

1 EXT. HOUSE - EVENING U 1

Sun sets behind a bright red fall tree. A gust of wind leaves the tree partly naked. A leaf falls slowly on to a shaking hand.

Feet pace back and forth.

Crunch. Crunch

Hand twists a door knob.

2 INT. HOUSE - NIGHT 2

Hand rubs the back of neck and head. Deep breaths and loud exhales as he sits on couch.

A hand ,wearing a Christian braclet, hands him a blunt.

The hand slowly brings blunt to mouth. Exhales smoke.... pushing us back with the dissapating cloud, a relaxed Phoenix sinks into the red couch.

3 INT. HOUSE - MORNING 3

A small shotgun house like the one slaves lived in on plantations. Full of cats and clutter. Smells of vaporizers and cat shit.

But is full of love. Love quotes fill the house.

PHOENIX, 33 years old, sandy hair sits with blankets over his head as time passes. iPod is dead.

4 INT. HOUSE - MORNING 4

A knock at the door.

The DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY, 40 years old, a happily plump fellow with a smile is at the door.

DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY  
Phoenix!?

Phoenix jumps up, startled, and listens.

Knock knock.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
Phoenix, your car is parked outside.

Phoenix has a look of astonishment.

PHOENIX  
Oh shit! Ummmmmm

Phoenix takes a deep breath and heads for the door. Pauses one more time before opening the door.

Opens the door. The sun blinds. Burning away a lie. Deep rooted in darkness. Painfully extracted from my DNA.

5 EXT. FRONT PORCH - LUNCH

5

Director of the ministry is smiling.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
(relieved)  
There you are.

Phoenix closes the door behind him and it's just the two of them.

Phoenix Looks the Director of Ministry in the eyes.

PHOENIX  
It's me.

Phoenix stares at the ground.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
You cant hide from me. I Always find you.

Director of Ministry points to Phoenix's car in an attempt to make a joke. Phoenix does not laugh.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
Didnt want to wait for me.

Phoenix takes a phone out of pocket and gives it to the Director of Ministry.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
Are you going to live here?

Director of Ministry points to all the trash on the porch.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
I can only imagine what it looks like inside.

PHOENIX

I'm suffocating at the ministry. I  
have endured all I can.

Director of Ministry gets upset for a second.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

And this isn't going..... I'm not  
going to be that guy. (Beat)

This could be the last time. This  
could be the time you get it right if  
you come back with me.

PHOENIX

Im going nowhere. Brother John holds  
my mistakes over my head and im  
drowning.

Director of ministry is holding on to a phone.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

We allwed you to see a psychiatrist  
and get meds.

BEAT

And you repay us by getting high.

PHOENIX

I ran into an old friend. I was having  
a bad day and losing the battle in my  
head.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY.

But you are always smiling. This isn't  
a good place for you. Are you taking  
your Prozac?

PHOENIX

HIDING, I don't want to burden  
somebody. I'm scared people will not  
like the real me. I feel like you  
think I just want to get high. (Beat)

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

Talk to me first before you get high  
when you feel this way.

PHOENIX

I know no other way to stop my mind  
from telling me my deepest fears are

real. The pain is unbearable.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
The bridge is not burned. Call me if you need anything or want to come back. Also Brother Tom said don't even think about stealing anything. He will prosecute.

Phoenix gets emotional and cry's.

PHOENIX  
I love you.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
I know Phoenix. I love you too.

Director of Ministry pauses and stares at Phoenix.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
Don't do this Phoenix. You are your own worst enemy. Don't listen to the lies. (Beat)

Phoenix and Director of Ministry hug.

TITLE CARD

As director of ministry walks away he lifts phone to his ear.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
Did you heareverything?

BROTHER JOHN  
Yes, why did you track him down?

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY  
I guess i just wanted to see his face one last time.

6 EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

6

Atlanta smog blures Different colored abstract moving vehicles fill the canvas, honking and cussing fill the air. Suffocating. People weave through the cars like electricity finding the path of least resistance.

7 INT. CAR - DAY

7

Phoenix drives in circles at Airport by himself lost in his head. Car is silent. The fuel gauge is low. Phoenix looks at

himself in the rear view mirror. Fear captivates his eyes.  
Eyebrows bent and stretched under the weight.

8 EXT. AIRPORT - DAY 8

On the third pass car is stopped in a sea of traffic.

9 INT. CAR - DAY 9

Phoenix head jerks side to side. Anxiety in control.

Deep breath. Stillness.

Exhale... into brief relief.

Present and truth lock eyes.

PHOENIX

You are a...

Knock, knock.

Rear passenger side door fly's open.

10 INT. CAR - DAY 10

STEP-DAD, 58 years old, long hair and weathered. Heaves his  
luggage, gripped tightly afraid to let go, baggage cushions  
the fall.

Mist bellows through long brown hair.

STEP-DAD

I found him.

Vaperizer parts the brown hair

BROTHER, 29 years old, dark haired and handsome. Falls into  
the passenger seat laughing.

BROTHER

(Heavy breathing)

You made me carry your heaviest bag.

STEP DAD

I never asked you to help me. I was  
going back for it.

BROTHER

You knew I would carry your baggage.

Turns to Phoenix.

Phoenix has a bird's nest in his hair. And they have opened their luggage. Settled in.

Brother points to his Justin Bieber hair cut.

Phoenix is deep in thought as he navigates his way through traffic.

Brother turns to Step-dad.

BROTHER

You should have let me cut your hair.

Step-dad has a 80's rock band hair cut.

STEP-DAD

Whats wrong with my hair?

Pulls a mirror out of his luggage. Squints.

Blured image.

STEP-DAD CONT

Do people still not vape up north?  
They looked at me like I was strange  
last time i was there.

BROTHER

Dude, you cut your own hair that's  
why?

STEP DAD

Your cousins are much nicer. They  
don't pick on me like you guys.

Pushes Phoenix's right shoulder playfully.

Phoenix face slowly comes closer in the rear view mirror.  
Turning from tension to a fake smile.

STEP-DAD CONT

They all have their own houses and  
both of your cousins are getting  
married this year. They are both  
having kids and have beautiful soon to  
be wives.

Defeat breeds loneliness.

STEP-DAD

It was a good trip although grma and granpa kicked me out for smoking a vape in the house. I had to go to my sisters. I should have known they would kick me out at least one more time before they die.

BROTHER

(laughing) You smoked your vape in their house!?

STEP DAD

They were smoking there cigarettes inside. I couldn't see the tip of my nose. Shit, I didn't think they would care about a vape. But they thought it was some futuristic device I was using to give them cancer. I told them the cigarettes are taking care of that.

STEP DAD

Did you let them try the vape? That would have calmed them down.

Beat

Do you work tomorrow?

BROTHER

I'll start working 5-6 days a week soon and making 800-1000 dollars a week. My boss is going to help me get a vehicle and my low voltage license.

Phoenix takes a deep breathe and holds back tears.

BROTHER

He said in a few months I will have my own crew and in 3 years I will start making 100,000 dollars a year.

STEP-DAD

Your the luckiest guy I know. How does some one fall into a job like that? How about you Phoenix? Tell me something good!

Phoenix shrugs.

Honk.... Phoenix almost hits another car.

11 INT. HOUSE - MORNING

11

Phoenix is lying on a blow up mattress that deflated while staring at the ceiling, clock reads 6am, light turns on and coffee machine beeps.

MOM, 50 years old, dark haired and beautiful with a warm smile is awake and wakes up brother who is asleep on the other couch.

Phoenix sits up, grabs a cup of coffee and puts ipod on.

MOM

Good morning!! What time are you going back to the ministry?

Mom sees that Phoenix has his headphones in and gently taps his right shoulder.

MOM

(mouths)

I love you.

Phoenix nods with a half smile.

Phoenix grabs his bible and sits back down on the couch.

Brother is putting on dirty work cloths and boots.

BROTHER

I'll probably just work a short day.  
My boss has a 2pm tee time. But he  
still pays me for a full day of work!

Brother looks at watch.

BROTHER

(Yells)

Mommmmmm! We need to go!

Mom is putting makeup on in the bathroom and is half dressed.

BROTHER

What are you going to do today? (beat)

Phoenix looks up from his bible for a second and takes off his headphones.

PHOENIX

Are you guys going to be hiring?



MOM

OK, I'm ready lets go.

Mom comes around the corner still putting makeup on.

They head for the door.

MOM

Have a wonderful day! I love you!

Brother turns around and hands Phoenix some money.

BROTHER

We might need people in a few months.  
Text me later.

Phoenix stares at the money in his hand as he rubs it between his fingers. Anticipation brightens his eyes.

Front door closes.

Phoenix puts his headphones back on.

Phoenix covers his face with his hands and takes a deep breath.

He looks at his bible and starts reading Philippians 4:6-8 out loud to himself.

12 INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

12

Phoenix talks to himself in the mirror.

PHOENIX

You are not a loser Phoenix. You are a  
child of God. You are not a screw up.  
You are fearfully and wonderfully  
made.

13 EXT. OLD DOWNTOWN - AFTER LUNCH

13

Phoenix walks around taking pictures. His ipod on. He finds an escape when he is behind the camera listening to music. He lives in the world he sees through the lens.

Phoenix meets up with some one to get a shoe box and hands him money.

Montage of Pictures Phoenix takes.

14 INT. HOUSE - EVENING

14

Fear and anxiety fill his face as he open's the fridge and stares at a bottle of wine intensely. It sparkles and calls to him. He slowly reaches for it. Calmness fills him.

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS.

The fridge door slams close.

Phoenix has a look of terror.

Phoenix cleaned the front living room in hopes of being able to sleep on the couch.

MOM

Wow! The front living room looks great. Phoenix you didn't go back to the ministry?

PHOENIX

I thought I would clean up the house a little bit for you.

BROTHER

Shit! I think you found your new career.

Phoenix follows Mom into her bedroom. Step-dad is in there watching a movie.

15 INT. STEP-DADS ROOM -EVENING

15

Room is full of cloths, jewelry, walking sticks, and plants. Looks like hippies and hoarders got together.

Phoenix and Step-dad are the only two in the room.

PHOENIX

Have you been here all day?

STEP-DAD

There's something wrong with me.

Phoenix has a oh shit look.

16 INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

16

Step-dad and Phoenix sit in bedroom while every one else is in a different room smoking pot.

17 INT. STEP-DADS ROOM - SAME TIME

17

Step-dad and Phoenix are watching the movie "Things we lost in the Fire".

STEP-DAD

What's going on with you?

PHOENIX

I could ask you the same question.

Step-dad looks at him like come on man.

PHOENIX

(Hangs his head)

I left the ministry. I was hoping I could stay here while I looked for a job.

Beat

STEP-DAD

It's never worked in the past.

Deep breath and exhales.

PHOENIX

(Clears throat)

I would leave all my stuff in my car and sleep on a blow up mattress. Please iimm begen you.

STEP-DAD

Ask your mom.

18 INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

18

Phoenix talks to himself in the mirror.

PHOENIX

Damn it man your just a peace of shit. You cant stop yourself from relapsing. It would be easier for everyone if I wasn't around.

Phoenix shakes his head

PHOENIX

God has great plans for you. "Gods plans are to prosper you, Phoenix, and not to harm you. To give you a future

and a hope." Now believe that!

19 EXT BACK YARD - EVENING

19

Phoenix sits at a table writing. Bible open. Back to the house.

MOM

Hey Phoenix!?! Did you go to work?

Sweat and tears drip down Phoenix's red face. Anxiety tenses up his upper back.

Deep breath. Turns around and smiles.

PHOENIX

How was work?

MOM

Ok, I ran into someone from the ministry.

Phoenix chokes on his spit.

MOM

I think it was a new guy. He didn't know who you were. Nice guy

PHOENIX

Ya he must be in a different house than me..... Umm can I move in with you?

MOM

What! I wish you could but we have no room and I don't know if everyone would agree with that.

PHOENIX

I know. I'm changed. If I steal or get high I will leave. Please!

MOM

Only if you tell me the truth. Why are you leaving the ministry?

PHOENIX

I failed for marijuana. I can't handle my anxiety and emotions.

They hug each other, tears falling from both of them.

20 INT. CAR - MORNING 20

Phoenix and Step-dad go to pick up Phoenix's belongings.

PHOENIX

Thank you for coming with me.

STEP-DAD

I want to help you in any way I can.  
Just please don't steal my adderall.

21 INT. APARTMENT - MORNING 21

Phoenix and Step-dad get belongings and fill up car.

Some one traded TV's with Phoenix.

PHOENIX

This isn't my TV. My TV is lighter.

STEP-DAD

Who would switch TV's with you?

PHOENIX

I guess some one thought they would  
take advantage of the situation. This  
one probably doesn't work.

STEP-DAD

Call your roommate.

PHOENIX

I'm not worried about it.

22 INT AND EXT 22

Montage of Phoenix deciding not to give up. Going to na  
meetings, church, devotions, looking for jobs, sees  
counselor, makes resume and sends out, dances and listens to  
music while cleaning. Talks to himself positively in mirror.

23 INT. HOUSE - NIGHT 23

Phoenix scrolls through his pictures on camera.

Door opens.

BROTHER

Hey bro! Some body named David left a  
message on my phone for you.

PHOENIX

How long ago

BROTHER

A few hours ago. I was working and didn't recognize the number.

Phoenix jumps up.

PHOENIX

Crap! Can I see your phone?

BROTHER

Ya man. It will be OK.

Phoenix goes outside with the phone.

(Beat) Phoenix storms back in with tears in his eyes. Throws the phone back at Brother.

PHOENIX

Because you didn't answer your phone I don't get to work tomorrow. Ya. They just moved on down the list of numbers they have. He said he would call me again. But who knows when that is.

BROTHER

Don't be mad at me. It's not my fault you relapsed and don't have a phone. Fuck Phoenix how many times are you going to Fuck up!

Phoenix walks out of the house in a fierce but broken state and grabs his camera. Throws his ipod on.

BROTHER

Go ahead, go for a walk. That will solve your problem...

Brother is drowned out by the ipod.

24 INT. HOUSE - DAY

24

Phoenix is pacing the house as he talks to himself. He tares his ipod off and throws it on the couch.

PHOENIX

Shit! Shit! I can't believe I missed that phone call.

STEP-DAD

Hey. I am going down the street to help some one with yard work.

Phoenix is startled.

PHOENIX

OK.

STEP-DAD

Are you OK? Maybe you should go to a meeting.

PHOENIX

Ya, I think I will just clean.

25 INT. HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

25

Phoenix is running around the house like a mad man on Crack. Overwhelmed by the mess in the house.

Depression and anxiety pull Phoenix to the fridge. Opens it and grabs the wine bottle.

A sense of relief.

PHOENIX

No Phoenix.

Phoenix slams the fridge door closed.

Starts crying.

Phoenix paces some more and then heads for Parents room.

He ferociously opens bedroom door.

He immediately starts going through everything. He drops to his knees and looks under bed. He sees a box and opens it. A prescription of Adderall stabs him in the eyes. He grabs them and slowly twists the top.

Hyperventilating.

He stops. Slows his breath.

PHOENIX

What are you doing? Think it through.  
Where will this take you?

He thrusts the pill bottle back.

He gets up and leaves room. He closes the door.

STEP-DAD

Hey! What are you doing?

Phoenix is startled. He sees a cat run past Step-dad.

PHOENIX

Nothing, I heard a cat in your room  
and got him out.

STEP-DAD

Who let the cat out of the bag. We  
need to catch the cat. It has no self  
control and screws every male cat in  
town.

PHOENIX

Can I borrow your phone?

26 EXT. BACK YARD - EVENING

26

Phoenix paces back and forth while on the phone.

PHOENIX

Can I have my old phone back please.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

It's a ministry phone and I am not  
going to enable you.

PHOENIX

I really need to get some numbers off  
of it.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY

If you come back to the ministry you  
will have your own bed to sleep in and  
3 square meals a day.

PHOENIX

I'm not coming back.

Phoenix hangs up the phone. He reaches into his pocket and  
pulls out a pill. It's a adderall. He swallows and closes his  
eyes as he exhales.



27 EXT. BACK YARD - EVENING

27

Phoenix destroys TV as he curses God. The death and destruction of the old Phoenix.

PHOENIX

F you God! Why would you make me like this? I'm a mess. All I do is hurt those around me. Please stop this pain.

Phoenix takes one last swing at the pulverized TV. He hunches over and falls to his knees as he deeply cry's.

28 INT. HOUSE - EVENING

28

Phoenix paces the house.

Front door opens.

Mom and Brother come through the door. Mom has a big smile on her face.

MOM

I got your step-dad's old phone turned on. So you won't miss another phone call.

Phoenix gets teary eyed in happiness. Phoenix takes the phone and hugs his mom.

PHOENIX

Thank you, Thank you! This is exactly what I need right now.

29 INT.HOUSE -NIGHT

29

Phoenix tosses and turns all night unable to sleep.

30 EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

30

Step-dad puts gas into Phoenix's car while he smokes his vape.

STEP-DAD

Why do you keep sabotaging yourself? Every time things are going good you relapse.

PHOENIX

I don't know... I think I'm afraid.

STEP-DAD  
Afraid of what?

PHOENIX  
I don't deserve to be successful. All of the things I have done and I don't know if I can stay sober.

STEP-DAD  
You're a good person. You have made some wrong choices and you will continue to make wrong choices. Like Thomas Edison said, "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

PHOENIX  
I'm tired.

STEP-DAD  
I believe in you and so does the rest of your family. You can lean on us. You need to start believing in yourself. What about that bible you are always reading? You were always telling me how much God loves me and cares for me. How He is the creator of the Universe and has these great plans for me.

PHOENIX  
I know....

STEP-DAD  
Remember Phoenix.

Step-dad inhales his vape and blows it out.

STEP-DAD  
Life is but a Vape. You're here one second and poof gone the next.

31 INT. BATHROOM -MORNING

31

Phoenix talks to himself in the mirror.

PHOENIX  
Look at you! You Child of God you. God knows every hair on your head. He never sleeps and only wants the best

for you. You are unique and beautiful.

32 EXT. BACK YARD - MORNING

32

Phoenix sits in the back yard sipping on coffee and reading a bible. (Psalms, Praise, about who he is in Christ)

Mom and Brother peek out the back door.

MOM

I love you son! Have a blessed day!

BROTHER

Hey bro have a great day and text me later.

PHOENIX

Hold up Brother.

Phoenix gets up and meets Brother at the back door.

PHOENIX

Hey, I just wanted to tell you how proud I am of you and the great new job. You deserve it. Hold on.

Phoenix runs back into the house and grabs a shoe box. He runs back to his Brother with his hands behind his back.

PHOENIX

I have done some horrible things to you and yet you still give me chance after chance.

Phoenix hands him a pocket knife.

BROTHER

Dude, I thought you traded that for drugs?

PHOENIX

I did. It took some convincing and cash.

BROTHER

Thanks man! This means a lot.

Phoenix smiles.

BROTHER

I believe in you Phoenix. (Beat)

And you know you want this haircut.

Phoenix and Brother hug.

Mom is in back ground smiling.

The phone rings as Mom and Brother close the front door.

PHOENIX

Hello... I am available to work!

THE END

Under the Credits Phoenix is getting  
his haircut by his brother.