

POINTING FINGERS

By

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3rd Draft

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FADE IN:

INT. PARKERS HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

JAMES PARKER, SR., late sixties wearing a bathrobe and pajamas, angrily paces his living room with the use of a cane, as if waiting for someone.

James Sr. walks away from the living room window, stops to look down at the coffee table, that has a BIBLE and several empty medicine bottles scattered across the top of the table. A sofa, that takes up space in the center of the living room is cluttered with newspapers, all open to the HELP WANTED SECTIONS.

A POWERFUL CAR stops in front of James Sr.'s home. ENGINE turned OFF. FOOTSTEPS can be heard, getting closer to the front door.

KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCK

JAMES SR
(shouting)
Who the hell is it ???

NATALIE (O.S.)
(puzzled)
It's me Daddy, open the door.

James Sr. walks towards his front door, opens the door.

NATALIE PARKER aggressively PUSHES the door open, walks inside. Natalie Parker, middle thirties intense, very pretty and confident, in her I don't have to work today outfit.

NATALIE
Where is he? I got your message on my voice mail.
(looking at her watch)
I got here as soon as I could.
Well, where is he?

JAMES SR
I don't know! I wake up he's gone.
My money gone, and I called you.

NATALIE
How much money's missing?

JAMES SR

I had fifty dollars on the kitchen counter in a cookie jar. When I woke up, something told me to check my money. I look inside the cookie jar. My money's gone. Jr's., gone. I want him out. I'm tired of his shit.

NATALIE

Damm it, I knew he couldn't be trusted. I told you not to take him back in.

Natalie walks over to sofa, pushes the Bible aside, on the coffee table. Tosses her car keys between the Bible and medicine bottles. Moves the newspapers aside on sofa, wiping the seat with her hand and sits down.

NATALIE

Remember, when you took him in to give him another chance, a place to live, and I tried to tell you, not to trust him. Once a crack head, always a crack head. (beat) But, can't tell you anything can I?

JAMES SR

(sternly)

I raised you Natalie, You didn't raise me. You don't tell me what to do.

NATALIE

Daddy, I apologize, I didn't mean to be disrespectful, but Jr. won't change. He's a loser. Tried college, that fail, tried a musical career, that fail, even when he had a major label, interested in signing him. The only thing he does well, is getting high smoking crack.

JAMES SR

I need to go and lay down for a minute, I'm tired.

James Sr. walks into his bedroom closes the bedroom door.

JAMES PARKER, JR., opens the front door. Youthful and child like for a guy in his forties. Wearing a worn baseball jacket, carrying a plastic bag from DUANE READE PHARMACY.

James Jr. closes the front door, slowly walks into the living room. Places the pharmacy bag on the coffee table, next to Natalie's car keys. Notices his newspapers moved aside on the sofa.

JAMES JR

Hey Natalie, whut'sup? Praise the lord. What are you doin here?.

NATALIE

(overlapping)

You tell me man! What'sup?

JAMES JR

What'sup?, I don't know. How's your job? Still making the big bucks? Is that your BMW outside? Nice. Very nice. How long have you been here? Long time no see.

NATALIE

(irritated)

Daddy called me. What did you with his money? Make your dealer richer? Daddy wants you out.

JAMES JR

(surprised)

Say what? What are you talkin' bout?

NATALIE

Daddy tells me he's got "a missing money problem" again!

JAMES SR(O.S.)

(weakly)

Jr., is that you? Is Brenda with you?

JAMES JR

Yeah, Pops it's me. No, Mamma's not with me. I've got your medicine.

JAMES SR(O.S.)

Thanks, I'll get it later, let me know when she gets home. She should've been back by now. I'm starting to worry about her.

NATALIE

(surprised)

Let him know when Momma gets home? Medicine? What medicine?

JAMES JR
(overlapping)
Natalie! When was the last you
called, or returned my calls? And
when was the last time you came by
to see how Pop's was doin'?

NATALIE
(defiantly)
Why? What difference does that
make? You took his money.

JAMES JR
(overlapping)
If you called more often, or
bothered to returned my calls, as
you call it, "keepin' it in the
loop", you'd know Pops has early
signs of Alzheimer. He doesn't
always remember things.

NATALIE
Daddy told me you took his money,
after he fallen asleep. He wanted
me to help him kick you out of his
home.

JAMES JR
Help him! Kick me out of his home,
our home. Wow!

JAMES SR (O.S.)
Jr., can you please keep it down
out there, I'm tryin' to sleep. Who
are you talking to anyway?

Jr. takes two bottles out of the plastic bag and walks
towards his father's bedroom, turning around to stares at
Natalie. Shakes his head and walks into the bedroom, closing
the door.

Natalie walks over to the coffee table, picks up her car
keys. Looks at her watch and walks towards the front door.
She turns around looking back at the bedroom door. Opens
front door and meekly walks out.

FADE OUT