

Racism Stains

Scene 1/Prologue

(Scene opens with a tall, young African American man getting placed into a dark and damp cell. His cell mate, who is a old wise African American man with hair fading into a widows peak and a gray five o'clock shadow, starts a conversation)

Morgan: What are you in here for?

Lamar: I shouldnt even be in here. I didn't do anything.

Morgan: I shouldn't be in here either but I have been in here for 37 years of my life.

Lamar: What did you do?

Morgan: During the winter, the days were getting cold and I didn't have a lot of money. So I went to a local ski shop, stole a jacket and got caught walking out of the store. It was that \$159 jacket that got me in here. It is all because I disturbed the peace twice that I'm in here for life without parole. This system is messed up man.

Lamar: Brother, they must have been tripping during your trial.

Morgan: Thats the funny thing. I didn't even get a trial. At least three fourths of the blacks you see in here never got a trail and I bet one fourth of them didn't even do anything, like you. Now tell me what was their excuse to put you in here, other than your skin.

Lamar: Well, it started just about two weeks ago...

Lamar: I got fired from my corporate managing job because the new CEO disliked blacks, he told me that blacks were too much to deal with. My wife was furious when she found out and she wanted to sue the company but I told her that if we did then we would be to busy with lawyers to spend time with our 8 year old son. She is a great mother and always wants to be with our son, she even left her job when he was born to raise him, so she decided not to as long as I went and searched for a new job the next day. I spent the whole next day dropping my application off at different corporate offices around the city. After I dropped off my last one I decided to take a shortcut through a bad neighborhood to get home in time for dinner. I walked past a dark alley and then a drug dealer approached me...

(scene fades to flash back)

Eugene: Hey you lookin for a hook up homie?

Lamar: No, I don't want anything, I have a family, my life is hard already, I don't want to make it harder.

Eugene: Come on, a guy like you needs these high quality rocks.
(camera shows the "drugs" in Eugene's hands)

Lamar: Please leave me alone man. I already told you that I don't want any!

(Eugene keeps on trying to sell crack to Lamar while a police officer is driving down the same street)

Police Officers Thoughts: Hey what going on over there?! I bet it is a drug deal. I should call back up.

(Police officer drives over and investigates the drug deal)

Police Officer: Hey! Stop in the name of the law! You are both under arrest for the production and distribution of meth. Put your hands up!

(scene fades back to Lamar and Morgan in prison)

Lamar: My whole life is destroyed for something I didn't even do. I can't see my son grow up, I can't love and support my family all because of something that I didn't do. The thing that really pisses me off is that the guy that tried to sell me crack only got eight years in prison. For some reason I got ten years.

Chorus:

Lamar you have been arrested unfairly.
You did the right thing and said no but suffered because of it.
It's all because this justice system works carelessly
You are not the only one who has received this injustice.
Because of this people can't even be with their families for christmas.

Scene 2

(Scene starts with Lamar's son, Franklin, talking to his mom the morning after Lamar's arrest.)

Franklin: Mommy where has dad been? He's never came home last night! I miss him.

Shanique: Honey, daddy won't be home for a little while, don't worry about it.

Franklin: But mommy why? Why?!

Shanique: Well Daddy got in a little mix up but he'll be out in no time, how about we go and visit him today?

Franklin: Yeah! Lets go and see him!

(Scene fades out and Franklin and Shanique are at the jail visiting Lamar)

Shanique: Lamar! Are you ok?

Lamar: Ya I'm fine but I have some bad news...

Franklin: What's the bad news poppa?!

Lamar: Hey there little man. Im going to be in here for a lot longer than I thought.

Shanique: How long?!

Lamar: I'm going to be in here for 10 years...

Shanique(shocked): But how? I thought you were only caught in a misunderstanding...

Franklin: Mommy I don't feel good my whole body hurts.

Shanique: Lamar I'll talk to you later, well figure this out, I need to take Franklin home he's feeling sick.

Lamar: Ok bye, see you later little man, feel better, don't worry well get this figured out.

(Franklin and Shanique return home)

Franklin: Mommy I feel even worse..... (faints and falls on the floor)

(Shanique grabs franklin and places him in the car. Then rushes to the hospital.)

Shanique: Please get a doctor my son is unconscious

(A Doctor comes rushing out and puts Franklin into a stretcher)

Doctor Pain: We need to start performing tests on him now to find out what wrong with him!

(Shanique waits for 3 hours for the news about her son before the doctor comes out)

Doctor Pain: Ma'am your son has leukemia. We need to perform surgery immediately to treat it.

Shanique: Oh my god (falls into chair because of shock) How could such a beautiful little boy have leukemia? I want you to do whatever you can to save my baby!

(Shanique waits for 8 hours for franklin's surgery to finish)

Doctor Pain: Ma'am I am extremely sorry. Your son did not make it out of surgery. The leukemia was to far developed and he died painlessly.

(Shanique starts crying hysterically and starts to think how she is going to tell lamar. The next day she returns to the prison)

Lamar: Hey babe, wheres my little man?

Shanique: He... He had cancer Lamar...

Lamar: What?! Is he okay? Is he in the hospital?

Shanique: No Lamar he's with God.

Lamar: (crying overdramatically) Why? Why did he have to die when I'm in this hell hole that I don't belong in. All I want is to hold my son one more time! I love him so much and he had to be taken away. I just want to see him again!!

Shanique: (crying) I know its hard. But he's in a better place. One more thing Lamar.

Lamar:(still crying) What?

Shanique: I don't think I can wait ten years for you . I think when you get out you should move on because thats what im doing, I need a man that can support me, and from what I'm seeing thats not gonna happen if I wait for you.

Chorus:

Shanique why would you say that?

Lamar would wait ten years for you.

Have empathy for this man,

for he has been burdened by the wrongdoings of this social problem.

Let compassion mend this dilemma,

wait for him shanique, wait.

(Shanique briefly stops to think, looks back at Lamar, but leaves the prison. The guards take Lamar back to his cell.)

Lamar: My life is over, there is no one waiting for me when I get out so whats the point of living lifelessly in prison for the next ten years...

Morgan: Brotha you need to stay strong. This system has hurt hundreds of thousands African American families in our nation. We now have more african american prisoners than we did slaves back before the Civil War. You are just one of the many that is put through an endless amount of pain for something they didn't do. You need to stay strong!

Lamar: I don't know if I can.....

(Lamar and Morgan go to sleep. Morgan wakes up to find Lamar hanging from the top of his cell dead)

Chorus:

(as divine power)

Our criminal justice system is corrupt

and has caused Lamar unnecessary pain and suffering.

For he could still be alive and living happily with his wife if it wasn't for this arrest that was so abrupt.

This story is tragic yet uncovering,

It opens your eyes to the pain that will not be helped by recovering.