

Through the Grove

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COURTROOM

INT. A court room is filled with people two men are facing each other as plaintiff and defendant. Profile shot of plaintiff and defendant with CU of defendant.

OFFICER

All rise for the honorable Susan
Gonzalez! (Gavel sounds)

GROWING UP

EXT. Profile shot of two boys first looking ahead and then looking at each other at dusk. Their faces change from serious playful and then they take off racing through the orange grove with a line of trees in between them. Crane shot of them running through the grove. Trucking shot of boy running through the grove. WS of girl watching them over a fence. Luke skins his knee from falling down during the race, and nurses his knee. Dan keeps going and wins.

DANIEL HARRIS (YOUNG)

Ah ha! I beat you again!

Luke scowls at Dan, and then looks at Kate who is giving Luke a sympathetic glance, finally looking back down at his knee.

DANIEL HARRIS (YOUNG)

(grabs Kate's hand) Come on Kate!

WS of Luke coming into his house sniffing while his father is fixing something up in the corner of the room.

FATHER

You all right sport?

LUKE HARRIS (YOUNG)

(Sniff) Yeah. What's that?

FATHER

Just finishing the case for your
mom's ring.

LUKE HARRIS (YOUNG)

I miss her.

FATHER

(picks son up and puts him in his
lap or sits him next to him) Yeah,
me too (pause) Is your brother at
the Lawson's?

(CONTINUED)

LUKE HARRIS (YOUNG)

Mh-hm.

FATHER

Run and get him for dinner will ya?

Young Luke nods and goes off to get him. He goes and opens the door from INT.

GROWN UP

EXT. Evening wide shot of screen door shutting as Adolescent Luke leaves house to pick up his brother. Adolescent Luke gets into car. Drives away.

INT. Living room is messy and filled with trash, red cups, pizza boxes etc. (a drinking party). Adolescent Dan is drunk and has noticed Adolescent Luke approaching the house. Luke enters with annoyed and disgusted look.

DANIEL HARRIS

(Putting hand on Luke's shoulder)
Hey! (Obnoxiously to the oblivious crowd) Look everybody it's my pretty perfect brother (stumbling over words).

Luke attempts to drag Dan from party as Dan continues to mumble.

DANIEL HARRIS

So pretty. And so perfect. Nice of you to join us. (Giving Luke a cheesy smile).

LUKE HARRIS

Shut up we're leaving.

DANIEL HARRIS

Wait, wait, (more irritated) Wait! I want you to meet my lovely girlfriend. Kate! Kate!

Kate responds to Dan's call and crosses room.

LUKE HARRIS

Yeah, yeah I know Kate.

Kate, visibly less drunk than Dan looks back and forth between the brothers. Kate and Luke exchange meaningful glance. Luke becomes more forceful with Dan.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE HARRIS

Okay, we're going (with force).

DANIEL HARRIS

You know, I really appreciate (obnoxiously, breathing all over Luke's face) you coming to get me. So good of you. But I'm just gonna stay here. 'kay? 'kay. (gives Luke another cheesy smile and tries to turn away)

LUKE HARRIS

No, we're leaving.

DANIEL HARRIS

(Trying to get away from Luke) No, I think I'm staying.

LUKE HARRIS

Seriously, Dan...

DANIEL HARRIS

(interrupting) No!

LUKE HARRIS

(getting a more forceful hold) No, we're--

Dan punches Luke in the face. Luke is pissed and frustrated and tries to get hold of Dan again. Dan continues to thrash and Luke finally throws him down (possibly through a table). Dan stays on the ground because he's drunk/dizzy.

LUKE HARRIS

Fine, Dan. OS (Walking out of the house and beginning to trail off) Find your own ride home. (Turning, with new conviction) or better yet, find your own ride home.

Dan is angry and is about to say something but goes to throw up instead.

INT. Later that night, Dan comes into house a little bit more sober. Dan fumbles with small safe. Completely relaxed (possibly humming or whistling) steals money and jewelry out of safe. Then he breaks glass to obtain mother's ring. Dad has caught on by now and enters living room.

DANIEL HARRIS

(father is lying on the ground) Just get out of my way. (Leaves)

(CONTINUED)

Dan punches Dad.

Luke enters as Dan exits.

LUKE HARRIS
(Kneeling by father) Dad?

FATHER
Dan.

Luke hears the car driving away.

GROWN UP (SECOND IDEA)

EXT. Evening wide shot of screen door shutting as Adolescent Luke leaves house. As he is leaving his phone rings and the Dad calls him to ask him if he knows where Dan is.

LUKE HARRIS
Hello?

FATHER
Hey do you know where your brother is?

LUKE HARRIS
Uh... no... I haven't seen him all day.

FATHER
Alright well never mind then. Tell me if you see him. I'm a little concerned about him.

LUKE HARRIS
Sure. I'll be out for awhile though.

Luke walks and gets into his car and he starts the ignition. He pauses for a second and is then enlightened as to where Dan could be. He has a concerned look on his face. It is starting to get dark.

STREET RACING (PART OF SECOND IDEA)

WS of Luke driving up to the street racing scene. Dan is talking with his racing opponent and Kate. A group of people surround them. They are all chill but the viewer can tell that they are about to start the race. Luke pulls up next to the crowd and gets out of the car. It is night.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE HARRIS
What are you doing here?

DANIEL HARRIS
What does it look like I'm doing?

LUKE HARRIS
Shut up. We're going...

Luke grabs Dan's arm.

DANIEL HARRIS
How about Daddy's little boy goes
home and I win 20k at the end of
this race?

LUKE HARRIS
And if you lose?

Daniel is getting into his car.

DANIEL HARRIS
Do you really think that could
happen?

Daniel looks over to Kate and kisses her on the cheek. Kate looks up and gives a meaningful glance over at Luke. Luke mutters the word "Kate"

DANIEL HARRIS
Wish me luck babe.

Daniel gets in the car. Luke bends over and looks into the window.

LUKE HARRIS
Are you really that full of
yourself?

DANIEL HARRIS
If you actually got out of that
grove for a sec you'd realize
there's more to life than picking
oranges. Now if you excuse me I've
got a race to win.

Daniel starts the car. Luke steps back. The cars leave and Luke and Kate make eye contact. Kate seems to have a bit of shame in her look.

(Possible Race Footage: Race ends as other car beats Dan. Dan beats his fist on the steering wheel as is upset. LEAVE UP TO NICK GERRARD)

(CONTINUED)

INT. Later that night Dan and Kate pull up to the house. They both are not happy.

KATE LAWSON

So how are we going to pay back the money?

DANIEL HARRIS

We're not.

Daniel gets out of the car and briskly walks to the house. Dan fumbles with small safe. Completely relaxed (possibly humming or whistling) steals money and jewelry out of safe. Then he breaks glass to obtain mother's ring. Dad has caught on by now and enters living room.

FATHER

Dan, what are you doing? (Obviously hurt by seeing the ring in Dan's hand). Dan--

Dan punches Dad. Dad is laying on the ground.

DANIEL HARRIS

Just get out of my way. (leaves)

Luke enters as Dan exits.

LUKE HARRIS (KNEELING BY FATHER)

Dad?

FATHER

Dan.

Luke hears the car driving away.

BACK TO THE COURTROOM

INT. A court room is filled with people two men are facing each other as plaintiff and defendant. Profile shot of plaintiff and defendant with CU of defendant. Daniel is wearing a cheap suit and looks unsure of himself. Hair might be a little ruffled.

OFFICER

All rise for the honorable Susan Gonzalez!

The judge goes up to the desk and the gavel sounds.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE

Order!

Everyone sits down. Judge reads a overview of the case.

JUDGE

Good afternoon gentleman. Plaintiff Daniel Harris is petitioning for immanent domain over the property of Harris Orange Groves in order to establish a wildlife reserve. Then the defense represented by Mr. Luke Harris shall state his position against this petition. So let me get this straight... you guys are brothers correct?

Luke gives a glance over to Dan, looks back to at the judge, and responds.

LUKE HARRIS

Yes your honor.

Judge gives a look of disapproval

JUDGE

The plaintiff may now make his opening statements.

DANIEL HARRIS

Ten years ago Harris Groves redirected wetlands around their farm in order to provide more agricultural appropriate land. The wetlands that were once filled with rare and exotic wildlife such as the Black-faced Spoonbill and the Pale-headed Brush Finch are now brought low to nothing more than an orange grove which clearly we have our share of those around here.

Daniel shows the judge pictures of the birds.

DANIEL HARRIS

Therefore as former worker of the groves, I am requesting that the government claim immanent domain over this property giving me ownership and charge to transform the orange grove into a wildlife reserve. That is all your honor.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE

Thank you Mr. Daniel Harris. Now the defendant Luke Harris shall give his rebuttal.

LUKE HARRIS

Your honor, it is true that ten years ago Harris Orange Groves redirected the wetlands surrounding the farms to create more room for agricultural purposes but it is clear from the documents provided that Harris Orange Groves did this with the full permission from the state and EPA. Inspectors declared that the size of the wetlands on the orange grove were too insignificant to prohibit redirection of the wetlands. Therefore the petition by Plaintiff Daniel Harris is unfounded if not criminal. He is doing this only to steal this farm from his own family and squander it off like he has the rest of the family's funds. He is no less than a thief, a con, and a liar...

Luke looks at Kate

LUKE HARRIS

Who doesn't care about anybody but himself.

Luke crosses over and faces Dan.

LUKE HARRIS

You would stoop so low as to take the grove away from your own family... your own father. You heartless son of a bi-

(Gavel hits)

JUDGE

Mr. Harris that is enough. Are you quite finished?

LUKE HARRIS

Yes your honor...

Luke composes himself and goes back to his seat. Luke looks over to Dan and there is significant eye contact.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE

It seems clear to me with the evidence provided that Harris Orange Grove acted in compliance with state and EPA regulations therefore the petition for immanent domain for the property is denied. Case closed.

(Gavel sounds?)

OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM

WS of Dan sitting outside the courthouse a ruined man. Luke comes from behind him and stand next to him.

LUKE HARRIS

So it wasn't enough to steal dad's money. It wasn't enough for you to steal mom's wedding ring. Why not the farm. Oh just so you know, when you left it was dad who decided not to send the cops after you, because if it were up to me I would make sure you rot in jail. (Pause) Go to hell.

WS as Luke leaves. MS to CU of Dan trying to reconcile the situation internally. WS of Kate coming down the steps. LS of Dan standing up to talk to her.

DANIEL HARRIS

Kate I...

KATE LAWSON

(holds up hand to keep him from speaking) Really... A wildlife reserve? I suppose you stole this too.

MS of Kate showing her ring. CU of her placing the ring in Dan's hand and WS of her leaving. Dan stands contemplatively looking at the ring.

BACK AT THE GROVE

OS of Dad inspecting the trees in the grove as Luke comes up to him with his hands in his pockets. Dad is outwardly busy with his work but dealing with the situation internally.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE HARRIS
We won the case.

FATHER
(Sigh) I heard.

LUKE HARRIS
I'd expect you be a little more
excited about not losing the farm.

FATHER
There are more important things
than just the farm Luke.

LUKE HARRIS
You're saying that letting a
criminal come and take away our
life's work doesn't phase you?

FATHER
Luke I didn't say that. (Pause)
Whether you like it or not, he is
your brother. This grove isn't just
about bringing in the harvest or
turning a profit. It's about life,
and time, and family...

LUKE HARRIS
So mom's ring was just an expense?

FATHER
Don't you dare think for a second
that Daniel did anything less than
murder me... but you'd be more lost
than him to think that holding on
to what he did will make things
better.

THE FINAL CONFRONTATION

Dan is walking by the side of the road. He is clearly down
and there are even hints of tears.

DANIEL HARRIS
I don't deserve to live.

Cuts to Luke talking to his father still.

LUKE HARRIS
Dad, He doesn't deserve to live. He
tried to take everything we had.

Cuts to Daniel walking by the side of the road again.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL HARRIS
I'm worthless.

Cuts to Luke talking to his father still.

LUKE HARRIS
He's not worth dirt.

Cuts to Daniel walking by the side of the road again.

DANIEL HARRIS
I'm lazy.

Cuts to Luke talking to his father still.

LUKE HARRIS
He's incompetent.

Cuts to Daniel.

DANIEL HARRIS
Selfish.

Cuts to Luke.

LUKE HARRIS
Conceited.

Cuts to Daniel.

DANIEL HARRIS
Proud.

Cuts to Luke.

LUKE HARRIS
Arrogant.

Cuts to Daniel.

DANIEL HARRIS
There is no way they'll let me
back...

Cuts to Luke.

LUKE HARRIS
I swear the next time I see him
I'll kill him.

Daniel comes to the gate of the grove.

OS of Luke. The dad is facing Luke and Luke is facing the entrance. Luke notices that Daniel has come back and his face begins to change. The dad picks up on this right away and turns around.

The Dad runs toward Daniel even though Luke tries to pull him back. Daniel thinks the dad is coming to kill him but he still takes it like a man.

As the Dad is running to him, right before the dad gets to him Daniel speaks.

DANIEL HARRIS

Dad, I'm so...

The Dad embraces his son and is crying.

FATHER

I love you son.

They continue to hug each other.

FATHER

Let's go home.

They are walking side by side through the grove, hands in pockets and heads down with slight talking. The father looks up and Luke, not noticing what was going on is standing there with a pistol in his hand extended and aimed at Daniel.

The Dad notices this and quickly pushes Daniel and ends up taking the bullet that Luke shot.

Luke notices that he just shot his dad and trembling he drops the gun.

LUKE HARRIS

Dad!

Luke runs over to Daniel and the Dad as he is on the ground in pain and Daniel is holding his head up. Luke gets to the scene and Daniel is talking to the Dad.

DANIEL HARRIS

I brought it back.

Luke is also holding the Dad and he sees Daniel giving the ring to his Dad. Luke now forgives Daniel.

The two boys are huddled around the Dad who is laying down between them. The Dad looks up and concludes the film.

FATHER

Just love...

Camera pans out and ends with the verse:

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8