

Through the Grove

Adam Kapellen
Jon Vinson
Cheyenne Kirkpatrick

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kapellenaj07@crow.n.edu
vinsonjt07@crow.n.edu
kirkpatrickcr06@crow.n.edu

COURTROOM

INT. COURTROOM - DAY (2009)

A court room is filled with people. Two men are facing each other as plaintiff and defendant.

OFFICER

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

GROWING UP

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY (1991)

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. A cute young girl watches 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 living room.

FATHER

You all right Luke?

LUKE HARRIS (YOUNG)

(Sniff) Yeah. What are you
doing?

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,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FATHER (cont'd)
me too (pause) Is Dan at the
Lawson's?

LUKE HARRIS (YOUNG)
Mh-hm.

FATHER
Mh-kay. 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. HOUSE - DUSK (2004)

Screen door shuts 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
Hey dad.

FATHER
Hey, do you know where Dan 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.

STREET RACING (PART OF SECOND IDEA)

EXT. STREET - NIGHT (2004)

(CONTINUED)

Luke drives up to the street racing scene. Dan is talking with his racing opponent and Kate. A group of people surround them. The race is about to begin. Luke walks up to Dan.

LUKE HARRIS
What are you doing here?

DANIEL HARRIS
What's it look like?

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

Luke grabs Dan's arm. Dan shrugs off Luke's grasp.

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 is internally torn as she looks 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 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.

(CONTINUED)

Possible race sequence

The other driver beats an angry Dan who hits his steering wheel in frustration.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dan and Kate pull up to the house. Dan is tipsy. They both are not happy.

KATE LAWSON

So how are we going to pay back the money?

DANIEL HARRIS

We're not.

With bottle in hand, Daniel gets out of the car. Briskly walking to the house, he carelessly tosses his bottle across the yard.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dan fumbles with small safe. Completely relaxed (possibly humming or whistling) steals money and jewelry out of safe. Then he breaks glass with a baseball bat to obtain mother's ring. Dad hears noises and enters living room.

FATHER

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

Dan punches Father. Father is laying on the ground.

DANIEL HARRIS

Sorry (Sarcastically).

Luke enters as Dan exits.

LUKE HARRIS (KNEELING BY FATHER)

Dad?

FATHER

Dan.

A look of anger and revenge washes over Luke's face as he hears the car driving away.

BACK TO THE COURTROOM

INT. COURTROOM - DAY (2009)

A court room is filled with people. Two men are facing each other as plaintiff and 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.

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. 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

In name only 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 land for agricultural. The wetlands that were once filled with rare and exotic wildlife such as the (stumbling over his words) Black-faced Spoonbill and

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL HARRIS (cont'd)
the Pale-headed Brush
Finch. Harris Orange Groves'
ecological irresponsibility has
contributed to the sudden scarcity
of these birds.

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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.

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 of the property is denied.
Case closed.

(Gavel sounds?)

OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Dan sits outside the courthouse a ruined man. Luke comes
from behind him and stands 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...
(Pause) Go to hell.

Luke leaves. Dan tries to reconcile the situation
internally. Kate approaches, coming down the steps with
direction. Dan stands up to talk to her.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL HARRIS

Kate I...

KATE LAWSON

(holds up hand to keep him from speaking) Really... A wildlife reserve? And what was Luke talking about the funds you stole? Is that where all the money came from?(Pause) I suppose you stole this too. Luke was right about you.

Kate shows him her ring and places it in Dan's hand. She leaves. Dan stands contemplatively looking at the ring.

BACK AT THE GROVE

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY

Dad inspects 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.

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. It's not just about expenses or turning a profit. It's about life, and time, and family...

(CONTINUED)

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 kill 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

EXT. A ROAD - DAY

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.

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY

Luke is still talking to his father.

LUKE HARRIS

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

EXT. A ROAD - DAY

Daniel is walking by the side of the road again.

DANIEL HARRIS

I'm worthless.

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY

Luke talking to his father.

LUKE HARRIS

He's worth nothing.

EXT. A ROAD - DAY

Daniel walks by the side of the road again.

DANIEL HARRIS

I'm a fool.

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY

(CONTINUED)

LUKE HARRIS
He's incompetent.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

DANIEL HARRIS
Selfish.

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY

LUKE HARRIS
Conceited.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

DANIEL HARRIS
Proud.

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY

LUKE HARRIS
Arrogant.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

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

EXT. ORANGE GROVE - DAY

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

Daniel comes to the gate of the grove. 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

Take it...

The Dad dies.

VO DANIEL HARRIS

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

THE END