

Lonnie sits up, leans against the window and poses for Mason.

Mason flips to a new sheet of sketch paper, carefully removes one of his pencils, and begins drawin' the one-armed boy.

MASON

Okay, so what happened?

LONNIE

I was born like this. End of story.

Mason halts mid-drawing. He's not buying it.

MASON

You're gonna have to tell me what really happened if you want me to finish this drawing.

LONNIE

Okay. I can tell you. But it's pretty scary and you better never tell another living soul if you know what's good for you.

MASON

I won't. Promise.

LONNIE

Swear it? On your mother's life?

MASON

Swear it.

Lonnie closes his eyes - as the memories come flooding back to him.

#### FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. MARKET - DAY

(MOS.) A slightly younger Lonnie and his mother are walking the isles, doing their shopping. We notice Lonnie has two good arms.

LONNIE (V.O.)

Me and my momma were shopping one day.

(MOS.) They arrive at the check out register.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

And we get up to the check out area.

(MOS.) On the counter, a rack - displaying brand new flashlights.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

There's this display, with all these fancy-looking, new flashlights.

(MOS.) Lonnie, at his house, pleading with his dad for something.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

And I been buggin' my pa to get me a new flashlight for a while.

(MOS.) Lonnie's dad, angry, yelling.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

"We can't afford one," he tells me.

(MOS.) Back at the check out area, the flashlight display.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

So, I figure the mere fact we can't afford to buy a flashlight ain't gonna be the reason I don't get one.

(MOS.) As Lonnie and his mom pass the display, Lonnie reaches out and grabs a handful of flashlights, causing the display to topple over and bring full attention to what he's doing.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

So I just took one - well, I took

a bunch. Never know when you're gonna need another flashlight.

(MOS.) Before Lonnie hits the door, the store clerk has him by the collar. Lonnie's mother is screaming.

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(cont'd)  
Well, they caught me. Made my momma real upset.

(MOS.) Lonnie at the police station. His mom and dad flank him. His dad is boiling mad.

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(cont'd)  
Next thing I know, I'm at the police station with my ma and pa.

(MOS.) The police sergeant talking sternly to Lonnie, and even more sternly to his folks.

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(cont'd)  
And that police sergeant is just reaming my ma and pa about raisin' such a delinquent kid.

(MOS.) Lonnie's dad, looking down at his son, the veins in his neck about to explode with anger.

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(cont'd)  
Made my pa real angry - worst I ever seen - and I seen him get pretty heated. Mostly, I think he was embarrassed. Well, later that night...

(MOS.) Late at night, Lonnie's dad, a bottle of whiskey in his free hand, drags his son, kicking and screaming, into their barn.

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(cont'd)  
...he drags me out to the barn. He's stone drunk, but still a heck of

a lot stronger than me.

(MOS.) Lonnie's dad drops the bottle of whiskey and reaches for some rope hanging on the wall.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

So he forces me onto this workbench,  
and ties my arms down.

(MOS.) Lonnie lying on his back on the workbench. Lonnie's dad knotting the ropes around Lonnie's arms, making sure that his right arm is extended out, away from his body.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

So I'm laying there, tied to this  
work bench, ain't no way I can move.

(MOS.) Lonnie's dad - his eyes wild.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

And he's got this crazy look in  
his eyes. He stares down at me -  
tells me that the Good book says,  
"An Eye for an Eye."

(MOS.) Lonnie's dad mouths these words as Lonnie speaks them in voice over. Lonnie's dad begins searching the barn for something.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(cont'd)

He tells me that if I's gonna act  
like a crook, then I need to learn  
the consequences of bein' a crook -  
that you gotta pay a price for  
swipin' stuff.

(MOS.) Lonnie's dad finds an axe hanging on the wall and slowly walks over to his son.

LONNIE (V.O.)

(more hushed)

So, he takes this axe - and starts  
walkin' towards me.

(MOS.) Lonnie on the bench, screaming and trying to wiggle free of the knotted ropes.

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(cont'd)  
And I can't move - not one inch.

(MOS.) Lonnie's dad raises the axe up over his head.

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(cont'd)  
He just says it to me again - "An  
Eye for an Eye."

(MOS.) With the axe raised over his head, Lonnie's dad mouths these words again.

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(cont'd)  
And then, he takes that axe, and...

SHOCK CUT TO BLACK

LONNIE (V.O.)  
(in blackness)  
CHOP!!

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE SHOCK ENDS.

We are back on Mason's face. He is wide-eyed, his mouth is open to the floor and his pencil isn't moving at all.

Mason is stunned. Lonnie is waiting for his reaction.

MASON  
He chopped your arm off?

Lonnie stares at Mason - then, after a beat, he smiles.