

EPISODE EIGHT

Death in the Shower

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD PRISON GUARD

Christopher Howard is a pivotal character in the miniseries. We see him in a few earlier scenes, when he investigates a death in the shower, but we don't know much about him until episode 8, when he enters James Cell to talk with James. This is a powerful scene, and he reveals part of his life story, which will play out in tragically in episode 9, when he is killed in the prison riot. James shares the whole story of Christopher's life at the end of the series in episode 10, to the entire prison population, when he gives Christopher's eulogy, at the request of the Warden.

Scene 44 "James Meets Christopher Howard"

JAMES PRISON CELL. INT. DAY.

GRAPHIC: "CHRISTOPHER"

A guard walks by, unlocks the door and comes inside. It's Christopher Howard. He is holding a guitar in his hand. We see his signature ring on his hand which is holding the guitar by the neck. [0:30]

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

I don't have a family. I did once. They all died.

There is a long pause. Christopher eyes drift away.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

My wife and daughter. She was only eight years old.

JAMES

How did they die?

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

In a car accident. They got hit by a drunk driver.

James bows his head.

JAMES

I'm sorry.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

(pauses)

That's why you are here isn't it?

JAMES

Yes.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

(pauses)

I know all about it. I looked it up when you came here. I always look up the new inmates to see what they did.

JAMES

You must hate me.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

(pauses)

No, no... I don't hate you. You didn't hurt me. But you did hurt plenty of others.

(pauses again)

I think everyman has to look to God for forgiveness. It's not for me to judge.

JAMES

But you must have judged the man who killed your family.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

No, no... I don't. Besides, he died years ago. It is God's hands now.

JAMES

But you never forgave him?

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

Oh, I forgave him. It took a few years, but I forgave him.

JAMES

How could you do that?

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

The way I figure it, I had no choice.

JAMES

I don't understand.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

My wife and daughter are in Heaven. One day, I will be there with them. I have to live out my life here on Earth before I get to see them again. If I spent the rest of my life hating another man, then I would just be filled with hate. That can destroy you. I didn't want to live like that. And I don't want to risk not getting to see my family in Heaven.

JAMES

So you forgave him?

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

Yes I did.

The two, fall silent for a minute. Christopher looks over at the guitar.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

I suppose you ought to start playing that thing.

JAMES

Yes, I will.

Christopher stands up to leave then pauses just as he gets up.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

There's one more thing.

JAMES

What's that?

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

There's a rumor going around the prison.

JAMES

Yes?

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

A crazy rumor... something that is so unbelievable that no one can believe it really happened.

JAMES

What's that?

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

It seems that some people are saying you broke up a fight... three of the Black Horde... all by yourself.

JAMES

I didn't do anything.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

You just keep saying that. Rumors like this die down after a while. Something that impossible that no one could believe it. It will be better for you if it's soon forgotten.

JAMES

Alright. Thanks for the advice.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD

Your welcome.

Christopher walks out of the cell, closing the door behind him.