

In the Middle
By Zimran Jacob

EXT. POLICE STAIRS-NIGHT

POLICE OFFICERS and OTHER PEOPLE walk on the steps leading into a station. A MAN in a suit with a jacket thrown over his shoulder smokes a cigarette and sits on the stairs of the office. He is TERRANCE. A BLACK CAR approaches the steps. AVERY gets out.

AVERY
(surprised)
Where's Jack?

TERRANCE
Not here rookie.

AVERY
Jack told me to be here at 9.

TERRANCE
They're not letting him out.

TERRANCE stands up and begins to leave.

AVERY
Then we should wait for him.

TERRANCE stops.

TERRANCE
He should wait for us.
He's not going to be
out anytime soon.

AVERY
What are you talking about?

TERRANCE
I'm talking about something that
I don't want these pigs to hear about
Rookie.

AVERY
(exhales)
Dammit, Terrance.

The two make their way to AVERY'S car. AVERY drives away from the station.

AVERY
So what happened?

TERRANCE
They put Jack away.

AVERY
Why the hell would they
do that?

TERRANCE
After I confessed..
Or rather gave my account--

AVERY
You were supposed to
take the fall. This
wasn't your decision.

TERRANCE
If I had told the truth
We would both have been locked up.

AVERY
You know that a the big men
are always protected.

TERRANCE
Jack's the only one that
gives me orders.

AVERY
(indignant)
But it's the principle.

TERRANCE
Look Avery, if Jack had
His way, I would be the
One in jail. If the two of
Us pulled that hit, you'd be in
trouble.

AVERY

But the two of you pulled
the hit.

TERRANCE

But Jack called it, didn't he?

AVERY is calm.

AVERY

How did you get off?

TERRANCE

Jack was gonna say I acted alone.
I threw my tool into a dumpster
Before we got nabbed.

AVERY

And he kept his?

TERRANCE

Look kid, I'm through with
that dictator. He knows he can't
get caught under his rules.
You should be thanking me.

THE CAR comes to an abrupt halt. TERRANCE is thrown off by
this. AVERY pulls his gun.

AVERY

If it weren't for Jack, I wouldn't
I wouldn't be here today.

Silence.

AVERY

(cont'd)

Jack called me before you
Talked to the cops.
You let him take the fall.

Silence.

AVERY

(cont'd)

Stashing your piece only helped
you so much.

TERRANCE
You can't do this.

AVERY
The others will know what happened
and no one will parrot
your story. Jack'll be free.

TERRANCE
If what?

AVERY
You lied to the law.
You stabbed Jack in the back.
And you always get what
you deserve.

AVERY shoots TERRANCE in the chest. TERRANCE tries to escape. AVERY, from his seat in the car, points his GUN out the window and shoots him through the chest and then through the head. AVERY gets out of his car and kicks the corpse down the hill next to the highway. He then goes to his trunk and gets a shovel and closes the trunk.

FADE OUT.