

WALKING TALL

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INTRO

Inspired by a true story.

We home in on a boat coming in to shore. Off walks a
man, he is carrying a backpack and wearing shades.

EXT. TOWN

He walks through a town, passing various stores and the
general bustle of the people there. He notices a baby in a pram
left out on the sidewalk, then sees the mother is in an
alleyway doing what looks like a drug deal.

EXT. LUMBER YARD

Chris reads a closure notice on the door. A police car
rolls up.

SHERIFF WATKINS

How ya doin'?

CHRIS

Ok. When'd the mill close?

SHERIFF WATKINS

Ahh 3 years this August. If ya lookin
for work you might wanna try Aberdeen,
that's the closest mill work you're
gonna find around here.

CHRIS

That's too bad.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Nah just simple economics. Y'know we have a really nice casino here, the wild cherry. You wanna make some money maybe you wanna go on down there and try your luck at the blackjack tables.

CHRIS

Nah I don't think so. Thanks.

Chris turns around and the sheriff notices his name on a bag.

SHERIFF WATKINS

You're Chris Vaughn?

The sheriff chuckles and steps out of the car.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Well hell, I know all about you Chris. I know your folks, I'm sheriff Stan Watkins.

They shake hands.

CHRIS

How ya doin.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Ralston get outta the car, you're lookin at a real soldier here pay some respect.

RALSTON

Welcome home soldier.

CHRIS

Thanks.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Here Chris, (opens the back door) We'll give ya a ride up to your folks.

CHRIS

Nah I'm fine thank you.

SHERIFF WATKINS

I insist.

CHRIS

I'll walk.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Hey it's my pleasure.

CHRIS

It's ok.

SHERIFF WATKINS

I won't take no for an answer (jokingly reaches for his gun). HEY! Get in the car.

Chris raises his hands and the sheriff chuckles.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Did I scare ya with that one?

CHRIS

Lil bit.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Ya. Let's go.

INT. POLICE CAR

SHERIFF WATKINS

You were gone a while huh?

CHRIS

8 years. Harstad was sheriff back then.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Harstad, yeah. Sad story. About 5 months back he fell asleep at the wheel and uhhh... hit a tree. Good man, good man and a good sheriff.

EXT. THE FAMILY HOME

CHRIS

Thanks for the ride.

SHERIFF WATKINS

No problem, and uh Chris (hands him a piece of paper). It's election month... I'm your man.

Chris takes the paper and smiles. He walks up the lane toward

dressed

the house, a simple white building clad in wood. A lady
in a police uniform comes out.

MICHELLE

Can I help you?

Chris laughs.

MICHELLE

Lil' brother.. You come over here and
gimme a hug.

They laugh together.

MICHELLE

You look great.

CHRIS

What is this?

MICHELLE

Hey, I couldn't let you be the only
one looking good in uniform. Hey ma!
Chris is here!

CHRIS

What's with the tent? (points to a tent
set up on the lawn).

MICHELLE

Oh, that's for Pete.

CONNIE

Look at you!

CHRIS

How ya doin!

from the

Chris hugs his mother, Connie. A man slowly emerges
front door.

CONNIE

How long do we have ya for?

CHRIS

For good. I'm home.

CONNIE

Really? You're not kiddin.

CHRIS

No.

They hug again.

CHRIS

Hey dad.

DAD

Welcome back.

INT. KITCHEN

The family are eating takeaway.

CONNIE

I wish you would have told me you were coming I would've cooked.

CHRIS

This is great.

MICHELLE

So what are you gonna do now that you're home?

CHRIS

Well I was planning on working at the mill, your letters never mentioned that it was closed.

CONNIE

We didn't wanna bother you with our problems when your father got laid off.

DAD

I got my business, you saw the furniture outside.

CONNIE

I substitute at the elementary school, Michelle pitches in. We try to keep things simple.

A kid walks in.

MICHELLE

Pete! This is your Uncle Chris.

CHRIS

Hey Pete.

MICHELLE

Sit down, say hello. Last time he saw you you were barely walking.

PETE

And now I'm camping.

MICHELLE

I said you could sleep on the couch. It was Chris' room first.

CHRIS

Your tent's gonna take on water. I could show ya how to rig it.

PETE

Doesn't look like it's gonna rain to me Colonel.

MICHELLE

Pete, cmon sit down, have somethin to eat.

CHRIS

First of all I was a sergeant. I worked for a living.

PETE

Did you ever smoke anybody?

CONNIE

Pete!

MICHELLE

Pete!

PETE

Y'know, Papa's still got your gun locked up in the garage. Think you could teach me how to shoot?

CHRIS

I figured that'd be scrap metal by now dad.

DAD

No, I'm still hoping that you'll melt that thing down on your own.

CHRIS

Sorry Pete.

PETE

Whatever. I'm outta here Mom.

MICHELLE

Okay, be back by ten.

PETE

Ten thirty (as he walks out)

MICHELLE

Ten!

DAD

Remind you of anyone?

INT. BEDROOM

We can see from the window that it's raining heavily
outside.
Chris sets about unpacking his things. Pete comes in
looking
wet.

PETE

Ok it rained. Happy?

CHRIS

No. Why dontcha crash on the floor?

Pete looks at him.

CHRIS

Ok, I'll crash on the floor, you crash
on the bed.

PETE

uh uh. (starts walking out)

CHRIS

Pete. (hands him a towel). Keep ya dry.

PETE

Did you really kill people?

Chris looks at him.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

A crappy camper van rolls up. A man steps out.

CHRIS

Ray Ray! Ahaaa.

RAY

Hello puddin'.

They hug.

CHRIS

How ya doin'?

RAY

I'm alright.

CHRIS

What is that? (points to the van)

RAY

That's the lovemachine.

CHRIS

Girls actually get in there?

Ray shrugs.

CHRIS

How ya been?

RAY

Good. Clean livin.

CHRIS

Wanna beer?

RAY

No. Believe it or not I quit drinkin.
I'll take a soda though.

CHRIS

Here.

RAY

Thanks man.

CHRIS

Whoah. (spots a tattoo of a guitar on
Ray's arm).

RAY

Ya like that? When you left town it gave me the idea that I should do something with my life too so uhh I went down to Seattle, got a guitar and became all about music. And then pretty soon I was about music and drugs, n pretty soon I was basically just about drugs. Ended up doin 2 years for B+E.

CHRIS

I'm sorry.

RAY

Nahh, look at me now though right? I been clean and sober for 14 months, doing construction and renewing those supportive and healthy friendships from my past. Matter of fact I talked to the bastards, told em you were back and they asked me to politely remind you that kick off's in twenty minutes.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD

A group of guys are there waiting, one of them holding a ball.

They salute as Chris walks up. They all laugh.

CHRIS

Playin ball?

ALL

Let's play ball!

JIMMY

Ray go deep go deep! (as Ray runs off he throws the ball into Ray's back).

CHRIS

(Spotting a sign that reads 'HAMILTON FIELD') When did that happen?

JIMMY

His parents hadn't left him the mill more than 2 minutes before he shut it down.

CHRIS

Why?

thrown from a voice shouts 'HEADS UP' Chris catches a fast ball behind. Jay steps out of his vehicle.

JAY

Cause I opened my Casino.

CHRIS

Still got a gut huh Jay?

JAY

Still got your reflexes. What, you get tired of being all that you can be?

CHRIS

I'm still all I can be.

JAY

Really? I'll just have to see about that. What brings you home?

CHRIS

I just wanna relax, catch my breath.

JAY

You? Relax?

Another truck with a few guys on it pulls up

JAY

Not today.

vs Chris' A football game ensues, there are two teams. Jay's guys
motorcycle. Chris guys. On the sidelines Pete pulls up on a small
down notices Pete hanging around with kids smoking. It comes
talking. to the last play, the teams are huddled into two groups

RAY

If we score here we win right?

CHRIS

Alright boys, last play. We need to put this to rest.

RAY

Just give me the ball.

CHRIS

You got it. On the first hut!

JAY

Ok Vaughn, last chance.

hard
ball but

Chris gets the ball and throws it. An opponent comes in and tackles him low. He collapses. Ray runs for the gets clotheslined by Jay.

JAY

That's game!

OPPONENT

(to Chris) Sorry about that.

CHRIS

That's cool man.

Chris Helps Ray onto his feet.

JAY

Welcome home.

CHRIS

Good to be back.

JAY

See ya round. Hey, if you're not doing anythin later on you could come by the casino. I'll introduce ya to some nice girls, drinks are on me. Whaddya say?

CHRIS

See ya tonight.

JAY

Cool.

Jay speeds off in his car. Pete rolls up on his bike.

PETE

Hey Sarge, good game. Maybe next time.

CHRIS

Hold up. Maybe next time I won't see you with the bleachers smoking weed.

RAY

Welcome home buddy.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE WILD CHERRY CASINO

CHRIS

Don't you have to be native american to own a casino?

JIMMY

Oh Hamilton's one sixteenth black man now.

FRIEND 2

Just so you guys know, I'm gonna triple my money tonight.

FRIEND 3

Yea, like last time. Wound up selling your body for bus fare.

FRIEND 4

He had to walk!

They all laugh.

CHRIS

Nobody's gonna have any problems finding this place.

RAY

It's the subtle attention to aesthetics that I find most impressive, blends in with the mountains SO nicely.

INT. WILD CHERRY CASINO

The place is packed with gambling tables and attractive women.

FRIEND

Not bad huh?

CHRIS

Not bad.

RAY

Isn't it wonderful? All your gambling needs under one great big roof. You got your ATM machine, tellers to cash your paycheck, and when you're here you don't gotta worry about those lil things like child support, rent, the laws of mathematical probability.

WORKER

Gentlemen, Mr Hamilton would like to invite you to the VIP lounge.

RAY

Oh, 'Mister' Hamilton.

INT. VIP LOUNGE

JAY

Heyyy, the dream team!

CHRIS

Nice place.

JAY

Yeah well. Welcome to my world. Look tonight, all the drinks are on the house. If you need a line of credit, say how much. And if you need a lil female

companionship...

done. Alright? Have a good time.

CHRIS

Where you goin?

JAY

Don't you worry about me, I've got a few things to do. Enjoy.

RAY

Just remember, nothin in here's free. C'mon, this place is nothin but fake boobs and real assholes if ya ask me. Just water for me.

FRIENDS

Here's to you Chris.

corridor. They all down some drinks. They lead Chris down a

FRIEND

Don't say we never did nothin' for ya!

FRIEND 2

Don't worry, everybody's a lil scared the first time. Get in there, sit back and enjoy.

friend Chris' friends have led him to a stripping booth, his inserts the money.

FRIEND 2

If you're not back by morning we'll send a search party for you.

CHRIS

Bye! No drinking.

His friends leave, closing the door behind them.

dressed A screen goes up and a striptease begins. The lady is in the style of a firewoman and has a pole in the center of the stage. She dances around the pole and removes clothes.

STRIPPER

So you from here or just visiting.

CHRIS

Lil of both, I grew up here.

STRIPPER

So you've seen all the old faces.

CHRIS

Could say that.

STRIPPER

Your voice sounds very familiar.

The lights come on.

STRIPPER

Chris...

CHRIS

Deni..

The screen goes down again, Chris leaves the booth.

INT. CASINO

FRIEND 1

Look who's back.

FRIEND 2

So, good surprise?

FRIEND 1

Told you it was better than gambling.
You met Candy? (A girl is dancing on
their table)

CHRIS

Hey Candy. (to the guys) Let's go.

INT. CRAPS TABLE

CROUPIER

6! Easy 6 for a win!

JIMMY

(To some girls) We can do a 6.

JIMMY

(To Chris) We're gettin killed out here.
I need you to put 200 down for the bet.

CHRIS

No, hell no.

FRIEND 3

Look at them (Nods to girls).

CHRIS

Ok.

CROUPIER

Five hundred on 6?

JIMMY

Yes, I'm in. Boom! Gimme some dice.

Chris notices something odd, he looks concerned.

CROUPIER

Lookin' for a 6.

CHRIS

Jimmy. Don't roll. Gimme the dice.

CROUPIER

Lookin' for a 6. Ohhhhh.

The dice have landed and it's a 7. Jimmy hangs his head.

CHRIS

(To the croupier) You're good, but I saw it.

CROUPIER

Saw what?

CHRIS

I saw the switch.

CROUPIER

Hey this is a clean game asshole.

CHRIS

Yea?

CROUPIER

Yea.

CHRIS

Let's see about that.

Chris puts a load of money on the table.

CHRIS

Bet you I'll roll a seven.

CROUPIER

It's not your roll sir. SIR! It's not your roll. Call security.

Chris has taken the dice.

CHRIS

Put your bets down on the pass line.

These dice are comin up seven.

JIMMY

Chris, why don't we just let it go?

CHRIS

No, we gonna let it ride Jimmy. The dice are comin up seven.

CROUPIER

It's not your roll sir.

Chris rolls the dice and sure enough it's a seven.

COMMISSIONER

No folks, no payout.

CHRIS

(To croupier) Why don't you just take care of that bet and we're even.

CROUPIER

Well I would but it wasn't a legitimate bet, you're not the shooter. It's not your (Chris shoves him) ROLL sir.

SECURITY GUY

Is there a problem?

CHRIS

Yea, the problem is your dice are loaded. Does your boss know about this? Just gimme my money.

elbows him
fighting

The security guy grabs Chris around the neck. Chris and throws him onto the table. The croupier takes a stance. Jimmy taps Chris on the shoulder.

JIMMY

Come on, let's go! let's go!

A whole
several
neck and

More security men appear, one of them knocks Jimmy out. fight breaks out, Ray gets knocked out. Chris beats off security men before taking an electric shock to the

light.
a baton to the face. Chris wakes up on a table under a

BAD GUY 1

(Sees the tag around Chris' neck) Special forces? I'll take that.

again.
Chris grabs him by the neck but they beat him down

BAD GUY 2

What are you doin'?

BAD GUY 1

(Has a scalpel in his hand) Special forces... special treatment.

He rips open Chris' shirt.

BAD GUY 2

This guy knows Hamilton!

A struggle ensues and Chris' chest is cut up.

EXT. A BRIDGE

directly
We see Chris is crawling, badly hurt. A truck stops
in front of him. Chris passes out again.

INT. HOSPITAL

DOCHRIS

(To Chris' family) Folks, he's pretty banged up, inside and out. Whoever did this left him for dead. A lesser man wouldn't have survived.

SHERIFF WATKINS

I'm gonna need a statement from him Doctor.

DOCHRIS

He's in no condition to give you one.

SHERIFF WATKINS

I'll also need a copy of your write-up along with toxicology, blood alcohol

level and so on.

MICHELLE

What are you talkin about Stan?

SHERIFF WATKINS

I'm just tryin to get some facts here.

MICHELLE

Oh come on you need to be out arresting whoever tried to kill my brother not testing his BLOOD.

SHERIFF WATKINS

I'm just doing my job Michelle. Ok? I understand how you feel. But we still don't know yet who started all of this.

CONNIE

Well it wasn't Chris.

DAD

Just find out who did this to him Stan.

SHERIFF WATKINS

I'll do my best Mr Vaughn. I really will. In the meantime I have to file a full report. You lemme know when I can talk to him.

The doctor nods.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Thank you.

DOCHRIS

He's gonna be fine Michelle.

MICHELLE

Thanks.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD

Ray goes into a room and takes a big bunch of flowers from there.

NURSE

BEAUTIFUL flowers!

RAY

Thank you, they're for my best friend.

INT. CHRIS HOSPITAL BED

RAY

Hey sarge, so much for our VIP... status.
Don't they teach you any fighting skills
in the army.

CHRIS

How did you do?

RAY

Not good. But I tell you, that guy was
feelin me this morning.

Chris begins to laugh but is in pain.

RAY

You okay?

CHRIS

Some homecoming hey.

RAY

I don't know if you've noticed but this
aint exactly home any more.

EXT. FAMILY HOUSE

Chris has returned home. He's still in bad shape and
his parents help him out of the car. He insists on taking the steps
by himself.

PETE

There's some old crutches in the garage.

Chris laughs.

INT. LOUNGE

with Ray,
exercising

A montage ensues with Chris on the couch, sometimes
other times with Pete. Chris is recovering, and is
by the end of it.

INT. GARAGE

gets in.

Chris pulls the cover off an old truck. He smiles and
He starts the engine.

DAD

Changed the plugs a while back.

CHRIS

Appreciate that Dad.

DAD

I might've had serious issues with your
career choice but just didn't seem fair
to take it out on an innocent truck.
Where you headin?

CHRIS

I was goin into town to get some supplies.
Wanna come?

DAD

Let's go.

INT. CAR

DAD

Ya whole life, all you wanted to do
was get outta here. What made you come
back.

CHRIS

You gonna think I'm crazy. I been thinking
about the mill. When I was a kid goin
to visit you at work, the smell of that
fresh-cut cedar. You remember that smell.

DAD

Mmm I remember a lotta nice things before
the mill closed.

CHRIS

When did they go outta business? (Nods to a closed supply store).

DAD

Closed about six months ago. There's a home depot about fifteen minutes up the road.

CHRIS

And that? (Nods to an adult XXX shop)

DAD

Don't ask.

They laugh.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

Jay pulls up in his car.

JAY

Hey. First of all I wanna say thanks.

CHRIS

For what?

JAY

He's been fired, and his gaming permit's been pulled. I don't know how my security cameras didn't catch that.

Chris

Jay starts to help Chris taking wood off the truck but throws it back on.

CHRIS

They miss a lot at your place don't they Jay.

JAY

Look Chris I hate seein ya like this.

CHRIS

Your boys did it.

JAY

Wait wait... so they got a little rough, they were a bit edgy. Understandably.

You don't know what kind of assholes they have to put up with on a daily basis. Look, they've been reprimanded. They say you went nuts man. I'm sorry. I know the proper term vets use is post traumatic stress.

CHRIS

What the fuck are you talking about?

JAY

Whatever it was, you tore my place apart and it wasn't easy for me to get my guys agree not to press charges. Look Chris, if you had a problem... shouldn't you have come to me? Look, I wanna bring you inside. Chris I wanna make you head of security. Whaddya say?

CHRIS

No.

JAY

Ah well. I guess you probably need time to think about it. This is for you. It's a little something to help you get... Y'know..

He puts down an envelope with money in it. Chris gives
it back
to him.

JAY

Come on man, don't be like that. I came all the way out here to your house just to see you get back on your feet.

CHRIS

I'm goin to the sheriff.

JAY

I'm sorry you feel that way. I'll see ya round Chris.

INT. POLICE STATION

CHRIS

Excuse me.

An officer is on the phone ignoring him.

CHRIS

Excuse me.

The sheriff comes out.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Well hey Chris. Good to see you up and about, you're lookin spiffy.

CHRIS

I'm here to press charges.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Well this isn't about that incident at the casino a while back is it?

CHRIS

Yea, it is.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Cause that matter's closed.

CHRIS

Did you look into it?

SHERIFF WATKINS

They did an internal investigation. That's good enough for me.

CHRIS

An internal investigation.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Chris, I know you're familiar with the term 'no fly zone'. Hmm? Cause that's what the casino is. Since the mill closed down that casino is the main source of revenue in this town. So, case closed basically. I'll see ya.

CHRIS

I'm not gonna let this stand.

SHERIFF WATKINS

Excuse me? What did you say to me?

CHRIS

I said I'm not gonna let this stand.

SHERIFF WATKINS

You're lucky to be alive right now,
that's all you need to be concentrating
on. This is my town ok, I'm the sheriff
here. I'll tell you what will stand,
not the other way around. Now please
get out of my building.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

Deni is at the door.

DENI

Hey.

CHRIS

Hey.

DENI

This belongs to you.

She hands him a leather jacket.

CHRIS

I appreciate that, I thought this was
history.

DENI

Coulda left it in the trash but I...

CONNIE

Deni? Nice to see you dear.

DENI

Hi Mrs Vaughn.

CHRIS

Can I talk to you outside for a second.
Mom I'll be right back.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

DENI

How you been?

CHRIS

Been better.

DENI

Talked to the sheriff yet?

CHRIS

Well I went down to the police station and I talked to somebody with a badge. Sure as hell didn't seem like much of a sheriff.

DENI

He's up for re-election you know. Maybe you could take his job.

CHRIS

Somebody ought to. How about you?

DENI

Sunshine and pine trees. Been readin these books, teach you how to cultivate happiness. Books on the future, go with the flow, that sorta thing.

CHRIS

Is it workin'?

DENI

I have my moments.

CHRIS

So the casino huh?

DENI

Yep. Been there almost a year.

CHRIS

Treatin you good?

DENI

Lot better than it treated you.

CHRIS

I like that. Jay Hamilton's done well for himself hasn't he.

DENI

Yea, he's a real go-getter that one.

CHRIS

Must be. I heard he got you.

DENI

Lasted about 8 minutes, a long long time ago.

CHRIS

You still work for him though.

DENI

Rent's gotta be paid Chris.

CHRIS

Suppose so.

DENI

Hope to see you around.

CHRIS

Do you?

She begins to drive off.

CHRIS

Thanks for the jacket.

She toots the horn as she goes.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

Connie is on the phone.

CONNIE

And where is he?

EXT. OUTSIDE SOME GARAGE

The Vaughn's truck pulls up at speed. They enter a garage, Pete is on a stretcher.

MICHELLE

It's ok mom he's stabilised. (To Chris)
It was close. Crystal Meth.

PETE

I'm sorry. I never did it before.

KID

It's true. We mighta kinda pushed him into it.

Chris approaches the kid.

CHRIS

Where'd you get the drugs?

KID

I'm not really sure...

CHRIS

Stop. Where?

KID

From the security guys workin at the casino.

Chris gets into his truck.

CONNIE

Chris, wait. Call the police.

CHRIS

No, that won't do any good.

Chris speeds off. He pulls up at their home and enters the garage.

DAD

Is Pete ok?

CHRIS

He'll be fine.

Chris is searching about and forces open a cupboard.

DAD

What are you doin?

Chris pulls out a shotgun and loads it.

DAD

Aw Chris not like this. Chris listen to me. If you go outta here with that gun, they're gonna.. ne... Chris!

Chris drives to the casino, he cocks the shotgun but decides to leave it in the truck. Instead he takes a piece of wood from the back of his truck. He enters the casino with it. He smashes

A fight
generally
dogtag from
at the
from behind

a fruit machine. A guard comes up and Chris beats him.
scene breaks out with Chris beating the guards and
trashing the place. He takes back his special forces
the guard who stole it. Chris hurls his piece of wood
VIP lounge window, smashing it to pieces. Jay emerges
it.

JAY

Guess that changes our relationship
a bit huh?

cars appear

Chris leaves. As he drives off in his truck, police
with sirens going. He pulls over.

SHERIFF WATKINS

You should NOT have come looking for
trouble. Keep your hands up, get out
of the vehicle now Chris! NOW!

INT. POLICE STATION ROOM

LAWYER

I advise you to give this offer more
than a little serious thought. If you
go to trial you stand to do 18 years.
This is a sweet plea, normally they
wouldn't even put it on the table but
your military record can't be ignored.
Three months home arrest, some community
service. Pretty generous offer Chris.

CHRIS

But I'd have to plead guilty.

LAWYER

Look at it from the other side. There's
over a dozen witnesses, none of em are
gonna paint a very flattering picture.

We see a montage of casino workers badmouthing Chris.

WORKER

He started bustin up the machines...

GIRL

There was a gunshot..

WORKER

Went crazy...

GIRL

Complete psychopath.

CHRIS

They're only offering me this deal just to keep me quiet.

LAWYER

Well I still say you should take it.

CHRIS

I wasn't wrong. And I won't say I was.

INT. COURTROOM

CASINO GUARD

Our job is to keep order. But there was no chance of that. Me and my men we were just tryin to control him. He was highly trained, violent, very dangerous person.

PROSECUTOR

So dangerous, so violent, so highly trained that he despatched six of the casino staff single handedly. His weapon of choice a simple piece of cedar. Which in his hand became a devastating force with one aim, to hurt people, destroy property.

WORKER

He went directly for everything. He just came in and took over the place.

PROSECUTOR

You said he broke your arm.

WORKER

Yea that's correct, my right forearm.

Both bones with a single shot. It was crazy.

CASINO GUARD 2

You know, toss out a coupla drunks now and then. Guys try to grope the girls, but ah nothing with this sort of violence.

PROSECUTOR

Did he give you any kind of advanced warning? A chance to defend yourself.

CASINO GUARD 2

We tussled, but he's a big guy. He was on a mission. Besides, he seemed to be too busy enjoying himself from what I could see.

PROSECUTOR

So from what you saw, it seemed like he had some kinda purpose?

CASINO GUARD 2

I think he had a point to prove yeah.

WORKER

I was emptyin machines when Mr Vaugh came in and started swingin.

GIRL

I was tryin to get outta there.

JUDGE

Mr Crow, you may present your client's case.

CHRIS

(To his lawyer) You're fired.

CHRIS

Your honor, I'd like to plead my own case.

JUDGE

Order, order. Mr Vaughn, if you choose to represent yourself and not be represented by legal counsel you realise that you can't then claim a mistrial on that basis.

CHRIS

Yes I do.

JUDGE

Very well Mr Vaughn.

CHRIS

I don't deny anything that was said here today.

JUDGE

Does that mean you're changing your plea to guilty?

CHRIS

I'm not guilty of anything. Except standing up for myself when the law wouldn't.

OPPOSITION

Objection. He's trying to introduce prior events your honor.

JUDGE

Sustained. Mr Vaughn stay on point.

CHRIS

I grew up in this town. People used to walk tall in this town, they wouldn't have traded the mill for a crooked casino.

JUDGE

Mr Vaughn we're not here to listen to civic speeches.

CHRIS

And they wouldn't have stood around while drugs were being sold to kids.

OPPOSITION

Objection.

JUDGE

Sustained. Mr Vaughn you're close to being held in contempt.

CHRIS

I was justified in what I did, and if

you acquit me of these charges I'm gonna run for sheriff. And if elected, I'm gonna fix this town.

JUDGE

Order, order. Mr Vaughn you are now charged with contempt.

CHRIS

And I will make sure that THIS (He opens his shirt revealing huge scarring) never happens to anyone again without punishing those who did it.

JUDGE

I order the jury to ignore what they have just seen. Mr Vaughn take your seat. Order! Order!

JUDGE

Mr Forman, has the jury reached a verdict?

FORMAN

We have your honor.

JUDGE

Will the defendant please rise.

FORMAN

We find the defendant Chris Vaughn not guilty.

piece

The crowd breaks into cheer. Chris takes a tag from his of cedar wood which is laying on the evidence table.

CHRIS

This is mine.

The crowds fade away with chants of 'Sheriff Vaughn'.

EXT. POLICE STATION

clear

Chris pulls up to the station in his police truck, it's he's now the sheriff.

WATKINS

Sheriff.

CHRIS

Watkins.

WATKINS

Well you won the election, congratulations. We do have a tradition of professional courtesy up here, and I can personally vouch for each and every one of these men. They're good deputies.

CHRIS

You're all fired.

INT. POLICE STATION

Chris takes a look around.

EXT. A COUNTRY ROAD

by a
Jay is speeding along in a sportscar. He is pulled over
police truck.

JAY

Hey Chris.

CHRIS

License and registration please.

JAY

You're joking right?

CHRIS

License and registration.

Jay hands it over.

JAY

What's the problem sheriff?

CHRIS

You. And the drugs you're pedalling out of your casino.

JAY

Oh. Only thing that's going on in my casino right now is reconstruction. You took care of that.

CHRIS

Yea that's right and I plan on taking care of everything else too.

JAY

If you can, try to think this through. A casino is a license to print money. Why would I jeopardise that by selling drugs?

CHRIS

Cause you owned the town Jay. It's changed now.

JAY

Really? See the only thing that I think has changed around here is that every morning you get to wake up and put on that nifty lil badge. But underneath that badge is the same guy that couldn't make it playing college football, apparently couldn't make it in the army and not gonna make it as a cop.

CHRIS

Is that right?

JAY

Yea, and if you push too hard you're gonna be a man who doesn't live to see 40. License please.

Chris hands it over.

JAY

Thanks sheriff.

CHRIS

Sir get your tail lights fixed, it's your last warning.

JAY

What's wrong with my tail lights?

Chris smashes up the back end of Jay's car with his
trusty piece
of cedar wood.

CHRIS

They're broken.

EXT. RAY'S PLACE

RAY

Mornin sheriff.

CHRIS

Mornin deputy.

Chris tosses Ray a badge.

RAY

No, nope, no. Come on man you know I hate cops. You been sheriff 2 minutes and I'm already startin to hate you. I'm a convicted felon.

CHRIS

I got a lil pull around here.

RAY

Oh now you're a CROOKED cop doing favours for friends. That's how it starts. See next thing you know you'll be taking bribes, setting up roadblocks, frisking dudes crotches.

CHRIS

Are you done? Ray I need your help.

RAY

Oh don't do that.

CHRIS

I need you to take me to drugs school.

RAY

I get to wear a uniform?

A montage ensues, with Chris and Ray busting various drug dealers.

EXT. DEALER'S HOUSE

CHRIS

You're SURE you're not carrying anything.

BOOTH

I don't have shit.

CHRIS

Officer.

RAY

Yeah.

CHRIS

Search him.

RAY

Oh. Spread your legs, arms down. Been workin out? Nothin there. Ohhhh somebody needs a BATH!

BOOTH

Now you read me my rights and take me in. And I call my lawyer.

RAY

K. I have a hunch there may be somethin else in here (Pats the dealer's truck).

CHRIS

Could be.

pieces

Music plays while the two chop up the dealer's car into while laughing.

RAY

He's clean. Guess we gotta move to plan B.

BOOTH

Screw you, I do have a bit of information for you. It's not just me actually, there's a whole lotta people in on this one.

CHRIS

Spit it out.

BOOTH

You're gonna get hurt.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

Chris is in the room with a shotgun.

DAD

Why does it always have to be your fight?

CHRIS

You might need this.

DAD

No. I put my guns down a long time ago.

CHRIS

You're just being stubborn.

DAD

You and me both boy. Chris, listen.
You be careful.

CHRIS

I will.

INT. POLICE STATION

Booth is locked up, Ray is taunting him through a
loudspeaker.

RAY

Please step away from the vehicle. Now
Mr Booth are you still upset over that
body cavity search? WOOOOOOOO! I forgot,
you got no vehicle. Please disperse,
there is nothing to s...

Chris has walked in.

CHRIS

Can I talk to you?

RAY

Yeah.

CHRIS

Over here?

RAY

Sure.

CHRIS

I'm gonna stay with him tonight. I need

you to take care of my parent's place.

RAY

You think they're gonna take it that far?

Chris hands him the shotgun.

RAY

I'm with you man, I'll check in later.

CHRIS

Kay.

NIGHT TIME

Deni comes into the police station.

DENI

Don't shoot.

CHRIS

Hey

DENI

Hi. How's the food around here? Brought you special treats. Salmon, Fried Chicken, Potato Salad. You got cups?

CHRIS

Don't you have to work tonight?

DENI

Hmm I quit. I figured you know, you were making some changes around here, I could make a few myself.

Chris grabs her and they kiss.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

Ray is on the couch and has just woken to a noise.

RAY

Who's that?

PETE

It's Pete. Want something to eat?

RAY

No I'm good man.

INT. POLICE STATION

CHRIS

I gotta get a bigger bed.

DENI

No, no you don't.

EXT. WILD CHERRY CASINO

Jay calls a number on his celphone.

JAY

Do it.

INT. POLICE STATION

DENI

I'm hungry.

CHRIS

Got leftovers...

DENI

Mm mmm, I want pancakes, and eggs, and
bacon.

outside. A loud explosion happens, it's Chris' police truck

BOOTH

WOOOOOOOOOOOOO! I told you Vaughn! Uh
ohhhh. Who needs to step away from the
vehicle now Vaughn? Truck for truck
baby, that's right, truck for a truck.

outside Chris steps towards the front of the building but men
open fire, Chris ducks for cover.

CHRIS

(To Deni) Get down!

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

RAY

Pete, somethin's burnin.

INT. POLICE STATION

station. Men with machine guns are still firing at the police

Deni's screaming, Booth is cheering.

CHRIS

Take that and get in there.

Chris gives Deni a pistol.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

RAY

Pete?

the home. Ray steps into the kitchen but gunmen have infiltrated
back of A fight breaks out and Pete flees. Ray jumps onto the
a gunman.

INT. POLICE STATION

hole in Chris shoots up the floor with a shotgun and breaks a
it.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

him out Ray stabs the gunman with a potato peeler and knocks
with a frying pan.

INT. POLICE STATION

CHRIS

(To Deni) Come here.

They get down into the hole in the floor.

CHRIS

When I say 'now' start shooting, over there. Stay low.

Booth is now under fire and is scared.

BOOTH

Vaughn you gotta get me outta here!

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

Two other gunmen in stocking masks are holding the family hostage upstairs.

DAD

I know who you are.

GUNMAN

Oh yeah?

The gunman takes off his mask and hits him with a pistol.

GUNMAN

(Calling downstairs) Burke?

GUNMAN 2

Check it out.

He goes downstairs to find Burke dead on the kitchen floor. He follows traces of blood across the floor.

INT. POLICE STATION

Chris is making his way towards Booth under fire.

BOOTH

C'mon! Get me outta here man!

CHRIS

What's it worth to you? Where's the lab?

BOOTH

Screw you!

Gunshots hit near booth.

BOOTH

Ok! Ok! Hamilton's operation is at the mill ok! It's at the mill now get me outta here.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

The gunman enters a room, Ray is there pointing a shotgun at him.

RAY

Drop it!

INT. POLICE STATION

CHRIS

Stay down!

Booth is standing and gets shot dead.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

Ray shoots the gunman, who falls to the floor.

UPSTAIRS

MICHELLE

Ray!

GUNMAN 2

Stay down!

INT. POLICE STATION

Booth is dead so Chris leaves him there.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

RAY

(To gunman's body on the floor) Hey.. you okay?

UPSTAIRS

down
The two
furniture.

Gunman 2 looks away for a second and Michelle kicks him the stairs. As he tumbles down Ray reloads his shotgun. begin firing at each other, taking cover behind the

INT. POLICE STATION

WATKINS

Tried to warn ya Chris. Didn't want this to happen.

him the
beneath
men outside
he's shot
fires repeatedly

One of the men outside has a canister. Watkins gives nod and he begins walking towards the station. Chris is the floor and shoots him in the legs. The two remaining open fire again. Another gunman tries to approach but in the legs as well. Watkins enters the station and at the floor.

WATKINS

Come get some! WOOOOOOOOO!

CHRIS

Deni! Now!

shots,
close range

Deni fires off some shots. Watkins is distracted by the Chris appears in the floor hole and blasts Watkins at with a shotgun.

CHRIS

Deni.... Deni.

Chris climbs out of the hole and they hug.

INT. FAMILY HOUSE

gunman
repeatedly. Chris

Shots are still being fired in the lounge. Ray and the begin to wrestle. Ray wins and punches the man

the man, has come back to the house and tries to pull Ray off
Ray mistakenly hits Chris in the face.

RAY

I'm sorry!

to the Chris helps Ray over to a chair, Ray has taken a shot
leg.

a pistol. The injured gunman from the kitchen appears brandishing

GUNMAN

You stabbed me... with a potato peeler??

he's shot Chris and Ray hold up their hands. He aims at Ray but
the stairs. in the back of the head by Dad who is approaching down

CHRIS

You gonna be ok?

Dad nods.

EXT. THE MILL

approaches the Chris is in a police car driving at speed. He
mill and busts through the locked gates.

INT. THE MILL

a torch. The mill is dark, Chris is finding his way around using
He finds Jay sitting.

JAY

Hey Chris.

CHRIS

Get up Jay.

JAY

Just a sec. Remember we used to play

hide n seek up here?

Jay hits a metal saw which resonates making a metallic sound.

JAY

That was my favourite sound.

CHRIS

Get up!

Jay stands up and holds up his hands.

JAY

Look... Chris... just...

Chris falls over
Jay hits a switch on the floor which opens a hatch into the hatch but hangs onto the saw which is swinging it.

Jay hits more switches, powering up the machinery.

JAY

You wanna know what my new favourite sound's gonna be? The sound of you screaming like a little bitch.

Chris
leg. Chris
after
down a large
senses and
log he's
hard in
Jay hits Chris in the stomach with a pole a few times. grabs the pole and they both fall. Chris has hurt his stumbles off into the woods. Jay grabs an axe and goes him, he swings the axe but misses and they both fall earthy embankment. At the bottom they come to their begin fighting again, Jay with his axe and Chris with a ripped off a tree. Chris knocks Jay out by hitting him the legs.

CHRIS

You're right Jay, this does change our relationship. This is my town, you're under arrest.

INT. WILD CHERRY CASINO

Chris and Ray are packing everything, the place is boarded up.

CHRIS

That oughta do it. WHAT are you doin'?

RAY

Gettin some souvenirs, I'm gonna miss the place!

CHRIS

That's how it starts. Next you'll be accepting bribes, setting speed traps all over town, cuttin up trucks. Not to mention the cavity searches.

RAY

Speakin of which, do you think Jay's got a casino in the pen?

CHRIS

Could be.

RAY

Runnin the shower tower with the felons. He's probably blowin on somebody's dice right now.

They laugh as they drive off. The mill makes a horn noise.

RAY

That's lunch.

CHRIS

Let's go pick my old man and grab somethin to eat.

RAY

I'm with ya buddy.

FADE OUT