

**REVELATIONZ**

written by

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*Two Brothers, One Secret*

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FADE IN:

**CAPTION:** *Revelation gave unto him things which must shortly come to pass.*

**INT. CAR - NIGHT**

Wipers slap his car's windshield as TED, 50s, in a business suit, hair greying, drives through a rainstorm.

**EXT. RUNDOWN TENEMENT BUILDING - LATER THAT NIGHT**

Rain has stopped leaving everything wet. Ted parks and exits looking up at an old brick building to see a sign in a window that reads, "Unfurnished Rooms."

Ted drops his cigarette, grinds it into the sidewalk, then re-grinds it angry, and storms to the building.

**INT. RUNDOWN EFFICIENCY APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER**

Tiny with a torn faded recliner, hot-plate, and an easel with a Cross painting and painting supplies under. A chipped end-table holds an old lamp, liquor bottle, two jelly-glasses, and a rotary-phone. A wooden chair is by the door.

RALPH, 60s, long hair and beard, has prison tattoos on the back of eight fingers reading; *H-A-T-E* and *P-A-I-N*. On his forehead is a *Swastika* with one cheek having a Cross and the other a Teardrop. He sleeps in a wheelchair in ragged clothes with head down snoring, hugging a hand-made wooden Cross.

Three polite knocks on his door. Ralph snort-awakes.

RALPH  
*Unghghg --Wha'?*

Three louder knocks. Ralph mumbles.

RALPH  
*Go, a-way.*

Three loud knocks. Ralph talks to himself.

RALPH  
*Sorry --meant come tha' "f" in.*

Machine-gun knocking. Ralph is furious.

RALPH  
*Door's open, Numbnuts!*

TED (O.S.)

Ralphee?

Ralph puts his wooden Cross in the wheelchair's pocket.

RALPH

Teddy?

Ted opens the door, silhouetted by hall-light. He stands resolute. His cigarette ash burns red as he inhales hard.

TED

Just --  
(exhales)  
Ted.

RALPH

(coughs at Ted's smoke)  
What happened to Theodore?

TED

He --grew, up.

RALPH

I'll say, dawg.

TED

Brother.

RALPH

(pats his Santa-belly)  
He --grew, out.

TED

For half a century.

RALPH

Sure felt like one.

TED

So how are you?

Ralph throws both arms wide open. Ted draws on his cig.

RALPH

Rollin' in it.

TED

(exhales smoke)  
Literally.

RALPH

(clearing air with hand)  
"F" you.

TED  
Life sure did.

RALPH  
For fifty years.

TED  
And two months.

RALPH  
But who's counting?

TED  
(draws on cig)  
I was.

RALPH  
But not visiting.

TED  
(exhales forced)  
You said not to!

Ralph coughs again waving both hands to clear Ted's smoke.

RALPH  
Since when ya' listen to me?

TED  
Since the last time I saw you --  
remember?

RALPH  
Nope, don't want to. Hey, thanks  
for the teary reunion, bye-bye.

Ted glares, then crushes cigarette under a shoe, and steps inside. He flips on the wall-switch to an overhead light and closes the door. He drags the chair over to Ralph and sits.

RALPH  
Thanks --for proving my point.

Ted is passionless; he has no feelings either way.

TED  
When I leave, we'll never see each  
other again.

RALPH  
One can only hope.

TED  
Do you --hate me?

RALPH

Have to love someone first.

TED

Have any "like" memories, Ralphee?

RALPH

Any left with Ralph.

TED

What's left?

Ralph holds up both hands like being robbed.

RALPH

Eeeeeeeeeee --.

TED

(harrumphs)

Same old Ralphee.

RALPH

Knock off thr hearts and flowers  
crap. What'd ya' want?

TED

Closure.

RALPH

(points at door)

There's the door, go out and close  
it.

TED

Answer my question first.

RALPH

You're worse then any Bull  
interrogation.

TED

Do you hate me?

RALPH

You're a deer-tick up Bambi's ass.

TED

Tell me, and I'll leave.

RALPH

Tell ya' what?

TED

Stop it.

RALPH

Tryin' to.

TED

What! Trying what --to get me to  
leave?

Ralph turns on his table lamp. Ted "sees the light."

TED

"F" you.

RALPH

That's the ticket, hate'll get ya'  
through anything.

TED

Except living.

RALPH

Whatever brain cells I had when you  
came in --are dyin'.

TED

Like you?

Ralph is taken-aback.

TED

Talked to your P, O.

RALPH

(stabs at door)

Let it hit you on the way out!

TEDDY

Damn you.

RALPH

(chortles)

Already did --twice.

TED

When was the first?

RALPH

(holds up bottle)

Drink?

TED

Don't drink, don't smoke.

RALPH

Don't live.

TED

Oxy-moron.

RALPH

(ox-ee-gin)

"Oxy;" French, from *oxygène*.

(vee-laak--as)

"Moron;" Greek, *vlákas*. Psychology term meaning intelligence quotient from fifty to sixty-nine. --Mine's, in the upper five per cent.

TED

Uhhhhhh --?

Ralph pours some liquor in a glass.

RALPH

Bet yours, is in the lower five.

TED

Nice speech, been waiting long to give it?

RALPH

I'm the master of my speeches.

TED

Shakespeare?

Ralph goes to pour in the second glass, but sees something.

RALPH

Hey, you'll read anything bad --  
(notices a dead roach)  
when takin' a good --  
(dumps out roach)  
dump.  
(blows in same glass)  
I'll use this one.

TED

Still protecting your lil' brother?

Ralph pours liquor in his "dirty" glass.

RALPH

That was five decades ago.

Ralph hands the "clean" full glass to Ted.

TED

And two months.

Ralph holds his glass up to toast.

TED  
What are we toasting?

RALPH  
Exactly.

Ted hesitates, then clinks glasses. Ted does not drink.  
Ralph inhale-sips crude and gargles, then swallows loud.

RALPH  
*Ahhhhhh*, tinny bouquet, coarse  
finish.

TED  
Coarse --like you.

RALPH  
Of course.

TED  
Why?

RALPH  
Christ! Do you wake up every  
mornin' goin', *Why me?*

TED  
No, just --Why you?

RALPH  
Been good up to this point, but --  
(chugs, then points)  
I'm a baaaad drunk, get out!

Ralph goes to refill his glass, but Ted puts his free hand  
over the bottle. Ralph threatens.

RALPH  
Wanna keep that?

Ted glares at Ralph, then pulls his hand back.

TED  
"F" you.

RALPH  
That's the spirit.

Ralph refills his glass.



TED  
Of the dead.

RALPH  
(raises glass)  
I'll drink to that!

TED  
I'm not leaving, without answers.

RALPH  
We born, we die, and in between --  
(raises glass higher)  
only questions.

Ted waits for Ralph to take a drink.

TED  
Believe in God?

RALPH  
(spit-take)  
Much as He does in me.

TED  
He does you know.

RALPH  
(wiping off beard)  
Blow it out your ass.

TED  
You first.

Ralph raises an eye-brow, then leans to one side and *farts*.

RALPH  
Your turn.

Ted stares at Ralph, then leans to side and *farts* different.

Ralph can't help himself and laughs.

TED  
Nice to hear you laugh.

RALPH  
Laughin's nice --better than  
beratin'.

TED  
So, you don't --hate me?

RALPH  
Too busy hatin' myself.

TED  
Noticed.

RALPH  
Disease can ravage a body, but only  
despair, can kill a soul.

TED  
Who said that?

RALPH  
Me, numbnuts.

TED  
No, really?

RALPH  
No --really.

TED  
Philosopher, too?

RALPH  
Just --Phil.

Ted examines his glass, then looks around the room.

TED  
This feels --good.

RALPH  
Gave up feelin' long ago, don't  
feel good.

TED  
What happened to you?

RALPH  
Prison, numbnuts. You?

TED  
Like you told me, led a normal  
life; school, job, marriage, kid.

RALPH  
Ahhhh, perchance to dream.

TED  
Keep surprising me.

RALPH

Keep surprising myself. At my former residence, we'd be butt-fuckin'.

TED

Thanks for sharin'.

RALPH

Hey, what's a big brother fo ...?

Phone rings. Both react. Ralph holds up a finger, *Wait*, then answers. Caller is not heard.

RALPH

Billy Bob's Bar ...Uh-huh ...Ya' don't say ...Ya' don't say?

Ralph pulls a small air-horn out of his wheelchair-pocket and blows it into receiver's mouthpiece. Ted reacts to the noise by covering both ears while holding his glass. Ralph hangs up the phone hard making its bell *ding*.

TED

Who was that?

RALPH

Didn't say.  
(presents his glass)  
Only good thing about prison --no marketing calls.

TED

What are we toasting now?

RALPH

Death --to telephonies.

TED

What about --your death?

RALPH

I'll drink to that.

TED

No, seriously.

RALPH

No --seriously.

Ted waits for Ralph to enjoy a big gulp.

TED

What do you have?

RALPH  
(spit-take)  
M, P, N.

TED  
What's that stand for?

RALPH  
Can you say twelve syllables? I  
can't.

TED  
Cancer?

Ralph flicks spilt liquor-drops out of his beard.

RALPH  
Of the blood, bone marrow don't  
work right.

TED  
Progressive?

RALPH  
All the way.

TED  
Cure?

RALPH  
Fatality.

TED  
How, how ...?

RALPH  
How long? Don't wrap any presents.

TED  
Geez, Ralphee, have a heart.

RALPH  
Did.

TED  
When?

Ralph feigns looking at a nonexistent wrist-watch.

RALPH  
Is this Tuesday?

TED  
I remember ...

RALPH

Don't! Don't do no good.

TED

the fights between mom and dad.

RALPH

Every night was an episode of *Cops*.

TED

I remember you, as the peacemaker.

RALPH

Done made my peace with the Maker,  
that's all you need remember.

TED

I have --dreams?

RALPH

Better than nightmares.

TED

They don't, make sense.

RALPH

Welcome to my world.

TED

I remember --

Ted waits for Ralph to take a swig and rapid-fires his words.

TED

you killing dad!

RALPH

(spit-takes)

You're doing this on purpose!

Ralph brushes liquid from his beard. Ted smiles mischievous.

RALPH

Go "f" yourself, I been f'ed  
enough.

TED

Up the ass?

RALPH

Everywhere.

TED

I need --to know.

RALPH

Then you're f'ed, too.

They stare. Ralph puts free hand on top of his head; lost.

RALPH

Wait, what were we talking about?

Oh, yeah --

(rubs head)

memory loss, is a side effect.

TED

Like Alzheimer's?

Ralph cups his *Pain*-tattoo hand around an ear.

RALPH

*Eh?*

TED

Memory loss an issue?

RALPH

Tissue!

TED

Hearing goes, too?

RALPH

Flu!

TED

Ahhhh, I get it --you're f'n with me.

RALPH

Didn't even have to kiss you.

TED

Gonna' tell me?

RALPH

Tell ya' what?

Ted stares hard at Ralph, then his drink, then chugs, and tosses his empty glass at Ralph fumble-catches.

RALPH

Hey, I only got two!

TED

Like your balls.

RALPH  
Don't know, can't find 'em.

TED  
Numbnuts.

RALPH  
(looks around frantic)  
Where?

Ted chuckles, Ralph dented his armor.

TED  
Blue balls.

RALPH  
They're singin' somewhere.

TED  
Need to know, dickless.

RALPH  
Not gonna' happen, dickhead.

TED  
Why for God's sake?

Ralph holds out his glass again as a toast.

RALPH  
Exactly.

Three light knocks. Both look at door, then each other.

RALPH  
You order Chinese?

TED  
Want me to?

RALPH  
Love M, S, G, but can't stomach it,  
literally.

Three firmer knocks outside and low on the door.

RALPH  
Must be Chinese, or he's on his  
knees. --Open Sesamese!

Machine-gun knocking. Ralph's fed up.

RALPH  
DOOR'S OPEN, NUMBNUTS!

Door opens haunted-mansion speaking by: EUGENE, 12, in a grey suit, wearing black glasses, looking like a *Mini-Me* Ted, then does one-giant-step to enter, and speaks manly to his father.

EUGENE  
Mom wants to know when?

RALPH  
Who's mom?

TED  
His --want to meet her?

RALPH  
No! Don't even wanna' meet --that.

Ted puts on same black glasses and pulls Eugene next to him. Both tilt their heads together; it's a "twins" Kodak moment.

TED  
This is my special son, Eugene. His mother is waiting in our car.  
(to Eugene)  
Eugene, say "Hello," to your Uncle Ralphee.

Ted folds and puts away his glasses. Eugene extends a hand. Ralph doesn't shake holding both his hands up instead.

RALPH  
Just, Ralph.

EUGENE  
Pleasure to make your acquaintance,  
Uncle --?

Eugene moves his out-stretched hand up to shield his mouth, but talks in a normal tone to Ted, so Ralph can hear him.

EUGENE  
*This homeless guy really my uncle?*

TED  
Only one.

EUGENE  
What happened to him?

RALPH  
Who?

Eugene puts both hands around his mouth and yells at Ralph.



EUGENE

What happened to you!

Ralph makes an owie-face.

TED

That's what I'm trying to find out.

RALPH

What's your full name, boy?

EUGENE

(cupped-hands yelling)  
Eugene Augustus Somerville Peabody!

RALPH

Stop yellin', numbnuts!  
(to Ted)  
Why don't you just shoot him?

TED

What!

RALPH

Or send him to prison.  
(to Eugene)  
Hey Genie --ya' like fudge?

EUGENE

I love choc ...

TED

Stop it!  
(to Eugene)  
Say "Good-bye" to your Uncle  
Ralphee.

EUGENE

Good-bye, Uncle Ralphee,  
interesting experience to finally  
make your acquaintance.

Eugene holds out his hand. Ralph just shakes his head.

RALPH

Wish I could say the same, Genie.

TED

Son, tell your mom it's okay to  
leave. I'll take the subway.

EUGENE

When?

TED  
(head-motions at Ralph)  
Up to him.

EUGENE  
(yells at Ralph)  
When!

Ralph has an open-mouth, *WTF*-look, then looks at Ted.

RALPH  
You're right, he's special --needs.

EUGENE  
(to Ralph)  
Let my dad go.

RALPH  
(to Ted)  
Oh fine, blame it on me as always.

TED  
Run along, son, tell your mother  
I'll be home in an hour or ...

RALPH  
(hopeful)  
Now?

EUGENE  
(to Ted)  
Remember, you promised to help me  
with my homework.

Ralph puts a finger in his mouth and feigns vomit-gagging.

RALPH  
*Yechhhhhhh* --.

EUGENE  
What's his problem?

TED  
That's what he's, trying to figure  
out.

EUGENE  
(cupped hands to Ralph)  
What's your problem!

Ralph reacts incredulous, then shakes head mumbling.

RALPH  
How old are you, boy?

EUGENE

Twelve.

RALPH

(to Ted)

Thirteen --fourteen tops.

EUGENE

"Tops?" Top? Top, the highest or uppermost point, part, or surface of something.

RALPH

Take it all back --he'll never make it home.

TED

Stop it, Ralph!

(to Eugene)

Uncle Ralph is what we adults call, a curmudgeon.

EUGENE

Oh, like the Grinch.

TED

Only not green.

RALPH

Not yet.

TED

Thanks son, take off.

EUGENE

I'm not a plane, dad.

Eugene about-faces and exits closing the door. Ted watches him proudly. Ralph leans towards the door.

RALPH

Yuuuu-huuu, Genie --rub my lamp!

**INT. OUTSIDE HALLWAY - SIMULTANEOUS**

Eugene stands outside the closed door and rolls his eyes.

EUGENE

Numbnuts.

Eugene walks away shaking his head.

**INT. RALPH'S APARTMENT - IMMEDIATELY**

Ted glares at Ralph.

RALPH

Glad I won't be around, to see him  
turn Gay.

TED

(finally emotions erupt)  
Why can't you be civil!

RALPH

'Cause I'm not a civilian?

TED

Why'd you make fun of my son!

RALPH

Hey, you're tha' one that named  
him, *Eugenia!*

TED

Eugene! It's Latin for "well born,"  
several Saints and four Popes ...

RALPH

There's a Catholic joke in there.

TED

You're sick.

RALPH

Already said that.

TED

Why'd you kill dad!

RALPH

Go save your son, I'm past savin'!

TED

(leans-in)  
Tell --Me!

RALPH

(leans-in to match)  
No --ee!

Ted drops his head and covers eyes with both hands upset.

RALPH

Oh great, but I'm still around, to  
see you turn Gay.

Ted begins to cry. Ralph's shaken and moves as if to console Ted, then sits back and exhales deep. Ted looks straight up.

TED  
There's a hole in me!

RALPH  
(fights caring)  
Eat a pizza.

Ted lowers his gaze to Ralph; desperate.

TED  
Help me!

Ralph's touched; now his armor is damaged.

RALPH  
Already did --life, for a life.

TED  
What? Wait. When, where?

RALPH  
Ignorance is bliss.

TED  
Truth is light.

RALPH  
Jesus, what do I have to do to keep  
you in the dark!

TED  
Enlighten me.

RALPH  
"Enlighten." Synonym, illumine,  
edify, teach, inform.

TED  
Antonym, mystify, confuse, perplex,  
puzzle.

Ralph holds out his glass for a toast.

RALPH  
Exactly.

TED  
(beyond frustrated)  
Loser!

RALPH

"Loser!" Loser. Wow, sound just like the old man. What'd the bitch tell you?

TED

That you have anger issues.

Ralph slaps a thigh guffawing.

RALPH

Way to go, mom! Misdirect to deflect.

TED

What, wait, but you do have a temper, right?

RALPH

Anyone would.

TED

Did --something happen to you?

RALPH

Nuthin' I couldn't handle.

TED

Then why'd you ...?

RALPH

Weren't concerned about me, numbnuts.

TED

What, wait, who? Did mom --? Dad never did nuthin' to me.

RALPH

Anything, Dad never did "anything"--to you.

TED

That's what I said!

RALPH

Me, too.

TED

Stop being an enigma!

RALPH

I'm not, that's what you're hearing.

TED

Yes, you are, som-bitch!

RALPH

Told ya'.

TED

What! Told me what? That I didn't want to hear the truth, or that you're not speaking in riddles.

RALPH

Ta-da.

TED

What? Wait, you killed our father -- because of me?

RALPH

Posthumous "father" --any real one died long before you met him.

TED

Who died? Wait --Pop, wasn't our "real" dad?

RALPH

Never had a "real" one.

TED

"Never --!" Did mom know?

RALPH

Pretended not to.

TED

Again with the riddles!

RALPH

Fine! You really wanna' get home, follow the f'n bread crumbs!

TED

Up yours, Hansel!

RALPH

Better then being Gretel!

TED

Clues! You're giving me clues? This ain't no fairy-tale, jerk-off.

RALPH

Not one with a happy ending.

TED

You really are an a-hole. Wait --  
(puts on glasses)  
think this out, Theodore.

RALPH

Oh, so you're a chipmunk now?

TED

(takes off glasses)  
Shad-ap and let me think!  
(analyzes chewing glasses)  
So if mother pretended --pretended  
what? To make believe --to deceive?  
Pretend, deceive --  
(questioning to Ralph)  
disable?

Ralph sips silent. Ted returns to detective mode.

TED

Not a real father --false? Acted  
like a parent, but wasn't. Wait,  
couldn't --or shouldn't?

RALPH

Simon says, one should be able.

TED

"Able" --to be a parent?

Ted stares confused at Ralph. Ralph sips amused.

RALPH

Don't stop on my account, this is  
udderly, not empowerin'.

TED

"Empowerin'?" Empowerin'? --Oh,  
empower-ing!  
(quotes dictionary)  
Enable --to supply with means,  
knowledge, or opportunity to --?

Ted squints at Ralph analyzing. Ralph puts down his drink.

TED

You said "life for a life." Did,  
did you murder our dad to save --my  
life?

RALPH

Murder for a murder, killed my  
childhood.



TED

Wait, you saved --what, my  
childhood, from who, him?

Ralph makes the Umpire's double-hand low wave.

RALPH

Saaafe!

Ted's angry and pulls Ralph's wheelchair closer to him.

Ralph returns Ted's same stare, then leans-in teasing.

RALPH

Hey Shirly-lock, search your  
feelings.

Ted slaps Ralph.

TED

Feel that!

Ralph pulls a Shank from an inside sleeve and threatens.

RALPH

Don't do that a'gin, boy! I killed  
outside, then killed inside. I'm, a  
survivor.

TED

"Survivor?"

Lightening outside lights up their dark room.

TED

That's The Key!

Ted pushes Ralph's chair away and sits upright; epiphany.

TED

Dad, our dad --?

Ted shrinks in his chair, minus glasses, with same haircut,  
but his suit is now too big. He looks like Eugene.

TED AS EUGENE

did stuff, to you?

Ted bolts upright in chair. Ralph drops both arms and Shank.

RALPH

Got your answer, you can leave.

TED

Only half --is that why you  
murdered him, for revenge?

Ralph looks away in disbelief.

RALPH

Dumbnuts.

TED

Look who's talking. --Look at me!

Ralph looks sad at Ted.

TED

You killed dad, to save --me?

RALPH

Ahhhh, there's the rub.

TED

What did you mean "life for a  
life?"

RALPH

I could take it, I had to, but --  
(chokes-up)  
when he started looking at you that  
way --.

Ralph looks down at the floor. Ted falls back in his chair.

TED

My God!

RALPH

Sure ain't mine.

TED

And my mom knew?

RALPH

Sure ain't mine.

TED

And all this time, you've been  
alone.

RALPH

Always was, always will be.

Ted puts a hand on Ralph's knee. Ralph looks at it.

TED

No, not any more. Thank you, for  
being --

Ted shakes Ralph's knee to get attention. Their eyes meet.

a good brother.

Ralph bows his head and covers his eyes with his *Hate*-hand.

RALPH

Oh great, but you're still around --  
to see me turn Gay.

TED

You are my only brother. I'll never  
leave you again. You're coming to  
live --with me.

Ralph looks up grateful.

RALPH

You, you mean that?

TED

Absolutely! We've got a lot of  
missed time to catch up on.

RALPH

"Time!"  
(snorts)  
Not enough to make any difference.

TED

Time enough --time to get to know  
my wife. Time, to get to know my  
son.

RALPH

Genie! Uh, don't think I'm the  
uncle-type.

TED

Never know, never tried.

RALPH

"Never tried" eatin' a turd, pretty  
sure I don't want to.

Ted stands to push Ralph's wheelchair from behind.

TED

Let's both, go home.

Ralph holds onto his wheels.

RALPH

Hold on there, pard, not sure I'm  
ready to ride off into yer sunset.

Ted steps in front of Ralph.

TED

Tomorrow then, I'll rent a van.  
(looks around)  
How much stuff is yours?

Ralph holds up the now empty liquor bottle.

TED

Even better, I'll take the morning  
off and pick you up early.  
(offers hand)  
Deal?

They shake, then Ralph squeezes hard for Ted to stop.

RALPH

House always wins.

Ted bends and hugs Ralph around his shoulders.

Ralph's face reacts full-spectrum. He tears-up and hesitates,  
then pats Ted's back with his *Pain*-hand.

RALPH

Luv ya' --lil' brother.

Ted squeezes hard and Ralph "Oofs." Ted releases and goes to  
the door then turns back elated; he finally gets to say "it."

TED

Love you --"big" brother.

Ted turns to leave. Ralph wags at the wall's light switch.

RALPH

Uh --ya' mind?

TED

(smiles at peace)  
Not now.

Ted flicks off the wall-switch, then opens door and stands  
silhouetted by the hall-light ecstatic. He turns to go, turns  
back, turns, then exits leaving the door open. Ralph stares  
out the door listening to Ted's footsteps fade then looks up.

RALPH

Took your sweet time, but --

Ralph holds up his air-horn again.

RALPH

thanks --for listening.

Ralph blows his air-horn, but it runs out of air. He drops it on the floor, retrieves his wooden Cross, then hugs it.

RALPH

Uncle Ralphee, huh?

Ralph's elated, then gets sad-worried, and shakes his head.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Nooooooot gonna' happen --not again.

Ralph reaches into his torn shirt pocket and retrieves three items. He lowers the wooden Cross into his lap and does something with them as he looks up confessing.

RALPH

I am afraid --of what I have done,  
but I'm more afraid --of what I  
might do.

Ralph holds up the Cross hugging it, then turns it over to reveal; it's a Zip-gun on the back. He pulls the rubber-strap back to lock it over a trigger-nail.

RALPH

A life --

Ralph slides a single bullet into his Zip-gun's pipe-barrel.

RALPH

for a life --

His free hand turns off the tablelamp as he holds the Cross "barrel" against a temple.

RALPH

Genie.

**EXT. RALPH'S FLAT**

The door swings shut by itself, his apartment number is 13.

Silence, then sound of a low-muffled "bang."

An upside-down placard on his door below the room number flips down reading, *VACANCY*.

**EXT. SMALL ALLEY BETWEEN BUILDINGS - MOMENTS LATER**

The alley has puddles and is trash-laden. Rats scurry across it. Ted doesn't care as he walks into the night.

TED (V.O.)

To my real big brother who died of Myeloproliferative Neoplasms. I am alive to write this --because of him.

**CAPTION:** *More MPN information is at [www.voicesofmpn.com](http://www.voicesofmpn.com)*

FADE OUT.