

INT. COURTROOM - DAY (CURRENT TIME)

CORY LEWIS, 25 YR OLD, BLACK MALE a introvert who lives mostly in his mind. Dressed in a three piece suit, on a bench outside of a courtroom. He could pass for a lawyer - if not for the pair of handcuffs around his wrist, his mind has drifted off somewhere else. He doesn't even notice the PUBLIC DEFENDER marching down the hall way toward him.

PUBLIC DEFENDER  
Cory? Cory Lewis?

Cory still in his own world doesn't respond.

PUBLIC DEFENDER (CONT'D)  
Excuse me? Are you Cory Lewis?

CORY  
(Finally noticing him.)  
Yes?

PUBLIC DEFENDER  
Hey, I'll be representing you at sentencing today.

Public Defender kneels placing the MOUNTAIN OF FILES down on the bench next to Cory, flipping through them until he finally comes to his file.

PUBLIC DEFENDER (CONT'D)  
Okay, let's see.

Public Defender reads the file. STATE OF MICHIGAN V. CORY LEWIS BOOKING DATE: 10/15/2021 CHARGE VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER VERDICT: GUILTY.

Public Defender looks up at Cory, a little surprised. He doesn't seem like the type, he takes a second look.

PUBLIC DEFENDER (CONT'D)  
You look familiar to me. Did you go to Miller Middle School?

CORY  
Yeah, I did. I know who you are Clayton Simpson.

CLAYTON  
Yeah, sorry to see you again in these circumstances. You were always cool to me and got good grades.

CORY

Appreciate you saying that, glad to see you doing good for yourself.

BEAT.

CLAYTON

Yeah.

(Clears throat.)

I'm just reading up on the summary of your case. Did you write a statement?

CORY

Yeah, I got one in mind.

CLAYTON

Mind if I read it?

CORY

I got it in my head.

CLAYTON

You wanna tell it to me?

CORY

If I say it now I'll lose the emotion behind it when I say it again.

BEAT.

CLAYTON

Okay.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY.

CLAYTON stands at the courtroom podium in front of a JUDGE.  
KAREN MCDONALD.

CLAYTON

Your Honor, Mr. Smith is currently working. He's employed as a manager at Quick Stop, and he does have a son that he's raising with his girlfriend. He admits to fault for not turning himself in to the court, he's extremely apologetic to the court.

During Claytons adovation for his client, CORY enters the courtroom escorted by SHERIFFS of the prison.