

Punished For Purpose First 10 pages

written by

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Based on "Punished For Purpose"

by Lauri Burns

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

LAURI, a wide eyed four year old with dark hair, plays with a Pug puppy. "PEPPER" chases Lauri through sprinklers, behind rocks, around trees, all over the backyard.

Worn out, Lauri grabs Pepper and lies down. They fall asleep next to each other.

INT. SCHOOLBUS - DAY

Lauri wakes up. She's 7. Other kids on the bus are yelling and laughing, but she keeps quiet.

INT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DOWNSTAIRS - DAY

Lauri enters the house.

LAURI
Pepper!

Lauri spots Pepper's dish. It's full.

LAURI (CONT'D)
Pepper!

Lauri makes her way up the stairs.

INT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LAURI'S ROOM - DAY

Lauri drops her bookbag in the doorway.

LAURI
Pepper?

The room is empty.

INT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - NADINE'S ROOM - DAY

Lauri approaches apprehensively. NADINE, 12, steeped in seventies-fashion, is listening to records wearing large headphones while flipping through a teen magazine.

LAURI
Nadine...

Nadine doesn't hear.

LAURI (CONT'D)

Nadine!

Nadine takes off her headphones and jolts her head around.

LAURI (CONT'D)

Where's Pepper?

Nadine turns away.

NADINE

Dad took her to the pound.

LAURI

Wha-what?

Nadine ignores Lauri and puts on her headphones.

INT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - PARENT'S ROOM - DAY

Lauri's mother, BARBARA, a demure woman in her mid-thirties is taking a handful of prescription pills as Lauri enters.

LAURI

Where's Pepper?

BARBARA

The dog?

LAURI

Where is she?

BARBARA

Your father gave her away.

Lauri sobs.

LAURI

Why?

BARBARA

You'll have to ask him.

Lauri turns away, holding back more tears.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lauri sees her father, EDWARD sitting in a chair reading the newspaper. Edward is a wry man in his early forties. A bottle and glass of whiskey rests next to him. While his face is hidden by the newspaper, his stringy hair and the smoke from his cigarette escape into view.

Lauri wipes away the tears. She is filled with rage.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Lauri watches another girl, JANICE, play with a pair of dolls on the playground. Janice, a redhead is the same age as Lauri.

Lauri approaches her.

LAURI
Hey, you. Janice.

JANICE
What?

LAURI
You want to play house?

JANICE
I'm playing dolls.

LAURI
Dolls are for babies. Let's play house. You can be the mommy.

JANICE
Can Shelly be the baby?

LAURI
Sure.

JANICE
Ok.

INT. SCHOOL - STAIRWELL - DAY

Lauri checks to see if anyone is looking. No one is. She leads the way.

JANICE
Where are we going?

LAURI
This is the house.

Lauri climbs the stairs. Janice doesn't move.

LAURI (CONT'D)
Come on!

Janice reluctantly follows Lauri up the stairs.

INT. STAIRWELL - LATER

Janice cradles the baby doll affectionately.

JANICE

-and if that mocking bird don't
sing, momma's gonna buy you a
diamond ring.

Lauri is disgusted. Janice notices.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Ok, baby, time to go see daddy!

Lauri rolls her eyes as Janice presents the doll to Lauri.

Lauri takes it.

Looks at it.

And throws it down the stairs. Janice gasps. She looks over
the railing, terrified.

LAURI

It's time to go to sleep.

Janice eyes Lauri, suspiciously.

JANICE

I'm not tired.

LAURI

It's bedtime!

Janice lies down next to Lauri. Lauri sits up and looks at
the girl next to her.

Then pushes Janice down the stairs.

Crying and in shock, Janice gazes up at the top of the
stairs. Standing there is Lauri, with no remorse, not feeling
anything.

INT. HOSPITAL - 7 YEARS LATER - DAY

Lauri, 14, is given a CAT scan.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Lauri, wearing overalls sits in the waiting room when her
mother emerges.

INT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LAURI'S ROOM - DAY

Lauri looks out the window as her mother carries a suitcase to a cab.

INT. THE BARN - DAY

The barn is a large general store with an assortment of candies and horse supplies.

Janice the redhead, 14 years old as well, talks to the shopkeeper while Lauri stuffs her own pockets with candy.

EXT. THE BARN - DAY

Janice exits the shop with a stick of licorice.

LAURI
What's that?

JANICE
Mr. Pete gave me a piece.

LAURI
He gave you a piece?

JANICE
Yeah. Because my grandmother is sick.

LAURI
The whole point was to STEAL the candy.

JANICE
What's the difference?

LAURI
Nevermind.

JANICE
So where are we going?

LAURI
The red bridge.

JANICE
Oh, Lauri, do we have to?

EXT. RED BRIDGE - DAY

Lauri is having a blast as the train barrels underneath the rickety bridge. Janice is not having nearly as much fun, being sick and terrified.

EXT. RED BRIDGE - SUNSET

Janice and Lauri walk under the bridge on the train tracks.

Lauri still eats the candy while Janice holds her stomach.

JANICE

How can you eat anything after that?

LAURI

Wasn't so bad.

JANICE

I think I'm gonna puke.

LAURI

C'mon, you're fine.

JANICE

You hear from your mom?

LAURI

Yeah. She's in California.

JANICE

Sorry.

LAURI

Don't be.

JANICE

Why don't you visit her?

LAURI

What would be the point?

JANICE

I don't know...

LAURI

Just, drop it, Janice.

Janice takes another bite of candy.

LAURI (CONT'D)

You believe in past lives?

JANICE
Like reincarnation?

LAURI
Yeah, like Karma.

JANICE
Not really.

LAURI
I think I do.

JANICE
Yeah? So what were you in a past
life?

LAURI
I don't know. A witch maybe.

JANICE
That's stupid.

LAURI
Yeah. You're right.

JANICE
It's getting late.

LAURI
Wanna stay over?

JANICE
I don't know.

LAURI
We could steal my sister's
cigarettes...

JANICE
Ok.

INT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY

Lauri watches as Janice brushes her wet hair in the mirror.

JANICE
Where's your hairdryer?

LAURI
Who knows?

JANICE
C'mon, Lauri!

LAURI
Goddamn, I'll help you find one.

JANICE
Thank you.

INT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME - FATHER'S ROOM - DAY

Lauri opens the door and peers inside. When she doesn't see anyone, she enters. Janice follows behind her.

JANICE
Why are we checking your dad's
room?

Janice cracks a closet on the farside of the room. Inside is an assortment of alcohol.

LAURI
Because he likes to pick fights
with me.

Lauri notices Janice.

LAURI (CONT'D)
Don't go in there!

Lauri rushes over and shuts the door, though not completely.

JANICE
Why?

LAURI
That's his closet.

Lauri goes back to looking under the bed and under her dad's clothes.

JANICE
Yeah, so?

LAURI
Just, don't ok?

JANICE
Ok...

Janice walks over to the bed. Feels under the pillows.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Lauri, what is this?

LAURI
A .38, What's it look like?

JANICE
He sleeps with it?

LAURI
Under his pillow.

Janice shoves the gun back under the pillow.

JANICE
C'mon, it's not here. What would
your dad want with a hair dryer.

LAURI
I told you. He's an asshole.

JANICE
That's stup--

Lauri pulls the hairdryer from under a stack of dirty
clothes.

LAURI
Found it!

JANICE
Oh. Thanks.

LAURI
See what I mean? Asshole. C'mon.

Janice follows Lauri out of the room. As she leaves, the
closet door slowly opens wide.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Lauri and Janice are applying makeup and messing with their
hair. Lauri's Dad's car pulls up outside.

LAURI
Aw, shit! That's my dad.

JANICE
So?

LAURI
Nothing. It's fine. Just do me a
favor, will ya? Go wait in my room.
I'll let you know if you need to
climb out the window.

JANICE
The window?!!!

LAURI
Get!

INT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME

Lauri's dad enters the house. We never see his face. Nadine approaches him.

NADINE
Hey daddy.

He doesn't say a word, just walks in.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Lauri watches her father go into his room. She finishes her hair and starts to walk out. Just then she hears her father yell.

FATHER (O.S.)
LAURI!!!

Her dad bursts in. The door catches her in the face, splitting her lip. She falls and cowers behind the toilet.

FATHER (CONT'D)
I TOLD YOU! STAY OUT OF THE GODDAMN
CLOSET!

Her father is whipping at her with his belt. She struggles to not get hit in the face.

FATHER (CONT'D)
STUPID!

Lauri's dad continues to beat her when he notices a shadow behind him. It's Janice. He turns around. Lauri looks up and sees Janice and rushes out of the bathroom.

EXT. LAURI'S CHILDHOOD HOME

Lauri bursts out of the house with Janice following behind.

JANICE
Lauri, what was that?

LAURI
Nothing, let's go.

JANICE
Where are we going?

LAURI
Anywhere.