

1 DREAM SEQUENCE OF ADEN PLAYING FOOTBALL. STARTING WHEN HE IS  
YOUNGER, AND PROGRESSIVELY GETTING OLDER, UP TO HIGH SCHOOL.  
AS HE GETS OLDER HE VIOLENTLY HITS KIDS HARDER AND HARDER.

ADEN (V.O.)  
4 I had a dream to play college 4  
football once. Coaches all said I  
could be a scholarship player if I  
kept my nose clean. But I had a  
void in me. Like a crack in a levee  
I would eventually just come  
unglued entirely, washing away any  
shot I had.

2 INT. ADEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING 2

BANG! BANG!

ADEN, a 18 year old straggly tough looking kid is awoken out  
of his bed by gun shots. He springs up from his dream world  
sweating. He takes a look around his room and puts his feet  
down. He locates a half drank forty and gulps it down, then  
takes a swig from a handle of vodka.

He lights up a blunt as he pours Vodka from the jug into a  
water bottle.

He turns on the TV as he goes about his daily morning  
consumption.

2 A On the TV, the news is on. 2 A

A country singer with long hair stumbles around completely  
inebriated and falling over. Cops surround him and try to  
calm him down, but he swings at the cops and they tackle him  
on a busy city street.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)  
Country legend Billy "Bad Ass"  
Mcready is in the news again. The  
once mega star, is now going back  
to rehab and possibly another stint  
in jail. His long time label has  
said to have finally broken ties  
with him.

Aden shakes his head at this and laughs. He looks up at the  
several "Bad Ass", posters lining the wall and smiles. He  
turns the TV off.

He's done with his blunt. Puts it out in an over flown ashtray with a dozen other disregarded blunts. He takes out a crack pipe and takes a hit off that. Then he takes out a scraped off prescription bottle and throws back a hand full of pills. He gets dressed in all the latest ghetto fashion: new hat, new kicks, the latest shirt. He exits.

ADEN - V.O.

No more dreams. Just reality. A fucked up reality. I was a mixed bag, misguided, misdirected and sometimes, just a misfit all together. Occupation... drug dealer. Status ...an addict since the age of fifteen.

3

INT. ADENS'S LIVING ROOM

3

Aden walks out. His mom is passed out with a crack pipe next to her, holding a half full jug of cheap vodka.

A black man William is sitting on the couch breaking up crack and putting it into little baggies.

He acknowledges Aden, and hands him a freshly stuffed paper bag full of crack baggies already for distribution.

ADEN - V.O.

Who could blame me though, I was raised by a junky and her dealer boyfriend. I never met my father, nor knew if he was still alive. Maybe it could have been different if he was around. Maybe I could have had a chance. A lot of maybes... Seems to be my life story.

4

EXT. GHETTO STREETS OF PHILLY

4

Aden struts through the ghetto taking a gulp from his water bottle.

He finally makes it to his bench. Across the street is a young Spanish guy manning his corner. They acknowledge each other.

Aden walks over to the sidewalk and places a bunch of baggies into the crack next to the fire hydrant.

He walks back over to his bench and stashes the paper bag in the bushes next to it. He sits and starts his daily job of watching addicts taking the baggies out of the cracks of the sidewalk.

ADEN - V.O.

It was the oldest trick in the book. One guy collects the money. The other one makes sure the client only takes what he pays for. There's never any physical exchange of drugs.

The young Spanish guy makes a transaction, holds up two fingers, then the customer walks over to the hydrant and takes the two baggies he paid for out of the sidewalk with Aden watching him the whole time.

Two or three transactions quickly take place. A strung out dude makes a transaction with the Spanish guy. He then walks over to the hydrant. The Spanish guy starts yelling.

The strung out guy panics and grabs all the baggies and runs.

Aden runs to the bushes and grabs his paper bag and then pursues him, as well as the Spanish guy. They catch him and stomp the shit out of him. As they do, two cops on the beat are walking the streets coming around the corner.

Two beat cops run over and Aden and the Spanish guy take off.

The two cops decide to pursue Aden. They chase him through several back yards, jumping fences, avoiding dogs on chains. An epic chase scene through the ghetto. Aden is starting to lose him until he runs into a cop pointing a gun right at him.

The cops try to tackle him. But the football player in Aden takes one of the cops down to the ground. The cop hits his head hard as he falls down and a puddle of blood comes from his skull. He goes unconscious as the other officer continues to beat Aden with his night stick.

OFFICER

(on walkie)

We need a bus. Officer down.

Officer down.

The officer goes through Aden's pockets and finds the bag full of crack.

ADEN - V.O.

So, looks like my moms was right. I was a born loser.

(MORE)

ADEN - V.O. (CONT'D)

It was in my DNA just like my daddy  
she used to say. My wheels were  
turning, I could take my own life  
or I could sit still and hope that  
I didn't die detoxing within the  
next 48 hours.

5

INT. PRISON MUSIC ROOM

5

A bunch of inmates in orange sit around jamming on some  
instruments together.

Aden sits in the corner going through with drawl, sweating  
and shaking.

A music teacher and a PREACHER (early 40's) walks up to him.

PREACHER

You want to be in my class. You  
gotta play something.

Looks Aden over.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

You my man. Look like a guitar guy.

The preacher brings over a guitar and a how to play guitar  
book. Puts them next to Aden.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

If you want to get through this.  
You got to occupy your thoughts  
son. Make her sing and I guarantee  
she will entertain your mind and  
soul.

Aden just looks at him.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

You don't make any effort and your  
going into laundry duty. And you  
ain't gonna make it in laundry.

Aden reluctantly picks up the guitar. It's like it was meant  
to be in his hands. He picks it up and starts strumming away  
something that sort of sounds like a tune. He amazes himself.

The preacher shakes his head.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

Looks like you got a new friend.

6 INT. MUSIC PRISON ROOM 6

7 MONTAGE OF ADEN READING HIS BOOK AND PLAYING GUITAR 7

-Aden starts picking away at the strings. It seems to come natural to him. A smile comes across his face as he shakes.

-Aden is studying books on how to play and learning the chords..

-Aden is reading music and plays a simple song. His shakes are almost gone. His mind is really occupied in the music.

-Aden is reading and reading, then play more and more complicated pieces.

-Aden looks good. He's smiling and jamming away.

-Aden plays with the other inmates. He clearly is more talented than all of them. They all stop as he goes off on a long difficult solo that is the music that is playing over the montage. He is intensely plucking away, sweat pours down his face. He finally stops as the other inmates clap and cheer him on. He finally has a content look as he smiles at the inmates cheering him on.

ADEN - V.O.

That preacher man was right. That guitar occupied my mind and soul for the next seven years. For the first time in my life I felt like I might have a purpose in this world.

Text on Black Screen: "7 years later"

8 EXT. PHILADELPHIA STREETS 8

Aden, 26 now, is fresh out of jail. All cleaned up and groomed nicely.

He struts down the city streets of Kensington in his seven year old out of style clothes. He's back in the Kensington hustle bustle.

9 EXT. SUBWAY STATION - DAY 9

He sits on the curb outside the subway station and starts jamming away passionately on his guitar as people walk by not really paying attention. Aden's guitar case has a few bucks scattered about. He picks up his dollars and case and walks off.

10 INT. HALFWAY HOUSE - LATER 10

A man THE **SUPERVISOR** (45 ish) of the halfway house gives Aden a key.

SUPERVISOR

No visitors, no drugs, no problems.

Aden opens the door with a key. He walks in. Enjoy.

11 INT. ADEN'S HALFWAY ROOM - CONTINUOUS 11

Aden walks into the tiny room. Nothing but a bed and cockroaches scattering.

He goes and sits on the bed. He doesn't know what to do with himself.

12 INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NEXT DAY 12

Aden is in the kitchen doing dishes. He's got sweat coming down his face.

He drops a plate.

His boss comes in.

BOSS

Yeah, it's not going to work out buddy.

Aden shoots him a look.

BOSS (CONT'D)

I got a rule. If you can't make it the first day without fucking up. Then you can't make it.

ADEN

That's a stupid rule.

BOSS

Maybe... but it's my rule.

ADEN

This was the only job available.

BOSS  
It's tough out there man.

Aden throws his apron at him.

Aden walks away.

BOSS (CONT'D)  
You'll be back in jail soon enough.

Aden turns around like he's gonna come at him. The guys flinches as Aden smirks.

BOSS (CONT'D)  
You'll be right back in jail so fast. You want that fucko' huh?

Aden backs off. He has to control himself.

He walks out.

13 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT 13

Aden stands on the streets jamming and signing away. You can hear his pain in his music. People walk by and throw change into his guitar case.

14 INT. STREETS - LATER 14

Aden sits eating a slice of pizza and drinks a soda on the curb. He's alone. He's lonely. He discreetly counts his money. He only has two bucks and change left.

15 INT. ADENS'S HALFWAY ROOM 15

Aden sits in his bed with the lamp on. He's sweating. It's hot. He can't sleep. He gets up and exits.

16 EXT. CITY STREETS - LATER 16

Aden is walking down the bad parts of the city. The "Bad Lands" Hookers and dealers fill the streets at this time of night.

He watches the drug dealer make deals. He looks at his two bucks. He doesn't even have enough money to score if he wanted too.

A jamaican hooker comes up to him.

HOOKER  
You wanta date?

ADEN  
(laughing)  
If two bucks and thirty three cents  
works for you. Then yes, I would.

The hooker laughs at him.

HOOKER  
You just got out huh?

ADEN  
Fresh out after seven years. How  
can you tell?

HOOKER  
You got the look. You know what  
honey. Your cute, and I'm horny.  
I'll take that two bucks.

Aden and the hooker leave together.

17

INT. ADENS'S HALFWAY ROOM - LATER

17

The hooker pulls out a bag and does a line.

HOOKER  
You want one?

Aden stares at it. He thinks long and hard.

ADEN  
No, I'm good.

The hooker gets on top of Aden.

ADEN (CONT'D)  
It's been awhile.

HOOKER  
Honey, I'm a pro. Just relax.

They get started and just as quick they finish up. She's  
getting dressed. She motions to the guitar.

HOOKER (CONT'D)  
Can you play that thing?



ADEN

Yeah...

HOOKER

Can you play something for me?  
Something nice like Willy Nelson's  
"Blue Eyes Crying in the rain" type  
shit? My daddy use to play for me  
when I was little.

ADEN

(Shy, vulnerable as hell)  
I have something kinda' like that  
ya'.

Aden plays and sings a sad but sweet song. He finishes.

The hooker cries. She kisses Aden on the forehead.

HOOKER

Thanks honey. That was really  
beautiful.

She leaves. Aden sits with his guitar in the dark lonely  
room.

18

EXT. CITY STREETS - NEXT DAY

18

Aden is on the streets playing his guitar trying to make a  
living. He plays all day, into night. He makes a few bucks.

19

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE HALLWAY - LATER

19

Aden is putting his key in the door. The SUPERVISOR comes up  
to him.

SUPERVISOR

Hey man. I'm gonna have to kick you  
out.

ADEN

What? Why? I just got here.

SUPERVISOR

You had that hooker in hear last  
night. It's policy. Got to do it  
man. Sorry.

ADEN

But, I don't have a place to stay.

SUPERVISOR  
Not my problem.

The supervisor puts his hand out wanting the key. Aden reluctantly hands it to him and exits.

20 INT. SUBWAY STATION 20

Aden sits in the Subway with other bums sleeping on the benches. He curls up on one of them.

21 EXT. SUBWAY STATION EXIT - NEXT MORNING 21

Aden plays his guitar at the subway exit as people board and exit. No one seems to be tipping him any money. Hungry, he hit's the streets.

22 EXT. ON THE STREETS - LATER 22

Aden is on the streets in the nice part of the city. He is passionately playing because he's trying to feed himself. Not many people on the streets, so he's only made a dollar.

A man and his girlfriend stick around for a few songs. When they leave the guy throws a couple of nickels in the case.

ADEN  
Sir, could you please spare a couple of bucks. I'm so hungry and trying to turn my life around by staying sober. Please sir...

GUY ON STREETS  
Just get a job man.

He walks away.

ADEN  
I'm fucking trying asshole!

23 EXT. OUTSIDE A PIZZERIA - LATER 23

Aden gets up and stands outside of a late night pizzeria where drunk college students go to grab a late slice.

Some kids are eating a whole pie. Aden stands back giving them space but watching them eat.

ADEN

Could you spare a slice man. I'm starving.

The kids finish up all but one slice. The one kid with a delta fi frat T-shirt on takes the slice on a plate spits on it and throws it in the trash can.

COLLGE KID

Yup, you can have that one.

They all laugh as they walk away. Aden let's them leave then grabs the slice and quickly eats it.

24 EXT. CITY STREETS - LATER 24

Aden is trying to sleep in one of the business doorsteps. He awoken by a loud noise.

It's a bunch of punk kids.

They come and start kicking Aden while he's down. He takes a pretty good beating, but still manages to hold onto his guitar case.

They leave. Aden sits badly beaten on the streets crying.

25 EXT. CITY STREETS - NEXT DAY 25

A cut up and bruised up Aden with one eye closed roams the streets looking at a piece of paper then at the numbers on the apartment buildings. He finally finds the one that matches. He takes a deep breath and enters.

26 INT. - APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY 26

Aden stands outside of an apartment. He knocks. The women inside cracks the door open.

ADEN

Mom... It's me.

The Lady makes no connection to the words or to Aden.

MERIAL

(out of it)

Huh?

ADEN

Mom, it's me, Aden.

MERIAL

Aden?

Aden pushes his way into the apartment. It is beyond messy with empty booze bottles littered on the floor and end tables stacked with dirty dishes and overflowing ashtrays. Music is playing. The only picture on the wall is the band hero from Aden's youth.

MERIAL (CONT'D)

(slovenly, evil)

Where have you been these last few years? Prison, right?

Aden studies his mom and looks at her with an ambiguous look of pity and love.

ADEN

Mom, you need help.

MERIAL

(flighty)

I knew it. You were trouble from the start. All that drinking and drugging. I missed you these years. Wish I was a better mom.

She goes into a daze as she sways to the music playing. Awkward silence as Aden's eyes well up and his chin quivers at the sight of her. Merial puts on a Billy McCreedy record and starts badly dancing.

MERIAL (CONT'D)

Remember when we used to listen to all Billy's albums. He sure can make music.

ADEN

(sympathetically)

Yes mom.

Mom goes over to the wall where the picture of Billy McCreedy is. She takes it down gingerly as if it is precious treasure, and brings it over to Aden. She tries to dust it off by rubbing it on her dirty, stained, T-shirt. She holds it out to Aden who does not take it right away. This uncharacteristic act of kindness shows Aden maybe she meant what she said that she loved him -- if in her own messed up way.

ADEN (CONT'D)

Thanks for saving it for me. I forgot about it.

MERIAL  
 (smiles lovingly)  
 He was our hero.

ADEN  
 (chuckles, sad)  
 "Billy Bad Ass," best front man  
 ever. A sure fire "hall of famer"  
 someday.

Mom pushes the picture into Aden's hands. He takes it shakily  
 and looks at it closely.

MERIAL  
 You holding anything?

ADEN  
 (puts picture down, focus)  
 Ma, I'm clean now. I've got a new  
 life. I'm a musician.

MERIAL  
 (tenderly)  
 Aww, my baby. That's great.

She scratches and holds her stomach.

MERIAL (CONT'D)  
 I'm getting sick.

ADEN  
 I don't got anything.

Merial starts to come on to Aden like he's a trick. She  
 starts to rub him and gets close to him and talking  
 seductively

MERIAL  
 Awe baby. You know you got  
 something for me. So strong and  
 handsome like your daddy was.

ADEN  
 Stop it mom. What's wrong with you!  
 Where's William?

MERIAL  
 I think he's in the bedroom. He  
 comes and goes when he wants.

She sits pathetically.

ADEN

Mom, I wanna help you, we can't live like this anymore. There's a whole 'nother life out there. You gotta remember what it was like?

MERIAL

No I don't.

In frustration she lunges at him. She wrestles him screaming and crying as Aden gently refrains her. Hearing the commotion WILLIAM rushes in.

William pulls Merial off of him. She continues to kick and scream.

WILLIAM

Chill woman!

She stops.

MERIAL

(venomously, regressing)  
You think you're all high and mighty. You'll never last!

WILLIAM

Get your ass in the room!

Merial reluctantly leaves as William gives her his last look before he lays into her.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

You finally got out, huh?

ADEN

Yeah.

WILLIAM

That was good of you not ratting. You need a job? I can start you back at a corner tomorrow. Making good money again.

Aden gets up and tries to leave. William steps in front of him.

ADEN

Nah, I'm good man thanks.

William pulls out a couple of baggies and wad of money and tries to put them in his hand. Aden doesn't take them and squeezes by.

William grabs him up by the arm pulling him in. He forces the dope into his hand.

WILLIAM

I want to look out for you Aden.  
You like a son to me. You keep  
this incase it gets tough out  
there. A job will be waiting for  
you if you want it.

Aden tries to pull away but can't get out of his grasp.  
William finally pushes him away.

ADEN

If anything happens to my mom.

WILLIAM

Oh..Your a tough man now, huh? Big  
man out of prison. K look here,  
let me tell you something.

William pulls his gun out of his waist and points it at  
Aden's head. Aden stands trying to be tough, but shakes in  
fear.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Not so tough now, huh? Your moms is  
mine. I'll do whatever I want with  
her. Ain't nothing your white ass  
can do about it.

He pulls the gun down.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Now get the fuck out of here.

Aden stands motionlessly as William turns away. Aden is a  
ball of frustration.

He storms out of the room.

27

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - LATER

27

Aden sits next to some other addicts. Two smoke crack in the  
corner. And old man with a needle fresh out of his arm mounts  
a nineteen year old girl junkie on the floor.

Aden pulls a crack pipe to his lips and hits it.

ADEN

(Voice over)

It's funny what can send a person  
the wrong way.

(MORE)

ADEN (CONT'D)

I once talked to an addict who had been sober for ten years and stepped on a shard of glass. Couldn't get it out. Foot got infected and couldn't walk for a week. Because of the pain he got back on dope. One miniscule little piece of glass completely changed this mans life. He just recently over dosed and passed.

Aden sits completely doped out of his mind. He throws up. After vomiting he smiles and tries to play the guitar. He's too messed up. He just sits and starts crying.

28 EXT. CITY STREETS - A FEW DAYS LATER 28

Aden still wearing the same clothes goes into his moms apartment building.

29 INT. MOM'S HALLWAY 29

Fidgeting, he knocks on her door lightly.

No one comes. He knocks again. A little louder.

His mom comes to the door and slightly opens it.

ADEN

Mom... I'm going to take you away from here. Get your stuff.

MOM

You holding?

ADEN

No...

MOM

You look like you are.

She opens the door.

Aden rushes in. His mom plops down on the couch. Aden grabs her by the arm and tries to pull her up.

ADEN

Mom... come on. Let's go.

MOM

Where we gonna go Aden? You can't take care of me.

(MORE)



MOM (CONT'D)  
From the looks of it, you can't  
even take care of yourself.

ADEN  
Mom... please. Just come with me.  
We can figure it out.

William comes out from the bedroom.

WILLIAM  
Boy, what the fuck are you doing  
here?

ADEN  
I'm taking my mother.

WILLIAM  
The fuck you are.  
(looks at him)  
You back on it, huh? Like, mother  
like son.

ADEN  
I'm taking her and your not going  
to stop me.

WILLIAM  
I'll tell you what. I sell her to  
you. You work for me to pay off all  
the money I spent on her habit.  
I'll even cut you a deal. Lets say,  
two hundred thousand. Take you  
about three years to work that off.  
I'll even let you stay here for  
free while you do. Be like old  
times my son.

Aden grabs his mom and tries to pull her. She's not going  
anywhere.

William starts laughing.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
You crack me up boy. She ain't  
leaving me. I'm her doctor. I cure  
what ails her.

William lays out a few baggies on the table. His mom grabs a  
few and runs to the back.

ADEN  
You are a fucked up individual.

Aden is looking at the baggies sitting on the table.

WILLIAM  
Go ahead. Help yourself. Feel  
better my boy.

Aden looks at the bags and snatches them up and quickly leaves.

30 INT. MOM'S HALLWAY

30

Aden walks right out the door and starts to light up the crack pipe. A little kid comes walking right by him while he's doing so. He doesn't even attempt to refrain. Just keeps hitting it.

30 A EXT. SUBWAY STATION - DAY

30 A

Aden is in his usual spot. A slickly dressed mafioso type man named **TULLY** (60'S Italian) and his pug body guard **MANNY** (30's Irish) comes up to Aden as he finishes playing a song. Aden is in bad shape. He's clearly loaded as he takes a big swig from his water bottle.

TULLY  
I really dig that last song kid.  
I'll pay you twenty bucks if you  
play it again and let my boy Manny  
here video tape it.

ADEN  
(indifferent)  
Make it fifty and your boy Manny  
can video tape it and I'll even  
throw in my black socks.

MANNY  
Your black socks? Fuck you talking  
about? You some kind of sick fuck?

ADEN  
Oh sorry I thought you were one of  
the weirdo sock guys buying black  
socks to whack off in.

MANNY  
Na, wiseguy we don't roll like  
that. Looks like you need to eat  
chief. Sounds like a good deal to  
me. You either take the deal, or I  
can just bust your hands for ya so  
you can't play for no more peanuts,  
sound good?

Aden is clearly hungry and decides to let the threat go.

ADEN

Ya', no problem chief, you got it.

Aden starts to tune out but he doesn't take his eyes off Manny and vice versa.

TULLY

Fifty it is. I'll tell you what kid, you got some real chops. Not sure what the hell you're doing down here but--

MANNY

He's selling his socks, for fellas' to jack off in.

ADEN

(winks)

It's a living sweetheart.

Aden blows a kiss and then goes into his song and really lets them both have it. His talent is undeniable even to Manny. Tully bobs his head and snaps his fingers Sinatra style following along the whole time as Manny records and gives the death stare. As Aden finishes Tully whistles and claps.

TULLY

Splendid man, sincerely. Just splendid work.

They exit as Aden flips them the bird, Manny kisses his phone and puts it in Tully's pocket.

MANNY

See ya' junky.

31 EXT. SUBWAY STATION-LATER

31

The subway exit has a few musicians playing. Lot's of pedestrians, mostly tourists coming from the theaters.

Aden takes a swig out of a water bottle. He smokes a cigarette and sets up in a decent spot. Another rough hipster Bob Dylan with a guitar approaches him and tries to bump Aden from his territory. Aden violently pushes him away. He leaves.

As Aden plucks away he observes a man ready to pounce on an oblivious tourist pushing her baby in a stroller and fixated on all the action around her. The man quickly snatches her purse off the stroller. With his innate football skills Aden sees this and spins his guitar around and sprints through the back of the crowd and brutally tackles guy to the ground.

The guy gets hit so hard he gets knocked out of his shoes and hat. Aden then grabs the purse and nicely returns it to the distraught mother. She hugs him and thanks him.

We see a kid had captured the entire thing on his cell phone. He replays it for his friend.

Without missing a beat Aden goes straight into his set.

32 INT. CHURCH MUSIC ROOM

32

Preacher is seen playing a keyboard and going over songs, he's watching the news and hears a raucous coming from Philly 1 TV.

32 A Janet Myerson on at the Subway as Aden jams away behind her A

JANET MYERSON

We just got footage from a cell phone of homeless man being a good samaritan. See for yourself.

The clip of Aden tackling the guy out of his shoes plays on the TV.

JANET MYERSON (CONT'D)

People have given this man the nickname of "The Subway Son", Because he looks out for the people coming off the Subway like they were his own Son. Maybe the Eagles should think about getting this guy. For real my man brings the pain. Sign em' up!

At this a crowd of Philadelphia commuters laugh in unison

They show a clip of Aden jamming on his guitar for a few seconds.

A youtube page is shown that says, "Subway Son Smashes Purse Snatcher Out Of His Own Shoes!" The amount of views starts going up a couple of thousands to one million and keeps goin up well past seventy million views.

Comments are shown as the numbers climb up and up. Comments: "This guy can hit!", "Subway Son Regulates!", "That Guy Can Really Play." "He's kind of hot for a homeless guy."

33 INT. CHURCH MUSIC ROOM

33

Preacher is watching the small TV.

## PREACER

25                   Ain't that some shit, that's him,                   25  
                    Yo Gracie, Ay yo Grace come here!

34 MONTAGE OF ADEN PLAYING GUITAR AND GROWING A FAN BASE 34

-Aden is playing with a nice size crowd around him. People are putting money in his case.

- People record his performances on their phone.

-Aden shakes hands with a bunch of men in suits.

-Aden poses for photographers as the snap photos for the news paper.

-The videos of Aden's performances are on youtube, and are all going into the 20 to 30 million views, with his tackle video in the 100 million views.

- Aden signs autographs for fans.

-A bunch of girls get their pictures taken with Aden.

35 EXT. CITY STREETS- LATER 35

Aden is looking a little more put together. He's walking by a car when he hears a song playing on the radio.

Aden looks in the car.

ADEN

Can you turn that up?

The guy looks at Aden like he's nuts. Aden throws the guy a couple of bucks. He turns it up.

Aden, can't believe his ears. It's a song that let those mob dudes record him for fifty bucks.

The D.J. chimes in after the song.

D.J.

This is your jockey with the mouth that's cocky, the voice of 98.7 "The Vibe," Big Rex'ses. That song was "Baby I'm Gone" by Patrick Styles. It's holding in at three on the charts an climbing.

ADEN  
You go to be fucking kidding man.

GUY IN THE CAR  
You know that guy or something?

ADEN  
He stole my song. You know what  
this mother fucker looks like.

Guy in the car pulls up a picture with an Album cover of  
Patrick Styles on it and shows him.

ADEN (CONT'D)  
That mother fucker I'm gonna kill.  
Fucking kill him.

The guy in the car gets a little nervous and puts his window  
down and takes off.

Aden continues to pace around shouting profanities.

35 A EXT- SUBWAY ENTRANCE -HOURS LATER

35 A

Aden strumming with his case opening for tips. It's slow and  
so is he. William approaches. Aden is sickened by his mere  
presence.

WILLIAM  
If it isn't the Subway Son. You  
always could hit people. Listen  
homey, now I know you don't want to  
see me. But had to find you. I got  
bad news for you. Your mom OD'd  
yesterday afternoon. She passed.

Aden rises to his feet and starts tightening his fist so hard  
that his hands start shaking at they turn red. William pulls  
back his jacket to reveal a hand gun, Aden this time, out of  
his mind, doesn't back down. He gets right into his face.  
William raises the gun to Aden's head. Aden puts his he right  
against the head against the barrel.

ADEN  
(calmly crazy)  
Just fucking do it. SHOOT ME. I  
fucking hate you. Kill me!!

William start laughing as Aden goes into a full on bent over  
panic attack. As Aden starts to dry heave William tosses him  
a big bag of drugs.

WILLIAM

I know you don't mean that shit my son. This will help you get through the pain boy. If you need more you know where to find me.

William walks away. Aden frantically rips open the bag and starts throwing back large handfuls of pills into his mouth.

He starts strumming again. Aden appears pensive, remembering the last time he try to save her, but couldn't.

Aden strums harder and sings louder. He's having a breakdown and showing it in his playing.

36 INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

36

Aden sits next to the low of the low. Everybody sits doped up on everything.

Aden takes out a needle and shoots up. He looks devoid of all emotion.

ADEN - V.O.

That was the first time I ever mainlined heroin. Aden hits another all time low. After that day. I didn't feel the need to play any more. I was shut down. Devoid of all emotions and no reason to live.

37 EXT SUBWAY STATION - A FEW DAYS LATER

37

Aden arrives at his normal spot. He looks terrible. He reaches into his pocket where he keep his dope, pulls out a couple of empty bags, there's nothing left. He shivers slightly as he quickly proceeds to a familiar trash can where he stores a pillow and a filthy sleeping bag by a stairwell. The spot is empty except for homeless man. Aden approaches him. The man has OD'd. The needle is still in his arm. His faces is lifeless and blue.

Aden takes the needle out of his arm. There still some dope in it. He sits next to the man and gets ready to shoot up.

The preacher steps toward him as he does.

PREACHER

You really took to that guitar I gave ya, huh?! The "Subway Son." Kind of impressive, really kind of fucking sad.

ADEN  
(groggy, barely seeing  
straight)  
Yeah, got me real far didn't it?

PREACHER  
You're alive.

Aden reluctantly agrees, then pukes.

PREACHER (CONT'D)  
You really had a gift man.  
Something special.

ADEN  
All right man, I don't need no  
preachin'.

PREACHER  
I'm just saying. You could take  
this act somewhere else. I mean I  
know it's gotta be quite nice  
wallowing in your own filth all day  
long.

ADEN  
(gulps from flask)  
Yeah, It's super great, and easy.  
Save me the act.

PREACHER  
What do you think if I made an  
investment in your talent and paid  
you to play with the band at the  
church? We're putting together a  
new album, and my guitarist is  
away. And we could really use  
practice before we get into the  
studio.

Aden laughs and blows him off as he lights a cigarette, and  
takes another swig.

PREACHER (CONT'D)  
You at least look like you could  
use a hot shower and a hot meal,  
maybe even a couch to sleep on.  
Whaddya say?

ADEN  
(Hesitating)  
Thanks, but I've gotten used to the  
humming of the trains, afraid I  
couldn't sleep any other way.



Preach doesn't push the point, but reaches in his pocket and pulls out a card with the address of his ministry on it and hands it to Aden.

PREACHER

This is where I'm at now, come by tomorrow and let's see about getting you back on your feet. You still have promise kid, but you smell damn nasty. Like a crapper.

They both laugh as Aden looks at his cloths and lifts his arm for a whiff. They exchange a handshake in agreement of his smell and maybe a deal with the offer. The preacher disappears down the subway, while Aden sits alone. He takes the needle from the homeless man and starts to shoot it up.

38 EXT. CHURCH 38

Aden walks up to the church. Looks it over, then enters.

39 INT. CHURCH MUSIC ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 39

Aden walks into the music room. The Preacher is happy to see him.

ADEN

I'm here.

PREACHER

This is where I live, the ministry. Some say it's all about the *Word*. I say it's all about the music. Music you get caught up in, tap your feet, clap your hands. It moves you. It takes you away from every day worries and habits.

ADEN

Ya but, when the music stops the demons always come creeping.

PREACHER

Not necessarily, maybe those good thoughts will marinate in your heart if you let em. Shoot, music is better than pills and drink, son, and your gift makes people happy. But you're miserable, Why? Life! You let it beat you.

Aden stands there not knowing how to respond.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

Here's the deal. I'll pay you to play and give you a place to rest your head. Won't be much. But, you must be sober. Can you handle that-- be clean? Whatever you got to do, hit a meeting, whatever. Don't come if you ain't. Don't come if you just want to waste your gift. Can you do it?

Aden shakes his head. The Preacher hands him keys.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

This one is for the front door. There's a cot in the basement and a bathroom down the hall. Not much to look at. But, it's something.

Aden takes the key.

40 INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - FEW MOMENTS LATER

40

Aden walks into the basement room. It's full of basement type stuff. Very sparse, bare walls. There is a small cot for a bed, milk crates stacked sideways for shelving.

He looks at the place and sits down on the cot. The springs make noises as he sits down.

He shakes his head at his new place.

41 INT. CHURCH MUSIC ROOM

41

Aden arrives. A few other musicians are setting up. Aden goes over and takes out his guitar. The band members are a little leery of a white man. They watch him suspiciously. Preacher comes up to the band.

PREACHER

Folks, this here is Aden, the white John Legend, or A.K.A The Subway Son. He's playing with us today.  
(to Aden)  
Do your thing.

Aden starts playing. Riffs on common hymns. At the appropriate time, Preacher signals the band to start. The camera pans over to Grace as she sings, she glances over at Aden admiringly.

The Bluesy Gospel song builds "These wings". Aden and the band find a groove like they've played together forever.

Aden's got an ear to ear grin, he hasn't played in a while, and especially with back up.

Aden sheepishly smiles. They continue to play songs and jam out.

The jamming comes to an end and they start emptying out. Aden sticks around to get paid. As he waits, he plays around with a new song he is working on. He tries a couple versions of a verse of two.

GRACE, the singer, who is Aden's age, comes over and sits near him watching and listening. As she listens, she picks up on the refrain and when Aden gets to it, she sings along. As they sing, there is a connection being made.

Preacher comes along and pays twenty dollars to Aden for the day.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

This in an investment, not charity.  
You two sound good together.

Someone interrupts Preacher. He acknowledges them and says to Aden and the girl GRACE, "I gotta to go".

PREACHER (CONT'D)

(turning to Aden)

Next week then? Same deal?

ADEN

(humbled, flattered)

Yeah sure. I'd love to.

GRACE

(To Aden)

I'm Grace by the way.

ADEN

(*extends his hand*)

Aden. Pleased to meet you.

GRACE

So... uh, I was gonna order some take out if you wanted to join me. There pancakes are amazing. I know your saying pancakes to go? But, believe me it's worth it, and I could give you some tips

ADEN

Tips and pancakes are definitely two things I need right now. You ain't gonna catch flack for being seen with someone like me.

GRACE

You mean being seen with a junky or a white boy?

ADEN

(laughing)  
Either.

GRACE

I think I can handle it.

42

INT. CHURCH HALLWAY - DAY

42

Aden and Grace are sitting at a fold out table digging in to a meal. Aden attacks a large stack of pancakes. Aden is discretely jonesing. This sober thing is a little rough.

GRACE

You all right, there.

ADEN

I'm just a bit cold.

GRACE

Oh is that it. How many days ya been clean?

ADEN

A day and half. Which means the real fun still awaits.

GRACE

Keep eating big guy. You look like a burnt-out whiffy rock star, minus the money.

ADEN

Good one.

GRACE

Right?

(then)

So... gimme the skinny. Broken home, dead beat family?

ADEN

Mom bit it a little while back.  
OD'd. Dad's AWOL and unknown. I've  
been selling and using my whole  
life. I get high for a long period,  
get sober for a short period. Then  
repeat the process.

GRACE

Oh you poor thing.

ADEN

I'm sensing a lack of sincerity in  
the comment.

She shrugs her shoulders... maybe.

ADEN (CONT'D)

It's real fucked up shit. I'm a  
product of shitty fucked up  
environment. No joke.

GRACE

And every sad man around here has  
some similar 'rough shit.' Except,  
you can actually do something about  
it. I don't feel bad for you.

ADEN

I didn't ask you too.

GRACE

But you're just gonna stew around  
with your down and out life,  
plucking away for loose change?

ADEN

I don't know where you've been, but  
I just played with a church choir  
and I've been sober a day and a  
half. I'm in the middle of trying  
to make the change.

She laughs. Then flirtatiously shakes her head.

ADEN (CONT'D)

Why are you smiling!?

GRACE

I don't know. 'Cause you have a  
shot in hell.

ADEN

Another extremely mediocre  
compliment.

GRACE

It's kinda my thing.

ADEN

Are you sure you don't want a few  
bucks?

GRACE

The pancakes I got, now the tips  
their gonna cost ya.

ADEN

As long as the pancakes are free  
I'm good.

Grace CRACKS UP. She hands him a CD and a card.

GRACE

Here's one of Preacher's demos.  
Listen to it if you like. See if  
you can come up with a guitar part.  
Where laying down some stuff  
tonight at this little studio in  
midtown. It's on the card. Come  
join us.

He examines the card and the CD.

ADEN

I'll check my schedule.

She stands up to leave, they lock eyes.

GRACE

I'll see you soon. If a girl wanted  
to find you. Where you staying  
these days?

ADEN

I got a nice set up in the  
basement, it's a cot next to a very  
big, loud, heating tank.

GRACE

Quite the bachelor.

He holds his gaze with her as she walks away. He looks back  
at the CD.

43 INT. - RECORDING STUDIO - MIDTOWN - NIGHT

43

The Preacher, Grace, and the guitar wheeling Aden are laying down a track. Sort of a country gospel hybrid. Aden has on headphones and sports an ear to ear grin. Not how he expected to spend his day.

Out of the corner of his eye he spots someone moving through the studio behind the sound proof glass.

ADEN

The fuck?

The recording stops and Aden JUMPS up and races out the door.

44 INT ADJACENT STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

44

The singer Patrick Styles and his Manager Tully along with body guard Manny, commiserate over a track as Aden bursts in.

TULLY

What the hell is going on? I'm  
holding session here

The Preacher is on Aden's tale.

PREACHER

Aden! What in the-

ADEN

You fuckin' stole my song!

Manny laughs and points as he sits eating a chocolate protein bar and drinking a red bull.

MANNY

Ha, it's the crack head subway  
star, told ya' you didn't know what  
ya didn't know schmuck! When you're  
beat you're beat! Get over it!

A red hot Aden is held back by the Preacher. The Manager and Styles are taunting him as he flails about. Grace joins and helps hold back Aden.

TULLY

Fuckin' sue me then. I compensated  
you! You bums and your self-  
entitlement MAN I'll tell you, shit  
like this always makes me laugh.

MANNY

Ya. You probably got copped and got high for three days with that money.

Aden addresses Preacher pointing at the manager.

ADEN

This guy gave me fifty bucks to video me playing one of my songs. Fifty fuckin' bucks for a hit song.

PREACHER

Well that just ain't right.

MANNY

(sternly to Preacher)  
His legs are in tact ain't they?

TULLY

Well said. Hey listen here pal, a lot of things just aren't right in this world.

PREACHER

That's a weak ass excuse for stealing this boys song.

TULLY

What are you gonna do about it Tonto? You think you can just barge in here..

The preacher quickly grabs the managers arm and starts to pull him into a vacant adjacent room. Manny pulls his pistol only to have it backhanded and quickly removed by the preacher who turns it on Manny.

PREACHER

Get the fuck off of my coat, these threads are worth more than you're life.

Manny backs off.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

You just be patient Irish, this ain't my first Rodeo. I'm from the projects motherfucka'! I'll deal with you after I deal with thief. Get on the fuckin' ground!

Manny follows Preachers orders as Tully puffs up.



TULLY  
You don't know who you're dealing  
wit here--

Preacher puts the gun to Tully's head.

The door slams.

Grace stands between Aden and Styles separating the two. Aden shakes his head at Styles.

Arguing is heard in the other room, followed by crashing and smashing noises. Then quiet.

The manager comes briskly walking out with his head down, he grabs Styles and they exit.

The Preacher calmly walks out.

ADEN  
Preach?!

PREACHER  
Well, you're not going to paid for  
the song. But, to compensate you.  
He's gonna consider producing your  
debut album.

ADEN  
What? What did you do to him?

PREACHER  
My daddy always told me. If you act  
crazy. People will think your  
crazy. And people are AFRAID of  
crazy.

Aden is speechless, and Preacher is beginning to feel terrible but he still smirks.

ADEN  
Um... not terribly... Godly of you.

PREACHER  
No it wasn't.

They stand there in silence. The Preacher feels a little a little embarrassed.

PREACHER (CONT'D)  
We're all sinners... But, that guy  
was a just plain asshole.

Aden looks in at the Preacher.

ADEN  
You ain't been preachin' your whole  
life, huh? Something else going on  
prior to this church thing, I'm  
thinking.

PREACHER  
Eh... perhaps.

Aden takes a moment. He's not feeling well.

GRACE  
(very worried)  
What's wrong?!

PREACHER  
It's withdrawal. Dangerous to do on  
your own, but he is a good man.

45 INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - LATER

45

The Preacher looks over Aden who is tucked in the cot  
shaking.

PREACHER  
How you liking it down here?

ADEN  
It's stunning.

PREACHER  
Better than a park bench I'm  
thinking.

Aden can't argue. He's not doing well with his withdrawals.  
Grace comes over with a bowl of soup.

PREACHER (CONT'D)  
We'll be back here tomorrow, all  
right. Eat and sleep... you're  
doing well. We're gonna lock you  
down here. It's for your own good.

Aden doesn't respond. Grace approaches him as the Preacher  
heads for the door. She smiles, looks over her shoulder, and  
quickly slips him a KISS.

GRACE  
You're gonna be fine.

He concurs, but he's skeptical.

Grace exits and the door shut. He HEARS the door latching ten different ways. A series of dead-bolts and locks CLICK shut from the outside.

Silence.

46 INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT 46

Aden is coiled up in the fetal position on the basement floor in a hot sweat, the withdrawals are unbearable. He MOANS in pain as he tries to touch his way through this.

He vomits in a bucket.

And finally, he's on the mattress, gripping the edge of it, trying to get through the night.

FADE TO BLACK:

47 INT - CHURCH BASEMENT - TWO DAYS LATER DAY 47

Aden is sits up on his cot. He's been to hell and back. He's weak, but eats some granola bars.

He's through the worst of it, but he's certainly not in peak physical shape.

The locks begin to rattle. Aden is too tattered to do anything but stare at the door as the series of latches are undone.

Grace and Preacher enter.

ADEN

I'm not sure whether to hug you or fuckin kill you.

PREACHER

Make the decision after I tell you this. That asshole guy is sending over his one of his producers today to talk about possibly doing your first album.

ADEN

What?

GRACE

And we gotta surprise for you too.

45 Grace lights up causing Aden to perk as well. 45

The Preacher hands Aden an electric guitar and a small amp.

Aden grabs the neck of the guitar. Holds it like a dead fish.

ADEN

I'm afraid I don't really know what  
I'm doing on one of these.

PREACHER

Please.. It's the same thing. It's  
just louder and prouder. Give it a  
shot.

He throws the strap over his shoulder. The axe feels small  
on his knee as he negotiates how to hold it. The Preacher  
plugs it into an amp.

He hits a bar-cord and it about knocks him over.

ADEN

(giddy)

Man.

He launches in to a TWANGY BLUES riff... it's sounds crisp  
and deep. He can't wipe the grin of his face.

The Preacher smiles along with him.

PREACHER

Jimi Hendrix meets a hillbilly.

His backwoods blues JAMMING is deep and pronounced. Aden  
just starts LAUGHING. It's too much fun.

The preacher and Grace LAUGH and APPLAUD his riff. Aden does  
nice little bow.

48

INT. CHURCH MUSIC ROOM- HOURS LATER

48

HOSS (Late 50's, open collar, gold chain and bracelet kind of  
guy) peaks his head in as Aden riffs away on his new toy.  
Hoss listens for a few seconds before saying something.

HOSS

Subway Son?

ADEN

The one and only.

Shake hands.

HOSS

You can call me Hoss. That's a really good sound. Who are your influences?

ADEN

My mom and I only had one musician that we consider godly. Billy Bad Ass Mcready.

HOSS

Well that's a damn good choice. I'm Jim Hoss. I'm gonna be the producer of your first album. You ready to make some money?

Aden thinks on it for a second.

ADEN

Yea... not sure I'm quite your pedigree, but I'll give'er a whirl.

HOSS

So, my plan is. We're going to redo all the three songs that are already viral from the streets. And then we will come up with some new stuff, seven or eight more. And we will use your built in internet presence to push the shit out of it and make lots of cash. What do you think?

ADEN

Sounds good I guess.

HOSS

Sounds good you guess? Boy, I'm gonna make you a lot of money. You are gonna be a real rags to riches story. Money is gonna be coming out your asshole. Sound good?

ADEN

Yeah, I guess.

Hoss shakes his head at the answer.

HOSS

We're gonna have to work on your enthusiasm kid. Start coming up with some new stuff. We leave in three days.

ADEN

Leaving?

HOSS

Yeah, we're gonna go away for a couple weeks and make some magic happen in the studio. An artist has to get out of his everyday bullshit to really focus on the music. Plus, it gets me away from the wife.

ADEN

Okay then.

Hoss pulls out some contracts and an envelope with some cash in. He hands him the cash. Aden thumbs through the hundreds.

Hoss hands him a pen and a contract.

HOSS

I got an advance to get you on your feet. Let's sign it, and make it official.

49

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - LATER

49

Aden has a smile on his face as he plays his new toy. He plays some stuff and writes some notes in his notebook.

Grace comes in and sits down on the cot.

GRACE

How did it go?

ADEN

It went amazing. They are gonna produce my first album. We leave in three days.

GRACE

Where you going?

ADEN

I don't even know yet to be honest. Somewhere to make an album.

GRACE

You think you're ready for that?

ADEN

I don't know what I'm ready for. I'm kind of scared to be honest.

GRACE  
I'm proud of you.

ADEN  
Thanks.

Grace moves closer to him.

GRACE  
I really like you.

ADEN  
I like you too.

GRACE  
No, I mean I really like you.

She starts to lean in and kiss him.

ADEN  
Grace, you are a good girl. You don't want to get involved with a guy like me. I'm fucked up. I'm gonna fuck up, and I'm gonna hurt you and me, it's what I do.

She keeps kissing him, he tries to resist.

GRACE  
I'm not gonna let you fuck up.

ADEN  
I wish it was that easy.

GRACE  
Shut up.

She throws him down and the bed. They have passionate make out on the cot.

50 INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - LATER

50

Aden plays Grace a song as she lays watching him play. She smiles at him, and he smiles back. She starts to sing a long with him as they do the song.

They finish up the song.

GRACE  
Maybe you should see if they can push back for a little bit. I don't want you to go. I just got you.

ADEN  
I wish I could.

Grace starts to kiss him again.

GRACE  
I'm sure you can.

ADEN  
We have a couple of days don't we?

GRACE  
What are you doing tomorrow?

They start to passionately make out again.

51 EXT. OUTSIDE A THRIFT SHOP

51

Aden and Grace walk up to the thrift shop.

ADEN  
I don't really think I need to go shopping.

GRACE  
All you own are these clothes. You need some new digs rock star.

ADEN  
New, it's a thrift shop?

GRACE  
These clothes are new with a little character built in already.

Grace pulls Aden in.

52 INT. THRIFT SHOP

52

Montage of Aden and Grace trying on clothes and goofing around.

-Aden comes out dressed in about five different types of clothes. Looks ridiculous. Grace laughs

-Aden comes out in a super small T-shirt with his belly sticking out. He starts playing air guitar and drums on his belly.

-Aden and Grace is in old people clothes; Aden in an old man checkered suit and hat, and Grace in an old lady Christmas sweater with big pins on and multiple scarfs and big glasses.



The two start making out in the costumes. The old lady working their shakes her head at the two.

-Aden finds multiple clothes that work for him. He models them for Grace.

53 EXT. STREETS- LATER 53

Aden in some new clothes and Grace as well, stand on the streets playing and signing together with the guitar case open. They sound good together. People are giving them money.

54 EXT. STREETS- MOMENTS LATER 54

Grace and Aden are sitting next to the guitar cases eating ice cream together. Aden purposely gets some on his nose. He looks at Grace with it dripping off his nose. She licks it off him. They crack up.

55 EXT. STREETS- SUNSET 55

The two walk down the streets together holding hands and laughing.

56 INT. CHURCH BASEMENT 56

The two get into the basement and are eating some burgers on the cot.

Aden starts to get some bad shakes and sweats that turns into a panic attack. He curls up in the corner and buries his head in his knees.

Grace comes over and tries to comfort him. He's embarrassed and keeps pushing her away.

ADEN  
I'm telling you. Just leave now.  
I'm no good.

GRACE  
Stop.

He keeps pushing her away.

ADEN  
Leave!

She grabs him and looks at him, he has tears in his eyes.

GRACE

You look at me. I'm not going  
anywhere. You understand me. It's  
me and you now.

She starts to kiss him, he kisses her back.

GRACE (CONT'D)

It's me and you now.

They start to make passionate love again.

57 INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - MORNING

57

Aden wakes up being nudged by Grace. She's clothed and has a  
coffee and donut for him. She slips into bed with him and  
they drink coffee and sip on the coffee together. She kisses  
him.

GRACE

I think we should stay in bed all  
day. Eat lunch in here, make love,  
listen to some music, make love  
again, eat dinner, make love again.

ADEN

I've never done that before.

GRACE

You never just stayed in bed with a  
girl all day?

ADEN

No...

GRACE

Do you want to?

ADEN

I think I would like that.

The two cuddle up and sip on their coffee and donuts.

58 EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - MORNING

58

Aden stands with a his guitar and a few bags of clothes and  
stuff on the corner. The preacher and Grace are with him.

A car pulls up. Aden is slightly apprehensive.

ADEN

This is me, I guess.

PREACHER

Okay young buck. Be strong. Protect  
your mind, soul, and my investment.  
Most importantly pray your ass off.

Preacher and Aden hug. Aden looks at Grace. They embrace.

GRACE

(whispers)

Remember, I got you. It's us now.  
Me and you.

Aden steps back.

ADEN

I'll call you when I get there.

Aden jumps in the car and it takes off.

59 INT. CAR DRIVING - MOMENTS LATER

59

Shots of Aden playing his guitar and looking out the window driving through the ghettos of Philly, then over the bridge, into less ghetto, through the country, and small suburban towns. He plays the song that is used during montage of the driving.

ADEN - V.O.

Maybe we are all pieces of each  
other, each of us, and we have to  
fit together to make the world  
work. The last few days were as  
close to heaven as I can imagine.  
Grace and I hung out daily. We  
laughed and loved. And Preacher was  
right: music, as loud as it can be,  
creates a quiet space in the mind  
and from that space, you see the  
world differently.

60 INT. MUSIC STUDIO - DAY

60

Aden sits in the studio with Hoss and the engineer.

HOSS

This is Ricky Rays, he's one of the  
best engineers in the business.  
He's gonna be with us for the next  
few weeks to make some great music.  
So, let's do it man.

Ricky opens up a cooler and hands Hoss a beer, and cracks one for himself, and offers Aden one. Aden turns it down.

HOSS (CONT'D)

Did you work on any new stuff we can hear?

ADEN

I got lots of stuff. None of it's new. But, nobody else has heard it either. Not even me, not completed anyway. You can come up with a lot of songs in your head during seven years of prison.

HOSS

Okay, let's hear some of these prison ballads.

Aden plays a song for them and blows the away. The sit speechless for a few minutes then start clapping.

HOSS (CONT'D)

Okay, I think we're gonna be just fine.

RICKS RAYS

Me too.

61 INT. MUSIC STUDIO - LATER

61

They are finishing up going over his stuff. They all hug in excitement of a good day.

HOSS

Let's call it a day. Good stuff. Aden, we're gonna meet at our spot at eight for dinner if you want to join us. It's up from the hotel called the "Field House".

ADEN

I don't think so. I'm probably just going to stay here. Get some rest.

RICKS RAYS

You want a ride to the hotel with us?

ADEN

It's a nice day. Think I'm gonna walk. It's only a few blocks.

RICKS RAYS  
Okay. See you tomorrow then.

They exit.

62 EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS - SUNSET 62

Aden walks down the streets by himself carrying his guitar and checking out the world as a sober guy.

63 INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER 63

Aden sits on the edge of the bed. He turns on the TV.

The news is on. Billy Bad Ass Mcready is seen walking the streets very belligerently, a fan is trying to solicit an autography from him. He pushes the fan out of the way. The fan persistently goes back. Billy punches the guy in the face. The guy goes down. He starts punching the guy on the ground. A few of the guys friends try to help him, Billy goes after them. He's out of his mind yelling and screaming non sense.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)  
Billy "Bad Ass" Mcready, is in the news again. He was just about to go back on tour for the first time in two years. Now, he's going to rehab and possibly jail. The once legend, is now said to be completely broke.

Aden shakes his head and smirks, then turns it off. He lays in bed just lying their for awhile.

He then sits up on the bed. He's bored. He looks at the clock, it's only 9 pm. He looks around the room. He doesn't know what to do with himself.

64 INT. FIELD HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 64

Aden walks into a dive corner bar.

Hoss and Ricky Rays are belly upped to the bar. They have beers and whiskeys in front of them.

They see Aden. They start yelling at his arrival.

HOSS  
We thought you weren't coming?  
Beer?

ADEN  
Nah, I'm good.

The two throw back their whiskeys and get another.

HOSS  
We had a good day man. Really excited about some of the new stuff. It's really raw in all the right ways.

ADEN  
Thanks... Can't wait to make this album.

RICKS RAYS  
It's gonna be great.

Three good looking women walk into the bar and join them. The girls all hug and kiss Hoss and Ricky.

HOSS  
Aden, this is Patty, Nancy, and Nicole. They usually hang out with us when we were producing our artists albums. I guess they are groupies of sorts.

PATTY  
Come on. We're not groupies.

HOSS  
This is Aden, or "The Subway Son", whatever he wants to be called.

Patty comes up and puts her hand on his shoulder.

PATTY  
We know who he is.

65 INT. FIELD HOUSE - LATER

65

Aden walks back from the bathroom, they all have shots in their hands. Patty hands him one. He tries to refuse, but in the moment he doesn't want to look like he's not a part of the team. He takes the shot.

66 INT. FIELD HOUSE

66

Montage of the drinking and having a good time. Patty and Aden are flirting, as the other girls flirt with the other two guys.

67

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

67

Aden and Patty come bursting into the room with a six pack and a bottle.

Aden goes to sit on the bed as Patty makes her way to the sink and starts making cocktails and cutting up two lines on the sink.

He looks at what she's doing, his phone starts buzzing. He looks at the text. It's from, Grace, "How was your day? You still up? Can we talk?".

He stares at the message as Patty bangs a line on the sink and washes it down with a gulp of whiskey.

PATTY

You're up.

Aden looks back at his phone, puts it away.

ADEN

I probably shouldn't.

Patty comes up to him from behinds and starts rubbing his chest and nibbles on his ear as she whispers into it.

PATTY

I understand when you are at home with your wife or girlfriend you don't mess around with this stuff or girls like me. But, your not at home. Your here with me making music. This is part of the magic. Don't worry. I got you. I'm gonna take care of you while we're here.

She hands him the rolled up dollar bill.

He takes it and goes down and bangs out the line. She hands him the bottle of whiskey to wash it down. He swigs it down and shakes his head and let's out a "HOWL" from the burn off the line hitting his nostril.

Patty starts kissing him as Aden gets a big smirk on his face. He missed being high. Patty continues to kiss and make out with him until he finally starts making out back to her.

They start throwing off clothes and make there way to the bed.

68 EXT. OUTSIDE THE STUDIO - NEXT MORNING

68

Aden is outside smoking a cigarette. He's in a trance trying to piece together what happened the night before, and knowing most of it isn't good.

He pulls his shades down over his bloodshot eyes. His cellphone lights up. It's Grace. He quickly screens it. The sight of her name washing guilt all over him. He walks in.

69 INT. MUSIC STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

69

Aden walks in to the studio. Hoss and Rays are already there. They are taking a little medicine for the night to help from the night before. They are smoking a joint and sipping on cold ones already.

HOSS  
How was Patty?

ADEN  
(smiles)  
She was good.

HOSS  
You ready to make some magic.

ADEN  
You know I am.

RICKS RAYS  
A little hair for the dog?

Ricky offers up the joint. Aden takes a drag and motions for a brew. Ricky pops him open a beer and hands it to him. He takes a big gulp.

ADEN  
Let's make some music.

70 INT. MUSIC STUDIO - LATER

70

Aden plays a song. He's jamming intensely. The guys in the booth are really digging what he's laying down.

He finishes up. They start clapping. Aden comes into the studio. They high five and celebrate.

HOSS  
That shit was insanely good man.



RICKS RAYS  
Yeah was tight man.

HOSS  
I think we got something here  
buddy.

ADEN  
You really think so?

HOSS  
Yeah man, I can feel your pain in  
the songs and speaks to me. I don't  
get that too often.

Aden grabs a beer and cracks it open.

ADEN  
Fuck yeah. Let's celebrate.

They do a cheers and drink. Aden chugs down a 24 ounce  
pounder. The guys just taked a gulp.

Text on the screen, "Three weeks later."

71 INT. ADEN'S HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

71

Aden lays on the bed with Patty. They are passed out hard.  
There's empty bottle of booze and beer all over. Basically  
three weeks of partying is evident all over the room. Pills  
bottles, white powder and rolled up bills, a bong.

BANG, BANG, BANG, someone one pounds on the door. Aden  
doesn't move. Patty wakes up. BANG, BANG, BANG!

PATTY  
Aden, Aden?

She shakes Aden hard.

ADEN  
(pissed)  
What?!

PATTY  
Somebodies knocking on the door and  
they won't stop.

ADEN  
What time is it?

PATTY  
It's like noon.

ADEN  
Fuck!

BANG, BANG, BANG!

PATTY  
Should I get it?

ADEN  
Fuck no. They will go away.

Aden passes out again. BANG, BANG, BANG!

Patty gets up and open up the door. It's Hoss. He barges through and pushes Patty out of the way.

Hoss stands over Aden and pours a bottle of whiskey on his face. He's so out of it, it takes a few seconds for him to react.

ADEN (CONT'D)  
What the fuck is your problem!

HOSS  
Your my fucking problem. You are a  
fucking mess!  
(looks at Patty)  
Get the fuck out of here, I got to  
talk with him.

ADEN  
(to Patty)  
Don't listen to him. You can stay.

HOSS  
No Patty, you can't. Because I'm  
about this close to pulling the  
whole fucking plug on this shit  
show. So why don't you get the fuck  
out.

Patty quickly gets dressed and leaves.

HOSS (CONT'D)  
So why didn't you show up today?

ADEN  
We got it already man. We're  
finished.

HOSS

We were gonna try to tweak some things to make it even better, remember. Or don't you?

ADEN

It's good enough man.

HOSS

Good enough? That's what you want to put out on your debut album? You wanna' call it "Good Enough?"

ADEN

Whatever man. Fuck off!

HOSS

You've been later and later almost everyday. You've been getting lit halfway through the day, and then all night. And then today you don't even show up. You better wake up and smell the coffee. Because eventually your not going to get any more chances.

ADEN

You done?

HOSS

Yeah, I'm just about done with you. I need you to sober up tonight. We have a get together at one of music execs houses. He wants to hear what we got. Tonight could change your life. Please don't fuck it up.

Hoss leaves. Aden sits up out of bed for a bit. He then gets up and cuts a line and snorts it.

He stares at himself in the mirror afterwards

72

INT. MANSION GET TOGETHER

72

Aden and Patty, hanging on his arm and looking hot, observe the few people hanging around at the small get together. Aden is downing drink after drink. People come up and chat and shake hands.

At the edge of the scene sits Billy McCready, weathered but good looking. He sits on a sofa with people around him including several beautiful women, one of whom is filling his half empty glass with booze.

Still in middle distance, but now audible, Patty points to the older man. Camera moves into Aden and Patty.

PATTY

Hey, I know that guy. He's somebody.

Aden doesn't pay any attention.

Tully, Manny, and Hoss come up to Aden and Patty.

TULLY

Aden, the Subway Son. How's my investment doing?

ADEN

I've seen that you've done really well with the song you stole from me.

TULLY

Touche' Kid. And you are going to do well too. We got some big stuff riding on this meeting. If these guys dig your stuff the way I think they are going to, you are going to be huge.

ADEN

I'm already huge.

HOSS

They are going to love it. It's amazing.

TULLY

Let's hope so.

Tully, Manny and Hoss walk away talking.

ADEN

Fuck that guy.

BILLY (mid fifties, trying to stay 'hip' with pony tail in back of a balding head, but still good looking), walks by Aden and Patty.

PATTY

(flirting)

Hello...

Billy stops.

BILLY

Hello to you pretty thing.

Aden is really drunk and studying the man very hard. Then it hits him hard who it is. His childhood idol.

ADEN

(star struck)

Holy shit, wait a minute, you're Billy Bad Ass McReady! I had your posters all over my wall. Oh shit, you'll never meet a bigger fan sir. My mom an even bigger one than me.

Billy showing off.

BILLY

Give me your phone.

Aden looks at him weirdly. He hands him his phone.

BILLY (CONT'D)

What's your momma's name? I'm going to give her a thrill and give her a call from Baddass himself.

ADEN

Her name was Merial. But she recently passed. She would have been absolutely blown away to get a call from you. We kept a picture of you as our shrine in the kitchen.

BILLY

(changing tone)

Did you say her name was Merial? Where was she from?

ADEN

Kensington, Philadelphia, via Nashville.

PATTY

(randomly interjecting)

Ya know, you too look a little bit a like.

Billy looks at her and back at Aden.

BILLY

Young man, I think we need to take a walk. Excuse us pretty thing.

Billy gingerly guides Aden to a small room in the back. He shuts the door behind them and locks it before the others catch up and get in.

73

INT. ROOM NEXT TO PARTY ROOM - NIGHT

73

Aden pulls out a baggy.

ADEN

You want to do a line?

BILLY

Yeah, we better do one.

Aden cuts two lines as Billy looks him up a down weirdly.

ADEN

You first.

Billy blows his line. Aden goes to do his. Billy is weirdly smiling at him. Aden does the line.

ADEN (CONT'D)

Billy I'm sorry. I'm not gay man.

Billy gives out a deep laugh.

BILLY

Fuck, you are just like me. Your mom was Merial Radcliffe wasn't she?

ADEN

What? How did you know that?

BILLY

She was a precious little firecracker of a women. I tell you boy, I almost fell over out there for a second. You got the perfect mix of both of us.

He reaches in his wallet and takes out a now laminated picture of Aden's from his childhood. Aden studies it for a moment.

ADEN

What are you talking about? Is this a joke?

(the light goes off in his head,)

You son of a bitch!

Aden grabs Billy by the collar and throws him against the wall and is about to throw a punch. He can't. He's overwhelmed with emotion.

BILLY  
(trying not to disturb the  
party)  
Now settle down son.

ADEN  
(stutters)  
I ain't your son you piece of shit.

BILLY  
Easy cowboy.

ADEN  
She's dead right now because you  
weren't man enough to step up and  
take care of us. My life has been  
nothing but a living hell.

BILLY  
Settle down, Son. You don't know  
the whole story.

ADEN  
I know MY fucking story! You fucked  
up my life! I've had a REALLY  
FUCKED up life! Where the FUCK were  
you!

BILLY  
Calm down son. Everything is going  
to be okay.

ADEN  
Fuck you!

Aden is very intense, he bursts out of the room and out of the party.

74 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PARTY - NIGHT

74

Aden is outside pacing back and forth. They are standing on the curb.

HOSS  
Calm down. I told you not to get  
messed up.

ADEN  
I'm not. I'm fine.

HOSS  
Sure ya are. Anyone sober would  
threaten an icon of the music  
industry.

ADEN  
He ruined my life.

HOSS  
(condescendingly)  
Ruined your life?

Aden's hyperventilating has slowed down.

ADEN  
Yup, he's my estranged dad. That  
dude in there is my fuckin' dad.

Hoss pauses. He's frozen.

HOSS  
Come again.

ADEN  
He's my dad.

HOSS  
Like your dad dad?

ADEN  
Yeah.

Hoss digests this.

HOSS  
How long have you known this?

ADEN  
A couple of minutes.

HOSS  
Oh shit.

ADEN  
Oh shit is right.

Hoss's head is spinning.

HOSS  
Aden? Aden baby? This, this is  
fuckin' great!  
(MORE)



HOSS (CONT'D)  
 This is the story of stories.  
 Subway, homeless, dirty, filthy...  
 guy get's a record deal and finds  
 out... his dad... Oh fuck yes!  
 This is-  
 People love this shit, Aden! This  
 is fuckin' gold!!!

Aden just marches off. Hoss runs after him and holds him by  
 the arm.

HOSS (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
 OK, look, I'm sending you back to  
 Philly with my driver now. This is  
 too good to mess up.

ADEN  
 (shaking hoss off)  
 I'm out of my mine right now.

HOSS  
 That's my boy. This might be shitty  
 right now. But, this is gonna make  
 you a superstar.

He waves his driver over. A Car pulls up.

Hoss puts him in the car.

HOSS (CONT'D)  
 This is gonna be huge man. Just  
 hang in there.

75 INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

75

Aden is in the back of the car chugging a bottle of booze as  
 he's being driven.

ADEN  
 Hey, we're going to have to make a  
 pit stop.

76 INT. PARTY SCENE - NIGHT

76

Back in the party hall. After Aden hustled out of the party,  
 Billy emerges unsteadily drunken from the room. Patty rushes  
 over to Billy as Aden disappears.

PATTY  
 What was that whole thing about?

BILLY  
Would you believe it, that prick  
Subway guy is my son.

PATTY  
No shit. He never told me.

BILLY  
He never knew.

He takes Patty's drink and downs it.

PATTY  
No shit! But you knew you had a  
son?

BILLY  
His mom and I, well, let's just say  
we lost touch.

PATTY  
He seemed like an all right guy.  
Just as fucked up as the next.

Billy is looking pensively at the drink he is swirling around  
his ice in his glass.

BILLY  
I'm going to get out of here. Do  
you want to come take a ride wit'  
the Bad Ass?

PATTY  
I guess I could.

The two exit together.

77

EXT. GHETTO OF THE CITY - MINUTES LATER

77

The car pulls up to some drug dealers slinging on the street.  
Aden pops out.

ADEN  
What do you got?

STREET GUY  
Coke, Crack, and H.

ADEN  
I'll take two hundred of each.

The guy looks at him like he's crazy. Aden pulls out a wad of cash and throws it at him.

The guys pulls his gun on him.

STREET GUY  
What the fuck?

He realizes who he is.

STREET GUY (CONT'D)  
Oh shit. You that Subway guy who tackled that dude. Oh shit.

He hands Aden a bunch of drugs and takes a photo with him before he gets in the car.

78 INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER 78

Aden is sniffing huge line after line in the back of the car. He breaks down crying. He's a mess.

79 EXT. CHURCH - MORNING 79

Aden stands outside the church after getting out of the car which has driven him. He studies it as if pondering how far he's come, if he left anything behind, if he wants to go back to this. The car drives off behind him..

William comes from out of the dark.

WILLIAM  
What's up big time? How's the big life treating you?

ADEN  
What the fuck are you doing here?

WILLIAM  
Look man. I understand that you were not happy with how me and your mother carried on. I just wanted to give you these.

William hands Aden a shoe box full of old birthday cards and letters.

Aden starts to look through them. They are all from his dad. Dozens of them.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
 I found them under the bed. There  
 ain't no money left in them any  
 more. But, I thought you might want  
 them.

Aden continues to look through them. He can't believe his  
 mom kept them.

William hands him a CD.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
 I heard your doing good. Got some  
 big producers on your side. I was  
 wondering if you could listen to my  
 demo. I laid down some intense  
 rhymes after your mom passed. I  
 think it's really hot. Maybe you  
 could pass it on to some of your  
 people?

Aden just looks at him. He's just another person looking to  
 use him for his fame.

He just walks away.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)  
 You gonna show somebody right?  
 Aden?

80 EXT. CHURCH- MORNING

80

Aden goes to open the door to the church. His key doesn't  
 work. He starts banging and banging on it until he's out of  
 energy. Exhausted and defeated he slides down the door and  
 collapses on the ground.

The Preacher walks out and finds him. He looks up at the  
 preacher. They exchange looks. The preacher knows. Aden puts  
 down his head in shame. The preacher picks him up and helps  
 him in.

81 INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - LATER

81

Aden wakes up. Grace is looking at him. There's a pile of  
 drugs on the night stand next to him. He sees it. Realizes  
 the gig is up.

GRACE  
 You okay?

ADEN  
No... I 'm fucked up.

GRACE  
(soothing)  
What's wrong baby? Whatever it is  
you can tell me. We'll deal with  
it together.

Aden just stares blankly at the floor ashamed.

ADEN  
(venomous panic attack)  
I don't deserve you. I'm just like  
my fucking dad!

GRACE  
Your dad? What are you talking  
about?

ADEN  
He's a complete dick, total  
asshole. He's just like me.

Grace looks at him.

ADEN (CONT'D)  
My dad is Billy McReady. My fucking  
childhood hero. He's my piece of  
shit dad.

GRACE  
The rock star?  
(Aden nods)

ADEN  
He's just like my me. A pathetic  
mess.

GRACE  
It's okay. You don't have to be  
like him.

ADEN  
(furious)  
It's who I am! I'm a fuck up and  
now I finally know why!

After a moment of silence, she stands firm, knowingly.

GRACE  
Is that what you want? You want to  
just be a drug addict and feel  
sorry for yourself.  
(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

I can't support that. But, If you want to live your life and be happy, with me and be a family. I'm here for you. What do you want?

ADEN

I don't know.

GRACE

Do you love me?

ADEN

I do.

GRACE

I'm pregnant.

ADEN

Your what?

Silence as Aden reflects on that.

GRACE

(grabs Aden's hand and  
puts it on her stomach)  
Your baby needs a better role model  
than what you had. I know you can  
do it. You're better than him.

ADEN

(exhausted)  
I hope so.

Adens phone rings. Grace looks at it.

GRACE

It's Hoss.

ADEN

Tell him I'm sleeping.

GRACE

Hello. Hey Hoss. He's sleeping.  
Can I take a message?  
(Long pause)  
Oh he did?

She hangs up and looks at Aden concerned.

GRACE (CONT'D)

I'm not even sure if I should tell  
you this.

ADEN  
What is it?

GRACE  
You're father was in a car wreck  
last night. He's in the  
intensive care unit. When he came  
too, all he could talk about was  
seeing you.

This hits home to Aden. Grace looks at him. She's not sure  
how this is going to play out.

Text on the Screen, "A few months later."

82

INT. REHAB ROOM -

82

The room looks like a high end hospital room. Billy is  
sitting there reading the entertainment section of a  
newspaper. Aden knocks on the door softly.

Aden appears childlike, apprehensive.

ADEN  
May I come in?

BILLY  
(lighthearted)  
Not if you have booze or a gun.

ADEN  
(nervously)  
No, none of that.

BILLY  
Thanks for coming. Wasn't sure if  
you were gonna', wouldn't have  
blamed you either.

Aden remains standing at the door.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Come on in and have a seat. I was  
hoping to see you again. Not sure  
if you're familiar with these  
places but they're strict. Told  
em' I didn't have any kin, cept'  
for you. Here you are VIP.

ADEN  
You know as well as I do, it could  
be me in here too.

BILLY

Hey, a father/son vacation. When you're rich and famous like us, these stays are like vacations and publicists love it. In your line of work, shit, rehab makes you more relevant nowadays than talent.

More silence.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Well, you see how I'm doing. How are you doing?

ADEN

Um... well. My girlfriend's pregnant, I'm a drug addict, you're a drug addict. My album just got released and is being well received, and for some reason I don't give a fuck. So... I guess you could say I'm getting by day by day.

Billy searches for something to say.

BILLY

That sounds like a pretty full plate.

ADEN

Yep.

Awkward silence.

ADEN (CONT'D)

That's not what I want for myself.

BILLY

I don't blame you. When I was coming up, I felt the same way. Some of the other guys had good lives off the stage. I was envious. Don't be like me kid.

(heart felt)

I let you down, and I can't tell you how sorry I am. I should have been there. I ran.

Billy hangs his head in sincere shame.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Sorry I went AWOL.



ADEN

Actually, I have you to thank for some of my success. All the pain you caused me and mom have been inspirations for my songs. All of it, the angst.

BILLY

Angst? Kid I thought about you every day. Just didn't think I had what it takes to be a dad.

Aden is shocked to hear this.

ADEN

I was in lockup from nineteen to twenty-six. Mom didn't tell me anything about you.

BILLY

(shocked)

Jesus, I'm sorry.

Aden gets squeamish.

ADEN

Listen this is a lot to take in right now.

BILLY

I understand kid, I ain't pushing you. I was just hoping we could take it as it comes. I ain't asking you to call me dad or nothin', but If you wanna be pals, I'd really enjoy that opportunity.

They both sit in silence staring.

ADEN

Man... we're fuck ups, huh?

They both laugh which eases the tension. Aden seems to have a moment of clarity.

ADEN (CONT'D)

I got a good woman. She stands on firm ground.

BILLY

I sure would like to meet her if you would allow me.

ADEN

I would love that.

(beat)

They just announced there accepting you in the hall of fame. That's incredible. How do you feel about it?

BILLY

It's great to get the recognition I guess but I am nervous about going to the ceremony.

(pause)

Will you do me the honor and take me to that ceremony kid? Can I lean on you during the walking parts, and whatever else I fuck up? Never been this sober this long and all.

ADEN

You sure you want me there?

BILLY

Never been more sure of anything in my life. I had an evaluation in that damn rehab and doctors aren't sure how much longer I'm gonna be around, I got cancer in my hip and it seems to be spreading.

ADEN

Dad, I'd be honored, more than you'll ever know.

BILLY

Maybe you and that girl could stop by my place in a few weeks when I get out of here?

ADEN

Maybe...

There's two guitars leaning up against the wall. Billy picks them up and hands one to Aden.

BILLY

You think we could play a song together.

ADEN

Only if it's a Billy Bad Ass tune.

He hits a few strings, Billy recognizes his song, smirks.

BILLY  
Seems very fitting.

ADEN  
One, two three...

They both start belting out a sad song in the vein Johnny Cash's "Hurt" song. Dark and beautiful, but insightful to them being struggling addicts.

83 EXT. SMALL LITTLE OLD HOME - A FEW MONTHS LATER 83

Aden and Grace walk up to a tiny little one story house in the country. Grass is high, trash in the front yard. Grace is showing nicely with a nice cantaloupe sized stomach.

They knock on the door.

Billy answers the door on crutches.

BILLY  
Look what we have here! Honey, he didn't tell me that he had himself an angel. You are stunning.

Billy goes a little too far and really looks her up and down.

Aden and Grace awkwardly laugh it off.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Well come in. Sorry it's not much.

83 A They walk in. The place had been cleaned up but still looks 83 A  
dirty. He motions to the couch.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Take a seat.

Billy sits in a lazy boy, and they sit on an old couch.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Can I get you something to drink or something?

ADEN  
No, we're okay.

BILLY  
Okay, great.

They just kind of sit there.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
How's the record coming along?

ADEN  
It's great. The critics are really digging it. I got my first cover on the Rolling Stone.

BILLY  
(competing)  
Yeah, I had four of em.

ADEN  
What about you. You playing anything new?

BILLY  
Nah, I haven't felt like it in a while. Need lighting to shock the cranium into action.

They sit in silence again.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
I was thinking we could head out back and get the grill going and maybe play some UNO or something. You guys play UNO?

ADEN  
(turns to Grace)  
Do we play Uno?

GRACE  
(laughing)  
Yeah I guess.

Billy gets up and goes to the wall and pulls a lonely single gold record off it and hands it to Aden.

BILLY  
I got seven of these bad boys. Only handful of the greats got that many.

GRACE  
Where's the rest of em?

Aggravated by the question, he angrily put the record back on the wall.

BILLY  
 (confidently)  
 I had hock em until things get  
 better. I'll get em back.

Emotionally fueled he exits. Grace shoots Aden a look. She's sorry. How could she now. They follow.

84

EXT. BILLY'S BACK YARD - LATER

84

They sit out back eating some burgers and playing UNO while listening to the radio. Things seemed to have lightened up.

ADEN  
 What's the hardest thing about  
 sobriety for you?

BILLY  
 The hardest thing for me always is  
 boredom and not being able to god-  
 damn go to sleep. There's just too  
 much time in the day and when it's  
 finally over my stupid brain won't  
 shut off and just let me rest. I  
 just kind of lay there. And then  
 the panic about all my choices and  
 what could've been...

ADEN  
 (laughing)  
 I know that feeling. I just try to  
 play music to occupy myself. Even  
 when I'm not playing music, I'm  
 playing it in my head. Puts me  
 right to sleep. You should try it.

BILLY  
 Maybe I will.

Billy looks over Grace.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
 A good woman can occupy a man. Can  
 do a lot of things.

A car pulls up to the house and people are going in. Doors are slammed and all kinds of noise and rustling in the house.

ADEN  
 Who's that? You expecting somebody?

Billy gets upset and starts to make his way into the house on his crutches.

BILLY

No. Don't worry about it. I got it.

Billy hurries his way into the house.

85

INT. BILLY'S HOME

85

A young trashy blonde, CANDY, in her early forties, but looks much more weathered is carrying in groceries. Two little boys with Blonde curly hair are with her. They wonder off to the other room.

BILLY

(yelling)

What the fuck are you doing back here?

CANDY

(attitude)

This is my fucking house Billy. You can't just tell me not to come around for the day.

Billy gets up in her face.

BILLY

All I fucking asked was for you to stay out for a fucking couple of hours. Is that too much to ask?

CANDY

Fuck you Billy. Get out of my face.

She pushes through him.

BILLY

No, fuck you.

Aden walks in the back door.

As he does, they stop fighting and it gets quiet. Candy looks him up and down as he speaks.

ADEN

Everything okay in here?

BILLY

Yeah, it's fine.

Aden looks at Candy.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Oh, I'm sorry. This is Candy.  
Candy, this is my son.

The two little boys come running back in. One comes up and starts hugging Billy. Billy kind of lightly pushes him away.

ADEN  
Who are these guys?

CANDY  
This here is little Billy, and this is Aden.

When Aden hears that. His heart drops.

LITTLE ADEN  
Who are you?

Aden looks at Billy and smirks and exits out the back door.

He grabs Grace and they walk around from the back to the front and start to get into the car.

Billy comes flying out the front door on his crutches and makes his way over to the car. He grabs Aden trying to stop him from getting into the car.

BILLY  
Can I talk to you son. Please, can I talk to you for just a second?

Aden reluctantly gets out and walks off with him.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
Look, I'm sorry. I should have told you.

ADEN  
They're both yours?

BILLY  
The first one was just a one night stand. Then, I had to pay child support, so I figured why not get the milk if I'm paying for it already. Then the second one came.

ADEN  
Little Aden?

BILLY

Yeah, I guess I always liked that name or something, reminded me of the Eden, "The garden of Eden. I know I'm fuckin' nuts, but look, we just got back together again. She won't have me unless I'm sober. We're trying to make it work. That's why I didn't bother to tell you.

ADEN

Is there more?

Billy doesn't say anything.

ADEN (CONT'D)

Is there more kids out their named Aden? I mean what the fuck?

BILLY

There's no more. Just you three.

ADEN

Have you been a father to those boys in there?

BILLY

They barely know me.

Billy hags his head in shame and starts lightly crying.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I'm shitty person and even worse father. I'm so sorry. I don't know what to do.

Aden watches this broken old man break down. He can't help it any more. He starts rubbing his arm consoling him.

ADEN

You still got time to make it right.

Billy wipes away the tears and a small smile and hope peaks through.

BILLY

Will you play a show with this old broken man before you go on tour? Father and son rocking it out on stage together. It's a dream come true for me. I know it has to be something you've thought about too?



Aden thinks about it. Of course he wants to play a show with his father and childhood idol.

ADEN  
I'll think about it.

BILLY  
(smiling)  
You'll think about it?

ADEN  
Yeah, I'll think about it.

BILLY  
That's great news, Aden. It's gonna be beyond my wildest kid, really.

Billy hugs Aden. Aden tries to resist but he gives in. He hugs him back.

Aden gets back into the car. He has a smile of hope on his face. Grace tries to be happy for him, but a look of concern shines through.

86

INT. BAR/MUSIC VENUE - FEW MONTHS LATER

86

Aden is up on the stage doing a sound check and getting this sorted out. He's looking anxious.

He looks at his cell phone and looks at the time.

He goes back to doing a sound check by himself.

He looks back at his cell phone again. He makes a call. No answer.

He sits looking disappointed and discouraged.

Billy finally busts through the door. He walks with a limp, but no crutches. Aden looks relieved.

BILLY  
Got caught in some nasty traffic.  
Sorry about that.

The color returns in Aden's face.

BILLY (CONT'D)  
(playful)  
You look nervous kid.

ADEN

I wasn't sure if you were coming.  
And, I haven't really played many  
venues before. Strike that. I  
haven't played any before. The  
streets have mostly been my stage.

Billy pulls out his guitar and plugs it in and hits a few  
riffs.

BILLY

It's like riding a bike. Just  
tonight I'm taking your training  
wheels off.

ADEN

(half playing)  
I can't ride a bike. My dead beat  
dad never showed me how.

BILLY

Okay, bad analogy. You'll be fine  
kid. Just if the handle bars come  
off, just bail, don't try to hold  
on.

ADEN

Really, another bike reference?

Aden still looks worried.

BILLY

Boy, you need to go throw up?

Aden turns green and runs off stage. Billy laughs and shakes  
his head.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(to himself)  
Rookies...

87

INT. BAR/MUSIC VENUE - LATER

87

Billy and Aden are on stage. Billy very confident, Aden  
looking very nervous. The place is packed.

BILLY

(into the mic)  
How's everybody doing tonight?

Everybody cheers and applauds.

BILLY (CONT'D)

That sounds good to me. I'm Billy "Bad Ass" Mcready as you all probably know from the news. They say bad press is good press. I must be doing real good then.

The crowd laughs.

BILLY (CONT'D)

And, this is my son Aden, better know as the Subway Son. He's got a little album quickly climbing the charts, called "Subway Son".

The audience applauds.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Tonight's a special night for me, and my son. It's the first time we've ever played a show together. And, it's the first time Aden has ever played in a real venue besides the streets. Give him a little hand.

The crowd applauds.

BILLY (CONT'D)

There's a special thing when a father and son play music together. All is right in the world for at least a song or two. Well, that's enough of me. Let's make some music.

Billy starts strumming away on his guitar and Aden's color returns as he does too.

The two seem to be in their glory as they jam away together.

There's a real connection, an electricity as the two play together.

They smile and feed off of each other. The crowd eats it up and goes crazy. They play a song together.

They are finishing up their set.

BILLY

Okay everybody. That's it for tonight. If you want to meet us and get autographs, the Bad Asses, will be hanging in the back for a little bit. Make sure you come see us.

The crowd goes crazy. Billy and Aden bask in the applause. They share a warm long hug as the crowd snaps photos and videos capturing the moment.

89

INT. BACK ROOM IN BAR - LATER

89

There is a little table set up where Mcready is selling his and Aden's pictures with a free autograph.

Aden goes along with it and signs the pictures as the fans come and go.

A few attractive women have moved behind the table and are flirting with Billy. Being a ladies man he's very obliged.

Aden just kind of talks to the fans as Bad Ass sucks up all the attention.

The line finishes up. Mcready divides up the money and gives Aden some. Aden denies it, Mcready doesn't argue and quickly pockets it.

ADEN

You wanta grab some coffee and talk about the show?

BILLY

My friends here wanted to see if you wanted come back to my room to get to know them a little better. This is Barb and a...

The girl answers for him.

NICOLE

(laughing)  
It's Nicole.

BILLY

That's it Nicole. Who could forget the beautiful Nicole. What do you say son?

ADEN

I got to get up early. Sorry, I can't.

NICOLE

(flirting)

You sure you don't want to hang out for a little bit?

BILLY

He's a good boy, real rigid. Getting married soon. Doing the right thing, walkin' that line. I'm proud of him.

Billy smiles at Aden. Aden didn't expect that reaction.

Billy gives him a hug.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I'm proud of you boy. You turned out real good, and you're a hell of a performer just like your father.

As they embrace and share their moments. The two girls video record the moment.

ADEN

(sincere, but leary)

Thanks. That really means a lot.

Billy gets up and starts to leave.

BILLY

Well, were gonna run. Thanks for the show son.

ADEN

Okay, see you soon, pops.

Billy smiles at hearing him call him pop. He takes a girl on each arm and exits the bar.

90

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MONTHS LATER

90

A pregnant Grace is looking over Aden whom is all dressed up.

GRACE

I can't believe your walking Billy Mcready into the hall of fame.

ADEN

I know. It still hasn't sunk in. I think my mom might even be able to forgive him now.

Grace smiles at him and touches his shoulder. He's come a long way.

ADEN (CONT'D)

I'm going to go check on him. Make sure the old guy can still get into his own pants.

Aden exits.

91 INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

91

Aden walks down to the corner suite. He goes to knock on the door. The doors open. A busboy is setting up a spread of food on a tray. He's finishing up, he nods to Aden as he leaves.

92 INT. BILLY HOTEL ROOM

92

Aden walks in and goes up to the big door that leads into the bedroom, it's cracked open just enough to hear inside. He hears his dad talking on the phone.

BILLY

Come on baby. You know I would have let you walk me for sure. You are the only one I care about in this whole world. My manager just told me that having this silly snotted kid walk with me is gonna make me rich again. We're gonna move back into that big old house that you liked. It's gonna be all good again. Like it was.

Aden opens the door. Billy is sitting on the bed. He turns around on the phone, he has a bottle of whiskey in his hand. By the look that Aden is making Billy knows he heard everything.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Son, I was just telling her what she wanted to hear, that's all. I didn't mean none of that. I promise. I love you son.

Aden stares at him for a long moment. He can't believe he's been had again by this selfish fucking man.

This time it's going to be different. He's not gonna relapse. He's not going to let him tear him down again. He's stronger than him, and this addiction. He realizes for the first time he has to let go. All of it.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I really need this son. I can't live like this any more. I got nothing. Please just go out there with me. I need to jump start my career again. I can have my agent wire you some money. How much you want? Will Five thousand do ya son?

ADEN

Good luck at the ceremony Billy Mcready.

Aden walks out.

Billy just sits staring. He's done it again.

BILLY

Come on son. Don't be that way. We can be a team. We can be next big thing, set this place on fire!

Aden doesn't look back.

93

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

93

Aden walks in very firmly.

ADEN

Honey, we're leaving. We're going home.

GRACE

What? What happened?

ADEN

That guy I met in there. It wasn't my dad. Just some guy. Just a shallow, sorry, scared old man.

Grace hugs him.

94 INT. CAR - LATER

94

Aden sits in the passenger seat of the car as his wife drives. He's plucking away on his guitar. Nothing really comes out. Just plucks of angst.

Grace turns on the radio.

DJ ON THE RADIO (V.O.)  
Well, Billy "Bad Ass" Mcready did it again. He missed his own induction to the country music hall of fame today. Seems like the only things this old legend might not miss is his funeral.

Grace turns the radio off. Aden starts plucking away even harder on the cords. Grace puts her hands on his stopping him from doing so. She grabs his hand, he reluctantly doesn't hold her hand back, she squeezes it again, he finally holds her hand back. She's got him.

95 EXT. SUBWAY STATION EXIT - A FEW MONTHS LATER

95

There are several guitar cases in front for donations in which a sign says will be for city rehab centers.

Aden holds a guitar, his wife with an instrument, and his new born with a little baby piano. They all seem very happy and content. The preacher sits with the baby smiling.

96 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - DAY

96

Billy has two hookers with him. They all do lines off the bathroom sink.

97 EXT. SUBWAY STATION EXIT - CONTINUOUS

97

They start playing familiar hymns with him and Grace singing. Lot's of people walk by and drop big donations as they play.

98 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

98

Billy jumps in bed with the two hookers and they start to full around.



ADEN - V.O.

We must remember that none of us are guaranteed happiness, only the pursuit, and if we find ourselves not liking what we got, it is smart to ask why we got it. What choices did we make to arrive at that place. What is it that we are clinging to, that we need to let go of. It is never too late to turn a different direction. I don't know. But, what I do know. Is that direction can change, and it will. This will be the end for the Subway Son. And a new beginning of the Subway father. I'm gonna be a good one too, I know it. I pray that maybe this kid is more like his mommy, and nothing like his grandpa and me. Well, maybe a little like us. That's a lot of maybes. Seems to be my life story.

99 EXT. SUBWAY STATION EXIT - CONTINUOUS 99

As the music fades the scene is Aden and Grace packing up.

100 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - CONTINUOUS 100

The two hookers get dressed and take the money off the side table. They exit.

Billy takes a needle out and shoots up.

As he lays back to enjoy it, he starts to have a heart attack. He dies.

He lays in a crappy motel, alone, by himself, dead.

101 EXT. SUBWAY STATION EXIT - CONTINUOUS 101

In the middle distance, the camera follows Aden and Grace walking out, Grace carrying the baby in a kangaroo pouch in front of her. Aden carrying his acoustic guitar case. They are holding hands as they walk down out of frame into the Subway.

THE END.

