

WRETCH LIKE ME

PROOF OF CONCEPT TRAILER

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1 INT. TENT - DAY

HANK, 60, with full beard and dressed in prison release clothes, looks around the bland tent; his neck and shoulders involuntarily moving. A SOCIAL WORKER, 50, stands in the entry way to the tent.

SOCIAL WORKER

Sorry... this is the best place we have available. Bus leaves to your parole officer at 8am sharp.

Hank sits down on the cot in the tent and exhales; thinking about all of his choices that led to this moment. The Social Worker starts to leave but then pops his head back into the tent.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

If you're looking to die - save me the cleanup and do it somewhere else.

The social worker walks out into the bright light. Hank looks down to the ground and sees the blood spot where the previous tenant died.

2 INT. TENT - NIGHT

Johnny Cash's cover of the song, Hurt, begins playing.

Hank lays in a cot; still fully clothed and on top of the sleeping bag. Shadows from the tree branches outside the tent sway in the darkness. Hank's involuntary movements are intense and he can't stay still.

The shadows of beastly arms of horned beasts begin filling the tent and taking away any light from reaching Hank. He closes his eyes as his body shakes; and he disappears into the dark.

3 INT. MOTEL ROOM - 7 YEARS AGO - NIGHT

HANK, 53, and BETH, 45, lay on the bed. Hank turns on a flashlight in the dark - illuminating a small room.

HANK

See... nothing to be afraid of.

LILY, 7, comes out from underneath the covers between them and looks where her father is shining the light.

LILY
It's not dark when you shine a
light on it.

4 INT. JR HIGH SCHOOL | BATHROOM - DAY

LILY, 14, in a very nice outfit and pristine makeup, stands and pulls a bandage off of her forearm. Seems as though it hurts; a little blood comes down her arm. She carefully puts the bandage back on her arm.

JOHNNY CASH
(Sings)
I hurt myself today.

5 INT. JR HIGH SCHOOL | BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lily, stands in front of the mirror and smiles as two girls pass back behind her. Her smile fades as they leave; she doesn't have to fake it anymore.

JOHNNY CASH
(Sings)
To see if I still feel.

6 INT. CAR | RURAL ROAD - 7 YEARS EARLIER | DAY

HANK, 53, has a cut on his forehead in the front seat of a car that's been in a head on collision. The car fills with smoke.

JOHNNY CASH
(Sings)
I focus on the pain.

Hank looks back and sees LILY, 7, unconscious in the back seat. He looks over and sees the side door open and BETH's, 45, bloody leg bent up into the car.

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)
(Sings)
The only thing that's real.

7 INT. BUS - 7 YEARS LATER | DAY

HANK, 60, with full beard and weathered and dirty clothes, shoots up heroin into his arm.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

The needle tears a hole. The old
familiar sting.

The drugs enter his bloodstream as he picks up a revolver
that's sitting beside him.

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)

(Sings)

Try to kill it all away.

Hank stares at a horned beast that is watching him from the
shadows. He puts the revolver up against his head.

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)

(Sings)

But I remember everything.

Tears build up in his eyes as he closes them; remembering all
that had come before.

8 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - 7 YEARS AGO | DAY

A NURSE, 30, takes blood from HANK, 53. Beth watches with
LILY, 7, on her lap.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

What have I become? My sweetest
friend.

The two of them lock eyes as the nurse finishes taking blood.

9 INT. FAMILY HOME | KITCHEN - NIGHT

The phone drops to the ground as Beth hugs Hank with tears in
her eyes. He's in shock and looks to Lily who is confused.

JOHNNY CASH

Everyone I know...

6 EXT. CAR | RURAL ROAD - DAY

Hank tries to awaken his wife who has been killed in the car
accident. He holds her so much - hoping his love can revive
her.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

...goes away in the end.

Lily watches, with sadness in her eyes, as her father screams.

10 EXT. DOWNTOWN - 7 YEARS LATER | SUNSET

LILY, 14, watches her father as he struggles to walk across the street; his muscle tremors on full display.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

And you could have it all.

Hank walks into his tent and she exhales.

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)

(Sings)

My empire of dirt.

11 INT. TENT - MOMENTS LATER | SUNSET

Lily walks into her father's home and surprises him. He pulls out his gun and points it at her.

He lowers it quickly as he realizes who it is. He's made his tent his own - it has a surprisingly homey vibe to it.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

I will let you down.

The two look at each other - not knowing what to say with tears in their eyes.

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)

(Sings)

I will make you hurt.

12 INT. LUTHERAN CHURCH - DAY

A shaft of light from stained glass windows silhouettes a clean shaven Hank, battered and bruised from a fight, sitting and talking with his old friend VICAR MANNY, 63. Manny notices that Hank's involuntary muscle movements are very prominent.

HANK

What if I pass on everything that's wrong with me, Manny?

MANNY

Just make sure you pass on
everything that's good, too.

Hank looks to Manny with tears in his eyes.

HANK

It's just too dark.

MANNY

The light shines brightest in the
dark, Hank.

13 EXT. FAMILY HOME - 7 YEARS AGO - DAY

There is an eviction notice attached to the door. Hank looks back to Beth who is surrounded by some of their belongings on the lawn and holding Lily. They are both very concerned but try not to show it to their daughter.

14 EXT. ALLEY - SUNSET

Hank, 60, with beard, is being kicked and beaten by two men. Lily, 14, runs up and points her father's revolver at them.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

I wear this crown of thorns.

They all run away as Lily gets down on the ground to help her near unconscious father.

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)

(Sings)

Upon my liar's chair.

15 INT. TENT - NIGHT

Lily, 14, tends to his wounds, Hank, 60, is bearded and beaten, and while doing so she sees the needle marks on his arms, his involuntary movements are getting worse.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

Full of broken thoughts.

He looks down and sees her healing "Mother" tattoo. The two of them understand each other a little better: They both are searching for control in a world without it.

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)

(Sings)

I cannot repair.

16 EXT. EL PAIS GATHERING AREA - SUNSET

HANK, 53, smiles on the couch and has slight muscle spasms. He watches as his wife and daughter dance.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

Beneath the stains of time.

15 INT. TENT - NIGHT

Lily finishes cleaning her father's wounds, he is bearded and beaten up, and reaches her hand out for him to get up. He smiles and turns on the lighting that looks just like his daughter's room 7 years ago.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

The feelings disappear.

16 EXT. EL PAIS GATHERING AREA - SUNSET

Beth lifts Hank up off the chair and the three start dancing.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

You are someone else.

15 INT. TENT - NIGHT

Lily dances with her father - his involuntary movements now seem to be normalized through dancing. Lily's movements compliment his; they laugh and smile.

JOHNNY CASH

(Sings)

I am still right here.

MONTAGE

These lyrics are sung while the following montage of scenes intercut:

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)

(Sings)

What have I become?

(MORE)

JOHNNY CASH (CONT'D)

My sweetest friend. Everyone I know goes away in the end. And you could have it all. My empire of dirt. I will let you down. I will make you hurt. If I could start again a million miles away...

16 MONTAGE - EXT. EL PAIS GATHERING AREA - SUNSET

Hank, 53, Beth, 45, and Lily, 7, continue to dance.

15 MONTAGE - EXT. TENT - NIGHT

Hank, 60, and Lily, 14, continue to dance in the only family home they now know.

6 MONTAGE - EXT. RURAL ROAD - 7 YEARS AGO - DAY

Hank lays his bloodied wife down on the ground to get up and console Lily. He walks calmly toward her in the back of the car.

Right as he gets to the door he sees the other driver stumbling out of his crashed truck, throwing an empty bottle of whiskey as far as he can.

Hank's involuntary movements slow as rage takes over. He runs intensely towards the other driver; screaming.

Hank lifts a hubcap into the air. The drunk driver is on the ground pleading for forgiveness. He swiftly plunges the hubcap toward the man's face.

Hank stands up into frame - bloodied from the violence that just took place.

17 MONTAGE - INT. GAS STATION BATHROOM - 7 YEARS LATER

Lily, 14, cuts off HANK's, 60, beard with scissors and shaves him with a an electric razor.

The razor is tossed onto all of his facial hair in the sink.

She looks at her freshly shaven father and puts her hands on his face. Though bruised and beaten, he looks a lot better. She sees the man she once knew - for the first time since she was little.

LILY

There you are.

BANG BANG BANG! Someone is banging on, and kicking, the door so hard that it might break down.

12 MONTAGE - INT. LUTHERAN CHURCH - NIGHT

Manny mixes ashes in a small bowl and looks to his longtime friend, HANK, 60, with clean shaven face.

MANNY

"Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

He puts the ashes on Hank's forehead.

18 MONTAGE - INT. UNINHABITED BUILDING - NIGHT

Lily leads her clean shaven and bruised father down a long hallway with a flashlight. It seems as though they are being chased. Hank falls to the ground and Lily gets down by his side and points the light into the darkness.

In the shadows, demons lurk outside of the light that shines. When illuminated by the flashlight, they are no longer there.

She lays down beside her father and shines the light around them into the darkness; she cannot see his demons but he is very afraid of them in a very real way.

19 MONTAGE - INT. MANNY'S HOUSE | LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hank, clean shaven and in an old used suit, sits at the table with Lily, Manny, and Manny's wife LAURA, 60. They sit, talk, laugh, eat, and reminisce.

Lily looks at her father with loving eyes. Hank looks back at Lily and smiles with tears in his eyes - saddened at all of the time they missed together.

20A MONTAGE - EXT. CITY STREETS | 7 YEARS AGO - DAY

Hank, 53, without beard, is on the streets looking for drugs. He finds a dealer and buys drugs from him.

20B EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Hank walks up to the motel and toward his room.

20C INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Hank goes into the motel room and sets up his heroin kit. He preps the drugs and then injects them into his arm.

21 MONTAGE - EXT. BACK YARD - NIGHT

Lily, 14, stands in the middle of friends standing around a small bonfire. Tommy, comes up and hands her a beer, she smiles politely and takes it.

She looks over to a small group of judgmental teenage girls staring at her talking with Tommy. She turns and smiles at Tommy and takes a very large swig out of the bottle. The other girls angrily walk away.

END MONTAGE

17 INT. GAS STATION BATHROOM - NIGHT

Hank pulls her in and hugs her; all while his involuntary movements move them both back and forth, dancing.

JOHNNY CASH
(Sings final lyrics)
I would keep myself. I would find a
way.

BANG! The door breaks down and we hear men enter.

12 INT. LUTHERAN CHURCH - NIGHT

The guitar from the song "Hurt" continues to play but begins slowing down until the end.

Manny pulls Hank in for a hug and whispers in his ear.

MANNY
You know... when I say light... I
mean the light of Jesus.

Hank smiles and pulls away from Manny.

HANK
It was pretty vague. Thanks for
clarifying.

MANNY
I'm not sure but I think I'd get
fired if I didn't... you know...
say something about Jesus.

HANK
You're stupid.

Hank shakes his head at Manny and smiles; he can't believe how much he hasn't changed since they were friends long ago.

15 INT. TENT - NIGHT

Hank, with full beard, notices that Lily's dancing has come to a stop. He walks up to her and puts his hand on her shoulder.

HANK
Lily...

Lily, now seen crying, responds with her back still towards her father.

LILY
You have no idea what it's been
like without you... without Mom.

HANK
Mom was taken... she didn't leave.

Lily turns around and is becoming angry.

LILY
But you did... to live like this.

Hank slowly walks towards Lily.

HANK
Sometimes it's best to walk away.
To save you the pain.

Lily backs up defensively.

LILY
You don't get to choose that for
me. I get to walk away IF I WANT
to!

Hank puts his hands up and continues to slowly walk towards her.

HANK
I'm sick Lily... have been for a
long time...

Lily looks up to her father with tears in her eyes.

HANK (CONT'D)

...and I'm not sure how much longer
I can continue.

Hank comes to a stop a couple of feet from Lily.

22 EXT. UNCLE MATT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hank, 60, clean shaven and his face bruised and bloodied from being beaten up, puts a bullet in the chamber, presumably for himself.

15 INT. TENT - NIGHT

Hank lifts his daughter's chin and tears stream down her cheeks.

LILY

I'm pregnant.

Hank's heart sinks - but he wants to be understanding.

HANK

It's okay... I'll help for as long
as I...

LILY

Uncle Matt.

22 EXT. UNCLE MATT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HANK, 60, puts a second bullet in the chamber, presumably for Uncle Matt.

15 INT. TENT - NIGHT

Hank exhales and attempts to hide the anger. He backs up a couple of steps away from his vulnerable daughter.

HANK

Things won't get better just
because you're with me. I can
barely take care of myself. It
might be easiest... to let me go...

Lily forcefully comes in for a hug. He lovingly wraps his arms around his daughter.

LILY

Fuck you.

Hank holds her even tighter - and seethes with anger towards his wife's brother.

22 EXT. UNCLE MATT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hank, 60, closes the gun chamber with his shaking hand and looks up to the door.

3 INT. MOTEL ROOM - 7 YEARS AGO

LILY, 7, looks into HANK's, 53, eyes as he comforts her in the dark with a flashlight.

HANK
Even in the dark, I'm only a
whisper away.

22 EXT. UNCLE MATT'S HOUSE - 7 YEARS LATER

HANK, 60, exhales and rings the doorbell.

23 INT. UNCLE MATT'S HOUSE | LILY'S BEDROOM - THAT MOMENT

LILY, 14, lays on her bed crying as the doorbell rings. The shadow of Uncle Matt walks away from the background to go answer the door.

LILY
(Whispers)
Help me, daddy.

24 INT. UNCLE MATT'S HOUSE | LIVING ROOM - THAT MOMENT

Uncle Matt walks down the hallway toward the door. There are two armed men pointing guns at the front door as he approaches.

22 EXT. UNCLE MATT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HANK, 60, hears the door unlock and he pulls back the hammer on the gun. The door begins to open and his involuntary movements cease. He raises the gun up *and into camera* with intense anger in his eyes.

20C INT. MOTEL ROOM - 7 YEARS EARLIER

HANK, 53, lays back on the ground after shooting up heroin. He turns his head and sees his his daughter LILY, 7, laying underneath the bed; scared.

Tears fall from his eyes as police lights slowly fill the room. He looks up and sees a giant horned beast in the shadows looking down upon him. He closes his eyes and his arm falls outstretched under the bed.

The title of the movie "Wretch Like Me" is tattooed on his forearm that lays on the dirty carpet. After a moment, the small hand of his daughter reaches out and holds onto his.

The final guitar cord is struck from the song "Hurt" which cuts the shot to:

BLACK

EXTRA SCENES

EX1 EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Hank, 53, sick and on drugs, is cuffed by a police officer. The red and blue lights from the police car illuminate him looking at his daughter Lily, 7, crying and yelling for her dad while being held by another police officer.

EX2 INT. COFFEE SHOP | BATHROOM - DAY

Hank, 60, bearded, looks into a broken mirror and looks at his reflection while he shakes.

EX3 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Lily 14, sees her father's bag and looks toward the bathroom. She quickly goes over and rummages through it. She pulls out about \$6000 cash and stares at it. Hank, 60, clean shaven, walks out of the bathroom and Lily looks up to him; confused.