

Prodigal

By

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Blake Wintrop, a spoiled rich jock gets away with murder  
amongst a tangled web of lies, deceit and coverup.

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET SIDE CAR WRECK - NIGHT

Gruesome Car Crash scene. Police lights flash.

BLAKE WINTHROP, a young privileged jock whom looks like he just stepped out of a Ambercrombie ad, breaks down curbside.

Blake has a gash to his head.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Outside police station building OFFICER ANDERSON, escorts Blake into jail.

OFFICER ANDERSON

Have a seat. Someone will be out to get you in a moment.

Officer Anderson leaves and speaks with a fatherly DETECTIVE DANIELS.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Detective Daniels comforts Blake and g

Detective Daniels guides Blake into the questing room where a maverick DETECTIVE JENNER is waiting.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

How about you come with me, son.

Detective Jenner pulls chair out.

Blake stumbles as he tries to sit.

Detective Jenner places Blake square into the chair.

Detective Daniels guides detective Jenner back.

Detective Jenner steps back to door. detective Daniels looks back and approaches Blake.

(CONTINUED)

BLAKE (VO)

I already told the officer, I have nothing to say.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

I am Detective Daniels. This is Detective Jenner.

Detective Jenner closes door.

Detective Daniels moves to center view.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

Do you know why you're here?

BLAKE

I haven't done anything wrong.

Detective Jenner moves slowly to center and Detective Daniels sits on table.

DETECTIVE JENNER

You're in some serious trouble.

BLAKE

It wasn't my fault.

FLASH BACK:

EXT. SPORTS CAR - NIGHT

Blake drives weaves the center-line.

CUT TO:

EXT. INTERIOR OF CAR - NIGHT

Blake looks down, then up. Bright lights glare windshield.

Sound of car HORN fades to a HUM.

FADE TO:

INT. OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

JANITOR working in overhauls VACUUMS.

RETURN TO INTERROGATION ROOM:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

BLAKE

Let me call my dad. I know my rights.

DETECTIVE JENNER

Did you hear that? Little rich boy wants to call his daddy.

Detective Daniels hands Blake a handkerchief.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

It would be in your best interest to start talking.

Blake blots his forehead.

BLAKE

My father is Senator Winthrop.

DETECTIVE JENNER

How about you tell us what we don't know.

Blake looks past Detective Daniels through a window at Holly Bradshaw, a young "Machiavellian" less fortunate girl, dressed in 'stripper-chic' clothing talking to Officer Anderson. Her fake tan manages to hide the goosebumps. She has been crying and is talking to Officer Anderson.

BLAKE

Why is Holly here?

DETECTIVE DANIELS

Who's Holly?

BLAKE

Man, she looks like shit. Was she in the accident?

Detectives Look at each other. Detective Daniels turns to talk to Blake.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

Where were you going tonight?

BLAKE

Home. You can't hold me here. I want to go.

Detective Jenner paces.

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE JENNER

Oh no, your not going anywhere.

Detective Daniels is uncomfortable with Detective Jenner's aggressive behavior.

BLAKE

I haven't done anything.

DETECTIVE JENNER

Well, you were driving one of the cars.

(beat)

Your the only one that came out a live.

Both Detective Daniels and Blake are intensely to Detective Jenner. Detective Daniels stands and moves around and behind Blake.

DETECTIVE JENNER

You came from a party where there was under age drinking.

(beat)

It appears you're guilty of something here. Okay?

(beat)

Your going to be charged with DUI, manslaughter and rape.

BLAKE

I didn't rape anyone.

DETECTIVE DANIELS

You need to stay focused here son.

(beat)

People died tonight.

detectives look at each other.

FADE TO:

INT. INTAKE WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Holly has been crying, makeup is smeared.

Officer Anderson takes notes.

HOLLY

I was at a party.

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER ANDERSON

And there was under-age drinking?

HOLLY

How is this my fault? I said no. I mean, I was saving myself. How is any of this my fault?

Holly leaves.

FADE TO:

INT. SENATOR WINTHROP BUSINESS OFFICE - DAY

Senator Winthrop Stares out Window.

A short tempered businessman, SENATOR WINTHROP stands behind a very large mahogany desk and stares out office window. The view is stunning and the office is elaborate.

A soft spoken SECRETARY speaks through the intercom.

SECRETARY (VO)

Senator, your Kathryn Wells is on line three.

Senator Winthrop quickly picks up the phone.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. KATHRYN WELLS OFFICE - DAY

A flashy, over confident, TV ready defense attorney KATHRYN WELLS is on the phone in a plush office, relaxed. She flips her pen as she talks.

KATHRYN WELLS

It's not that easy. These are serious charges we're looking at.

Kathryn Wells drops pen.

FADE TO:

INT. SENATOR WINTHROP BUSINESS OFFICE - DAY

SENATOR WINTHROP POUNDS HIS FIST ON TABLE.

(CONTINUED)

MR WINTHROP

I don't give a damn about easy!  
Don't tell me what the hell can and  
can't be done. I write the rules.

(beat)

Do your job and get him out of  
jail. He's there all night.

Senator Winthrop abruptly hangs up and drinks from a glass  
liquid spills.

FADE TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE STEVE WINTHROP OFFICE - DAY

WINDOW WASHER cleans the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE JAIL HOUSE - DAY

PRESS and angry CITIZENS gather.

An eager PRESS PERSON 1 camera is recording "live" story.

PRESS PERSON 1

In just moments Senator Winthrop's  
son, will be released.

Blake is escorted to a limo waiting curb side. His father,  
mother and attorney are present.

PRESS PERSON 2

Senator

PRESS PERSON 3

Senator

The Kathryn Wells clears the way for Blake and family.

Press Person 1 pushes to front.

PRESS PERSON 1

Senator, why was your son released?

Press Person 2 pushes to front.

PRESS PERSON 2

Didn't your son kill two innocent  
people?

Attorney guides Blake into car and turns.

(CONTINUED)

KATHRYN WELLS

My client is deeply saddened by the tragic event. We are cooperating fully with the investigation officials.

PRESS PERSON 1

Is it true that Blake was drunk?

PRESS PERSON 2

Senator, how does your son know Holly Bradshaw?

KATHRYN WELLS

We have no further comment at this time.

Limo drives away.

Press Person 1 continues with story.

PRESS PERSON 1

Only days after a fatal crash resulting in the deaths of two innocent people, Senator Winthrop's son has been arraigned. New rape charges are currently pending to the case.

(beat)

This is one party the Senator can't disassociate from. Reporting Live: Cindy Holdrum KTSP News.

FADE TO:

INT. SENATORS MANSION - DAY

TV shows the news reporting.

Senator Winthrop and the lovely, lavish MOTHER, Senator's WIFE are having breakfast. She is sucking on fourth or fifth mimosas while Senator Winthrop reads the paper.

SENATOR WINTHROP

(irritated)

Shut that damn thing off.

Front page of the newspaper reads Senator Winthrop son gets away with murder.

(CONTINUED)



SENATOR WINTHROP

(angry)

What the hell was he thinking?

Senator Winthrop peers around paper and see's Blake standing there.

BLAKE

Should we talk about this? I mean don't we have people that handle this stuff?

MOTHER

The ladies at the country club have plenty to say.

SENATOR WINTHROP

Don't be going off doing anything else stupid. Let the attorney do her job.

(beat)

It won't be long before the whole thing blows over.

MAID in maid outfit, escorts Attorney in.

KATHRYN WELLS

Good morning, Senator.

Senator stands, Hand shake.

SENATOR WINTHROP

Good morning. I was just telling Blake that we have this whole thing under control.

(beat)

Lets talk in private.

Senator escorts Kathryn Wells to HOME office.

CUT TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

KATHRYN WELLS

Here's the problem. Your son was drunk. He killed people and it doesn't appear you give a damn. Now, out of nowhere comes a rape victim.

(CONTINUED)

SENATOR WINTHROP

I don't care! He is just a boy.  
Don't you remember when you were  
seventeen?

KATHRYN WELLS

I wasn't out killing and raping  
people.

SENATOR WINTHROP

Get your people on this and shut it  
down.

KATHRYN WELLS

Look, everyone knows the system  
works differently for people like  
us.

SENATOR WINTHROP

This is not looking good for the  
election.

KATHRYN WELLS

They're requesting a psychological  
exam.

SENATOR WINTHROP

Who?

Attorney hands the Senator the request.

KATHRYN WELLS

Dr Greene. She is highly  
recommended. Intelligent but a bit  
odd. I believe she backed you last  
election.

Blake watches outside windowed home office door.

Senator Winthrop and Kathryn Wells stop talking when they  
see Blake standing there.

Senator Winthrop opens the door for the attorney to leave.

SENATOR WINTHROP

Spare me the details. I don't care  
how you get it done.

CUT TO:

INT. DR GREEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr Greene closes the door to his office.

DR GREENE  
Do you understand why you are here?

BLAKE  
People got killed in the accident.

DR GREENE  
You are being accused of driving drunk, a double homicide and the rape of Holly Bradshaw.

BLAKE  
I wasn't drinking and I didn't rape that girl. I mean we had sex, but that's just how she is. Everyone is doing her.

DR GREENE  
Others argue differently.

FLASH BACK:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Trophies around Blakes bedroom. A letter jacket lays on a chair. A PHONE rings. Blake pulls the cell phone out of the pocket of the jacket.

BLAKE  
Whats up?

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE PARTY- NIGHT

Party scene.

FRIEND (VO)  
You coming?  
  
My brother got a keg and the house is rockin' man.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

BLAKE  
I'll be there in ten.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Blake races down the staircase to the front door.

Senator Winthrop IS his home office PACKING A BRIEF CASE.

Mother, drink in hand, stops Blake.

MOTHER  
Where are you off to? Mr. DeMars called today about some unfinished schoolwork. He said he plans on talking with your coach.

BLAKE  
Don't worry, the Coach has my back.

MOTHER  
I don't need the country club buzzing over you. I can hear it now prize quarterback benched.

BLAKE  
I know, I'll get it to Mr. DeMars.

Senator Winthrop comes out of the home office.

SENATOR WINTHROP  
Marge, loosen up the apron strings. He's almost a man.  
(beat)  
I'm sure he's got everything under control. Don't you Blake?

SENATOR WINTHROP (CONT.)  
(to Blake)  
Oh, I almost forgot.

Senator digs keys out of pocket and tosses to Blake.

Keys pass through air.

Mother is helping herself to another glass of wine.

(CONTINUED)

SENATOR WINTHROP (CONT.)  
I'll be out of town for your  
birthday.

BLAKE  
Whoa! For real. No way! Your the  
best!

Blake runs out of house and there sits a brand new sports  
car.

Blake drives off.

CUT TO:

INT. DR GREEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Blake stares out a window as a similar car drives by.

BLAKE  
The next thing I know I am cuffed  
and in jail.

DR GREENE  
Where were you going?

BLAKE  
Out. I just got a new car, jeez.

DR GREENE  
I see. How do you know Holly  
Bradshaw?

BLAKE  
She's just a chic from school.

FADE TO:

INT. PARTY AT HOUSE - NIGHT

YOUNG ADULTS are partying at a mansion.

Holly Bradshaw, drunk, hits on Blake. Sex scene implied.

CUT TO:

INT. DR GREEN'S OFFICE - DAY

DR GREENE

Well, I think I have everything I need.

BLAKE

(Confused but relieved.)

That's it?

DR GREENE

Seems like a clear case of you being spoiled rotten. Not only are you spoiled by your folks, you're spoiled by those around you because you're a star quarterback.

(beat)

You clearly didn't intend to hurt anyone.

BLAKE

No, no of course not. I would never want to hurt anyone.

DR GREENE

Then, how about we let the system work. I'll have a chat with the Judge and DA. We will go from there.

BLAKE

Are you sure this will work?

DR GREENE

Of course it will. Now just continue things as normal and keep up on that football technique.

(beat)

I look forward to the best game of the season after this is over.

BLAKE

Thank you so much. You have no idea how relieved I am.

(beat)

Oh, and I won't disappoint you on that game.

DR GREENE

Looking forward to it, but don't thank me yet. You're in front of the judge next week.

BLAKE GETS UP TO LEAVE CLOSSES DOOR.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

14.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Beyond the cash register Kathryn Wells and Holly sit having coffee.

Kathryn Wells gets up and sides Holly Bradshaw a envelope.

KATHRYN WELLS

Just bought these shoes at the shop  
on 45th. It has all the latest  
from the runway. I am sure you'll  
find something amazing.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURT - DAY

Media, PICKETERS and many OTHERS stand outside as Senator Winthrop, Mother and Blake arrive for court. They push through the angry crowd guided by Kathryn Wells into the court room.

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

Court room is packed. A slender Bailiff stand in front.

BAILIFF (VO)

All rise.

COURT ROOM PEOPLE Stand. JUDGE enters you notice a similarity to "Judge Lance Ito."

BAILIFF (VO)(CONT.)

Superior Court is now in session.  
Judge Cheng presiding. Please be  
seated.

Court Room People sit. The judge slams gavel.

JUDGE CHENG

Good morning, ladies and  
gentlemen. Calling the case of the  
People of the State of Washington  
verses Blake Winthrop. Are both  
sides ready?

(CONTINUED)

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Ready for the people, Your Honor

KATHRYN WELLS  
Ready for the defense, Your Honor.

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

District Attorney stands and talks with judge.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Your honor: the defendant has been charged with underage drinking, driving under the influence, vehicular homicide, and a charge of rape of a minor.

(beat)

The evidence will clearly show that on the night of December 30th, Blake Winthrop, attended a party where underage drinking took place. He consumed alcohol, had sexual relations with a minor and proceeded to drive.

(beat)

While under the influence Blake Winthrop crossed the center line and collided with another vehicle which resulted in the tragic death of two innocent people.

(beat)

The evidence shows Blake Winthrop's clear disregard to the life of others as well as his own. All charges will be presented with factual evidence showing that Blake Winthrop is guilty on all accounts.

Kathryn Wells stands and talks with judge.

KATHRYN WELLS  
Kathryn Wells for the defense your honor: under the law my client is presumed innocent until proven guilty. You will hear no real evidence against my client on any of the claims. You will come to know the truth: that Blake Winthrop was simply driving his new birthday present when an on-coming car crossed the center line.

(CONTINUED)



(beat)

Blake Winthrop does not deny that he was at the party where alcohol was being consumed. He realized that this was not the place for the star quarterback of a football team to be. So despite temptation to stay and the obvious flirtations of Holly Bradshaw, he left the party.

My client is not guilty your honor and the media coverage has taken away from the facts.

Attorney points out the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURT ROOM WINDOW - DAY

Through court room window you see Picketers outside.

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
The People call the arresting officer, Officer Anderson.

Bailiff swears Officer Anderson. No vocals are heard.

OFFICER ANDERSON  
I do.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Please tell the court what happened the night of December 30th.

OFFICER ANDERSON  
I was dispatched to the scene around 11:13 pm.

FLASH BACK:

EXT. STREET SIDE CAR WRECK - DAY

Gruesome Car Crash scene. Police lights flash.

Blake grabs his phone off the seat and clearly sees a text  
"Dude, wait till you see my new  
ride. Driving now."

Blake stops for only a second to read it. Memories flash.

SHOT: BLAKE HAPPILY TEXTING IN HIS CAR. (PREVIOUS SHOT WHEN  
HEAD GOES DOWN)

SHOT: BLAKES FINGERS AND PHONE.

Blake quickly places the phone in his pocket and falls out  
of car and goes hysterical.

BLAKE

Oh God, oh God somebody help me.

Officer Anderson Places hand on shoulder. Helps Blake to  
his feet then cuffs him.

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

Court in session, District Attorney questions Officer  
Anderson on stand.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Do you see the driver of vehicle 1  
here in court?

Officer Anderson points to defendant.

OFFICER ANDERSON

Yes.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Had the defendant been drinking?

OFFICER ANDERSON

We found no evidence of any bottles  
at the scene.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Had the defendant been drinking?

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER ANDERSON  
Blake Winthrop was extremely upset.

Officer Anderson looks at Senator Winthrop.

Senator nods. District Attorney catches the exchange and stand in Officer Anderson view.

OFFICER ANDERSON (CONT.)  
We needed to find out what happened. People died. Blake Winthrop was taken into custody, booked and released.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
You still didn't answer my question. Had the defendant been drinking?

OFFICER ANDERSON  
I didn't have the time to be certain. We were tending to the worse victims at the scene. Blake Winthrop had suffered only minor injuries.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Is it not your job to verify if someone was driving drunk at a scene like that?

OFFICER ANDERSON  
Yes, but he was so emotional, almost child-like. I needed to calm him down and assess the scene.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
So you didn't do a sobriety test at the scene? Is that correct.

Officer Anderson looks at Senator Winthrop. Puts his head down.

OFFICER ANDERSON  
(hesitates)  
No. I did not.

Senator Winthrop is very relieved.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
I have no further questions.

A PERSON enters court room and brings District Attorney a note.

(CONTINUED)

District Attorney looks around the court room.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Your honor. The State has encountered a lack of cooperation on the part of the victim, Holly Bradshaw. The State request would like to request a continuance to assess the situation.

KATHRYN WELLS

Objection! The State has had ample time to bring the evidence forward.

JUDGE

Denied.

Judge slams his gavel.

I am in agreement with Ms. Wells, the State has had ample time. I can not imagine dragging this out much further with the media frenzy outside.

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM DR GREENE CROSS EXAMINATION - DAY

Court in session.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The People have no objections to the recall of this witness Your Honor.

KATHRYN WELLS

Dr Greene if you could please tell us again your credentials.

DR GREENE

I am a certified expert in Clinical and Forensic Psychologist in Pierce and King County. I specialize in mental competency evaluation.

KATHRYN WELLS

Please tell the court again, in your own words, your findings in regards to the defendant Blake Winthrop.

(CONTINUED)

DR GREENE

In my opinion, Blake Winthrop is quite ill. He suffers from a Affluenza syndrome.

KATHRYN WELLS

Please explain.

DR GREENE

Kids that come from rich families like Blake Winthrop believe they are immortal. They are products of too much privilege. Society puts them on a pedestal and worships them. Their parents and everyone around them spoil them rotten and they are never reprimanded. They receive privileges and passes others don't and therefore they do not know right from wrong.

SHOT: CHILDHOOD FLASHES OF LAVISH LIFE STYLE

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

Court in session.

KATHRYN WELLS

Go on.

DR GREENE

These kids lose touch with reality. They can't actually be held accountable because they are the victims of an influential society.

KATHRYN WELLS

So are you saying Blake Winthrop is not fit to stand trial?

DR GREENE

I believe Blake is ill. I also believe in cases like these the court, has the responsibility to help kids like Blake.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Objection, Your Honor. The responsibility? How....

Judge interrupts.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE

No, I am intrigued. Over ruled. Dr Greene please, go on.

DR GREENE

Blake displays an extreme indifference to the value of human life to include his own. This is a primary symptom of Affluenza.

JUDGE

Is Affluenza treatable?

DR GREENE

If Blake is treated away from the circumstances which cause it, yes. My recommendation is that he be sent to a rehabilitation center for treatment.

KATHRYN WELLS

Thank you no further questions.

Kathryn Wells walks back to the table where Blake is sitting and sits. Senator Winthrop sits behind them.

JUDGE

Does the defense have anything further?

Kathryn Wells stands.

KATHRYN WELLS

The defense would like to move that all charges be dropped against my client on the ground that he is not competent to stand trial.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Objection your honor!

JUDGE

While it is unfortunate that innocent people died in this tragic accident, I can not find evidence that Blake Winthrop was in fact at fault for the incident.

People in the court gasps and celebrate.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Your Honor.

(CONTINUED)

JUDGE  
Order! Order!

Judge slam gavel several times.

JUDGE (CONTINUED)  
Even though Blake Winthrop can not  
be held accountable by this court  
for the incident of December 30th  
based on the evidence presented, I  
do believe Blake Winthrop is ill  
and needs help.  
(beat)

Blake's eyes begin to tear. Senator Winthrop places his hand  
on Blake's shoulder.

After hearing testimony from Dr  
Greene this court is compelled to  
step in and help Blake Winthrop.  
Based on the facts presented, I do  
believe Blake Winthrop is in danger  
of hurting himself and  
others. Therefore this court holds  
Blake Winthrop responsible for his  
misconduct under "Common Law." I am  
ordering two years of probation  
plus therapy, which Senator  
Winthrop - pointing at the Senator  
with the gavel, you sir will pay  
for.

Senator nods.

Senator and his wife hug as if they won an election.

Parents hug Blake.

Court Room People leave court room.

CUT TO:

INT. OUTSIDE COURT ROOM HALL - DAY

Court Room People pass in hall to leave court house.

KATHRYN WELLS  
So any new insight into what makes  
the rich tick and talk yet?

DR GREENE  
Nope, but as you can see, money  
talks and bullshit walks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

23.

Holly Bradshaw among Court Room People walks by in a more  
classy business look. A glance is exchanged between her and  
Kathryn Wells.

FADE OUT: