

Jeremiah

By

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FADE IN

EXT. ROAD SIDE - DAY

JEREMIAH FALLS stands tall and well built. Middle aged, gruff, poorly clothed. He looks at a green car sitting on the side of the road. A few hundred feet separate him and the vehicle.

As he approaches the car, he slowly peers into the back left window. Empty seats. He looks through the driver's side window. A MAN lays back in the seat, a bullet hole through his temple. A WOMAN slumps in the passenger's seat.

Jeremiah, startled, looks up and down the road. Nothing. The sound of crickets. He carefully opens the driver's side door. The two dead bodies thump to the ground.

The car lumbers onto the road and out of sight. A LITTLE BOY watches as the car drives off.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

TWO MEN ride along. SHERIFF HUCKS and DETECTIVE BOYLE. Hucks is late 50s, Boyle early 40s.

DETECTIVE BOYLE

Why him?

SHERIFF HUCKS

'Things like this happen in Cherry Ridge, he's always a suspect.

DETECTIVE BOYLE

Has he ever been convicted of anything?

SHERIFF HUCKS

Besides loiterin' and jaywalkin', not really.

DETECTIVE BOYLE

So, what's so special about him?

SHERIFF HUCKS

Oh, he's special. You'll see.

Boyle looks uncertain.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
They call him "Soul Bones."

DETECTIVE BOYLE  
(confused)  
Soul Bones?

SHERIFF HUCKS  
Growin' up, that's what they called  
him. His mind is fragile, like  
bone. Like he doesn't have a soul.

The police car pulls up to an old shack. The men get out.  
The green car is parked at the side of the house.

EXT. OLD SHACK - CONTINUOUS

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
Figures.

DETECTIVE BOYLE  
That matches the description.

They walk up to the door. Hucks pounds on it with his fist.

SHERIFF HUCKS  
Bones! You in there?

DETECTIVE BOYLE  
You call him that?

SHERIFF HUCKS  
The name stuck. It's what everybody  
calls him.

He knocks again.

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
Hey!

The door opens slowly, revealing Jeremiah.

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
Open up that door all the way, boy.  
Just wanna talk to ya.

Jeremiah opens the door. Hucks smoothly props the door with  
his foot.

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
Whatchu know 'bout that car, Bones?

Jeremiah stumbles on his words.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
C'mon! That car ain't yours now, is it?

JEREMIAH  
I...I found it.

DETECTIVE BOYLE  
Where'd you find the car, sir?

Hucks looks at Boyle, questioning his formality.

SHERIFF HUCKS  
Where'd you get it?

JEREMIAH  
I...I...found it.

SHERIFF HUCKS  
C'mon. You're comin' with us.

DETECTIVE BOYLE  
Let him speak.

SHERIFF HUCKS  
He's had a chance to speak! We're takin' him in!

Hucks grabs Jeremiah and cuffs him. Boyle looks on, out of his element.

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
You're under arrest for suspicion of murder.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Jeremiah's large body is no match for the confines of the back seat. Boyle breaks the silence of the car ride.

DETECTIVE BOYLE  
He took the car, but what about the bodies? You think he did that too?

SHERIFF HUCKS  
I reckon'. There's no tellin' with that boy. He's not right.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremiah sits behind a table. Hucks sits on the other side with Boyle standing over his shoulder.

SHERIFF HUCKS

Just fess up, Bones. Let's get this over with.

JEREMIAH

I found it.

SHERIFF HUCKS

We know you found it! What'd you do to those people?

JEREMIAH

Nothin'.

SHERIFF HUCKS

They didn't die all by themselves, son.

Another DETECTIVE opens the door and whispers something into Boyle's ear. Boyle's eyes light up. He leaves the room.

Hucks stares down Jeremiah for what feels like a long minute. Jeremiah sheepishly keeps his eyes to the floor.

Boyle reenters.

DETECTIVE BOYLE

Sheriff. You're going to want to hear this.

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Hucks follows Boyle. The little boy sits in a chair, dangling his feet. Boyle approaches him and kneels down to his level.

DETECTIVE BOYLE

Bobby. Tell the sheriff what you told me.

The boy looks up. As his eyes meet the sheriff's, a look of terror comes across his face. Silence.

DETECTIVE BOYLE (CONT'D)

C'mon, Bobby. You said you saw something.

(CONTINUED)

Bobby doesn't answer. Boyle straightens back up, looking at Hucks.

DETECTIVE BOYLE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

He told me he knows who killed those people. Saw the whole thing.

Hucks studies Bobby. He kneels down to him.

SHERIFF HUCKS

You saw somethin', huh?

No answer. Hucks' gaze pierces through Bobby.

DETECTIVE BOYLE

I'll take him to a holding room. See if we can get anything else out of him.

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

Jeremiah sits alone. Even the jail cell looks small on him.

INT. HOLDING ROOM - THE NIGHT BEFORE

Boyle sits across from Bobby, holding a notepad and pen.

DETECTIVE BOYLE

Tell me what you remember.

Silence.

DETECTIVE BOYLE (CONT'D)

You said you know who killed those people. Who was it, Bobby?

Silence.

DETECTIVE BOYLE (CONT'D)

Was he big? Tall?

Bobby shakes his head. This peaks Boyle's interest.

DETECTIVE BOYLE (CONT'D)

He wasn't big? What'd he look like?

Bobby looks more scared than ever.

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE BOYLE (CONT'D)  
Can you write it down for me?

Bobby looks up. He reaches his hands out for the notepad and pen. He begins to write. Boyle's anticipation creates a thick tension.

Bobby puts down the pen and hands the notepad back to Boyle. Boyle reads the notepad. He looks at Bobby, incredulously.

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

A GUARD walks up to Jeremiah's cell. He unlocks the door.

GUARD  
Free to go.

Jeremiah slowly gets up and walks through the door.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Jeremiah walks out of the station and down the road. Bobby watches him from a distance.

INT. HOLDING ROOM - THE NIGHT BEFORE

The notepad sits on the table. The word, "Sheriff" is scribbled across the paper.

EXT. OLD SHACK - DUSK

Jeremiah walks up to the front door. Bobby watches from the driveway. Jeremiah turns around and looks at Bobby. He opens the door and walks inside. He leaves the door open.

INT. OLD SHACK - DUSK

Jeremiah places two bowls on the table. He sits and begins to eat. Bobby pokes his head through the door. Without making eye contact, Jeremiah pushes the other bowl toward Bobby. They eat together in silence for a few moments.

BOBBY  
Why'd you take that car?

Jeremiah continues eating, eyes in his bowl.

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Huh? You knew they was gonna find  
out.

JEREMIAH  
I...I just found it.

Jeremiah's simple mindedness seeps into Bobby.

BOBBY  
I know who did it.

Jeremiah keeps eating.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
Don't you wanna know who killed  
those people?

Jeremiah stops eating and gets up to put his bowl away.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
We can do somethin' about it,  
y'know.

Jeremiah washes his bowl.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Boyle stands outside of Hucks' office, staring. Hucks leans  
back in his chair, feet up on the desk.

INT. HUCKS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Boyle strolls in.

SHERIFF HUCKS  
Whadya say, Boyle?

Boyle tosses the notepad onto the desk. Hucks inspects it.

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
What's this?

Boyle glares at him and remains silent. Hucks picks up the  
pad for a closer look.

SHERIFF HUCKS (CONT'D)  
You write like a child, Boyle.

(CONTINUED)



DETECTIVE BOYLE  
I got the boy to tell me what he  
saw out there.

Hucks grows tense. Defensive.

SHERIFF HUCKS  
That what this is? This what he  
says he saw?

Boyle nods. Hucks pulls out his gun.

CUT TO BLACK

A single shot.

INT. - GREEN CAR - NIGHT

Jeremiah and Bobby ride along.

BOBBY  
What's your plan? We gotta have a  
plan!

Jeremiah's eyes stay fixed on the road. They approach a stop sign. A police car stops on the other side. Jeremiah and Bobby study the vehicle. The man in the police car squints his eyes, recognizing the green car.

Sheriff Hucks gets out of the police car and begins to walk toward the green car.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
That's him. It's him!

Jeremiah watches Hucks carefully. He grips a hunting knife in his right hand. Hucks is almost at the car. He draws his gun.

SHERIFF HUCKS  
Get outta the car, Bones! Hands up!

Jeremiah doesn't move. Bobby's hand is on the door handle, deciding whether to stay or run.

Hucks is at the window. He moves toward Jeremiah, gun raised. As he gets close, he grabs his neck. Blood flows down onto his chest. The knife protrudes from his jugular.

Bobby stares in shock. Jeremiah puts the car into gear and drives off down the road.

FADE OUT