

Charlie Boy

Written By

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EXT- IN THE RIVER BENEATH THE UNDERPASS- MORNING

It's a beautiful day outside. The birds are CHIRPING and a breeze moves through the grass and flowers that lay besides the river. It seems picturesque.

CHARLIE, a 18 year old, is underwater. His eyes are closed and his hair floats with him. A few seconds pass and his eyes open. He sits up.

His torso is visible while his lower half is still emerged. He shakes his head a bit to get the water out of his hair. He gets up and he's only in underwear. He starts to stretch his back a little, but pain is on his face.

CUT TO:

He starts to head toward his hole beneath the underpass. A single sheet covers the hole's entrance. He enters, flinging the sheet to the side to enter.

Outside of his hole are random stacks of books, comics, an old backpack, a CD Player and a camera.

He comes back out with clothes on and is drying his hair with a towel. He bends down and slips on his dirty shoes. He then picks up his back pack, slings his camera around his neck and heads around the corner, up the hill, to the city street.

EXT- CITY STREET(MAIN AVE)- MORNING

Charlie walks down the street. The city resembles New York City, but that's not where this is. There are PEOPLE everywhere. VINNY, old pizza man, is sweeping the sidewalk but obviously shows a struggle. Charlie walks by and takes the broom from him. He starts sweeping the sidewalk a lot faster than how Vinny was doing it.

VINNY

Ah, thank you, Charlie. It's been getting harder every morning.

CHARLIE

No worries. Don't want you to pull something again.

VINNY

Oh no, Charlie boy, I'm a man's man. 20 years in the army didn't train me for nothing.

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Charlie finishes up and puts the broom against the window.

VINNY (CONT'D)

Hey, come inside for breakfast.
Haven't had you eat here in a while.
I'll whip up your favorite.

CHARLIE

As much as I would love that, I'm
headed towards Mad's place.

VINNY

Ya know how many times I told you to
stay away from-

CHARLIE

I know, I know.

VINNY

You silly boy. How's the bridge? It's
been around two weeks since you moved
underneath there.

CHARLIE

Not the best, but it is cozy.

VINNY

Have you thought about moving back in-

CHARLIE

No. She's taken care of me enough. I'm
an adult now, vinny.

VINNY

Alright, alright. Just be careful.

CHARLIE

Will do. I'll see you.

VINNY

I'll see you around.

Charlie goes back on his way.

CUT TO:

Charlie walks down the street and occasionally says hello to
the people outside.

The neighborhood is run down. Shops have a dirty window and
groups of people hangout in front of the store. It appears as

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if everyone knows each other from their interactions
Everything and everyone look connected.

As Charlie walks he starts to have some discomfort on his
face.

CHARLIE
Shit I gotta pee.

He looks around really quick and once he notices the coast is
clear he dips into a back alley.

EXT-ALLEYWAY-MORNING

He unzips his pants and we hear him PEEING AGAINST THE WALL.

He then goes to put his penis in his pants. While shifting
his junk around he feels something weird.

CHARLIE
What the fuck is that?

He keeps feeling it. Trying to decipher whats in his pants.

He starts to panic a bit. Groping his balls a bit faster.

CUT TO:

We see A MAN JOGGING run by. He stops for a minute and looks
at Charlie.

JOGGING MAN
What do you think you're doing?

Charlie looks at the man with a panicked, scared expression.

CHARLIE
I think I grew a third ball sack.

The man looks at Charlie surprised. He wasn't expecting that
response.

JOGGING MAN
Oh... sorry. It's just.. well-

Charlie realizes what he looks like now. A pervert.

CHARLIE
Okay, I'm leaving now, goodbye sir.

Charlie fast walks out of the alley.

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INT- MAD DOG'S APARTMENT- MORNING

MAD DOG, a 21 year old Mexican man, is plucking at a guitar. He's trying to play a tune but before we can recognize it, he messes up.

On the table in front of him is an open sketchbook with drawings inside, glass of water, a gun and shit ton of drugs are scattered about. Some are in bags and some aren't.

After a couple of tries he gives up on playing and sighs. He takes the joint from behind his ear, puts it into his mouth and lights it.

But at the exact moment that he inhales, Charlie storms into the apartment.

CHARLIE

I need you to check my balls.

Mad Dog coughs. It's a bad cough.

Mad Dog picks up the glass of water off the table and takes sips in between his coughs.

Charlie closes the door. He rushes to the couch to sit down. He drops his backpack and takes off the camera from around his neck.

Mad Dog finally regains himself.

MAD DOG

What the fuck did you just say to me?

CHARLIE

I need you to check my balls.

MAD DOG

That's what I thought you said.

Mad Dog take another hit again. He holds it in for a bit. There's silence.

CHARLIE

So? Are you gonna do it or not?

Mad Dog exhales the smoke.

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MAD DOG

No.

CHARLIE

Please?

MAD DOG

Absolutely fuckin not. What makes you think that I would like to see your balls? Also just saying please won't make me do it.

CHARLIE

I think there's something wrong with it.

Mad Dog passes the joint to Charlie. Charlie takes a quick hit, as if it were routine for him. He inhales.

MAD DOG

Do I look like a health care professional?

Charlie exhales and passes the joint to Mad Dog.

CHARLIE

C'mon please? I really need another opinion.

Mad Dog takes a hit. He inhales.

MAD DOG

I'm not gonna look at your balls.

Mad Dog passes the joint to Charlie. Charlie inhales and quickly exhales.

CHARLIE

Please, man? I have nobody else to check. I need to know if I'm crazy or not.

Charlie passes the joint to Mad Dog who takes one last hit. He puts the butt out on the table and exhales.

MAD DOG

Listen, I love you bro, with my whole heart. I would do anything for you. With that being said though, the last thing I want to see is-

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CHARLIE

I think I grew a third sack.

Mad Dog looks at Charlie with a mixture of emotions. Puzzlement, horror and maybe some intrigue? Mad Dog sits for a bit and thinks before asking his question.

MAD DOG

What do you mean?

CHARLIE

Exactly what I said.

MAD DOG

I understand that, but what exactly do you mean?

CHARLIE

I don't know how to explain it. It is what it is. It's a third sack. It's better just to look at it.

Mad Dog sits for a second. Charlie is looking a Mad Dog, waiting for his response.

MAD DOG

Pull down your pants.

Charlie immediately gets up and pulls down his pants. Mad Dog leans in with shock.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

CHARLIE

Right?

MAD DOG

What the fuck is that?

CHARLIE

I don't know. I felt it when I was pissing before.

MAD DOG

Can I touch it?

CHARLIE

NO.

Mad Dog sits back. He's still staring a Charlie's balls.

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Charlie becomes uncomfortable.

CHARLIE

Can I put my pants back on?

MAD DOG

Oh yeah.

Charlie puts his pants back on. He sits on the couch besides Mad Dog.

There's a weird silence. It's not uncomfortable, but it's that kind of silence where nobody knows what they should say next.

Mad dog decides to speak up.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

That shit's crazy, man.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

MAD DOG

Does it hurt?

CHARLIE

Not at all.

MAD DOG

How long have you had it?

CHARLIE

I don't know, I just found it today.

MAD DOG

You didn't see it yesterday?

CHARLIE

No. I didn't check it yesterday.

MAD DOG

Are you telling me you don't look at your balls everyday?

CHARLIE

No. Why would I? I usually just pull out my dick to pee.

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CONTINUED: (5)

MAD DOG

You don't like, ya know, touch and feel them and shit.

CHARLIE

(sternly)

No I do not do that, Mad Dog.

MAD DOG

I'm just saying. No need to get all bitchy.

CHARLIE

And I'm just saying that I don't do that. That's weird.

MAD DOG

How is feeling your balls weird?

CHARLIE

Because why would I need to?

MAD DOG

Do you not rub one out?

CHARLIE

I mean sometimes. I just get nervous that I'll get caught so it ruins the experience for me.

MAD DOG

Who gives a fuck about getting caught?

CHARLIE

Me. I do. Because I'll be arrested.

MAD DOG

Do it indoors.

CHARLIE

Thank you for that wonderful advice. I will just walk into my house that I now own and go to the bedroom and masturbate. Wow. Genius, man, I can't believe you thought of that.

MAD DOG

Fuck off, bro. If you want I'll let you rub one out in my bathroom if you need to.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Charlie looks at Mad Dog.

CHARLIE
You would let me do that?

MAD DOG
Of course man. Anything for you.

Charlie looks away from Mad Dog with a smile.

There's a bit of silence. They stare off in the distance for a bit.

CHARLIE
What do I do?

MAD DOG
I mean anytime you feel the, ya know, urge-

CHARLIE
No, I mean about my third ball.

MAD DOG
Oh. I, truthfully, don't know.

CHARLIE
Do you think it's bad?

Silence. Neither one wants to know the answer.

Mad Dog then comes up with a brilliant idea.

MAD DOG
Let's look it up.

Mad Dog pulls out his phone.

He types into the search bar.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)
What should I type?

CHARLIE
I don't know.

MAD DOG
Let's do... "Third ball growth"

They look it up.

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MAD DOG (CONT'D)

Okay so, the first this is called...polyorchidism, which basically means that you have a third testicle and it's fine.

CHARLIE

Okay I can live with that.

MAD DOG

The other one is testicular cancer.

CHARLIE

What?

MAD DOG

Yeah, like ball cancer basically.

CHARLIE

I could have cancer?

MAD DOG

Hey, don't freak out. The first one is rare but it still happens. There's a chance that you just grew...that and you're fine.

CHARLIE

There's also a chance that I might have cancer.

There's a silence.

MAD DOG

Do you wanna go to the-

CHARLIE

Yes.

Charlie and Mad Dog look at each other. They're both scared.

INT- HOSPITAL- NIGHT

Charlie and Mad Dog sit in an examination room. Charlie sits on top of the table while Mad Dog waits in the chair. Charlie is in a hospital gown.

The room is covered with posters of body parts. All are very explicit and extremely uncomfortable.

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CHARLIE
Well this sucks.

MAD DOG
Yup.

CHARLIE
So many people have seen my penis.

MAD DOG
They had to.

CHARLIE
I know. But that doesn't mean that I liked it.

MAD DOG
No one said you liked it.

CHARLIE
I was just putting that statement out there.

MAD DOG
Okay, Charlie. We now know that you didn't like having people look at your penis.

There's an awkward silence.

CHARLIE
Thanks for letting me use your insurance card.

MAD DOG
No worries.

CHARLIE
I didn't know you needed all that kind of stuff just to go to the hospital.

MAD DOG
The American healthcare system is fucked.

CHARLIE
At least we don't have to pay for this.

MAD DOG
What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE

You don't have to pay for hospital visits.

MAD DOG

What?

CHARLIE

Isn't it free?

MAD DOG

No. You have to pay.

CHARLIE

no fuckin' way.

MAD DOG

Yeah. You gotta pay before you leave.

CHARLIE

Oh no. I gotta get out of here.

Charlie jumps off the examination table and books it for the door. Mad Dog gets in the way and blocks the door.

MAD DOG

What are you doing? Ger your ass back on that table right now.

Charlie hesitates.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

Now.

Charlie backs up and hops onto the table.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

Don't worry about the bill. I have it covered.

CHARLIE

No, No, No. I can't let you do that. I can pay it.

MAD DOG

Oh yeah? Do you know how much it'll cost?

CHARLIE

Like 20 bucks right?

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CONTINUED: (4)

MAD DOG

Add two more zeros and you'll be right.

CHARLIE

No way.

MAD DOG

Charlie, it's fine I got it.

CHARLIE

No. I'll tell them to bill me.

MAD DOG

Oh yeah? Where are they gonna send the bill?

The DOCTOR, 58 and eccentric, bursts through the door. He has a grim face on.

DOCTOR

Hello, boys. So I got good news and bad news.

CHARLIE

Just tell me I have cancer.

DOCTOR

So, you have Testicular Cancer.

Charlie sits back shocked. Mad Dog puts his head in his hands.

CHARLIE

They're gonna chop off my balls.

Mad Dog looks up at him.

MAD DOG

You're gonna have one ball sack for the rest of your life.

The Doctor looks at Charlie.

DOCTOR

But we've caught the cancer at an interesting time. With some Chemotherapy and removal of the tumor, we can stop it.

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CHARLIE

How much does that cost?

DOCTOR

Well it's not cheap. It's a long and grueling process. It also looks like it's late Stage 2.

CHARLIE

What does that mean?

DOCTOR

The cancer is becoming more aggressive. If we let it get into Stage three then it'll spread to other parts of your body. So we need to treat this now.

There's silence in the room. Charlie keeps his head down. He doesn't look at anyone else.

CHARLIE

What would happen if I don't treat it?

DOCTOR

The cancer will spread to the rest of your body. You'll probably die by the end of the year.

CHARLIE

Would it be painful?

DOCTOR

Yes.

Charlie winces at that answer.

Nobody knows what to say next.

Charlie stares off into space.

After a tense silence.

CHARLIE

Thank you for your time.

Charlie jumps off the examination table and starts to head towards the door.

MAD DOG

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

DOCTOR

Wait, sir!

But Charlie is already out the door.

INT- HOSPITAL HALLWAY-NIGHT

He fast walks through the hallway, dodging NURSES and other PATIENTS.

Mad Dog runs out of the room. He sees Charlie down the hall.

MAD DOG

Charlie! Hold on, bro!

Charlie turns around and looks at him for a second. He then starts running through the hallways, leaving Mad Dog behind.

Mad Dog tries to chase after him, until he turns a corner and notices how far Charlie is.

INT-HOSPITAL STAIRWELL-NIGHT

Charlie barges into the stairwell.

The stairwell is all concrete. It's grey with dirt and grime that coats the walls.

Charlie's heavy breathes bounce off the walls.

He pauses at the top of the stairs for a bit, mostly to catch his breath.

He starts to head down the first flight at a brisk pace. But when gets to the second flight he stops at the top.

At the bottom of the stairs is an OLD MAN. He's dressed in a hospital gown and his hair is all gone. All that is left is a wrinkly bald head.

The Old Man looks behind him and up at Charlie.

They make eye contact. Just staring at each other without saying a word.

The Old Man looks like Charlie. He looks like a much, much older Charlie.

Charlie finally breaks eye contact. He closes his eyes for a second and then opens them.

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He looks down at his feet as he step by step, walks down the stairs. The Old Man slowly watches him.

Charlie passes the Old Man and heads out the exit door.

INT- ELVIRA'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

ELVIRA ,42 but looks exceptionally young for her age, is kneeling on a bed next to a WOMAN.

The room is all white with hints of soft yellows and light blues.

Elvira has her hand on the Women's chest. The palm of her hand pressing slowly the Women's sternum. Elvira's other hand is on the Women's lower stomach. It's slowly pushing on it repeatedly. Their breathing is both in sync.

The Women then slowly starts to convulse and her face contours in pleasure.

A BANGING starts at the door. It's excessive and doesn't stop.

CHARLIE(O.S)
Elvira? open up!

Elvira ignores it and continues on her client.

CHARLIE(O.S) (CONT'D)
Elvira! Open the damn door.

Elvira looks down at her client.

ELVIRA
Excuse me. This'll just take a second.

She gets up from the bed and opens the door.

Charlie is standing at the door breathing heavy.

ELVIRA (CONT'D)
Charlie, what do you want? I have a cli-

CHARLIE
I have cancer and I don't know what to do.

Elvira looks at Charlie in shock.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELVIRA

What?

CUT TO:

INT- ELVIRA'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Charlie is sitting on the couch with a change of clothes. He's staring at a wall, but it's almost as if he's looking through it.

He's in a daze.

Elvira walks in with a mug of tea. When she hands it to him he snaps out of it.

Elvira sits next to Charlie.

ELVIRA

You're lucky I kept some of your clothes after you left.

CHARLIE

Yeah. I didn't realize I was still in the hospital gown.

There's a bit of silence.

ELVIRA

Do you wanna tell me what happened and what the doctor said?

CHARLIE

So this morning I was peeing and I saw this lump on my, ya know, balls. So I went to the hospital with Mad Dog and they just told me and I kinda just freaked out and left.

ELVIRA

Did they say anything else? Did you explain to them your situation-

Charlie whips his head at Elvira. There's anger in his eyes.

CHARLIE

No, I didn't have the time to because I was to busy freaking out over the whole fuckin cancer thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELVIRA

Watch your mouth kid. You know better than to speak to me like that.

Charlie looks down at his mug and squeezes it.

Tears start to run down his face.

CHARLIE

What am I going to do? I have nothing. I have no money to pay for anything.

ELVIRA

Charlie we-

CHARLIE

No. We both know you don't have the money. I'm not burdening anyone I care about anymore. I told you that after I left.

ELVIRA

But this is something completely different. You're going to die.

CHARLIE

Well what do I do then, huh? Take the little money that you have left? Watch you struggle to survive as you try and keep me alive by doing your weird sex meditating stuff? You know I can't do that. I spent my whole life doing that. It's the reason I left in the first place.

Elvira is crying at this point but she keeps her face stern.

She never looks away from Charlie.

ELVIRA

I did not take you into my home and raise you to watch you die from your own self-pity.

CHARLIE

Then tell me what I can do?

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

INT- ELVIRA'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Papers are now scattered everywhere. The once clean and soothing apartment is now flooded with papers and boxes.

Charlie is on a laptop taking notes while Elvira is searching through an old box.

CHARLIE

Okay so there's this organization that can grant me money. But it seems like they can only pay for half the treatment.

ELVIRA

Half is fine. As long as it's something. Did you find anything about that care center?

CHARLIE

Apparently it was a scam.

ELVIRA

Did you find any other?

CHARLIE

Not yet.

ELVIRA

What do you need for the grant?

CHARLIE

It says I need to send them the results from the doctor, a reference on my character from someone and my birth certificate.

Elvira shoots up and looks at Charlie.

ELVIRA

What do you mean a birth certificate?

CHARLIE

Like a birth certificate. I mean, I think that's pretty easy.

Elvira stays silent. She looks away from Charlie and back to the box.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You have my birth certificate right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELVIRA

Yeah. Yeah. Probably.

Charlie studies Elvira. He notices that something is off.

CHARLIE

Elvira?

ELVIRA

What? You found something else out?

CHARLIE

Where is my birth certificate?

ELVIRA

It's... somewhere. Don't worry about it I'll handle it.

CHARLIE

You don't know where it is...

ELVIRA

I know where it is.

CHARLIE

Then where is it?

Charlie stands up, anger is slowly creeping on his face.

Elvira stops what she's doing and looks at him.

ELVIRA

I said I would take care of it.

CHARLIE

Where is it?

There's a beat. The tension is heavy in the air.

ELVIRA

Now if I tell you, you have to promise that you won't do anything impulsive. I will handle this.

CHARLIE

Just say it.

Elvira hesitates as she looks at Charlie. She gives in.

ELVIRA

Your mother has it-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE

What?

ELVIRA

But I got this. I'll talk to her-

CHARLIE

You don't have it?

ELVIRA

She never gave it to me. When she left you with me, she just gave me you and nothing-

CHARLIE

So you didn't think to ask for it sooner?

ELVIRA

Well I'm not really on the best of terms with her, Charlie-

CHARLIE

So if you're not on the best of terms how are you-

ELVIRA

I'll figure it out.

Charlie is furious now.

CHARLIE

(yelling)

No. Stop. Don't do that. You always-

ELVIRA

Before you start, you better watch what you're gonna say, boy. Remember I'm your mother.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah? What kind of mother doesn't even have their own child's birth certificate?

ELVIRA

Oh, don't do that-

CHARLIE

Do what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ELVIRA

Throw a temper tantrum like a child.

CHARLIE

I'm not a child.

ELVIRA

Oh so you're an adult? What kind of adult leaves home just to live under a bridge? Huh?

Charlie glares at Elvira. The tension in the air is hot around them.

CHARLIE

Fine. I'll do it myself then.

Charlie grabs his jacket off the couch.

ELVIRA

What? Where are you going?

CHARLIE

To find my mother.

ELVIRA

You don't even know what she looks like, or her name-

CHARLIE

I'll figure it out.

ELVIRA

Stop it. I know you're mad-

CHARLIE

I can handle it.

ELVIRA

Charlie, stop. I'll take care of this. I'll talk to her and pay-

Charlie turns around towards Elvira.

CHARLIE

I got this, Elvira. I'll do it myself.

ELVIRA

You don't even know who she is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CHARLIE

Why is it I don't know about my mother
huh?

ELVIRA

Charlie-

CHARLIE

You never talked about her. You only
told me how she was an addict and she
abandoned me-

ELVIRA

Because she was an addict and she did
abandon you. I don't want you to be
involved with a woman like-

CHARLIE

or is it because you're jealous.

ELVIRA

What are you talking about?

Charlie starts walking towards Elvira. With each word he
moves closer.

CHARLIE

You can't lie to me, Elvira. I know
you. You're jealous. You didn't want
me to try and see her or reach out to
her because you didn't want me to
leave you. You're lonely.

ELVIRA

Watch it, Charlie. I know you're
feeling upset but-

CHARLIE

But what? I'm dying. I'm getting
sicker and sicker by the second. And
even then you won't tell me.

ELVIRA

Watch you're fucking mouth.

CHARLIE

You're not my mother.

Elvira has tears in her eyes. She puts her finger in
Charlie's face.

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CONTINUED: (6)

ELVIRA

Don't you ever, EVER, say that to me again. I have raised you since you were put on my doorstep by the woman you want to meet so much. I have put in so much to raise you. And you will not treat me with that disrespect.

Elvira starts to cry as Charlie just stands there, anger still in his eyes.

ELVIRA (CONT.)

Now if you want to meet her, fine, do what you want. But just remember who was the one who made you the person you are. And just remember who will be taking care of you and the payments at the end of the day.

CHARLIE

Fine.

Elvira looks at Charlie with a stern look. She's trying to look like she hasn't given in.

ELVIRA

Her name is Darlene Wilco. She lives on the nice side of town.

Charlie turns around and walks away.

ELVIRA (CONT'D)

Charlie-

Charlie slams the door shut as he leaves.

EXT- ELVIRA'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Charlie walks out of Elvira's apartment building. He quickly runs down the stairs.

Suddenly, Mad Dog runs from around the corner. He sees Charlie and runs up to him.

MAD DOG

Bro, what the fuck? I've been lookin' for you all day-

CHARLIE

I'm sorry. There's a lot going on-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAD DOG

That doesn't mean you leave me in the-

CHARLIE

I have to meet my mom.

Mad Dog looks at Charlie with bewilderment.

MAD DOG

What do you mean?

CHARLIE

I have to go to her house and ask her to give me back my birth certificate for this grant.

Mad Dog leans against the wall.

MAD DOG

So this grant will pay for your treatment?

CHARLIE

Well, it'll pay for half.

MAD DOG

Do you know who is gonna pay for the other half?

CHARLIE

Not yet. But it looks like Elvira is gonna force herself to pay for it.

MAD DOG

That fuckin hippie.

CHARLIE

I told her not to.

Beat.

MAD DOG

So are you really gonna go meet her?

CHARLIE

Well, I'm gonna have to.

MAD DOG

Why don't you let Elvira handle the situation-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE

No. She's done enough. Besides this is something I need to fix myself.

MAD DOG

You don't have to do this by yourself, Charlie. We can help-

CHARLIE

No-

MAD DOG

Listen, Elvira called me before. We made a plan on how to fix this whole thing. Just let yourself get better-

CHARLIE

This is something I gotta do. I'm sorry.

MAD DOG

For what? To show that you can do shit on your own? I thought that was the reason why you moved out of Elvira's and now live under the fuckin highway-

CHARLIE

I can do this on my own Mad Dog-

MAD DOG

Obviously you can't. Who the fuck could? Let us help you Charlie.

Charlie looks off into the distance.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

At least think about it.... Please?

Charlie shakes his head.

CHARLIE

I don't know.

MAD DOG

Please?

Charlie leans against the wall with Mad Dog.

There's a bit of silence between them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Charlie looks at Mad Dog, tears streaming down his face.

CHARLIE

I don't want to die.

Mad Dog pulls Charlie into his arms. He holds him tight as Charlie cries.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(CRYING)

I don't want to disappear.

MAD DOG

I promise I won't let that happen.

INT- MAD DOG'S CAR-MORNING

Charlie and Mad Dog climb into the car. Mad Dog hops into the driver side and Charlie sits in the passenger seat.

The early morning glow of the sunrise peaks through the window onto them.

Mad Dog starts the car as Charlie just stares out the window.

MAD DOG

Do you wanna get some coffee?

CHARLIE

No. I'm okay.

MAD DOG

What about breakfast?

CHARLIE

I'm too nervous to eat.

MAD DOG

You should-

CHARLIE

I'm fine. I just don't want anything.

MAD DOG

Okay.

Mad Dog starts to drive as they both sit in silence.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

It's a few hours later. The sun is brighter now. Almost blinding.

Folk Music is playing on the car radio.

Neither Charlie or Mad Dog is speaking.

Mad Dog speaks up.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

We're almost there.

CHARLIE

Really?

MAD DOG

Yeah.

There's the same silence again.

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

Did you think about what I said?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

MAD DOG

And?

Charlie looks over at Mad Dog.

CHARLIE

I don't know, dude.

MAD DOG

Bro, you're dying. We can't just watch you suffer

CHARLIE

Yeah I guess. It's just-

MAD DOG

It's just, what? You feel bad? Why would you still feel bad?

CHARLIE

Because you guys have sacrificed so much for me. And I have nothing to show for it. I wanna show you both that I can do this. That I can stand on my own two feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MAD DOG

Charlie. I understand that, but if you don't let us help you, then that's the worst thing you could do for us. Yes, we have given up a lot for you, but it's because we care about you.

CHARLIE

I understand and I appreciate that from you guys but I'm 21 years old. I can't rely on people forever. I need to do my own things and live my own life.

MAD DOG

Charlie, you're not gonna be able to live your own life if you don't let us do this. Please-

Charlie turns up the music.

CHARLIE

I don't wanna talk about this anymore.

MAD DOG

Charlie...

Charlie ignores him and rolls down his window.

Mad Dog just looks at him and sighs.

Suggested Music: The song HE WAS A FRIEND OF MINE BY DAVE VAN RONK starts to play.

MAD DOG STARTS TO SING ALONG.

Charlie still stares out the window as Mad Dog sings.

Charlie closes his eyes and just listens to him.

His voice feels light and smooth.

But it has an emotional hoarseness that makes the pit of your stomach swell up.

The song reaches its end and Charlie opens his eyes and looks at Mad Dog.

CHARLIE

How are you so damn good?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MAD DOG
(laughing)
I don't know about that.

CHARLIE
You are though. I tell you this every
single time.

MAD DOG
I know you do, but doesn't mean I'm
actually good. You're just biased.

CHARLIE
I'm not though. You really should play
at an open mic.

MAD DOG
No. Absolutely not.

CHARLIE
Why not?

MAD DOG
Cuz I'm the neighborhood drug dealer,
Charlie. I'm the last person they
would allow at an open mic. Besides I
have a reputation to keep up.

CHARLIE
Could you at least do it before I die,
I wanna see you perform.

Mad Dog sighs.

He then looks at Charlie and smiles.

MAD DOG
How about this, if you let us pay for
the other half, I'll play at the next
open mic.

CHARLIE
That's no fair-

MAD DOG
A deal is a deal, Charlie boy.

Charlie looks out the window again as they pass a sunflower
farm.

He looks back at Mad Dog.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CHARLIE

Fine. But I get to pick the song.

MAD DOG

That's okay with me.

Charlie and Mad Dog smile at each other.

EXT- DARLENE'S HOUSE- AFTERNOON

Mad Dog and Charlie get out of the car.

They park in front of a Victorian-style home.

The house looks clean. The blues and whites of the front of the house stand out profusely.

Flowerbeds line the side of the pathway to the front door.

Basically this looks like a typical white, rich suburban home.

Charlie and Mad Dog look in wonder at the houses around them.

They walk up the walkway.

Mid way Charlie stops.

There's panic in his eyes.

He sees TWO KIDS playing in the living room window.

CHARLIE

I don't wanna do this anymore.

MAD DOG

What are you talking about?

CHARLIE

I don't wanna do this anymore.

MAD DOG

Charlie, calm down. Let's just knock on-

CHARLIE

I don't wanna do this. I don't wanna do this-

MAD DOG

Yo, stop it, you're causing a scene.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

I can't. I can't. I can't. I can't-

A woman opens the door. This is DARLENE WILCO, 38 years old, tall and curvy.

DARLENE

Excuse me? Can I help you?

Mad Dog and Charlie stand there just looking at her.

MAD DOG

Um. Are you Darlene Wilco?

DARLENE

Yes.

Charlie and Darlene look at each other.

Their eyes meet and they instantly know.

Their features are very similar. Extremely similar.

CHARLIE

I'm your son.

She loses her breath for a bit.

DARLENE

Charlie?

SADIE WILCO, 16 years old and a clone copy of her mother, also comes out the front door.

SADIE

Mom? What's going on?

Darlene is still staring at Charlie. Her eyes are wide open.

DARLENE

What are you doing here?

CHARLIE

I was looking for you.

SADIE

Mom? Who are-

Darlene's eyes don't leave Charlie's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DARLENE

Sadie, go back inside sweetie.

SADIE

But, Mom-

DARLENE

I said get back inside. Now.

Sadie hesitates. Then she locks eyes with Charlie for a second. She slowly closes the door; we still see her from the window.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Charlie, you cannot be here.

CHARLIE

Can I just talk to you for a bit?

DARLENE

No. Who told you I was here? How did you find out?

CHARLIE

Just for a few min-

DARLENE

Absolutely not. Was it Elvira? That-

MAD DOG

Jesus fuckin Christ, lady, can't you just talk to him?

Darlene shoots Mad Dog a look.

DARLENE

First off, do not say his name in vain. Second, who the fuck are you to talk to me like that?

MAD DOG

I'm the guy who brought YOUR SON here to see you. Or did you forget that you even had a son?

DARLENE

You think I liked what I did to him? I'm not-

MAD DOG

What? A bitch? No, No. How could you
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MAD DOG (CONT'D)

be a bitch after you left your baby in
a dumpster and then refuse to talk-

DARLENE

I am no monster. You have no idea-

CHARLIE

I'm dying.

Darlene stops. She looks at Charlie and starts to tear up.

DARLENE

What?

CHARLIE

I have testicular cancer.

She puts her head in her hands. She mumbles something to
herself and then turns back to Charlie.

DARLENE

Okay come inside and we can talk.

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE- AFTERNOON

Darlene, Charlie and Mad Dog all enter the house.

The ceilings are high and the walls are white mixed with
royal blues accents. The house looks bright and open. There
are crosses, statues of god and inspirational bible pictures
everywhere.

They pass the living room where two twin boys, 6 years old
named DEVIN and DEREK, play. They both stop what they're
doing to look at Charlie.

DARLENE

Boys, I have company. We'll be in the
office.

DEVIN

Okay Miss Wilco.

DEREK

Who are your friends?

DARLENE

Um this is Charlie, you can just call
him Uncle Charlie and this is...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Darlene looks at Mad Dog with a puzzled face.

MAD DOG
Oh, I'm Mad Dog.

DARLENE
Are you serious?

DEREK
Whoa, no way!

DEVIN
Can I have a name like that?

DARLENE
No. Sadie is in charge. You're mother should be coming after dinner to pick you up.

CUT TO:

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE (THE OFFICE)- AFTERNOON

A generic-looking office. The walls are bookshelves filled to the top with books of all kinds. Above the fireplace is a huge portrait of the family.

Charlie is staring at the portrait as he takes a seat on the couch. Darlene goes into the desk and takes out a crystal bottle full of whisky, she pours herself a glass. Mad Dog walks around the office looking at the books.

MAD DOG
Seems like you've done well for yourself, lady.

DARLENE
Mrs. Wilco.

MAD DOG
I'm gonna stick with lady. You even have kids here that aren't your own.

DARLENE
I'm a professional babysitter. They aren't mine.

MAD DOG
Whatever you say, Lady.

Darlene shoots Mad Dog a look. She then sits on a couch that

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

is across from Charlie.

There's an awkward silence. The unspoken words that lay between them hang in the air.

DARLENE
When did you find out?

CHARLIE
A couple of days ago.

DARLENE
Is it serious?

Charlie nods his head. Darlene takes another sip.

CHARLIE
Look, I don't want to bother you. All I need is my birth certificate for a grant that could help pay for treatment.

DARLENE
Just your birth certificate?

CHARLIE
Yes.

Beat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Do you think I was here for money?

The conversation is interrupted by the sound of the FRONT DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING.

DARLENE
Shit.

Darlene chugs the rest of her drink in a quick second and puts the bottle and glass back in the desk. She pulls out a pack of gum, starts to chew and walks back to the couch.

A BOOMING VOICE is heard coming up the steps.

MAN
(O.S)
Honey? Are you home? The kids are talking about an Uncle Mad Dog?

MIKE WILCO, 45, walks into the office. He stops short when he

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

sees Darlene and Charlie on the couch. Mad Dog stops flipping through a book.

CUT TO:

Mike has his head in his hands as he sits on the couch next to Darlene. Charlie and Mad Dog sit on the couch across from him. He then looks back up at Charlie.

MIKE

I'm sorry. I don't know what to say.

CHARLIE

You don't have to say anything. All I need is the birth certificate.

MIKE

Do you know where it is, honey?

DARLENE

It's somewhere in the house I just don't know where.

MIKE

It'll probably take a while to look for it right?

DARLENE

Yes.

MIKE

Well, we just have to look then. We'll find it don't worry.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

Mad Dog and Charlie both stand up.

MAD DOG

We'll be back in a couple of days.

MIKE

Why don't you boys stay for dinner?

DARLENE

What?

MIKE

They have a long drive back and it's steak night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DARLENE

Honey, I-

MIKE

Listen, boys, I make a mean steak, so you're in for a treat.

CHARLIE

Thank you, but-

MAD DOG

Hell yeah I'm down for some steak.

CHARLIE

Mad Dog-

MAD DOG

Tell me the last time you had steak.

CHARLIE

... Fine.

MIKE

Great!

CUT TO:

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE - THE DINING ROOM-NIGHT

The Wilco family, the twin boys, Charlie and Mad Dog sit at the table. Charlie is sitting in between Sadie and Darlene. Mad Dog sits in between Devin and Derek. Mike sits at the head of the table. Everyone has steak and mashed potatoes on their plates.

Mike holds Derek and Darlene's hands.

MIKE

Let's say our prayers before we eat.

Everyone goes to hold hands. Mad Dog hesitate to hold the kids hands but Devin forces him anyway. Darlene looks at Charlie. She slowly moves her hand to hold his. It's gentle, it looks like she's not even holding his hand at all.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I would like to thank the lord for this meal and the company that has blessed this home. We pray to give thanks to our lord and for Charlie's well-being.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Charlie's head whips at Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Amen.

THE WILCO FAMILY

Amen.

The family look at Charlie and Mad Dog, waiting for them to say it too.

MAD DOG

Oh, uh, sorry, Amen. I haven't done this in a while.

CHARLIE

Amen.

MIKE

Alright let's eat!

The Wilco family and Mad Dog dig into the meal. Darlene is slowly cutting her steak and Charlie is pushing his food around.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Dig in, Charlie. It won't bite.

CHARLIE

Sorry, I'm just not hungry.

MIKE

No worries. It's probably a side effect-

CHARLIE

Yeah. Yeah it is.

The table goes quiet. Everyone is awkwardly eating. Devin stares up at Mad Dog while he eats. Darlene is taking small bites.

MIKE

I used to party in the neighborhood you boys live in. What streets do you guys live on?

MAD DOG

I live on Clinton Street. Right on the corner.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MIKE

Oh I know that place. It's that run down apartment complex, right?

MAD DOG

Yeah. My pops use to own that building.

Darlene's head shoots up.

DARLENE

You're Tito's son?

MAD DOG

Yeah. Why? You use to know him?

DARLENE

... you could say that.

MIKE

What about you, Charlie? Where do you live?

Charlie and Mad Dog look at each other.

CHARLIE

I, uh, I live under the H-1.

MIKE

Like the highway?

CHARLIE

Yeah. I live right next to that river.

MIKE

Really? I've never seen any houses down there.

CHARLIE

There isn't.

Beat.

MIKE

Charlie, are you homeless?

Another awkward beat.

CHARLIE

I mean homeless is a strong word...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MAD DOG

He also stays with me sometimes, so not technically...

DARLENE

I thought you were living with Elvira?

Mike looks at Darlene confused.

CHARLIE

Oh, yeah I was but then some stuff happened and I decided to live on my own now...

SADIE

So after this where are you gonna go?

CHARLIE

Um...

DEREK

Do you live with wolves? I like wolves.

CHARLIE

No, no wolves...

DEVIN

What about bears?

CHARLIE

Um, no bears...

The kids attack him with questions while Charlie looks obviously uncomfortable.

There's a knock on the door.

DARLENE

Boys, I think your mother is here.

DEREK AND DEVIN

AWWWWWW.

DARLENE

Let's go. Say goodbye.

DEVIN

Goodbye, uncle Mad Dog. I'll miss you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MAD DOG

Bye, little man. I'll miss you too.

Darlene escorts the boys to the door. .

Everyone sits in silence. There's a weird tension.

Mad Dog and Charlie make eye contact, both of them feel awkward.

Darlene then sits back at the table.

Mike clears his throat to break the questions.

MIKE

Charlie, would you like to stay with us?

DARLENE

What?

CHARLIE

Oh, no, I'm okay, really. My place is still cozy.

MIKE

No, I insist. You're sick so you can't live in those conditions.

CHARLIE

I'll be fine-

MIKE

Listen, Charlie, if you want you can stay until we find the birth certificate. Darlene and I would be happy for you to stay with us. Isn't that right, Honey?

Darlene looks at Charlie.

Beat.

DARLENE

We would love to have you.

MIKE

Mad Dog, we can even throw you on the couch-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MAD DOG

Oh no, no. I have a place of my own. I also run a business-

SADIE

Oh, really? What kind of business?

MAD DOG

Uh, like, exotic imports.

MIKE

So what do you say, Charlie?

CUT TO:

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE - FOYER- NIGHT

Charlie and Mad Dog stand in the foyer. Mad Dog is halfway out the front door.

CHARLIE

Don't let me stay here.

MAD DOG

Listen, this place is fuckin' nice and you're sick. Just stay here for a bit. It'll be good for you. If you need me you could call me and I'll rush over here.

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

Thanks.

Mike rushes into the foyer with Tupperware in his hands.

MIKE

Before you leave, I made an extra steak and I put the leftover potatoes in there for when you get home.

MAD DOG

Thank you, sir.

MIKE

Our house is always open.

MAD DOG

I'll keep that in mind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE

Have a safe drive home.

CHARLIE

I'll call you.

MAD DOG

Alright, bro. Thank you for having me
sir.

MIKE

It was my pleasure.

MAD DOG

You'll be okay, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I know.

Charlie closes the front door.

CUT TO:

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE- GUEST ROOM- NIGHT

The door opens to the guest room. The room has a warm feeling. Soft lights flood the room to emit a feeling of safeness. In the middle is a king-sized bed with a white comforter.

Charlie walks in with Darlene behind him. He looks at the room in awe, taking in his new surroundings. He walks around, looking at the little nick-knacks. Darlene smiles as Charlie walks around the room. He turns to her.

CHARLIE

I've never seen a room this nice in
person.

DARLENE

Thank you.

CHARLIE

Can I sit on the bed?

DARLENE

Of course.

Charlie sits on the bed and rubs his hands on the sheets.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

It's so soft.

DARLENE

It's Egyptian cotton.

CHARLIE

Egyptian?

Darlene goes to sit on the bed.

DARLENE

Mhm. It's the best kind of cotton. It has something to do with the fibers or whatever, but it really is wonderful to sleep in.

Darlene looks at Charlie who is still fascinated with the sheets.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Listen, Charlie, I'm sorry for the way I've been acting towards you. It's not right. It's just, you bring up a lot of my past that I haven't thought about in a long. But God has brought you here for a reason and that's to help save you.

CHARLIE

It's okay. I did barge in here out of nowhere.

DARLENE

From here on out let's start over.

Darlene reaches her hand out.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

It's finally nice to meet you. I'm Darlene.

Charlie smiles and also reaches his hand out.

CHARLIE

I'm Charlie.

They shake hands and smile. Charlie then starts to cough heavily.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DARLENE

Are you okay? I'll get you some water.

Darlene leaves the room as Charlie still coughs.

Charlie stops after a bit and then looks at his hand which has blood in it. He starts to panic and runs into the connected bathroom.

INT-BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Charlie runs into the bathroom and washes his hand. He spits a bit more in the sink. He splashes more water on his face.

Darlene KNOCKS on the bathroom door.

DARLENE

(O.S)

I'm leaving the water on the night stand. There's also extra clothes on the bed to change into.

CHARLIE

Okay.

DARLENE (O.S)

Do you want me to take you to the hospital?

CHARLIE

No, I'll be fine. It's just a symptom.

Charlie hears Darlene walk out. He splashes more water on his face, but then he starts coughing again. More blood comes out this time. Charlie starts to lose his breath. He grips the counter top as he struggles to breathe over the sink. He catches his breath and splashes more water on his face.

He looks down and the sink is covered in blood spatter. He then looks at himself in the mirror. He looks tired and pale. He starts to cry while looking at his reflection. He pounds his fists on the counter as he lets his cries become louder and louder.

INT- DARLENE'S KITCHEN- MORNING

The morning light beams through the kitchen windows. Birds are CHIRPING and Darlene is HUMMING while cooking breakfast. She flips some pancakes and then puts them on a plate. Sadie is already at the counter eating.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Charlie walks into the kitchen slowly. He rubs his eyes and yawns. He stops at the corner and stare at Darlene. He takes the whole scene in front of him. Darlene notices him and smiles.

DARLENE
Mornin'. How did you sleep?

CHARLIE
Oh, uh good morning. I slept well.

DARLENE
How was the bed?

CHARLIE
It's the softest thing I ever felt.

She looks at Charlie with a bit of guilt in her eyes.

DARLENE
That's good.

Beat.

DARLENE (CONT'D)
Oh, I'm making breakfast. Take some pancakes. There's syrup and orange juice in the fridge.

CHARLIE
Thank you.

Charlie goes to the fridge. Sadie's eyes follow him the whole time with a glare. He grabs the orange juice and the syrup. He then sits down at the counter next to Sadie and puts some pancakes on his plate. He pours A LOT of syrup on and then pours himself a glass of juice.

Darlene looks at his plate and chuckles.

DARLENE
You like a lot of syrup?

CHARLIE
Yeah.

DARLENE
I do too. I like to say I have syrup with just a little pancake.

Charlie chuckles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DARLENE (CONT'D)

That's the first time I saw you laugh.

CHARLIE

Sorry.

DARLENE

You don't have to be sorry.

Sadie looks at both of them.

SADIE

I like a lot of syrup too, ya know.

DARLENE

You're right sweetie, maybe it's in our blood.

Sadie looks at her mother with a slight glare.

SADIE

Or maybe that's just a common trait most people have.

Charlie looks at her with a little shock but then begins to eat his pancakes, before he does so Sadie stops him.

SADIE (CONT'D)

You're not going to give thanks?

CHARLIE

Oh sorry.

Charlie looks over to Darlene.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Thank you for the pancakes.

SADIE

No, giving thanks to God.

CHARLIE

Why would I do that?

SADIE

Because God gave you this food.

CHARLIE

No, Darlene did.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DARLENE

Alright, that's enough. Sadie, sweetie, it's okay. He doesn't believe yet so don't worry.

Sadie get off the stool and storms out of the room.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about her. She's quite hot headed like me.

CHARLIE

It's okay.

As Charlie is eating he starts to cough. It's really bad this time. Blood splatters onto his hand and onto the counter. Darlene turns around and notices.

DARLENE

Holy shit.

Darlene grabs paper towels and gives it to Charlie. He coughs into it a bit more and then stops. He breathes heavy for a bit. He grabs the juice and chugs it.

Darlene looks at him in shock.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

CHARLIE

Yeah, yeah. I'm fine. I just need a minute.

DARLENE

Do you really not want to go to the hospital?

CHARLIE

NO! No. I'll be fine, I promise.

Charlie puts his head in his hands. Darlene just looks at him.

DARLENE

We'll start looking for that birth certificate after breakfast, okay?

CHARLIE

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Charlie tries to catch his breath, but he can't.

CUT TO:

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE (THE OFFICE)- AFTERNOON

Darlene and Charlie carry in multiple boxes into the office. They put them on the ground.

DARLENE

Alright. It's gotta be in here somewhere.

CHARLIE

You sure?

DARLENE

Yeah....

CUT TO:

Charlie and Darlene sit in the office with papers everywhere around them. All the boxes are open, except one. Charlie is sitting on the floor looking through a box, while Darlene sits on the couch, shuffling through another box.

Darlene sighs loudly as she puts all the papers around her back into her box.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

I don't think it's in these boxes.

CHARLIE

I didn't think so.

DARLENE

Could you check that last box while I go to the bathroom.

CHARLIE

Okay.

Darlene leaves the room.

Charlie puts the papers around him into a box and then moves to the last closed box. He opens it up and it's filled with baby photos. There are older ones with a little girl and then newer-looking ones with two little boys.

Charlie slowly flips through them until he stops at an old photo of a teenage girl. Her hair is wild and she has a

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

cigarette in her mouth.

Darlene walks in and see's what Charlie is looking at over his shoulder.

DARLENE

That was me when I was around... 17 I think?

CHARLIE

Oh. I'm sorry-

DARLENE

No. No. It's fine. I forgot that there was a box of old photos upstairs.

Charlie puts the photos back in the box.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Did Elvira talk about me?

CHARLIE

Not really.

DARLENE

I figured as much.

CHARLIE

The rest of the neighborhood did though.

DARLENE

Again, I figured as much.

There's a beat of silence as Charlie puts more photos back into the box.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

My father was abusive.

Charlie freezes.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

My mother left us when I was young. I didn't know what to do so when I was 16 I left and I ended up in that neighborhood. I stayed cuz they treated me with love.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Charlie looks at Darlene.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Everything you heard about me was true. The drugs, sleeping around and the theft. Everything was true. But I didn't want that for you.

CHARLIE

So you throw me in a dumpster?

DARLENE

No-

CHARLIE

You could've left me at a police station or-

DARLENE

I was a drug addict, Charlie. I didn't know any better.

CHARLIE

That's a bullshit excuse.

DARLENE

What do you want me to say, Charlie? The past is the past-

CHARLIE

I'm going to the bathroom.

Charlie storms out of the room and slams the door.

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE (HALLWAY)- AFTERNOON

Charlie enters the hallway after leaving the bathroom. Outside, waiting for him, is Sadie.

SADIE

I know you're my brother.

CHARLIE

No shit.

SADIE

You were a baby born in sin.

CHARLIE

Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SADIE
Mama, had you in sin. Are you
baptized?

CHARLIE
What are you-

SADIE
I knew it. I'm surprised they let you
in the house. A boy not blessed by
God.

CHARLIE
I don't know what your problem is but-

SADIE
My problem is a that your influence is
affecting this house, especially Mama.

CHARLIE
Look I'll only be here two more days-

SADIE
Me and Daddy don't want you here.
You're a sin baby born out of wedlock.
Daddy is only nice to you because
you're sick.

Charlie looks at Sadie with a scowl and then pushes past her.

CUT TO:

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE (THE OFFICE)- AFTERNOON

Charlie walks back into the office. Darlene is organizing all
the boxes.

CHARLIE
I'm gonna go home tomorrow morning.
You can call me when you have the
certificate.

DARLENE
What. No-

CHARLIE
I've already made up my mind.

DARLENE
If it's about what I said-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

It's not. I decided this myself.

DARLENE

Charlie, sit.

Charlie looks at Darlene with a scowl as he hesitates. He then slowly walks to the couch and sits down. He doesn't leave her eyes.

Darlene frantically sits down next to Charlie. She rubs her hands together then onto her pants. She takes a moment to figure out what to say. Her eyes dart across the floor until she finally looks back up at Charlie.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

First, I would like to say that I'm sorry for everything. There's nothing I can do to fix the past for you. That was my fuck up.

Darlene starts to sit up straight and folds her hands into her lap.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

When I left you at Elvira's doorstep, I ran away again. I have no idea where I went, but all I know is that I ended up in a church one night. I was a complete fucking mess. But as I walked through those double doors into the chapel, I felt these warm hands surround me. It was like God was giving me a hug. Like he was accepting me, ya know.

CHARLIE

What's your point?

DARLENE

Charlie, God saved me. After that night I prayed and prayed. And each one was answered. Now here I am with beautiful children and a loving husband because of him. And he can save you too.

CHARLIE

I highly doubt-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DARLENE

God will let you in and the holy spirit will save your soul if you become his child.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry, I don't understand.

DARLENE

The Lord helps all his children. And to become his child you must be reborn.

CHARLIE

Reborn?

DARLENE

Yes, Charlie. For if you are reborn, then god will heal all your wounds.

CHARLIE

Could he heal the cancer?

DARLENE

With hope and prayer. God will do his very best to help you.

CHARLIE

So am I not a child of God now?

DARLENE

You are. But God has special love for those that are reborn into the church.

Charlie sits back and ponders for a second. He rubs his hands together and then onto his pants. He then turns to Darlene.

CHARLIE

If God cares for all his children, then why did he do this to me?

DARLENE

What do you mean?

CHARLIE

Why is he slowly killing me? Why is he letting me live a painful life with an even more painful death? I don't understand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DARLENE

It could be just God's Plan for you-

CHARLIE

He did this to me for a reason?

DARLENE

Yes. But that doesn't mean he has no more plans for you. It just means that this is your chance to be reborn. God is giving you that chance.

CHARLIE

I just don't understand. If he loves me, then why-

DARLENE

Just give it some thought tonight. It's a lot to think about. But God is here for you, Charlie.

Charlie nods his head.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go start dinner now. Why don't you go rest for a bit.

Darlene gets up and rubs her hands on her pants again. She then leaves the room, leaving Charlie alone.

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE(GUEST ROOM)- NIGHT

Charlie walks into the room and gently closes the door behind him. He makes his way to the bed and looks at the phone on the night stand.

Charlie picks up the phone and dials a number.

Mad Dog picks up.

MAD DOG(V.O)

This is Mad Dog.

CHARLIE

Mad Dog, it's Charlie.

MAD DOG(V.O)

Oh, whats up kid? How's pretending to be rich.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

It's not all cracked up to be.

MAD DOG(V.O)

I figured as much.

CHARLIE

Mad Dog, do you believe in God?

MAD DOG(V.O)

No. If a god exists why would he make a world so fucked up.

CHARLIE

I had this conversation today with Darlene and it was about god-

MAD DOG(V.O)

Do not listen to the Jesus freak, Charlie Boy.

CHARLIE

She said all of this, even the cancer, was God's plan for me. Do you think that's true? Do you think I did something wrong...

MAD DOG(V.O)

You did nothing wrong. You create your own plan. You always have and you always will. Bad things happen so that the good things that happen are even...gooder? You understand what I mean?

CHARLIE

Gooder isn't a word.

MAD DOG(V.O)

Shut up. I didn't go to high school like some people.

They both laugh over the phone.

MAD DOG(V.O) (CONT'D)

You want me to come get you?

CHARLIE

No, no. I'll be fine. I'm about to go to bed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MAD DOG(V.O)

Alright call me if you need me. Love you, brotha. You'll be alright.

CHARLIE

Love you too.

Charlie hangs up the phone. He holds it in his hands a bit longer until he puts it back on the receiver.

Charlie lays on the bed and stares at the ceiling.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

If you're real you wouldn't do this to me, right?

Suddenly Charlie starts to cough. They get worse and worse.

Charlie shoots up and starts coughing into his hand. He gets out of bed and goes to the bathroom.

INT- BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

He runs to the bathroom and spits blood into the sink. Then he starts to puke.

When Charlie finally relaxes he looks at himself in the mirror. There's blood and drool on his chin and tears running down his cheeks. He stares at himself for a bit. He then puts his head in the sink to clean his face. When he comes back up he looks at himself again. His eyes look as if they're searching for something that isn't there.

INT- BATHROOM- SOON AFTER

Charlie then walks briskly back into the bedroom, grabs his coat and leaves the room.

INT- CHURCH- NIGHT

Charlie walks through the double doors of the church. The church is small but still has a grand feeling about it. The ceilings are high and the windows are all stained glass. The pews are wooden and worn with little nicks in them. On the altar all the way in the front of the church is a large statue of Jesus on the cross.

Charlie walks down the aisle and sits at a pew. He looks around uncomfortably and picks up the bible. He flips through it and then puts it back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He looks under the pew and sees the kneeler. He pulls it out and it comes out with a LOUD THUD. He looks at it for a bit and the kneels on it. He closes his eyes and puts his hands together.

CHARLIE

I've never done this before, so please just bear with me.

There's a bit of silence.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Dear God, um hey what's up? I don't really know if I'm supposed to talk in my head but whatever. Anyway, I just had a few questions for you and if you could answer them that would be great.

Charlie shifts around a bit.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Recently I met my mother for the first time, which hasn't been the best but still... I don't know I've always wondered about her as a kid. So meeting her was a little fulfilling. But she was telling me that when you pray that you would answer. So I just wanted to ask... why did you do this to me? Were you playing some kind of joke or something?

Silence echoes through the church.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Why would you choose me? You've put me through all this shit and for what? Just to give me cancer? I'm so confused. I have no idea what to do. Why would you do this to me?

There's still silence in the church. Charlie is starting to become angry.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Are you gonna fucking answer me? Why did you do this? What did I do to deserve this? Answer me.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Why would you plan this out for me?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Why are you putting all this weight
all on me? I can't handle this.
There's so many things I haven't done.
There's so many things I want to do.
So why are you taking them away from
me?

Silence.

Charlie bangs his hands on the pew.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(YELLING)

ANSWER ME, GODDAMMIT!

The screams echo throughout the room, but it still goes back
to silence.

INT- DARLENE'S HOUSE(THE DINING ROOM)-NIGHT

Darlene and Mike are sitting at the dining room table.
There's a plate with a paper towel over it in front of an
empty chair. A door is HEARD OPENING AND CLOSING. Darlene and
Mike perk up at the sound. Charlie walks into the dining
room.

DARLENE

Oh thank you, Lord.

MIKE

Where have you been?

CHARLIE

Darlene, if you are reborn, does God
talk back to you?

MIKE

Reborn?

DARLENE

Well... yes. Why?

CHARLIE

Then I will like to be reborn.

MIKE

Reborn? Like a baptism?

DARLENE

Really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

How do I do it?

DARLENE

Well, you go to a church and they dip your head in blessed water and a priest does a special prayer and that's it.

CHARLIE

Is there any other way?

MIKE

Well, in the old days they use to just baptize people in large pools of water. Like lakes and rivers-

CHARLIE

And God will help me fight the cancer if I am reborn?

DARLENE

Yes.

CHARLIE

Okay.

Charlie turns to leave. But Mike stands up from his seat.

MIKE

Charlie, wait.

Charlie stops and turns around.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Darlene, your mother, told me that you're leaving in the morning. And I wanted to say that you don't have to go. I also know what Sadie said to you. I wanted to apologize on her behalf. I don't hate you. I don't care if you were born out of wedlock or not. I want you to stay with us. I want you to stay with us even when you're in treatment. I want to help make your life better, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Thank you, but I'll be okay. I'll do that myself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Charlie smiles and turns away. He leaves the room.

INT- MAD DOG'S APARTMENT- EARLY MORNING

A PHONE IS RINGING throughout Mad Dog's apartment. It rings for a few seconds and then Mad Dog burst out of a door in only boxers. He MUMBLES SOMETHING to himself and then answers the phone.

MAD DOG

Who the fuck is this? And why are you callin' me at 7 in the goddamn morning?

CHARLIE

(OVER PHONE)

Mad Dog, it's me.

MAD DOG

Charlie? What's up? Didn't you-

CHARLIE (V.O)

I'm going to be reborn.

MAD DOG

What?

CHARLIE (V.O)

I am going to be reborn.

MAD DOG

Charlie, what are you saying?

CHARLIE (V.O)

They said that if I am reborn, God could help cure my cancer.

MAD DOG

I knew I shouldn't have let you stay with those fuckin' loonies.

CHARLIE (V.O)

This'll help me-

MAD DOG

Charlie, where are you? I'm gonna come get you. Are you calling from a pay-

CHARLIE (V.O)

I'll be alright. I don't need you to come get me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Charlie starts to cough over the phone.

MAD DOG
Charlie? Are you okay?

CHARLIE (V.O)
(coughing)
I'm fine.

MAD DOG
I'm coming to get you-

CHARLIE (V.O)
(coughing)
No.

Charlie takes some deep breaths. The struggle to breathe is evident as Charlie tries to calm down.

CHARLIE
I wanted to say thank you.

MAD DOG
For what?

CHARLIE
For being the person that helped me become who I am. You taught me things that I would have never learned by myself. You cared for me in times when I had no one. You're gonna be big someday, Mad Dog. Don't let the past hold you back.

MAD DOG
I don't know what's going on but I'll pick you up at that house today so just go back and sit tight over there, alright?

CHARLIE(V.O)
I love you, bro. I always will.

MAD DOG
I love you too, Charlie Boy. I always will. I'm headin' out now so I'll be there soon.

Mad Dog hears CHARLIE HANGING UP. Mad Dog then puts down the phone and grabs his keys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

INT- ELVIRA'S APARTMENT-EARLY MORNING

A pale light shines through the apartment as Elvira is asleep in the bed. The PHONE STARTS RINGING and Elvira picks it up with her eyes still closed.

ELVIRA

Hello?

CHARLIE(V.O)

(OVER THE PHONE)

Elvira? It's me.

Elvira shoots up in bed.

ELVIRA

Charlie? Oh my God, I've been worried sick about you. It's been two days. Why haven't you called me?

CHARLIE(V.O)

I'm sorry a lot has been going on.

ELVIRA

It's okay. I'm also sorry about how I handled the situation.

CHARLIE(V.O)

It's okay.

ELVIRA

How are you feeling?

CHARLIE(V.O)

Like my body is slowly deteriorating.

ELVIRA

Have they found it yet?

CHARLIE(V.O)

No, but I found another way to help.

ELVIRA

What? Like another grant?

CHARLIE(V.O)

No. I'm going to be reborn.

ELVIRA

(Puzzled)

What do you mean, Charlie?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE(V.O)

I'm going to be reborn as one of God's children. He's gonna help heal me.

ELVIRA

What? Is that what that fuckin' nut told you? Charlie, God will not help you. Hell, we don't even know if he exists.

CHARLIE(V.O)

You never know, Elvira. I'm gonna be reborn and ask him to help me.

ELVIRA

Fuckin' Christ. I knew I shouldn't have told you about your mother. I could've handled it myself. We could've done this ourselves-

CHARLIE(V.O)

Elvira, It's okay. I wanted to say Thank you.

ELVIRA

Why? For what?

CHARLIE(V.O)

Thank you for making me the man that I am. Thank you teaching me about life and love. Thank you for being the mother that I didn't have. I love you, Mom.

Elvira starts to cry.

ELVIRA

I love you too, Charlie. Please come home. I'll take care of you. Just please, please come home.

CHARLIE(V.O)

I already am.

Elvira hears Charlie hang up the phone.

ELVIRA

Charlie? Charlie?

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EXT- CITY STREET(MAIN AVE)- EARLY MORNING

Charlie hangs up a payphone that is right in front of Vinny's pizzeria. He walks away in the direction of the river.

EXT-THE RIVER BENEATH THE UNDERPASS- MORNING

Charlie stands on top of the hill the overlooks the river. He takes off his shoes and steps into the grass. He lets his toes sink into the dirt a bit before walking down to his hole.

He takes a look around at all his stuff. He picks up some CD's and takes a quick glance at them. He move on to his camera and holds it for a bit. He then puts it down and starts to undress. He slowly takes off each article of clothing. One at a time he folds them and puts them on the ground. He takes his jacket and hangs it on a loose nail.

Charlie then steps out of his hole and walks towards the river. He walks in very slowly until he's almost fully submerged. Early morning songbirds sing as Charlie dips his head underwater.

As Charlie is underwater his eyes are open. But then he starts coughing. He coughs and coughs, blood also spewing out into the water. The water enters his mouth and lungs. Blood mixes in with the water as Charlie starts to drown.

He struggles to get back to the surface but then his hand goes limp.

We watch as Charlie's eyes close. As they close the songbirds stop singing and everything goes dark.

END.

Mia Sanchez

One page synopsis

Logline: A homeless boy finds out he's gotten testicular cancer, now him and his best friend need to find his mother in order to survive.

Charlie, a 18 year old boy who is only recently homeless, finds out that he has testicular cancer. With no money, Charlie can't pay for the treatment. So with his non-related Mother, Elvira, Charlie finds a grant that could help pay for his treatment if he shows them his birth certificate, which he doesn't have. He finds out that his real Mother ,who left him in front of Elvira's doorstep and was a notorious addict, has his birth certificate. Charlie then enlists the help of his best friend, Mad Dog, to help find his mother so that he can get his birth certificate.

But when Charlie finds his mother, Darlene, he finds out that she has a whole new life. She has a large house, a beautiful daughter and a wonderful husband. She's cleaned up and is a born again christian. At first, she isn't so welcoming of Charlie, but as she sees the trouble he's in, she warms up quickly. She agrees to let Charlie stay with her as they look for the birth certificate. But as the day goes on, Charlie gets sicker and sicker. His mind wanders into a darker, vulnerable place. Darlene starts trying to convert Charlie into Christianity and preach the word of god. But the word that sticks with Charlie is "reborn". Charlie then goes on a chase for the truth about God and decides to be reborn as a child of god, hoping that will help his sickness. But his obsession ultimately leads to his demise.

Mia Sanchez

One Page Synopsis

Charlie, a 18 year old boy recently homeless boy, finds out he has testicular cancer. And with no money, Charlie can't pay for treatment. But then Charlie finds out about a grant that will pay for half of his treatment if he has his birth certificate, which he doesn't have. So with the help of his best friend, Mad Dog, they both try and find Charlie's real mother, Darlene, who has his birth certificate. But after meeting her Charlie goes down a rabbit hole of religion, faith and rebirth. But Charlie races against the clock, will it the cancer that kills him or his own obsession of being reborn as a child of God.