

EXECUTION

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Moonlight shines through the thin opening in the jail cell. Even the room knows tonight is a heavy night.

MORGAN, mid-50's, a tall man whose face has been sculpted by years of incarceration, rolls over in his bunk.

Unable to sleep, he calls out to his cellmate, CARTER, a slender man in his mid-20s, his eyes still hold the gleam of someone hoping to one day sleep in his own bed again.

MORGAN

Carter?

Silence.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Carter?

CARTER

(waking up)

Huh?

MORGAN

Do you remember the story of Abraham and Isaac?

CARTER

You tell me about it every night.

MORGAN

Do you ever wonder what Abraham must have felt walking up the mountain with his boy?

CARTER

I think about the knife. How heavy it must have felt.

MORGAN

He knew what was coming, but he kept walking.

CARTER

They say an Angel stayed his hand.

MORGAN

Yeah, they say that.

A moment passes.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

But that's the thing about stories,
they all have a different ending,
don't they?

CARTER

Some of them do. Job lived, so did
Moses, and Noah.

MORGAN

But not Cain.

CARTER

No, not Cain.

The two sit in silence. Echoes of guards shifting in the
night ring through the cell.

CARTER (CONT'D)

I think about the walk home.

MORGAN

What?

CARTER

After God saved Isaac, they had to
walk home, didn't they? I mean,
they weren't just teleported.

MORGAN

Isaac died on the mount.

CARTER

No, he didn't.

MORGAN

I agree that he walked home with
his father. But his soul died on
the mount.

CARTER

Yes, but he walked back home.

MORGAN

And never talked to his old man
again.

CARTER

So what?

MORGAN

So he lived a haunted life. A half-
life from that point on.

(MORE)

MORGAN (CONT'D)

He died on the mount that night,
whether he walked home afterwards
or not.

CARTER

So you're saying--

MORGAN

-- I'm not saying anything. Just
pointing out that he didn't come
back whole.

Carter sits with this for a moment.

CARTER

So God sacrificed Isaac?

MORGAN

Sometimes you have to kill a sick
sheep to save the flock.

CARTER

Isaac wasn't sick.

MORGAN

Depends who you ask.

This is too much for Carter; he rolls over, silent.

CARTER

Morgan? Do you think Isaac was
scared when the knife was coming
down?

MORGAN

I don't think it matters. The knife
was going to come down whether or
not Isaac liked it.

CARTER

Then why did God let Isaac walk up
the mountain?

MORGAN

Everyone needs to walk up the
mountain. Some people are carried
up it, some led, and others
willingly climb.

FADE OUT.