent wonder. Bobby is it true you have not talked in over 6 months.

(she holds her

"microphone" to his

mouth - No response)

I see....very interesting. Now say nothing if it is true that you haven't bathed also in that time?

VERONICA:

He's an easy target, why don't you take on someone you have to work harder on?

HOPE:

I would like to thank my first guest Mr. George. Our next guest is Veronica Mangen, teen age prostitute.

VERONICA:

You do not like living do you?

HOPE:

Now now Miss Mangen, tell us how you got started in the business at such a young age?

VERONICA:

It all started when I killed a talk show host.

HOPE:

Am I working to hard on ya, Vern?

VERONICA:

You wanna know how I got started? You looking to get into the business? I do not give my trade secrets? Besides I gave that up. I want to be a fireman, although I hear there aren't many job openings since you had to come here.

HOPE:

This is stupid...That's the show. Hope show is over.

STEVE:

Nothing good ever comes from camp T.V. Someone always gets mad...I think Trina thinks it helps start people to talk....All I know it starts is fights.

HOPE:

I am never doing that again.

JEANETTE:

Wrong...if Trina and Lenny tell you to you will. Or you get something worse

HOPE:

Nothing is worse than that.

JEANETTE:

Looked like you were having fun.

HOPE:

There ain't no fun here.

JEANETTE:

Isn't any.

HOPE:

Whatever....

TRINA:

No not whatever...you will eventually get out of here. The way you present yourself is important. If you sound like a thug you will perceived as a thug. If you speak correctly you already have something in your favor.

JEFFERY:

(overenunciating)

That's why I speak so well.

HOPE:

That don't matter for me. I don't need to impress people they need to impress me.

RUSSELL:

We all know your family is rich, but it does matter...all this matters.

HOPE:

You are such an idiot Russell. I am only here because the lawyer screwed up. I am going to be out of here as soon as the new lawyer gets his act together.

TRINA:

Actually.. Your not. Your parents waived their rights as your legal guardian.

VERONICA:

Yep...Lenny and Trina are our mommy and daddy until they give us back.

HOPE:

We'll see about that.

TRINA:

Nothing to see about...that's the way it is.

HOPE:

My mother and father wouldn't do that to me. I am nothing like you people.

VERONICA:

What do you mean by you people?

HOPE:

Look all I did was light our guest house on fire. I am not a thief...it was mine already...I am not an addict...I am not a criminal.

TRINA:

Your parents own the guest house and there were people hurt. A crime has victims...you are a criminal.

HOPE:

It was not a crime it was justice.

ADAM:

You sound like Batman.

HOPE:

Shut up Adam. My family is just the kind of mark you are always talking about. Rich and kind. Some times too kind.

ADAM:

You don't know nothing about me...

HOPE:

You are always looking for an angle on your marks...my parents didn't see it coming. Too naive. I had to do something.

JEFFERY:

(as Hope's dad)

We are going to let the Stantons stay in the guest house for the next few weeks.

HOPE:

Mr. Stanton was our gardener. He had 3 sons and his wife had just died...or so he said. My dad offered the guest house until he was able to pay for the medical bills that stacked up. At first I didn't think anything of it...until I was walking past the guest house when I came home from school.

ADAM:

(as Mr. Stanton)

I was in the house yesterday and he has three handguns in a case in the living room. We need to get those before we even try to get to his safe.

RUSSELL:

(as one of Stanton's sons)

I'll volunteer to clean their windows for them and that will get me inside.

HOPE:

Stanton would always break down around my father about his "dead" wife. I did a little research after I heard the conversation about the guns. Since he was my dad's employee, we had his social security number on file and I went to the county building and looked up any marriage and death certificates related to number. I found a marriage certificate, but no death certificate for his wife. She was alive and hiding out somewhere. It tried to tell my dad about it.

JEFFERY:

(as Hope's dad)

Mr. Stanton is going through a tough time right now and you do not need to make it any worse for him.

HOPE:

But...his wife is alive.

JEFFERY:

(as Hope's father)

That's enough. I don't know why you find it necessary to continue with this...but it stops now.

HOPE:

I stormed out. Wishing that someone would listen to me. I know I am a teenager and we supposedly think we know everything, but in this case I did know it. I walked through the living room and noticed my dad's handgun collection not there and Stanton's oldest son was in the kitchen wiping down the windows. I walk into the kitchen and before I could confront him he said...

RUSSELL:

(as one of Stanton's
sons)

I heard you upstairs with your dad. If you know what is good for you, you will shut your mouth.

HOPE:

He then flashed one of the stolen guns he had tucked in his pants to me. He watched me from then on. His younger brother followed me home from school and whenever I left. And it seemed that one of them was always in our house for some reason. No matter what I said to my parents, I was wrong. I knew that if I was going to act it had to be soon and at night when they least expected it. They parked their landscaping equipment behind the guest house and I just figured if I scared them and showed them I had power too that they would go. So I went to my dad's BMW and took his emergency road flare out of his trunk and sparked it and threw it into a barrel of mulch or something on their cart. It went up fast...too fast. In 3 minutes the lawn mower's gas tank exploded and everything went up. I thought for sure I was going to be caught. But nobody got up to check on it. The side of the guest house was well on fire and I ran into the house and back to bed.

JEFFERY:

(as Hope's father)

Hope wake up...there's a fire...get up...up.

HOPE:

The fire had spread to our house. I guess the Stanton's weren't home. The fire had engulfed our entire first floor. My youngest brother has his room down there.

LORETTA:

(as a nurse)

He has 3rd degree burns over 40 percent of his body...the next month will be touch and go.

HOPE:

I just wanted justice. This is not fair.

JEANETTE:

How'd they find out it was you.

HOPE:

The fire didn't spread to the garage.

ADAM:

Fingerprints...

HOPE:

No alarm code. They knew I went in there late that night because I used my code.

JEANETTE:

Is your brother ok?

HOPE:

He survived, but is in a wheel chair and doesn't look like a human. I swear when I get out, there will be justice.

LENNY:

You need to worry about you and you only.

HOPE:

I am...I don't want talk any more.

STEVE:

She's gonna be here a while. The first thing a camper needs to do is take ownership of their actions. She is still blaming others.

ADAM:

Well...that was fun...boy am I tired...I think I will go to bed..

LENNY:

Sit...We are not done...I have been struggling with something today and really don't know how to handle it.

ADAM:

Well...Leonard.. From my experience the best way to approach it is head on. Just put it out there and let the group help you with it.

LENNY:

I don't know if that is the best way to do it....

LORETTA:

Hey that's what you tell us to do. Put it out there Lenny.

TRINA:

Lori, this is serious. Lenny I don't think this is the best time.

LENNY:

(tentatively)

No we need to tell them and it won't get easier to say later...

STEVE:

Lenny, Trina's right, I don't think now's not the time...

LENNY:

Steve killed himself last night.
(everyone is silent)

BLACKOUT

ACT TWO

STEVE:

You've heard that when you die your entire life passes in front of you...that's what happened to me, except most people think that it flashes in a second...in truth it goes in real time...at least for me it has. I decided not to follow myself when I left. I stayed here. I really didn't like what happened to me when I left. The strange thing though is that I am done...my life has passed. Why am I still here? Shouldn't I be going to a better place? Or at least a different place?

LORETTA:

Steve who?

TRINA:

Steve graduated just before you got here.

JEANETTE:

What happened? Why? How?

TRINA:

We don't know much, honestly.

ADAM:

That's bull. He was fine when he was here. Something happened...

(he breaks down and starts to cry)

He was my boy.. Man.

TRINA:

Adam...we are all surprised by this.

JEFFERY:

Yeah, you look all broke up about this. How long have you guys known? Why didn't you tell us right away?

LENNY:

Jeff.. If we told you a different way..

JEFFERY:

We's go crazy...we're only a bunch of thugs. Come on Lenny what are we gonna do out here? He was our friend.

JEANETTE:

Or is that too hard for you to comprehend? That people like us could have friends?

LENNY:

That's not what I said at all. We wanted to make sure that you were all here to support each other.

JEANETTE:

That's the worst thing I have heard since I have been here. You guys didn't care one lick about Steve or you wouldn't have let him go. He wasn't ready.

HOPE:

What makes you the expert, Jean?

(MORE)

HOPE: (CONT'D)

You think you can do better than Lenny and Trina? They don't have to be here.

STEVE:

Hey guys...stop. I am not really gone. I am right here. I can't watch this.

JEANETTE:

Shut up Hope. Stay out of this, you didn't know Steve the way I did.

HOPE:

What's that supposed to mean?

JEANETTE:

Just mind your own business.

HOPE:

You are such a friggin' martre. If you are inferring that you and Steve had a thing, you are a worse person than I thought you were.

JEANETTE:

How do you know?

RUSSELL:

Steve was gay.

STEVE:

And now it starts...thanks Rus. I was hoping you wouldn't say anything.

JEANETTE:

How would you know?

RUSSELL:

He hit on me.

JEANETTE:

I knew you were a queer.

TRINA:

Enough Jeanette. One of the reasons Steve got to go home was that he owned up to who he really was. He didn't have to hide behind anything.

STEVE:

I also decided not to do ice anymore...I found other things that interested me and lets not forget i got into college. It wasn't only the gay thing.

RUSSELL:

For the record, I am not gay.

ADAM:

You mean the guy we shared a tent with was gay?

RUSSELL:

You also share a tent with an alcoholic, a drug dealer, and a mute. But a gay guy has you worried?

ADAM:

I just had no idea.

RUSSELL:

That's right Adam, you were friends with a homo. I think that makes you gay by association.

ADAM:

I'm gonna ass...assi.. Assassinate you...

VERONICA:

Lenny can you stop this please?

LENNY:

Jeffrey can you grab him and make him sit.

RUSSELL:

Yeah.. Grab your boyfriend...
(Adam and Jeff lunge
at Russell. Lenny
stops them.)

LENNY:

Enough...Sit down. Everyone. This is not how you express your feelings. Keep your hands to yourself. Steve wouldn't want you guys to act like this over him.

STEVE:

Actually Lenny...It's what I expected. Adam has one way of thinking and that's not gonna change.

TRINA:

This may be hard for all of us, but I think it would be best if you talked about how Steve affected us.

LORETTA:

I didn't know him. He didn't affect me at all.

TRINA:

Then you can listen...you know the rules...nobody has to speak, but everyone must listen.

RUSSELL:

Steve and I had a lot in common. We both had addictions. It's not so much that I am an alcoholic, it's that I have an addictive personality. He used to talk about ice the way I felt about alcohol. Once your clean though...people think it's easy to not drink, but that's not it. You miss it even more. At least when I am sober I start to feel again. I want a drink real bad right now so I don't have to feel like my guts are ripped in two. I want a drink to hide in.

(takes a deep breath)

I didn't mean for it to happen.
When I am sober I make better choices.

(As Russell describes
what happened the
rests of the cast
acts out the
"flashback")

It was the last day of school before spring break. My family was going to take a trip to Mount Rushmore. My dad has a national parks pass and wants to see them all before he dies. I knew it would be hard to get a drink in the minivan with Mom, Dad, and my twin sisters from hell. So a few of the guys and I ditched class early and had some college kids buy us a 24 pack with our lunch money. We rode our bikes to the forest preserve and drank until it got way past dark. By this time my buds were passed out and I was the only one awake. They were new to the whole drinking thing, I have been at it for five years since sixth grade. I got on my bike and somehow found the highway. I didn't really know where I was, I just thought that if I was riding my bike I would get home eventually. The next thing I know I see bright lights coming right at me. I can't see anything. I didn't know what side of the road I was on. I didn't know what to do.

(MORE)

RUSSELL: (CONT'D)

The mini-van swerved at the last minute and ended up crashing into a group of trees. That's when I blacked out. When I woke up, I was in the hospital. I was fine besides a hang over. I was in the waiting room with my mom and my sisters. They didn't say a word to me. They must have heard about the crash and were here to pick me up I thought. Then a nurse came in and said:

JEANETTE:

(as the Nurse)

The surgery is over. Now we just need to wait.

RUSSELL:

Wait for what? We gotta get to Mount Rushmore....My mom turned to me revealing that her arm was in a cast and said:

LORETTA:

(as Russel's Mom)

Your father, the girls, and I went out looking for you when we were ready to leave early this morning. Andre told his mom where you guys spent the night. Your father didn't see you till the last second and just missed you.

RUSSELL:

That was you guys? Where's Dad?

LORETTA:

(as Russell's Mom)

He just got out of surgery.

RUSSELL:

My mom started to cry at that point and didn't stop. I was sent here before my dad got out of the hospital. He lost his sight in the accident. Accident.

(he starts to laugh)

It shouldn't be called an accident. I caused it. I made the choices. I was in the middle of the road. An accident is when something just happens and it is no ones fault. This is my fault. Not Old Milwaukee. Me. My mom will never stop crying because of me.

(MORE)

RUSSELL: (CONT'D)

My dad will never see any more National Parks because of me. Steve is dead because of me.

LENNY:

Steve made the choice. It had nothing to do with you.

RUSSELL:

I wasn't a good enough friend. I should have been there for him. I shouldn't have pushed him away when he came out to me.

STEVE:

Rus man.. You were a good friend. It was me that wasn't a good friend. I tried to take advantage of our relationship. I'm sorry...I wasn't thinking bout how this would affect you.

LENNY:

You have to be true to yourself. If that's not you, then it's not you.

RUSSELL:

Once he told me he was gay. I didn't talk to him the way I did before. I wasn't a good friend.

VERONICA:

I wasn't a good friend... who you fooling? All you drunks are the same. Get what you want when you want it no matter who you hurt.

TRINA:

Veronica that is a stereotype...not every...

RUSSELL:

No she's right...I can say this over and over again. It don't mean nothing unless I can back it up.

VERONICA:

Fat chance of that. The second he's out of here he'll be back in the arms of the bottle. Waiting outside the liquor store for some drunk to go in and buy him booze.

TRINA:

This is his second chance.

(MORE)

TRINA: (CONT'D)

Don't you think he deserves a second chance. You want a second chance don't you?

VERONICA:

It don't mean a thing.

TRINA:

You get a redo. You can start over.

VERONICA:

You gonna give me my baby back? You gonna keep my pimp away from me? You gonna keep me from gettin' raped?

STEVE:

Whoa...baby back? Ronny never said anything about that before. She's talked about different men but never a baby.

TRINA:

It's not up to me...

VERONICA:

Well, it sure as hell ain't up to me. When I get back, they'll find me no matter where I go. In my neighborhood, you ain't free to do what you want; you do what your told or pay.

TRINA:

It doesn't have to be that way.

VERONICA:

You and Lenny gonna come home with me and protect me from the wild animals there?

LENNY:

When you leave here you will have the tools to be able to face it on your own.

VERONICA:

Just like Steve? He was really prepared. Did you guys give him the gun or did he have to buy it himself?

STEVE:

That's not fair; it had nothing to do with any of you.

RUSSELL:

Shut up about that. Don't give us all this bull that you can't leave the life. You like it. You like the guys and mostly you like the money. You're weak.

VERONICA:

I am not the weak one. I am not the one with an addiction...

(she starts to cry)

I was 13 years old. My family had just had a becoming a teenager party for me. I was in 8th grade when I first met Jay. He was 22 or at least that's what he told me. He had a cool car, a viper I think. He would drive around the neighborhood. He had a lot of friends and a lot of girls thought he was real cute. I guess I did too. The Monday after my party he pulled up next to us as I was walking with some friends home from school. He said:

JEFFERY:

(as Jay)

I hear you're a teenager now?

VERONICA:

Yeah...

JEFFERY:

(as Jay)

I got a present for you....get in.

VERONICA:

All of my friends were excited and making jokes about him being my boyfriend. I was flattered. I got into the car and we drove a few blocks away, he pulled into a parking lot and said:

JEFFERY:

(as Jay)

I got this for you.

(he gives her a rose)

Well go ahead take it.

VERONICA:

I went to take it.. Then he...kissed me. I didn't know what to do. I did kiss him back. He smelled so good and he was gentle. He asked me:

JEFFERY:

(as Jay)
 Did you like that?
 (she nods)
 Want me to kiss you again?
 (she nods again)

VERONICA:

He didn't rape me, I said it was ok. He was very gentle that day. He took me out a lot after that, but always in groups. It was me and about five other girls. By the end of the night though, the other girls went off with other guys. I didn't catch on right away. My parents had no idea what was goin on, I told them that I was either at a friends house or didn't tell them anything. About two weeks later another girl, a younger girl started hanging out with us too. The other girls would still go off as usual but we would both stay. Then one day out of the blue:

JEFFERY:

(as Jay)
 Ronny this is Estaban. I want you to go hang out with him for a couple hours.

VERONICA:

The guy handed him a wad of money and he took me by the arm to another room. I didn't say anything to him. I just let him touch me and do what he wanted. When he was finished, he left and I just sat there. One of the other girls came in:

JEANNETTE

(as another girl)
 First time huh? You get used to it. You'll never like it, but the money makes you feel better.

VERONICA:

She was right. I moved out of my parent's place and in with some of Jay's other girls. I was one of his best girls. It's not like he didn't share the money.. But if you asked him for more...

JEFFERY:

(as Jay)
 You don't get enough? It costs me
 money to pay for your home, for your
 food, for your clothes.

(slaps her)
 You better mind. You get what you
 get.

(slaps her again)
 You ask again and you get more of
 that.

VERONICA:

That beating wasn't half as bad as
 when I told him I was...

JEFFERY:

(as Jay)
 Pregnant? You know your not suppose
 to get....

VERONICA:

I know....he wouldn't listen to me.
 What am I supposed to do?

JEFFERY:

(as Jay)
 You are supposed to do what you are
 told.

(he slaps her and
 throws her to the
 ground)

VERONICA:

Stop! Your gonna hurt the baby.
 Please...

(he keeps beating her)
 Please stop.

(Jeffrey mimes beating
 her more while she
 walks out of the
 reenactment)

I didn't lose the baby from the
 beating. He made me move out of the
 house with the girls and my parents
 didn't want anything to do with me.
 I was alone on the streets. I went
 to a shelter and they helped me until
 I gave birth. They took my baby and
 the next day I was out on the street.
 Second chances. There's no such thing.

TRINA:

This is your second chance. Your
 redo.

VERONICA:

Hiking, making fire, and checking each other for ticks? Some redo.

HOPE:

The fire is what got me into trouble in the first place. You guys haven't worked this out to well have you?

TRINA:

Hope, Veronica is still talking.

VERONICA:

No.. I'm done. No Nobel prize for you tonight. Veronica is still broken. Who's next? How about Bobby? Oh come on...he doesn't ever say anything...how is that fair?

LENNY:

Veronica do not try to change the focus to Bobby. You started to talk...when Bobby is ready he will talk...Now tell us why this is not a second chance?

VERONICA:

I told you...it's gonna be the same thing when I go back.

JEANNETTE

If you go back.

VERONICA:

I hear that. Since Steve left I have been here the longest.

LENNY:

And you will stay until you are ready for that second chance.

VERONICA:

Second chance.. Second chance.. I am not going back there to get hit again. My baby...I survived for the baby and they took it from me. I know exactly why Steve did it.. He realized that a second chance was never coming.

ADAM:

I do not care how hot you are, I will mess you up. We don't know why Steve did it.

VERONICA:

Adam you are all show and no go.

LENNY:

Enough. You'll have your turn Adam.

VERONICA:

It doesn't matter Lenny, he'll get a second chance to butt in. We'll even give him a third chance.

ADAM:

(all in one breath)

Lenny I know I am not supposed to talk, but isn't a chance the same thing as a risk? You can't gain anything if you don't risk it.

VERONICA:

What do you know about taking risks.

ADAM:

Lenny.. Can I talk?

LENNY:

There's no use in me trying to stop you now.

ADAM:

It's all about risk...calculated risk.

STEVE:

Enough about how great you are...

JEFFERY:

Adam you are my friend but if I have to hear about how great you are anymore I am going to be charged with another crime.

ADAM:

Let me finish...you gotta take the risk to start over. Look I know I talk a good game...all you ladies know I do. But when I am out of here...I'm done with that old life. I know it is going to be hard. I know that if I don't take this risk now, I will end up no where. I might even end up like Steve.

VERONICA:

You expect me to believe you?

ADAM:

I don't care if you do or not, I have seen to many people come through here, to want to go back to way I was.

VERONICA:
Master thief?

ADAM:
No...scared to death to do anything.

VERONICA:
You? Afraid?

ADAM:
Do you think it is easy to be on the
lamb after you do a job? You can't
show off your money for a lot of
time after a job, because people
always ask questions. Cops, friends,
other thieves. Everybody will want
their piece. I've already told you
guys about the jobs I pulled off, I
never told you how I got caught...I
had a gun to my head. I was about
to die.

RUSSELL:
(as competing thief)
How'd you find out about this job?
Did you follow us here?

ADAM:
No...It was just another job. I
have pulled like three jobs on this
block within the last month. I had
no idea you guys would be here.

RUSSELL:
(as competing thief)
Who told you about this job?
(there is a gun shot
and Russell falls
forward)

ADAM:
Someone shot him...from behind. His
blood was all over me. Three more
seconds and that could have been my
blood. The cops heard me trying to
talk my way out and looked into the
other houses I robbed that month.
Second chance...I want it and I am
gonna take it. My neighborhood ain't
no different than yours. You want
your baby back.. You gotta earn
that.

VERONICA:
That's probably the first time you
used that word...what do you know
about earning.

ADAM:

Not much...but I am going to use my second chance to figure it out.

STEVE:

That's my boy... Adam...I knew there was more to you than just the idiot you always show.

VERONICA:

Screw you Adam...I hate that you can be so holy. You feel that way now...all of you do. Just because Steve killed himself....you'll all change your tune tomorrow. Your all a bunch of hypocrites pointing your fingers at me...because I choose not to believe this bull. We don't even know for sure if Steve is even dead. We gonna believe everything they tell us?

JEFFERY:

They got no reason to lie about it.

VERONICA:

Bull...It made all of you talk.

LENNY:

Actually most of you all were talking before I even told you.

VERONICA:

Not me...You guys got me to believe for a second that I could get my baby back...

ADAM:

You did it all yourself...you brought it all up...and for your information...I am no hypocrite...I'm done with life.

VERONICA:

I am not meant to be happy.

BOBBY:

You can have a happy life.

Everyone stops cold....they can't believe that Bobby spoke.

LENNY:

What's that Bobby?

BOBBY:

Steve always used to say that if he can stay clean anything is possible; Veronica can have a happy life.

LENNY:

Boy you sure know when speak up...

BOBBY:

I've been thinking about what Steve said about being happy...

VERONICA:

Steve killed himself...I'm sure he was real happy.

STEVE:

No Veronica...I wasn't happy. What I was...was strung out. I failed. I did exactly what you are afraid of. I blew my second chance. I sat in a crack house...I looked around and saw my pattern repeating. I was about to do anything for a fix. But had a moment of enlightenment...there was only one way to truly get fixed. End it all. No more relying on others to fix my problems. I was sick of being a loser. But there is one thing that I learned from this replay of my life. It doesn't stop with a second chance, there's third...fourth...fifth chances to be happy. He only time you don't get a second chance is when you take the easy way out. It took two seconds for my drug induced self to make the worst decision of my life...one second to decided and one second to pull the trigger.

BOBBY:

...We don't know what was going on in Steve's head. You all assume that I am crazy, because I had nothing to say to you. I made a choice. I wanted to prove to myself that I could make a decision and stick to it. All I know is that is Steve taught me to find the happiness in life. We are all here because we made bad decisions along the line...but unlike Steve we can have a second chance. We can move on and try again.

(MORE)

BOBBY: (CONT'D)

Russell if you want to stay clean you need to fight every day. Jeff can find a new way to help his brother. We all can start over...Vern all you need to do is want it.

VERONICA:

What do you know...you think you can speak and we all gotta listen to you, because of the mutes miraculous speech?

BOBBY:

No...I didn't speak for you actually...you do what you want. I just put that together myself. I am here because of a mistake I made.

LORETTA:

Bobby get's it...what's wrong with you?

VERONICA:

You think I don't want a chance to start over? I just don't want to end up like Steve.

TRINA:

All you got to do is try. That's all we ask. When you get out of here...stay away from the old life. Go to school. Get a job. Be consistent. Take each day as they come.

VERONICA:

I want my baby.

TRINA:

That's how you get it. You know that I am gonna be there for you.

ADAM:

Lenny and her will hike out to you whenever you need help.

TRINA:

That's might sound funny, but you know we would.

BOBBY:

That's how I got here. I got no one left.

LENNY:

You don't have to talk about it if
you don't want to.

BOBBY:

I think I have been quiet long enough.

HOPE:

(as Bobby's mother)
You are useless.

JEFFERY:

(as bobby's father)
Boy you better get me a beer if you
know what's good for you.

HOPE:

(as Bobby's mother)
That's what you get for not filling
my iron.

JEFFERY:

(as Bobby's father)
You will listen to your mother...

BOBBY:

I know you guys didn't have a great
family life...I was no different.
No one listened to me...I was blamed
for everything. I was punished
everyday. My dad would say to me...

JEFFERY:

(as Bobby's father)
Get my belt boy.

BOBBY:

I didn't do anything.

JEFFERY:

(as Bobby's father)
Then this'll be for reinforcement.

BOBBY:

You mean for fun...

JEFFERY:

(as Bobby's father)
Now I have a reason...don't talk
back to me boy.

BOBBY:

I ride to do what they wanted...I
wanted to be a good boy. I wanted
to be loved.

(MORE)

BOBBY: (CONT'D)

Everyday after school I would come home after school and make sure the house was spotless...I would cook dinner...and a lot of the time make sure my parents made it to the bedroom before passing out drunk. Then one day my father just began to wail on me. Like always I had no idea why. He wasn't stopping. Instead of taking it or running away...I lost it. That was the last time I talked...I shouted over and over...That's enough...That's enough. Until the next think I knew my parents where dead from me doing to them in one night that did to me my entire life.

VERONICA:

You killed your parents?

BOBBY:

Yes...

VERONICA:

How can he be here...isn't he to dangerous to be with us?

BOBBY:

Look at me? There isn't anyone of you who can't take me...including Adam.

ADAM:

The Mime has jokes.

BOBBY:

Yes I killed them...technically it's voluntary manslaughter. That's what I was charged with. It's still a felony, but the jury decided to lessen the charge to involuntary manslaughter. I was gonna be let go...but I had no where to go. That's when Lenny and Trina showed up.

TRINA:

We read about his case in the paper and decided to invite him to be a part of this. The only way we could do it was to adopt him.

JEANETTE:

Wait a minute...all this time we have been here...you never said anything about Bobby being your kid.

ADAM:

I thought Steve dying was a big surprise.. But this...How could you guys not tell us?

BOBBY:

It wasn't your business.

LENNY:

We knew that we would eventually. But we wanted it to be Bobby's choice.

BOBBY:

You see Vern...you can have a second chance.

VERONICA:

You gonna adopt me too?

TRINA:

It doesn't work like that...you have parents that actually care about you. You wouldn't be here if they didn't care about you. None of you would be.

VERONICA:

(she begins to cry)
But what about my baby?

LENNY:

Your parents have the baby. You can start over...

VERONICA:

What do I got to do to get to my baby?

TRINA:

You have to want to start over.

VERONICA:

(she hugs Trina)
I want to be better not just for me but for my baby.

STEVE:

She starts over...actually they all do. Some took longer than others to finish the program but they all did. Adam goes to the community college and actually opens his own business...a dry cleaners. Russell hasn't had a drink in years...he got married and has 3 kids that he loves dearly.

(MORE)

STEVE: (CONT'D)

Jeffrey moved back in with his dad and his brother. His dad took on another job to put both kids through school. Jeffrey went to college and actually got a business scholarship and is now a CPA. Hope's little brother still can't walk...she did decide to do everything she could to get him back on his feet. She is some kind of cellular regeneration doctor. Jeanette went back to the streets....she works with gang members everyday telling her story trying to get them to turn their lives around. Loretta finally got noticed...once she got out of college she started an online money management firm and was on the cover of Fortune magazine as one of the top CEO's in America. Trina, and Lenny are still out camping working with new brats everyday...helping them find their second chances. And Bobby and Veronica they have a little girl of their own along with Veronica's son. As for me? I don't get another chance.. I gave up.