

A HAPP "E" PLACE

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE PARK - AFTERNOON

JUSTIN'S POV THROUGH TINTED SUNGLASSES

He's sitting on a bench enjoying the weather, watching the ducks eat the bread crumbs he threw in the pond. A soft sigh of peace is heard.

He picks up a Styrofoam cup filled with coffee. Taking a simple sip, swallowing with pleasure, placing the cup back down.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

I've been clean for eight years. I must say...the world truly feels so much better. Now I understand what enjoying the simple pleasures in life means. While I was binging... sex, drugs and carnage were the only things important in my life. My old life was appealing to some, but others viewed me as a worthless addict.

(Laughs)

Well...to the ones who think I wasted the majority of my life, I could care less. Unless you've been down that road, what makes you think your opinion is relevant? Then you have people who feel they can relate, but they can't. Everybody's reasons are completely different. But right now...I'll just inhale the beauty of the day.

Wearing some shorts and a wife beater, Justin gets up from the bench and makes his way over to the pond.

JUSTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I figured by getting high, my problems would come in like the waters on the shore, and recede just as easy. When you're intoxicated, you believe you're escaping reality, venturing off into your world of peace. Truth be told...you're still in the world you live in.

(Scoffs)

Intoxication is a gift most people abuse using the excuse "Well, I was drunk. Or, well, I was high so I don't

remember." Pure lies. You know what you were doing. The only time that excuse can be used is the very first time. After that, your body becomes used to the toxins.

He releases a soft laugh, slowly pulling his sunglasses down. In the cluttered room resting on a table there's different drugs, pipes, liquor bottles, condoms and a .38 special. The open window allowing the sunshine in gives the room some form of decency.

JUSTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Let me stop lying. Addicts never change. Especially if they remain around the influence. Once you build the character you believe is right, there's no changing it. People never change. They suppress the demon for so long, but it'll always resurface stronger than it was before. The peaceful scenery you saw was my dream while intoxicated. I was praying for a change, knowing I had no desire to quit what I'm accustomed to.

The sound of his sunglasses being cracked is heard. Justin places his sunglasses back on.

Through the left lens we see the peaceful scene at the park and the missing lens remains showing the room.

JUSTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You can't combine reality with imagination, knowing you can't have both? You try to put an end to the greater evil, although the greater evil is what you truly love, despite it's killing you.

He picks up the .38 special and places it to the side of his head.

JUSTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Why continue hurting the people you love and yourself, when there's a different solution?

The chamber is heard slowly spinning as he cocks the hammer and then...BANG!!!

BLACK SCREEN:

JUSTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
You simply move on to your happy  
place, and you pray people can  
understand you couldn't get the monkey  
off your back.

"You can't escape reality until you embrace the reality you  
created."

~Bernard Mersier~

END CREDITS