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## Heart Over Mind

### Prologue:

(Scene opens with August nervously pacing around his spacious office talking on the phone. He is on the fourth story of a large corporate building, below cars stream by through a light snowstorm. Voice of person on other line muffled.)

August: That cannot be true!! Are you sure your sources can be trusted?

Person on other line: mumf mumf mumf (Muffled voice that cannot be understood)

August: I can't believe it how could something like this have happened?? Are you absolutely sure??? How could this have been going on for so long without my knowledge?

Person on other line: Mumf mumf mumf mumf (More muffled talking)

August: Okay, Okay I will deal with this I just need sometime

Person on other line: Mumf mumf no time mumf mumf mumf

August: Just get me as much time as you can

(Person on other line hangs up August sits down at his desk with his head in his hands. Chorus, August's conscious manifested into human form, appears and addresses August with a stern, disappointed look on his face)

August: Oh, what have I done! Those poor kids how could I have let this happen? Human trafficking and child slavery is illegal! If this gets out we will be under a mountain of lawsuits, I could lose the entire company. I know I have to do what is right for the greater good but I have to keep my family in mind too. You know I need the money for Caroline's cancer treatment.

Chorus:

Think of the children August

Is your family more important than them?

Whether or not you lose the company

You have to save those children.  
No one seems to see this happening.  
This cannot be overlooked any longer  
If you do the right thing  
this might turn out differently than you think.  
It is not certain you will be blamed for this,  
After all you did not know.  
By doing the right thing  
It is possible that your company will be seen  
Not as the antagonist  
But rather as  
The victims

(Chorus gets up and slowly backs away then disappearing in a poof of sparkles and colorful smoke)

## **Scene One**

(Scene opens with August sitting on a couch at home with his wife watching the news. Their two kids are seated by a low burning fire playing a game. The curtains are drawn blocking out the view of a heavy snowstorm)

Reporter on news: (Talks about the weather)

Caroline: How was your day sweetie?

August: Oh you know just an average day, how was yours?

Caroline: It was alright

Reporter on news: Breaking news, our sources have recently informed us of a rumor going around the business world claiming that Lemmington Chocolate Inc. is involved with human trafficking.

Caroline: (Gasps) August... (She whispers looking at him)

August: Oh god... I'm sorry I have to go

(August grabs a jacket, runs out the door and gets in his car, Chorus appears in the

passengers seat in a poof of fiery colors)

Chorus:

August, what have you done  
you cannot just leave  
Running from your fears  
I'm ashamed!  
You were warned that this would happen  
Yet you waited  
Your heart go the better of you  
You have brought this upon yourself  
Stand up and face the oncoming storm

(August keeps driving in silence not paying attention to the road, his mind is elsewhere)

ut)

(Metal screeches and the car hits the guardrail, August's head slams into the steering wheel and he blacks o

## **Scene Two**

\*August wakes up in a dream like state. Looking around he sees children working with tattered clothes, they look like they haven't eaten in weeks. Not knowing where he is he wanders about this factory like place and sees all kinds of horror. Then he realizes he is in the place that has brought upon him his doom. He has to do something...\*

(August wakes with a start to find himself alone in his car, he was only out for a few seconds and no one has noticed the crash)

August: I need to fix this.. (He says out loud to himself)

(Pulling the car away from the guardrail he drives towards the office)

(August pulls his car into his parking space at the office and starts up the stairs to an awaiting receptionist)

Receptionist: August, sir, it is of the utmost importance that you get to your office immediately.

August: OK, thank you. (He mumbles confused)

(August gets to his office to see two men dressed in nice suits waiting for him)

August: Gentleman, how can I help you?

Official Guy #1: We have some things to discuss with you.

Official Guy #2: Please have a seat.

August: (Takes a seat behind his desk) What is this concerning might I ask?

Official Guy #2: As you know it has recently become known that you have been working with a supplier that uses child slavery and human trafficking.

Official Guy #1: This is a serious offense Mr.Lemington it has been decided that until further notice your company shall be shut down and you will have to undergo legal consequences.

August: But I was not aware of what was happening until today, I was not working with this supplier closely. I should not be blamed for this. I didn't know! Things like this are happening in companies all around the world.

Official Guy #1: (Stands up abruptly) You expect us to believe that? After further investigation it has become known that you have been working with them since the beginning of Lemington Chocolate Incorporated!

Official Guy #2: I'm sorry Mr. Lemington, you are being sued to pay for all the damage and to supply food and a way back home to these kids. I suggest you find yourself a lawyer.

(The men stand up and leave as August puts his head in his hands)

Chorus:

Things are looking bad

But this may not be over yet

Play this carefully

Lives are on the line

One wrong move and everything will be over

With a good lawyer and honesty

We could win this still

Just keep in mind that

Saving the children must be your first priority

### **Scene Three**

(Scene opens six months later with August standing by his wife's death bed as she takes her last breaths. The children are seated at the bottom of the bed sobbing.)

August: I'm sorry Caroline, I'm sorry I didn't win the lawsuit, I'm sorry all our money was lost. If only I had known what was happening. I could have fixed everything. I could have saved the children working in those factories. I brought down the company because I didn't try to do what I knew to be right. Then you would still be getting treatment. I'm so so sorry... (said sobbing)

Caroline: August, look at me, It's ok. (Coughs) It's my time to die, you must take care of the children... (Coughs more)

(The children sob as Caroline takes her last breath and her eyes close)

August: (Shakes Caroline) NOOOO you can't leave me! I cannot go on without you my love!!

(August gets up and grabs his handgun from a drawer. The children look up at him as he lifts the weapon to his head)

August: I'm so sorry. (He whispers)

(Then with a bang he takes his own life and the children are left alone in this cruel dark world.)

Chorus:

Every decision August made  
brought upon his fated doom.  
By trying to save his wife  
he brought to end  
His family and company too  
He chose heart over mind  
Family over the community  
His one fatal flaw,  
He cared too much

No one can save everyone