

THE JOURNEY OF MIND
DRAFT 1

SAMPLE

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. TRAIN - DAY

WILLIAM (21, white) sits in a private sitting room on a train wearing a scholarly school uniform.

He writes in a journal and looks out of the window as the train passes a sign stating "Welcome to Mississippi!".

William goes back to writing.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

Its June of 1960. I've been away at school in New York for years. I've grown accustomed to the differing opinion of the north and I quite agree with them actually.

William looks up when the train comes to a stop at the Jackson station. He closes his notebook and collects his bag from under his seat.

William makes his way off the train looking around for his friends.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

I came back for my best friend's wedding. I told him he was going to marry that girl when they met in middle school.

The steam from the train fades, and JACKSON (22, tall, black) wears a well-maintained suit.

He waves, walking towards William.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

He never believed me. Look at him, completely smitten with her even now.

William smiles, walking to Jackson and giving him a big hug.

Then, he turns to ROSE (21, black), standing behind Jackson in a long sundress. He hugs her, picking her up and spinning around.

People around look on in horror, whispering and gossiping.

JACKSON
Hey Willy boy! Long time no see.

Jackson swings his arm around William's shoulders, and they walk towards the station with Rose behind.

EXT. NICE SOUTHERN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Jackson drives up to a big beautiful yellow house, all of them laughing as they converse.

JACKSON
Bro! She really let you do that?
Man, catholic girls are crazy.

The car parks in front of the house.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Ready to face the ass?

William and Jackson laugh while Rose hits Jackson on the arm in a playful manner.

WILLIAM
Am I ever ready?

JACKSON
Touché... Well, don't forget my bachelor party tonight. I'm picking up some goodies from that new department store beforehand, so you'll have to get there on your own.

WILLIAM
Okay. Catch you later.

William gets out of the car, and it speeds off.

He walks up to the door on the freshly painted white porch, knocking.

The door opens, revealing LAURA (48, short, plump, white) in a white shirt and long skirt.

Seeing William at the door, she squeals. She drags him into a bear hug.

LAURA
My baby's home!

WILLIAM
(smiling)
Hey mom.

Letting him go, Laura turns into the home.

LAURA
George! Our youngest decided to
finally visit us!

GEORGE (55, lumberjack-looking, white) walks to the front door wearing a button-up shirt and khaki slacks.

GEORGE
Out of five kids, only the last one
comes to see us.

Laura doesn't notice the flat attitude of her husband.

INT. WILLIAM'S CHILDHOOD HOME - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Laura leads the way to the kitchen that's decorated with blue counters and a checkered floor, George behind them.

LAURA
Well, come on in hun. How ya you
been? Have ya met any nice girls?
You know it's about time ya got a
girlfriend.

Looking around at the house in nostalgia, William notices his father's office that holds a white gown with a cone-like mask.

George closes the door to the room before William can look further.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Oh! I made peach cobbler. Do ya
want a piece? You're lookin too
skinny, I'm gonna to get you some.

William and George sit at the table while Laura cuts two pieces. She places them on plates, and sets them in front of the two men.

She then bustles around, cleaning the kitchen.

GEORGE
So, son of mine, why're you here?

Laura gives George a threatening look, which is ignored.

Uncomfortable, William shifts in his seat.

WILLIAM

Jackson's wedding is this weekend.
I'm going to his bachelor party
later.

LAURA

Awe, ain't that your childhood
friend from school? That's cute.

GEORGE

I don't know how you can tell them
n-ers apart.

LAURA

George! That ain't appropriate.

William finishes his pie, getting up to hand the empty plate
to his mother.

WILLIAM

(quiet)

Uh, I'm going to get ready for the
party in my old room.

LAURA

Okay sweetie.

William exits the kitchen.

LAURA (CONT'D)

(to George)

Why would you say that?

GEORGE

Say what?

LAURA

What you--

GEORGE

I need to go to the department
store. Golf club is meetin' there.

George gets up, leaving the kitchen.

He opens the door to his office, entering.

Moments later, he comes out of the room with a golf bag. He
kisses his wife as she cleans the dishes, leaving the house.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. WILLIAM'S CHILDHOOD HOME - BEDROOM - DAY**

From his bedroom William, now wearing a collared polo shirt with slacks, sees George get into his new Cadillac.

George places the golf bag in the back seat, driving off towards town.

William fastens his wristwatch, and walks downstairs to the vintage living room.

INT. WILLIAM'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

As his mother reads a book on the couch, William sits down next to her.

WILLIAM

Hey mom? Did you ever notice the white gown dad had in his office?

LAURA

That's just one of his trinkets for the golf club he recently joined.

WILLIAM

Is that where he went just now?

LAURA

Yea, he has some initiation thing to do cause the club is really exclusive... Hey, what's wrong?

WILLIAM

Where did dad go?

LAURA

The new department store in town. Why?

WILLIAM

Uh, nothing. I am going to meet up with Jackson.

LAURA

(suspicious)
Okay, hun. Be careful.

William quickly stands up and kisses his mother's cheek.

He exits the room.

He skips every other step as he runs up the stairs.

INT. WILLIAM'S CHILDHOOD HOME - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

He grabs his wallet.

WILLIAM
(to Laura)
Can I use the Ferrari?!

LAURA (O.S.)
Sure!

INT. WILLIAM'S CHILDHOOD HOME - ENTRYWAY - SAME TIME

William runs back downstairs and grabs the car keys off the hook on the wall near the front door.

EXT. WILLIAM'S CHILDHOOD HOME - FRONT - SAME TIME

He races to the car parked off to the side of the driveway.

The tires screech as he floors the gas and zooms to town.

EXT. DEPARTMENT STORE - PARKING LOT - EVENING

William quickly pulls into a vacant parking spot and gets out of the car. Ahead, a group of people cause a commotion behind caution tape.

Police stand around in front of the doors which are covered by a sign stating: "Grand Opening!"

The Department Store's main sign above the doors is damaged, tilted, and--

A person can be seen swinging limply from a hook spiked into it.

William walks closer to the group of people, confused.

INSERT: Jackson swings dead with a giant hook plunged into his abdomen. The hook is connected to a rope that is tied to the sign.

William's face contorts into shock and horror.

A few police officers come up to the caution tape to disband the group of people forming. Other officers put up a ladder to get the body down.

William moves to stand next to some white women who have gathered.

WOMAN 1

Did ya see what happened?

WOMAN 2

They say that he was tryin to rob a woman.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

He would never do something like that. I know him, and he would never do that.

WOMAN 2

Ugh, how awful. These people should watch themselves, everybody knows The Klan's been meetin' up recently.

William steps closer.

WILLIAM

The what?

The second woman flinches, glancing to William.

WOMAN 2

The Klan. The ones with the white gowns and pointy hoods.

William looks back at Jackson, now being lowered from the hook.

William opens his mouth, but nothing comes out.

END OF ACT TWO