

**WILLOW PARK
(The Short)**

Written by

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BLACK...

Then suddenly... the sound of a PANICKED VOICE (JEREMY).

JEREMY (OVER PHONE)

*Hey Val... just making sure you're
ok? You haven't responded to my
texts since this afternoon... I
told you to text me when you got
home. Um... I went to your house
and no-one's responded to the door.*

(A beat then;)

Call me as soon as you can ok?

The voicemail ends... and the sound of POLICE SIRENS pick up--

ROLL BEGINNING CREDITS and MELANCHOLIC MUSIC as the sirens
fade out.

INT./EXT. PARKED CAR - AFTERNOON

JEREMY KIM (17), sitting in the driver's seat, AWAKES from a
nightmare. He sits up out of his seat, nightmare sweaty. He
takes deep breaths, trying to calm himself down.

He sips from his water bottle and relaxes in his seat. He
plants his forehead on the steering wheel, trying to fully
rejuvenate.

He eventually puts his car in forward drive, and his car
slowly moves away from the parking lot...

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE OVER BLACK: TWO WEEKS LATER

2

EXT. WILLOW PARK HIGH CAMPUS - AFTERNOON

2

Jeremy sits by a tree, reading a small JOURNAL. He takes
brief glances at the pages while flipping through the
booklet. He eventually settles on one page. In it, a PHOTO
taken of a macho looking boy, LUKE BAILEY (18).

JEREMY (V.O.)

*Just a couple of weeks ago... a
person that was the most dear to me
isn't around anymore.*

A note beside Luke's photo says: "Seen around the abandoned
park on Fairville St."

JEREMY (V.O.)

She didn't leave a single note that addressed her loved ones. Not a single word.

Another note on the page says: "About three or four accomplices." He shuts the journal and stands right up. He starts to walk out of campus --

3 EXT. FAIRVILLE ST. - MOMENTS LATER 3

Jeremy struts forward, hands in his pockets. He surveys the area as he walks.

JEREMY (V.O.)

I've made it my job to find out why she took her own life.

4 INT. TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER 4

He continues his walk into the tunnel...

JEREMY (V.O.)

The guy I'm about to meet was close friends with her two years ago. They sorta stopped talking a while ago... but I've seen him hang around with her ex.

5 EXT. ABANDONED PARK - CONTINUOUS 5

He exits the tunnel, continuing his journey forward. He looks ahead, catching a sight of Luke Bailey and four of his goons. They all hang around the park, messing around with the playground equipment. With a deep breath, he collects himself to continue his walk forward.

One of Luke's goons, TIM, notices Jeremy. He taps Luke, who sits on a swing-set, to alert him of Jeremy's presence. He squints at the GROWING FIGURE of Jeremy. A brief look of recognition flashes onto Luke's face.

TWO of Luke's goons, ZAC and NIXON, stand up, ready to confront him --

LUKE

Stop.

Zac and Nixon stare confused at Luke. This wouldn't be his usual decision. They back off.

LUKE

You know this is private property right?

JEREMY

Last time I checked, this was a public park.

Luke gives off a brief chuckle. He stares back at Jeremy... indicating that he better start telling him what he wants to tell him... Jeremy clocks this, and pulls out his notebook. He flips to a page. He holds up the booklet to Luke -- it's a picture of Valerie.

JEREMY

I know you knew her. You know anything about what happened to her?

LUKE

I know that she OD'D. Don't know why she did it.

JEREMY

You were friends with her right?

LUKE

Yeah *were* is the key word there. Haven't talked to her in two years.

Jeremy reaches into his bag, pulling out a phone. He scrolls through it.

JEREMY

I've been looking through this... your name came up many times. In conversations with her friends, conversations about her ex --

LUKE

-- Cody?

JEREMY

Yes, Cody.

LUKE

You came here to talk with me about Cody. Cody and I have been minding our business ever since she ended the relationship... and isn't that Valerie's phone?

Jeremy doesn't answer the question and instead studies Luke's eyes, trying to catch a single hint of dishonesty.

Luke sighs, looking away from the phone and back at Jeremy.

LUKE

Listen man. You go into my place with my homies here, ask me some questions about an old friend that died two weeks ago. Give me a reason why I shouldn't beat the shit out of you.

Jeremy keeps his cool.

JEREMY

I was Valerie's boyfriend. I... need answers on why she did it.

Luke considers this... and nods.

LUKE

Ok. Well... I told you all I know... but I have one piece of advice that you have to take. I'm sorry for your loss... her death haunts the community and I'm sure it haunts you more. But... just mourn and grieve over her. Don't go out of your way looking for more.

Jeremy furrows a brow.

JEREMY

I'm fine with what I'm doing now, thanks.

Jeremy eyes Luke's goons before walking off.

As Jeremy is out of earshot -- Luke whispers into TIM'S ear:

LUKE

Follow him. Find out what the prick's up to. Get that phone.

Tim waves over to TWO other goons: ZAC and CONNOR. The three start to follow Jeremy.

Jeremy walks through the tunnel, oblivious that three people are following... he pulls out his notebook and a pen.

7 EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

7

ON JEREMY'S NOTEBOOK -- it's on the page that showcases Luke. Jeremy writes a question mark beside his photo. He puts away the notebook and continues his walk. He hears something -- the sound of leaves crunching. Jeremy, now unsettled, does a 180 to see behind him.

Nothing's there... but Jeremy knows he's being followed. He turns back in front, and starts to BREAK INTO A SPRINT. Followed by Jeremy's sprint, the THREE boys CHASE after him, revealing themselves.

FEET ATTACK CONCRETE -- HURRIED FOOTSTEPS -- Jeremy continues his sprint, BREATHING HEAVILY, adrenaline fully kicked in... he reaches a PARK, cutting a corner into a BATHROOM. He peeks out the bathroom entrance, seeing that his pursuers have lost sight of him.

Jeremy takes out his phone, and starts to dial one of his contacts, ALI.

8 INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

8

ALI WELLS (17), jock-like build, sits on a couch in his messy bedroom playing NBA 2K on a TV. He sets down his controller, defeated at the sight of a loss.

ALI

Aghh!

Ali's phone that sits besides his couch starts to RING. He sees that Jeremy's calling him and instantly answers his call.

ALI

Hello?

9 INTERCUT: INT. BATHROOM / INT. BEDROOM

9

JEREMY

Hey, um... I'm being followed. I might need you to pick me up.

ALI

By who...

(he realizes)

Did you go to Luke's park alone?

JEREMY

Yeah. Sorry.

Beat. Ali sighs, grabbing his car keys.

ALI
Where are you? I'm coming.

JEREMY
I'll send you my location.

Jeremy goes into messages and is about to hit send on 'Show My Location' just as -- Tim BARGES through the entrance, RAMMING Jeremy into the wall with his shoulder. Jeremy groans, dropping his phone.

ALI
Jeremy? Jeremy!? Shit.

Ali hangs up, and instantly starts to run to his garage.

10 INT. BATHROOM - SAME

10

Jeremy takes TWO punches into the face, before dodging the THIRD, grappling onto Tim's waist, pushing him against the wall. Tim growls, and starts to throw blows with his ELBOW onto Jeremy's back. He groans in response, before throwing him into another wall.

Jeremy puts his fists up into a guarding position. He swiftly dodges Tim's right hook, returning the favor with a right uppercut, sending Tim recoiling backward. Jeremy takes this opportunity to throw constant RIGHT AND LEFT hooks at Tim's face, which all land. Tim's screams are growing louder...

Jeremy lets Tim fall forward, and crosses over to his back, about to choke him out to silence him... but before he can do that --

TIM
He's here! He's right --

-- Jeremy THRASHES Tim into the wall -- knocking him out instantly.

He gets up, grabs his phone, and exits the bathroom. He sends his location to Ali.

11 EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

11

The other two boys are running towards the bathroom. They stop at the sight of Jeremy who stands outside the small building. Jeremy trades brief glances at the boys. Then -- Jeremy breaks into a SPRINT, running like hell. The boys give chase yet again.

Mid-pursuit, Jeremy slides through a small slope, running into -- a tunnel with a dead-end. There's nowhere to go. SCARED, he does a 180, about to run again before he sees the sight of -- Zac, who does a battle-cry before throwing a punch, which Jeremy dodges. He rams Zac into the wall, they exchange blows before Jeremy manages to land two good HEADSHOTS with his fists. Zac slumps towards the ground. Jeremy drops his bag on the floor to lessen the weight on his body.

CONNOR enters the tunnel, running with ferocity as he KICKS Jeremy's leg, making Jeremy kneel towards the ground. Connor tries to throw another kick directed at Jeremy's face, which Jeremy narrowly dodges, and catches his feet, pulling him towards the ground. Jeremy grabs onto Connor's neck and BASHES it brutally against the concrete floor, breaking a cheek-bone.

Jeremy groans at the final hit he delivered, he glances at his fists, now bruised. He shakes the pain out of his wrists.

He looks forward, seeing that LUKE and his two other goons, Nixon and Tim, enter the tunnel.

Jeremy lets out heavy breaths... tired out from the scuffle already. He starts to slowly walk toward his three pursuers.

Nixon runs forward, about to swing -- Jeremy dodges the melee, and he focuses on Tim, who he throws into the wall. The three trade and evade hits. Eventually, Jeremy is able to deliver a three-hit combination that sends Nixon back towards a wall. He grapples onto Tim and THROWS him onto the ground. Both goons are now lying on the floor.

The sound of clapping echoes throughout the tunnel. Jeremy turns behind him, seeing Luke, who's applauding of his performance.

LUKE

Didn't think a scrawny kid like you
could do all of that. Pretty
impressive.

JEREMY

Cut the shit.

Jeremy walks up towards him -- swinging at him instantly -- Luke swiftly steps to the side, avoiding it.

LUKE

Whoa there man... just trying to
teach you a lesson.

Jeremy swings again -- aiming at Luke's head this time -- it misses. As Jeremy's arm is still extended outwards, Luke grapples onto it, and performs a brutal arm throw, sending Jeremy towards the ground back-first. Jeremy tries to stand up one more time only to be met with two punches.

Luke delivers a smug smile at Jeremy, who is now sprawled over the entire floor. He turns to one of his goons, Zac, who is now standing back up.

LUKE

What're you doing? Dizzy from the punches? Search his damn bag!

Zac drops to the floor, searching Jeremy's bag. Luke walks towards his lackeys, helping them get off the ground.

As Jeremy lies on the floor, he turns his head to the side, looking at his limp left arm. He starts to expand his arm, reaching for something --

-- taking us to the same flashback as before. His hand is taken in by Valerie's hand, their fingers interlace with each other.

JEREMY (V.O.)

I'm sorry... I don't think I can do it...

VALERIE (V.O.)

Haven't seen you give up on anything Germ.

Valerie disappears into thin air.

Back to reality, Jeremy takes deep breaths while on the ground, he tenses up his face, gaining the courage to stand back up again. He pushes himself up onto all fours, then he slowly RISES.

Zac finds Valerie's phone, and holds it up into the air.

ZAC

I fou--

Zac's words turn into an unfinished sentence, as he has taken in the sight of Jeremy. Luke follows Zac's gaze, seeing Jeremy. He smiles at the sight.

Blood runs down Jeremy's cheek, he wipes it off, putting his arms back into a guard position.

LUKE
(with a smile)
You're a ton of fun.

Luke and his lackeys are ready to fight again even though they're still exacerbated from their earlier scuffle.

The sound of CAR WHEELS SCREECHING echoes throughout the tunnel -- Jeremy turns around, catching sight of Ali, who runs into the tunnel. He notices the smeared blood on Jeremy's face.

ALI
You alright?

JEREMY
(with a nod)
Yeah.

Luke and his gang look at Ali, they're a little scared of the demeanor he has brought to the situation.

Luke glares intensely at Ali.

LUKE
What're you doing here Ali, are we supposed to be intimidated by your presence? We outnumber you.

ALI
I failed algebra freshman year, but I can still put two and two together. There's no need to fight more.

Ali catches a glimpse of Jeremy's bag, which lies open on the ground. He looks towards the back of the tunnel seeing Zac, who is still holding Valerie's phone.

ALI
But... we need that phone.

LUKE
You don't know what you two are getting yourselves into.

Luke gives his gang the nod to attack the duo. Everyone, starts to move towards the duo, Zac drops the phone onto the bag to join the fight.

Ali dodges each ensuing attack with swiftness, taking out Nixon and Zac. His swift movements show that he's been through this scenario several times.

Tim and Connor pursue Jeremy, he backs away, trying to avoid their attacks -- Ali intervenes, kicking Tim into the wall, but before he can do anything else, he is PULLED from behind and THROWN into another wall -- Ali turns to see his attacker, it's Luke...

Meanwhile, Jeremy still struggles with the lackeys that are fighting him. He takes a couple of punches that make him JOLT towards the floor. Defenseless, he desperately searches for a weapon... he catches sight of a palm-sized ROCK. Before he can reach it -- Connor comes from behind, pulling him into a choke-hold.

Ali and Luke go head to head, throwing several punches at each other. Ali manages to duck an incoming attack from Luke, he crouches below it, returning the favor with an uppercut. Luke recoils backward, but before Ali can take him out, he is PULLED from behind by Nixon and Zac. They throw several punches at him, he tries to block it with a high-guard.

Jeremy, still in a head-lock, THRASHES himself towards a wall, which knocks the wind out of Connor. Connor rushes towards Jeremy as he quickly picks up the rock--

CONNOR

You piece of sh--

Connor is BRUTALLY HIT in his shoulder by the rock! He screams in agony, and crumples towards the floor. Tim, who has now re-gathered his bearings tries to throw a punch at Jeremy, who dodges the attack, and returns the favor by smashing the rock on his FOOT, breaking a phalange. Tim HOWLS, and falls towards the floor.

Zac and Nixon (who are still attacking Ali) look towards Jeremy, who is now approaching them. Ali notices that his two attackers are currently focused on another person, and he's able to knock them both on the ground.

Ali then moves towards Luke, he throws a right hook, it misses -- Luke returns the favor with a punch in the stomach. Jeremy runs towards Luke, swinging the rock, it doesn't hit. Luke grapples onto Jeremy's right arm and slaps the rock onto the ground. After this, he lands another punch on Jeremy, making him collapse. He's about to knock Jeremy unconscious with another hit, but Ali pulls him away.

As Ali and Luke fight again, Jeremy looks towards his bag... He SEES his pen is sticking out of his bag... he starts to crawl towards it --

Ali successfully manages to land a kick on Luke's chest, pushing him towards Jeremy, who's now wielding his pen.

Jeremy STABS Luke's ankle with the pen, making him COWL in pain. Ali finishes him off with a kick to the face.

He takes Valerie's phone off of the ground and puts it back into Jeremy's bag. He walks up to Jeremy, who is now sitting on the floor, exhausted. He offers his hand to Jeremy.

Jeremy struggles to take Ali's hand, but when he does, Ali helps him stand up.

Ali turns to Luke, who is now sprawled over the floor, not getting up anytime soon. Ali pulls out his phone, selecting the CAMERA APP.

LUKE

What're you doing?

ALI

I'm gonna let the whole school know about your current condition.

LUKE

Wait wait wait! Stop! Please... I can tell you guys something that'll help you guys out ok?

Ali looks at Jeremy for approval. He nods.

LUKE

Ok... you guys were going after the wrong guy. I had nothing to do with it. But yeah... Cody Reed and a couple others apparently bullied her into doing it.

JEREMY

How do you know this?

LUKE

They... run the account that posted Valerie's nudes on Twitter.

Jeremy and Ali trade looks at each other.

LUKE

Just... can you guys just leave? We won't bother you anymore we promise. You guys can be on your merry way and we'll be in this... tunnel.

Ali nods, seemingly considering it.

ALI
You need to apologize though.

LUKE
What?

ALI
You and your boys jumped my friend.
That's not very nice isn't it?

Luke pauses, scared on what to say next.

LUKE
No...

ALI
Say I'm sorry.

Luke, still pinned to the ground, turns to Jeremy --

LUKE
I'm sorry.

ALI
What a nice man!

Ali starts laughing, Luke awkwardly starts to laugh as well.
After a moment passes... Ali turns straight-faced.

ALI
I'm sorry.

LUKE
What?

Ali socks Luke square in the face, knocking him unconscious.
He stands up, assisting Jeremy with walking.

13 EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

13

Ali and Jeremy walk to the car.

ALI
Don't do anything alone again
alright? We still got shit to do.

JEREMY
Yeah. Thanks for the help.

ALI
You're buying me dinner.

Ali hops in the driver's side, Jeremy on the passenger's side. Shortly after, the car starts and it slowly starts to drive away...

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERTITLE: WILLOW PARK

The title is replaced with another: Jeremy and Ali will return.

CREDITS.

END.