

FORECLOSED

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT.- HIGH SCHOOL- DAY

A bell RINGS, and students start flooding into the hallway of Lyman High. We see MICHAEL PORTER, an artsy and super smart senior, walking down the hall. He is talking to a couple FRIENDS, and they are laughing and smiling. They walk out the front entrance of the school.

CUT TO:

EXT.- HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT- DAY

Michael is saying goodbye to his friends and he spots his brother's van parked in front. We see his brother, ZACH, a 23-year-old college dropout who works in a wood shop, sitting in the front seat.

Michael looks at Zach with a puzzled expression; clearly, this is not normal.

ZACH
(with a serious urgency)
Mike!

MICHAEL
Zach?

ZACH
(impatiently)
Let's go!

Michael walks over to the van and hops in the front seat.

MICHAEL
What are you doing here?

Zach doesn't respond, and just stares straight ahead at the road. He speeds off.

CUT TO:

EXT.- ZACH'S CAR- DAY

Zach and Michael are sitting in the car, driving down a country road. Michael looks over at his brother, who doesn't return the gesture. Michael looks back forward at the road.

He moves his hand to turn on the RADIO, and a classic rock song comes on. Zach immediately turns it right back off.

Michael looks back over at Zach, who has not glanced away from the road once. There is a beat.

Michael finally sighs, shifts in his seat, and gazes out the window at the cornfields around him.

CUT TO:

EXT.- PORTER HOUSE- DAY

Zach and Michael pull into the driveway of their house. There is chaos on their lawn; their are POLICE OFFICERS, NEIGHBORS, and even the LOCAL PRIEST scattered around the lawn.

Michael gets out of the car and surveys the activity on the lawn. He walks up to the front door of the house and sees an ORANGE PAPER that says "Eviction Notice."

Michael turns around and looks again at the lawn before opening the door quickly and rushing inside.

ZACH

Michael-

Michael lets the door SLAM behind him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.- MICHAEL'S BEDROOM- DUSK

We see Michael peering out of his window, just as a car pulls into the driveway. The headlights TURN OFF, the engine STOPS, and we see both front doors open.

Michael moves away from his window and SHUTS his bedroom door.

CUT TO:

INT.- FIRST FLOOR- CONTINUOUS

The front door opens and Michael's parents, WALTER and SANDY, enter. Sandy immediately walks to the kitchen, not even glancing once at Walter.

WALTER

Sandy-

He weakly reaches out when he says this.

Walter follows her into the kitchen.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Sandy-

She whips around.

SANDY

Don't you even dare try to talk to me right now. Don't you dare.

WALTER

Sandy-

He moves towards her.

SANDY

(yelling)
Get away from me!

She pushes past him.

CUT TO:

INT.- MICHAEL'S BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

SHOUTING can be heard from downstairs as Michael's parents start to argue.

Michael shuts his eyes tighter with every word, as if each one is causing him physical pain.

He begins to cry as the shouting escalates.

We hear muffled plates SHATTERING. Michael pulls the covers over his head, visibly shaking.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT.- FIRST FLOOR- NIGHT

Michael bounds down the steps and enters into the foyer where Sandy and Walter are still shouting.

Both parents stop yelling and stare at Michael. We can see broken plates, messed up furniture, and spilled beer around where they are standing.

Walter is holding a beer can. Michael can smell the alcohol coming off of his father.

MICHAEL

What the hell is going on?

Sandy immediately begins to cry just as Zach enters the room.

Sandy, Michael, and Zach all turn towards Walter, who is backed into a corner of the foyer, stumbling around clearly drunk. They look like they are waiting for an explanation.

WALTER

(stumbling on his words)
... you can't blame me... I did
nothing wrong!

SANDY

I swear to God Walt, tell us what
is going on right now.

Walter closes his eyes for a moment and sighs. He then takes a deep breath and says-

WALTER

Get out of my face! This is your
fault- Michael, listen. It's your
mother's fault-

He starts moving to try and push past the three of them.

As he tries to push past everyone, Sandy grabs his arm. She lunges at him, SHRIEKING nonsensical phrases and trying to hit him as much as she can.

SANDY

(screaming)
How could you do this! How could
you do this! How could you-

She keeps repeating the same sentence.

WALTER

(slurring his speech)
Get off me woman!

Camera PANS to see Michael paralyzed in shock, just standing and watching his mother beating his father while both of them scream. Zach desperately tries to break up the fight.

CLOSE-UP: MICHAEL'S FACE

Michael's eye twitches.

WIDE-SHOT: THE ROOM

Michael runs up the stairs and we here his door SLAM as Zach is still trying to break up the screaming couple.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.- MICHAEL'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Michael is laying in his bed and his eyes are red from crying. Zach knocks and opens the door.

ZACH
(fake cheeriness)
Hey Mike? How are ya?

Michael glares at his brother.

MICHAEL
Are you serious?

Zach's fake smile fades.

ZACH
Look I'm trying to help-

Michael looks at him in disbelief.

MICHAEL
How could you possibly help? What magical wisdom do you have that could possibly help any of this? You moved out of the house, what do you know?

ZACH
Dammit Michael, that's not fair. You know I've been working, don't try to pin this shit on me!

The boys stare at each other. There is a BEAT.

Michael sighs.

MICHAEL
I'm- I'm sorry Zach, you're right. It's not your fault. I just really don't know what to do right now.

ZACH
Yeah, me either.

Zach sighs and sits down on the corner of Michael's bed.

MICHAEL

I've never seen mom and dad fight like this. Not even when you crashed your car that one time-

The boys laugh for a second.

ZACH

Hey that's not fair...

Their smiles fade very quickly. Tears start to well in Michael's eyes.

MICHAEL

What's gonna happen now?

Another BEAT.

ZACH

Look Mike, I'm not gonna sit here and pretend that everything's okay, alright, I only know as much as you. I don't know what's gonna happen.

Michael ponders this for a minute. He is about to respond when the door opens again. Their mother walks in, and she's clearly been crying.

SANDY

(stammering)

You boys need to start packing.

She starts to cry.

SANDY (CONT'D)

We-we need to be out by Monday. We have to go to court to see if we can get an extension on the house. I'll call your aunt TRACY and see if we can stay there.

There is silence for a moment.

ZACH

What about dad?

Sandy stares at her son. She backs out of the room and closes the door.

Zach turns back to face Michael.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Well, I guess that's what happens now.

Michael stares at his brother.

MICHAEL

Practically the whole town was on our lawn today, Zach. I can't go to school tomorrow. Everyone knows.

There is a beat.

ZACH

Yeah. But you have to go anyway. You can't let this stop you. If there's one thing I know about this, it's that life doesn't stop for you.

Zach pauses for a moment and moves a little closer to Michael on the bed.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Listen, Mike. You're gonna walk into that building tomorrow and you're gonna focus on your classes and none of this stuff. Got it?

Michael looks at him for a moment and sighs.

MICHAEL

Yeah, okay.

Zach reaches out and pats Michael's shoulder in support.

ZACH

Good. I gotta get home and feed MAX. Mike, I know it's been a while since I've lived at home, but I need you to know that you're still my brother and I'm always here for you.

MICHAEL

Can't you just stay tonight? Can't SAM feed the dog?

Michael looks down, and Zach looks straight ahead for a moment.

ZACH

I'll call her.

Zach stands up and pulls out his phone. He DIALS SAM, his 24 year-old girlfriend.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Sam? Yeah sweetheart, everything's
alright. Yeah listen-

We see Michael sitting on the bed, hands wrapped around his legs, pulling them tight to his chest. He is expressionless throughout the call.

ZACH (CONT'D)
-I'm gonna need to stay over at my
parents' tonight. Yeah, something
came up. I will. Okay I'll see you
tomorrow. Love you. Bye.

Zach hangs up and looks back at his brother.

ZACH (CONT'D)
You and me tonight, snacks, video
games. Just like old times.

MICHAEL
Yeah... just like old times.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT.- HIGH SCHOOL- DAY

A bell RINGS and a locker SLAMS. We see a hallway that starts to fill up with people CHATTING. Michael enters the picture and starts to walk down the hallway.

POV SHOT- MICHAEL'S PERSPECTIVE

We see people whispering and staring at Michael uncomfortably as he continues down the hallway, looking around. No one approaches him to talk.

LS- MICHAEL ALONE AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY

With everyone behind him whispering, Michael closes his eyes and stops for a moment. He walks out the front of the door and it SLAMS behind him.

CUT TO:

INT.- PORTER HOUSE- DAY

Michael walks in the front door, visibly upset after a bad day at school. He hears muffled crying, and looks puzzled. He walks towards the KITCHEN. He finds his mother sitting at the kitchen table, crying.

MICHAEL

Mom?

Sandy sees him and tries to stifle her sobbing.

SANDY

(suppressed crying)

M-m-michael, h-h-how was school?

Michael sits down at the table with his mother. He puts his hand on hers on the table.

MICHAEL

It was fine. Mom, please talk to me. What's going on?

Sandy starts to cry harder.

SANDY

I don't know!

MICHAEL

What did dad do? Why hasn't the mortgage been paid?

SANDY

I don't know! I don't...

She trails off into sobs.

SANDY (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry Michael... I'm just so sorry...

Michael is a bit taken aback.

MICHAEL

Why are you sorry to me, mom?

Sandy continues crying, and struggles to respond to the question.

SANDY

(with difficulty)

I'm... I'm supposed to send you to college next fall. I'm supposed to protect you.

(MORE)

SANDY (CONT'D)

I'm supposed to help you succeed at whatever you want to do... a-a-and... I failed. I ruined it all. I can't send you to college. I can't protect you anymore-

Michael cuts her off.

MICHAEL

Mom, mom, stop it. That's enough. You didn't do this, okay? This was all dad. It was always him. All you've ever done is care, okay? We are gonna get through this.

Sandy cries harder and Michael moves to hug her. As they hug, we see Michael's face. His mind is elsewhere.

He closes his eyes and takes a deep breath in. He lets go of the hug.

Sandy's crying has subsided.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What are you gonna do about dad?

SANDY

We-we don't know anything for sure yet, so- so-

Michael takes a step away from his mother.

MICHAEL

Wait, what?

Sandy stands up and reaches out in a half hearted way to explain herself.

SANDY

Michael-

Michael turns away and leaves the room. We hear his FOOTSTEPS on the stairs, and his door SLAM.

Sandy sits back down at the table and puts her face in her hands.

CUT TO:

INT.- MICHAEL'S BEDROOM- DUSK

Michael is sitting on his bed, having just cried again. He picks up his phone and dials Zach's number.

The phone RINGS.

ZACH (V.O.)
Hello?

MICHAEL
Hey, Zach, it's me.

ZACH (V.O.)
Hey bud, how'd today go?

MICHAEL
About the same as yesterday.

ZACH (V.O.)
...okay? What's up?

MICHAEL
Mom still trusts dad.

There is a beat.

ZACH (V.O.)
What? How?

Michael is getting more emotionally unstable and starts to blink angry tears out of his eyes.

MICHAEL
I dunno!

ZACH (V.O.)

How doesn't she see what's going on?

MICHAEL
He's been drunk every night for months! He hasn't paid the mortgage! Don't ask me!

ZACH (V.O.)
(angrily)
And she's still standing by him?

Michael pauses for a moment and then opens his mouth to say something back, then thinks better of it. He finally replies:

MICHAEL
I'll see you in court on Monday. We have to find out what's really going on.

Michael hangs up abruptly before Zach can reply. He closes his eyes in distress and then lays down, pulling the covers of his bed over his head.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT.- PORTER HOUSE- NIGHT

Michael is sitting at a desk in the living room, doing his homework. His father stumbles into the room, clearly drunk.

WALTER

Michael!

Michael doesn't look up from his work.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Hey! We need to talk!

Michael closes his eyes for a second and slowly turns in his chair to face his father.

MICHAEL

What?

WALTER

(slurring)

I just want you to know, I still love you even with everything.

Michael breathes heavily.

MICHAEL

That's nice to hear dad. I'm really feelin the love.

Walter stumbles towards his son.

WALTER

Awh cmon son. Don't be like that.

Walter takes another swig from his beer can.

MICHAEL

(quietly)

Dad, stop drinking.

WALTER

What'd you say?

Michael's eyes are closed and he is speaking in a low tone.

MICHAEL
I said... stop drinking.

Walter hits Michael across the face. He is red as a balloon.

WALTER
YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO BOY! I
AM THE MAN OF THIS FAMILY! ME!

Sandy comes running in at the sound of yelling.

SANDY
What's going on?

WALTER
HE'S DISRESPECTING ME! HE THINKS
HE'S IN CHARGE AROUND HERE! THAT
HE'S THE ONE PROVIDING-

At that moment, Walter gets very pale and clutches his stomach. He runs to towards the bathroom but doesn't make it. He RETCHES in the corner of the room.

SANDY
(panicked)
Walter!

Michael is still sitting in a state of shock from the slap. He watches Sandy run over and comfort his father. This sparks something inside him. He stands up.

MICHAEL
Mom, are you serious?

Walter is laying on the ground with his head propped up against the wall. Sandy is next to him, bent on one knee. She looks up at Michael as he towers over the two of them.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
How can you not see this? He
doesn't care about us! He only
cares about himself! And- and-

Michael is getting more and more flustered as he spills his mind.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
You're gonna stand by him? He hurt
you! He hurt us! Don't do this to
Zach and I!

Sandy looks mortified. Walter vomits again.

SANDY
Michael, I don't expect you to
understand this-

By the time she has finished the sentence, Michael has
already left the room.

CUT TO:

INT.- PORTER HOUSE- CONTINUOUS

Michael SLAMS up the steps and gets to his room. He pulls out
a suitcase from his closet. He starts throwing clothes
angrily into, zips it up, and pulls it down the stairs. It
BANGS on each step.

He steps back into the living room where his mother is still
tending to his vomiting father.

MICHAEL
I'm going to stay with Zach. I'll
see you on Monday in court.

Before either of his parents can respond, Michael is out the
front door. It SLAMS shut behind him.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT.- ZACH'S DRIVEWAY- DAY

Zach and Michael are wearing suits and walking towards Zach's
car.

"Monday Morning" is displayed in text on the screen.

The boys open the car doors and get in. We hear Zach's car
START.

CUT TO:

EXT.- PORTER DRIVEWAY- DAY

We see Sandy in professional clothes, and Walter behind her
in a Polo and jeans. He has a new five o'clock shadow. He is
clearly hungover. They walk towards the car.

Sandy tries to get in the driver's side, but Walter nudges her away and get in to drive. Sandy stands there for a second, and then walks around the front of the car to the other side.

CUT TO:

INT.- COURTHOUSE- DAY

Walter and Sandy sit at the defense table in a courthouse. Michael and Zach are the only people sitting in the first row of chairs behind the main space. A STATE PROSECUTOR stands at the other table. A POLICE OFFICER stands next to the JUDGE and STENOGRAPHER.

The judge bangs his gavel.

JUDGE

Alright, Case 746, 11 Anderson Way
foreclosure, defense?

SANDY

Your Honor, we would like to be
granted an extension on our
foreclosure to sort out some things
financially first.

The Judge leans forward.

JUDGE

An extension? Surely you saw this
coming, why haven't you sorted out
your financial situation by now?

Zach and Michael look at each other. Walter opens his mouth to speak, but is silenced by a death glare from Sandy.

SANDY

Actually Your Honor, my kids and I
were not aware that this was
coming. I thought everything was
fine. My husband- Walter- hid this
from us.

The Judge peers over his papers at the family, glancing at each of them individually. He looks down and reads from his papers:

JUDGE

It says here that the mortgage
hasn't been paid in three years.

Zach and Michael look at each other in shock. Sandy looks back at the boys with a pained expression. She regains her composure and turns back to the judge.

SANDY
(shakily)
Your Honor, I was not- not aware of
this.

All eyes in the courtroom turn to Walter. He looks around at everyone looking at him. He goes through a mental struggle.

JUDGE
Mr. Porter?

Walter stands up.

WALTER
Look, I can explain-

JUDGE
Please do.

WALTER
I- I-

Walter sighs. The jig is up.

WALTER (CONT'D)
I've been involved in... gambling.
Under the table kind of thing. I
was doing well for a while, making
some money. I figured I could make
enough to save real money for the
kids' college.

Michael, Zach, and Sandy are listening in disbelief.

WALTER (CONT'D)
About three years ago, I lost. Big
time. I thought if I kept playing I
could win it all back. I never did.

There is a beat.

JUDGE
(struggling to understand)
Mr. Porter, exactly how much debt
are you in?

Another beat. Walter sighs, sealing his fate.

WALTER

Two-hundred and twenty six thousand
dollars.

Sandy closes her eyes and tears well up. Zach and Michael's
mouths are open.

The judge leans back in his chair.

JUDGE

Two hundred and twenty six thousand
dollars?

WALTER

(with closed eyes)

Yes.

Sandy stands up. Her eyes are still closed.

JUDGE

Mrs. Porter?

She says nothing. She takes a deep breath. She turns around
curtly, and walks out of the courtroom. Each step of her high
heels ECHOES loudly. She opens the door and walks out. It
SLAMS behind her.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.- MICHAEL'S BEDROOM- DAY

Michael is finishing packing his things. His room is empty.
He zips up his suitcase and wheels it out of his room.

CUT TO:

INT.- PORTER HOUSE- DAY

Michael carries his suitcase down the stairs. Zach is waiting
by the front door.

ZACH

Ready?

Michael takes one last look around the foyer.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

Zach grabs one of Michael's bags from him. The boys walk through the door together.

CUT TO:

EXT.- PORTER HOUSE- DAY

The boys walk to Zach's car, where Sandy is waiting for them. They load the suitcases into the trunk. The two boy get into the car.

Sandy closes the trunk and walks around to the passenger side. She looks up at the house for the final time.

LONG SHOT- PORTER HOUSE

MCU- SANDY

Sandy looks down at the ground and hesitates for a second. She then opens the car door and gets in. The car pulls out of the driveway, and drives down the street.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.- ZACH'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Michael is sitting at a desk on his computer in the family room, typing. Sandy walks in and sits down next to him.

SANDY
Whatcha doing?

MICHAEL
Finishing up.

Sandy looks over at the screen.

CU- COMPUTER SCREEN

We see "CommonApp" in the top right corner. Michael is finishing up his college essay.

SANDY
Whadja write about?

Michael looks at her.

MICHAEL

The prompt was "write an essay about a traumatic event in your life, and how family helped you overcome it."

Sandy and Michael look at each other for a second. Sandy smiles.

SANDY

I'm guessing that wasn't too difficult, was it?

Michael smiles.

MICHAEL

No.

He turns back to the computer screen.

CU COMPUTER SCREEN

The cursor moves to the bottom of the screen. There is CLICK as it hits "SUBMIT."

FADE TO BLACK.