

ACT I

SCENE 9

(Lucas and Eden turn to Aaron)

AARON

When my parents finally kicked me out it was almost a relief.

EDEN

When did you leave home?

AARON

You make it sound so nice. Like I packed my things and kissed them goodbye and went out to seek my fortune. Not at all like they caught me snorting Percocet in the bathroom in the middle of the night and tossed me out in my pajamas with literally nothing.

EDEN

It can't have been that bad.

AARON

It was exactly that bad. Two AM. A seventeen-year-old in a T shirt and shorts standing in the front yard in November wondering what the hell just happened. But at least I didn't have to play at the religious crap anymore. Or hide the drugs.

LUCAS

Didn't have to live with Saul anymore.

AARON

The silverest of linings.

LUCAS

What did you do when you got kicked out?

AARON

Went to a friend's house. Stayed there for a while.

Then another friend. And another. A lot of kids owed me 'cause I sold to them. Knew if they didn't help me, I'd rat them out. So I almost always had somewhere to sleep.

EDEN

Did you finish high school?

AARON

I did not.

EDEN

What were you doing?

AARON

Learning stuff. How to avoid cops. How to steal stuff. Which cars had alarm systems and which didn't.

EDEN

Did you get arrested?

AARON

All the time. Sixty days here, six months there. I was lucky. Never had enough on me when they nicked me to spend much time as a guest of the county. Not then.

EDEN

But you eventually earned your degree while you were in prison.

AARON

I did.

EDEN

How long were you incarcerated?

AARON

Fourteen years.

EDEN

For drug dealing?

AARON

Manslaughter.

LUCAS

Who did you kill?

AARON

I was a drug dealer. I probably killed a lot of people.

EDEN

Who did they arrest you for killing?

AARON

Melissa. The only person I ever really loved.

LUCAS

You don't seem like the violent type.

AARON

I'm not. I wasn't. But Melissa was somebody and I was nobody, and when *somebody* ODs with *nobody*, then *nobody* goes to jail for it.

LUCAS

That must have been awful. The lowest point in your life.

AARON

It wasn't. (He is earnest and serious, almost pleading). It wasn't even close.