

PAIR OF CRUTCHES

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

LUKE HARRIS, 17, and JACK WATTS, 18, sit on the porch of a house. They are tossing a ball back and forth trying to figure out what they want to do.

LUKE

Ooh, we can play basketball in the park!

JACK

Bro my crossovers alone will like break your knees.

LUKE

Bro, my shot is so wet it's a whoosh every time. Nothing but net.

JACK

Yeah right, your shot is drier than the Mojave Desert.

LUKE

Ugh fine. Not basketball.

JACK

See, this is why I come up with the ideas. Wait here.

Jack gets up and runs inside the house. Luke continues to play with the ball and shows no curiosity. Jack returns holding a big box. Luke stands up, suddenly curious.

LUKE

What's in the box?

Jack opens the box revealing dozens of paper boats.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Those are the weirdest hats I've ever seen.

JACK

Bro, they're not hats. They're boats! We're gonna sail a fleet of them down the river and send a message to my cousin Chewey in Mississippi.

LUKE

Uh... wait... isn't the river like a 5 mile hike from here? Do you even know where it is?

JACK

Um of course!

Jack unfolds one of the paper boats revealing a badly hand drawn map.

JACK (CONT'D)

Come on Luke, get excited for adventure!

LUKE

Alright fine.

JACK

Yes! Okay you grab the boats and I'll read the map.

Luke picks up the box of boats and they head off.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

OFFICER MARTINEZ is hunched over a tape recorder at his desk.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Dear Diary, it's 11:02 am. I was late for work this morning because I caught myself going 30 mph in a 25 mph zone and had to give myself a ticket. Hopefully nobody noticed.

OFFICER PHILLIPS slams a stack of papers down on OFFICER MARTINEZ'S desk. Makes a loud noise.

OFFICER PHILLIPS

Make any headway on the bank robbery?

OFFICER MARTINEZ

What? Oh I don't know I just got here.

Officer Phillips shakes his head in disbelief and leans into Officer Martinez.

OFFICER PHILLIPS

Well, your two superiors on the case got called up to command central so looks like you're in charge now.

Officer Martinez snaps awake and quickly stands up.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

M-m-me?

Officer Phillips turns to leave.

OFFICER PHILLIPS

May God help us all.

Officer Martinez spills coffee on his stack of papers. Looks around to make sure nobody's looking and casually sweeps papers off desk. He sits down looking flustered, then pleased. He hits record on his tape recorder.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Dear Diary, finally, it's my turn to shine. I'm gonna catch these perps and prove that I deserve this badge-

Officer Martinez taps his chest and realizes his badge isn't there. He drops his tape recorder and scrambles around his desk looking for it. He finds it under his desk and breathes a sigh of relief. He pokes himself with it, winces in pain, then puts it on and sits at his desk proudly.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jack is leading the way with the map while Luke trails with the box of boats. Jack is obviously having a hard time reading the map.

LUKE

Dude, how much longer? My back hurts.

JACK

Wait... I think we made a wrong turn somewhere.

LUKE

(groaning)

Can we switch for a bit?

Jack ignores Luke and steps over a large rock. Luke doesn't see the rock and trips, spilling the paper boats everywhere.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Ouch!

JACK

Dude! You had one job!

Luke scrambles to get up and pick up all the boats but gives up after two and sits on the ground.

LUKE

So... tired...

JACK

Great. Now I'll never be able to-

Jack looks up and sees a No Littering: Punishable Offense sign. Realization dawns on his face. He looks down at the boats then back up to the sign and screams.

LUKE

Dude calm down we can make more boats.

Jack grabs Luke by the waist and hoists him up. Luke looks confused until Jack points the sign out to him. Luke screams. They turn and look at each other then scream again. They both take off in separate directions. Jack realizes he's going the wrong way then follows Luke.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE OF HOUSE - NEXT DAY

Jack and Luke attempt to casually walk to school.

JACK

Okay, remember. Nobody was there when... *it* happened. We just have to act casual, and not at all suspicious.

They see Officer Martinez in a car along the street. They start acting suspiciously. Officer Martinez looks at a map and scratches his head. He is lost. He rolls down the window to ask for directions.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Hey boys?

Jack and Luke freak, thinking he knows.

JACK

They know. They know!

LUKE

We don't know that. He might just be lost?

JACK

A police officer? Lost? Come on Luke, I can't be the only one with brains around here.

Jack and Luke hesitantly stand up and attempt to sneak past the police car.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Oh, there you boys are. I could've sworn you were hiding from me or something.

JACK

It was him I'm innocent I swear!

Jack sprints away as fast as he can and trips on the edge of the sidewalk. He scrambles to get up. Luke glances at him and then back at Officer Martinez. He laughs nervously.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

What was that all about?

Luke shuffles his feet uncomfortably.

LUKE

Um... Well...

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Anyways, I just wanted to ask-

LUKE

I didn't do it!

Luke sprints in the same direction as Jack, picks him off his feet and continues sprinting. Officer Martinez gets out of his car and jogs a few steps after him. He has to catch his breath.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

I just wanted to know what street I'm on!

Officer Martinez looks up and sees a street sign above him. He calls out to them again.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

Never mind!

Officer Martinez reaches into his car and pulls out a coffee stained sheet with an address on it. The street names match and so does the house number the boys came out of. He looks at his address and at the house. He does this a couple times. Slowly, he puts it together and shrieks. He scrambles back in his car and follows the boys.

EXT. DIFFERENT STREET - SAME TIME

Jack and Luke are running down the street glancing back as they go. They start to slow down.

JACK
Man, that was close.

LUKE
Too close. What do we do now?

JACK
Don't worry, I have a plan.

Jack takes out a badly drawn map of the area. He points to a small cluster of badly drawn trees.

JACK (CONT'D)
Okay, so these were the woods we were walking through during the time of the incident.

LUKE
Right.

JACK
So, I was thinking we go back there-

LUKE
And hide out until this all blows over? That's perfect! My uncle has a cabin not too far from there. It would make the perfect safe house. We can even-

JACK
What? No. That's stupid.

Luke looks taken aback but then quickly regains composure.

LUKE
Well... what were you thinking then?

JACK

Glad you asked. We go back to the scene of the crime and rip out the no littering sign. Therefore, when the police question us, we can claim that we didn't know we weren't allowed to litter because there was no sign.

Luke stares at Jack for a second.

LUKE

Bro, I'm not so sure that's a good idea.

JACK

Hey, excuse me for trying to save you! In case you forgot, you're the one who got us into this situation in the first place.

LUKE

Me? You're the one who insisted on sailing those stupid paper boats of yours!

JACK

Stupid? You just wish you came up with such good ideas!

LUKE

They probably wouldn't have even made it to Mississippi! They'd get washed up in Oklahoma!

JACK

Well if you think you can avoid the police without me fine!

LUKE

Fine!

Jack and Luke storm off in different directions.

INT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Officer Martinez runs into the police station gasping for breath. He grabs onto walls and desks until he reaches Officer Phillip's desk.

OFFICER PHILLIPS

Careful Martinez! You're getting sweat all over my mahogany.

OFFICER MARTINEZ
I...I... water...

Officer Martinez reaches over and grabs a water bottle. He gulps it down then places it back on the desk and lets out a long sigh.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
Ah... much better.

Officer Phillips and Officer Martinez just stare at each other for a second.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
So... how's your day going?

OFFICER PHILLIPS
Damn it Martinez what do you want?

OFFICER MARTINEZ
Oh... right... I found the bank robbers!

Officer Phillips stands up in surprise.

OFFICER PHILLIPS
Really? You're sure?

OFFICER MARTINEZ
Uh... I mean... yes?

OFFICER PHILLIPS
I got a suspect on my radar as well. Bring in yours. We'll just have to figure this out the old fashioned way.

OFFICER MARTINEZ
Yes sir!

Officer Martinez salutes and moves to leave. He trips over a box of files and quickly scrambles to get up and exits. Officer Phillips rolls his eyes and sighs and continues his work.

EXT. WOODS - EARLY EVENING

Officer Martinez is hidden behind a tree. He has a pair of large binoculars around his neck. He is wearing a fanny pack. He hears something and quickly looks through his binoculars, seeing Jack ride up on his bike. Jack has a rope in his hand.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Dear Diary, time is 5:34 PM. I've followed the *insert character description here* one to this remote part of the woods. Is this where they stashed the money? Or are they looking to commit another crime?

Jack walks up to the "No Littering" sign and attempts to pull on it with little luck. He sighs in frustration and proceeds to tie the rope around it. Just then, Luke pulls up on his bike

LUKE

Bro, you're not really gonna go through with this are you?

JACK

What do you care? Why are you even here anyways?

LUKE

I was biking to my uncle's house and I thought I saw your bike and I wanted to make sure you weren't going to do anything stupid.

JACK

Dude, we discussed this already. This is what I think is best, and you obviously don't feel the same way so you should just leave.

LUKE

Bro, I saw a car just like the one that cop was driving earlier today. Just come with me so that you don't get into even more trouble!

JACK

Luke you're not gonna be able to stop me. So either join me or leave.

Jack ties his rope around the sign and starts pulling. Luke attempts to stop him by pulling Jack inadvertently adding more force to the rope. To Officer Martinez it looks like they're strangling each other. He quickly takes his phone out of his pocket and plays a siren. Both Jack and Luke quickly turn to the noise.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Hey you!

Officer Martinez runs towards them and trips. He shines his flashlight in their face. Jack and Luke immediately drop the rope and put their hands up.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)
You two better come with me.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Luke and Jack are sitting side by side next to an UNKNOWN CONVICT. Officer Martinez is nervously pacing in front of them. Officer Phillips enters causing Officer Martinez to jump and salute.

OFFICER PHILLIPS
Quit it Martinez this isn't the
army.

OFFICER MARTINEZ
Sorry sir, you startled me.

Officer Phillips rolls his eyes.

OFFICER PHILLIPS
Well, all the suspects are there.
You're up now. Try not to mess up.

Officer Phillips hands Officer Martinez a stack of papers exits. Officer Martinez glances at the three suspects and looks nervous.

LUKE
See this never would have happened
if you had just come with me to the
safe house!

JACK
Hey, I was doing just fine until
you butted in!

LUKE
When will you realize that your
plans always suck!

Jack opens his mouth to respond when Officer Martinez cuts them off.

OFFICER MARTINEZ
Well, looks like I'm in charge of
interrogations. I'll interrogate
you one at a time.

Officer Martinez leaves to find an interrogation room.

JACK

Bro, they're splitting us up! This isn't good we both know you're not good under pressure!

LUKE

Well, I've got nothing to hide so you're the one who should be nervous.

JACK

You're the one who dropped all the boats!

LUKE

They were your boats!

JACK

(stammering)

Umm... well... I'm not worried. I've seen plenty of cop shows. I know how to handle this.

LUKE

Bro, it might be better if we just tell the truth.

JACK

(scoffs)

Yeah right. When does that ever work?

Officer Martinez returns and uncuffs Jack.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Alright. Jack Watts, you're up first.

JACK

Oh... um...

Jack looks nervous for a second then clears his throat and attempts to put on a brave face. Officer Martinez holds the door for the interrogation room open.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

After you.

JACK

Oh no, officer. After you.

Jack looks back at Luke and winks. Luke covers his face with his hands. Officer Martinez looks baffled then enters the room with Jack following him.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME EVENING

Jack is sitting across from Officer Martinez. The room is bare with just a small table and two chairs. Officer Martinez has a large stack of papers.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Alright, we're gonna start off nice and simple. Do you know why you're here?

Jack leans forward in his seat and tries his best to look intimidating.

JACK

Officer, I think the question you're trying to ask is... why... are any of us... here?

Officer Martinez looks confused. He rifles through his papers and scratches his head.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Okay... um... moving on.

Scene shifts to interrogation with Luke.

OFFICER MARTINEZ (CONT'D)

When and where did you commit the crime?

Luke shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

LUKE

Um... well... it was around 3 o'clock I guess. Jack and I were walking in front of... the scene of the crime.

Officer Martinez jumps a little in his seat and starts writing furiously. He pauses and looks up to ask his next question.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Do you feel bad about what you did?

Scene shifts back to Jack's interrogation.

JACK

Well I don't know officer would you say there's something to feel bad about?

Scene switches back to Luke's interrogation.

LUKE

Yes, yes I do sir. I didn't mean to knock it over, you know. Sometimes I just end up in situations without realizing it.

Officer Martinez puts his papers down and leans into Luke.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Look kid. You don't seem like the brains of the operation. Now your friend Jack there? He seems like the real shifty type. Right now, you're looking at maybe 20-30 hard time. But you give him up, we'll see what we can do.

Luke gulps. He thinks for a second.

LUKE

Well what would Jack's punishment be?

Officer Martinez stands up and leans into Jack. He starts acting really intense.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

I dunno kid. It could mean the chair for him. You know, the one that fries you like... fried stuff.

Luke stands up in fear.

LUKE

It was me! It was all my fault, okay? Jack, it may have been his idea to begin with but it was my fault it happened! I did it, not Jack. Please don't let him go to jail!

Officer Martinez looks confused again as he rifles through his papers.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

Hmm... I'm not sure what to do in this situation. Just... wait here.

Officer Martinez exits the room. Luke slouches back in his chair and begins to pray. The door opens slowly and Jack slips in as if he's attempting to sneak around.

LUKE

Jack? What are you doing here man!

JACK

I messed up dude. I dunno what's gonna happen but... I think I might be going away for a long time.

LUKE

No you won't man. I confessed to everything. It was my fault, they won't hurt you.

JACK

No! I won't let you do this! Come on, I mean, how can they punish you so much for dropping a box of paper boats?

Just as Jack finishes his line Officer Martinez and Officer Phillips enter.

OFFICER PHILLIPS

Wow, congrats Martinez. You managed to save our city from two idiot litterbugs.

Officer Martinez looks astonished. He scrunches his face like he's thinking hard.

OFFICER MARTINEZ

B-b-but...

OFFICER PHILLIPS

You two are free to go. I apprehended the real bank robber.

Officer Phillips points to UNKNOWN CONVICT who is cuffed to the same chair as before. Jack and Luke high five and turn to leave. Luke turns back as Jack tries to stop him.

LUKE

Wait... the sign did say that littering was a punishable offense.

JACK

Luke...

LUKE

Shouldn't we still be punished for it?

Jack facepalms as Officer Phillips rolls his eyes.

OFFICER PHILLIPS

Just leave \$100 at the front desk on your way out.

Jack breathes a sigh of relief and they both exit. Officer Phillips following them leaving Officer Martinez banging his head on the interrogation room wall.

EXT. SAME STREET AS START OF FILM - DAY

JACK

What do you wanna do today?

LUKE

I don't know what do you wanna do today?

JACK

You know what, you choose today.

LUKE

Why don't we just go play some football or something?

Luke mimes kicking a soccer ball.

JACK

What, you mean soccer?

LUKE

Naw, football.

Jack looks at Luke and rolls his eyes.

JACK

Okay, whatever.

LUKE

Race ya to the field!

JACK

You're on!

Jack and Luke run as fast as they can.

FADE TO BLACK.