



WHEN THE MOON STOOD STILL

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WHEN THE MOON STOOD STILL FINAL DRAFT

EXT. OUTSIDE A POTRAVINY- NIGHT

Straight on shot of a potraviny on the outskirts of Prague.

15 seconds go by just staring straight at the potraviny.

A teenager, (Samuel, 17) comes flying out of the front door as fast as humanly possible. He is wearing all black, a bulky coat covering his hoodie, a neck warmer covers the lower half of his face. He runs out of the potraviny and turns the corner.

After turning the corner, he crashes head first into a man. They both fall to the ground. Samuel quickly gets to his feet and keeps running, looking back as he does. They make eye contact for a second before Samuel turns his head and keeps running for his life.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF PRAGUE - NIGHT

Samuel runs through the outskirts of Prague. His adrenaline fully taking over. No one is chasing him, but still he runs like his life depends on it.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT

Samuel floats along the riverside in a state of shock. Unable to regulate his emotions.

Samuel sitting looking out at the river trying to collect himself. He disposes of the gun in the river and slowly walks away.

INT. BATHROOM, SAMUEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Samuel cleans himself in the sink, the blood from the night washes away down the drain. He stares at his reflection in the mirror, cold, in shock. A stack of cash sits on the sink next to him. He looks at it and then grabs it.

INT. SAMUELS BEDROOM, POOR INDUSTRIAL HOUSING COMPLEX - NIGHT

Samuel sits on his bed shuffling through the cash he stole. Tears fill his eyes as he does. He gets up and tucks it in a drawer like he can't even look at it anymore. He sits down at his desk, stressed. A cross sits on the wall above his head.

TITLE: WHEN THE MOON STOOD STILL

EXT. OUTSIDE A CHURCH - MORNING

Samuel, now in his nice church clothes, is pacing outside the church, smoking a cigarette. He finishes his cigarette and immediately lights another one. He continues pacing back and forth in front of the doors, rapidly taking drags. He approaches the church and puts his hand on the door.

He quickly removes his hand from the door nob and turns away. He continues pacing, taking more drags of his cigarette.

He tosses his cigarette on the ground and walks back to the door of the church. He pushes it and enters.

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

Samuel enters the church. He looks around at the architecture, the stain glasses windows, the cross. It has been a while since he entered a place like this and the grandness of it all overwhelms him.

He continues down the isle, walking between the pews. He approaches a female caretaker, eager and ready to help.

SAMUEL

Ex-Excuse me?

The caretaker responds enthusiastically.

CARETAKER

Hello.

SAMUEL

Hi, uh-

(A beat)

I'm here for confession.

CARETAKER

(Super polite)

Ah, the confessional is right over there.

(Pointing to it)

If you'd like, you can just take a seat in there and I can let the priest know you're here.

SAMUEL

Uh- Yeah. Okay.

The caretaker starts to turn away to get the priest, but Samuel interrupts her.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Wait.

CARETAKER

Yes?

SAMUEL

The priest can't like...

(A beat)

See me right? Like he doesn't know
who is confessing?

The caretaker smiles and nods his head.

CARETAKER

No. No. No one can see you.

Samuel lets out a sigh of relief.

SAMUEL

Okay cool.

(Pointing to the
confessional)

I'll go sit in the thing.

The Caretaker smiles and nods and walks away to get the priest.

INT. INSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - MORNING

Samuel sits awkwardly inside the confessional, nervous, uneasy. He fidgets with a cross on his bracelet.

INT. BACK ROOM, CHURCH - MORNING

The caretaker enters the back room of the church where the priest (Lubos, 30) is pacing on the phone.

The priest is a young good looking guy with soft, welcoming features. Not your typical old man priest.

LUBOS (ON THE PHONE)

What do you me the food hasn't
reached yet?

A moment goes by. Lubos mouths one minute to the care taker. She stands still and waits.

LUBOS (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
Okay. One more day. But it better
be there.

(A beat)
(More angry)
These people are starving!

Another moment goes by.

LUBOS (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
Yeah. Alright. Goodbye.

He hangs up the phone.

LUBOS (CONT'D)
Yes?

CARETAKER
There's someone here to see you in
confessional.

LUBOS
(Smiling)
I'll be there in a minute.

CARETAKER
Okay, I'll let him know.

Lubos watches as the caretaker leaves, his eyes linger in an
unsettling way.

INT. INSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - MORNING

Samuel sits inside waiting. Loud footsteps approach. The
priest is coming.

Lubos, enters from the other side. Samuel can hear him enter.

LUBOS
(Taking a seat, getting
comfortable)
Ehh.

SAMUEL
(Nervous)
Hello?

LUBOS
Hello son.

A long moment of silence goes by where both wait for the
other to speak.

SAMUEL

I'm sorry...

(A beat)

I don't know how this works exactly.

LUBOS

That's okay. I will guide you.

Samuel nods even though they can't see each other.

LUBOS (CONT'D)

How long has it been since your last confession?

SAMUEL

Uh- Well...

(A beat)

I haven't been to church since a kid.

(A beat)

I think it's been since first communion.

LUBOS

Why did you stop coming?

SAMUEL

(A beat)

It just got hard after my dad died.

LUBOS

Oh.

(A beat)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to-

SAMUEL

No it's okay. My mom and I tried to go still but-

(A beat)

But it all just got too much.

LUBOS

I understand.

Samuel lets out a sigh.

SAMUEL

I pray sometimes still... But...

Uh..

LUBOS

(A beat)

That okay, just tell me what's
bothering you.

Another long moment of silence goes by.

SAMUEL

What I tell you...

(A beat)

You can't tell to anyone else
right?

LUBOS

That's right.

SAMUEL

Like even authority figures? The
police?

Lubos grows a bit more concerned and curious about what he's
going to hear.

LUBOS

Even the police.

(A beat)

Your confession is between you and
God.

Samuel nods his head with relief.

Long moment of silence as Samuel thinks.

SAMUEL

It was a few days ago.

CUT TO: SAMUEL'S

FLASHBACK

INT. KITCHEN, POOR INDUSTRIAL HOUSING COMPLEX - MORNING

Samuel enters the kitchen having just woken up. His mom is
shuffling through some mail. As he approaches, she quickly
tucks the mail underneath her leg to hide it from him. He
notices, but plays it off like he didn't.

MOM

(Trying to distract from
her hiding)

Hi honey, how'd you sleep?

Samuel casually walks over to his mom and kisses her on the top of head.

SAMUEL
(Lovingly)
Good morning mom.

She smiles. He continues towards the pantry and pulls out some cereal.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Good.
(A beat)
You?

Samuel yawns.

MOM
Good.
(A beat)
So what are your plans today?

Samuel walks through the kitchen.

SAMUEL
Probably meet Jiri, Stefan. The usual.

Samuel's mom looks annoyed. She continues to hide the letters beneath her leg.

MOM
(Worried)
You know I don't like those boys.
They're a bad influence.

SAMUEL
(Shewing her away)
It's fine mom. Relax.

Samuel pours himself a bowl of cereal. He looks at his mom and notices something.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
(Curiously)
Where's your necklace?

MOM
(Hiding)
What?

SAMUEL

Your necklace. The one dad got you.

(A beat)

You always wear it.

MOM

Oh.

(A beat)

(Lying)

I lost it.

Samuel knows she's lying. He looks disappointed, embarrassed. His mom can tell.

MOM (CONT'D)

(Consoling)

It's just a necklace.

Samuel's mom gets up and walks toward Samuel. She holds the letters behind her back. Then she checks her watch.

MOM (CONT'D)

Oh! I'm going to be late for work.

(A beat)

Remember I need you to go to the grocery store today.

SAMUEL

I know. I got it.

She kisses Samuel on the head. She switches the mail to her front as she turns. She goes towards the door and tucks the mail inside a shelf on her way. Samuel sees.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Bye mom. Love you.

MOM

Love you too!

She closes the front door behind her.

Samuel waits a second for her foot steps to leave. He runs over to the shelf and grabs the mail and starts flipping through it. He sees rent overdue letters and finally an eviction notice. He reads through it, revealing how much money they need. He sighs and puts the letter back on the shelf.

INT. INSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - MORNING

LUBOS

What does she do for work?

SAMUEL

She's a nurse, but she got moved to part time recently so we've been a little short.

LUBOS

Why'd she get moved to part time?

SAMUEL

(A beat)

She has this heart thing.

(A beat)

I don't know. The doctors said she can't work too hard.

Lubos takes a moment to think.

LUBOS

I'm sorry.

Samuel lets out a deep breath.

Another moment of silence passes.

LUBOS (CONT'D)

So what'd you do?

CUT TO: SAMUEL'S

FLASHBACK

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - MORNING

Samuel leaves his apartment, now dressed in black jeans, a hoodie and black puffer jacket. We follow him as he leaves his building, giving us a sense of the poor area he lives in.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Two boys, (Jiri, 19) (Stefan, 17), are sharing a joint whilst picking up bottle caps off the ground and throwing them at things. Essentially playing horse/pig. They are dressed in ripped jeans, sweat suits, puffer jackets. They look like drug dealers. Although Jiri is clearly a little harder than Stefan. Samuel approaches. They stop playing to greet Samuel.

SAMUEL (V.O.)

I went to see the two people I trust most.

(A beat)

My friends.

Samuel daps up each of his friends. The one smoking the joint offers it to him. He takes some puffs.

SAMUEL
What's up?

STEFAN
Slower than usual today...

JIRI
(Jokingly)
Guess the fiends are hiding.
(Laughs)

STEFAN
Anyway, what's up with you.

Samuel leans up against the wall next to them and starts explaining. (We can't hear what he is saying)

LUBOS (V.O.)
So what did they say when you told them?

Jiri, who was smoking the joint passes it to Samuel. He mimics robbing a potraviny with his hands acting as a pistol.

JIRI
(Nonchalant)
It'll be easy bro. You just walk in there with your mask on. Pull out the gun and done.
(A beat)
No cashier is going to risk his life over a shitty potraviny.

Samuel thinks for a second.

STEFAN
(Concerned)
I don't know bro.
(A beat)
There's gotta be a better way.
(A beat)
Robbing a potraviny is super risky.

SAMUEL
(Stressed)
Yeah but I need the money NOW.

JIRI
I'm telling you bro.
(Smacking Samuel on the
(MORE)

JIRI (CONT'D)
 chest)
 It'll be easy.

Jiri makes a motion with his hands like it's a pice of cake. Stefan doesn't seem so sure.

Jiri takes the joint back from Samuel and starts smoking.

Samuel starts to nod his head, imagining doing it. Jiri pulls a gun out of his waste ban and holds it out to Samuel. Samuel looks at Stefan for a second. Stefan shakes his head not to take the gun.

STEFAN
 Just think about it for a second.

CUT TO:

PITCH BLACK - STREETS OF PRAGUE

We hear heavy breathing and nervous foot steps.

SAMUEL
 You can do this.
 (A beat)
 You got this.

We hear the sound of Samuel slapping himself in the face.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
 Fuck! Come on!

INT. INSIDE THE POTRAVINY - NIGHT

Samuel enters the potraviny. The cashier (Kvak, 28) is on the phone.

KVAK
 (Nodding)
 Hey.

Samuel turns away and and heads to the back of the store. Kvak returns to his phone call.

Samuel awkwardly moves towards the back of the store and looks through a shelf pretending to shop, keeping one eye on Kvak throughout it all. His hand fidgets in his jacket pocket. Kvak talks on the phone in the background.

KVAK (IN THE BACKGROUND) (CONT'D)
 I miss you too.
 (A beat)
 Nah, just killing time til my shift
 ends.

Samuel shifts to another section of the store to get a better
 look.

KVAK (IN THE BACKGROUND) (CONT'D)
 No. No I'm good.
 (A beat)
 I'm excited to come visit home too.

Samuel watches closely. Kvak notices and stiffens. Samuel
 turns away and pretends to shop. Kvak returns to his phone
 call.

KVAK (IN THE BACKGROUND) (CONT'D)
 Anyway did you see the game last
 night?
 (A beat)
 Aww damn it was sick.

CUT TO: THE
 CONFSSIONAL

INT. INSIDE THE CONFSSIONAL - MORNING

SAMUEL
 I was waiting for him to get off
 the phone. You know?
 (A beat)
 But he just kept talking.

LUBOS
 It's okay son.
 (A beat)
 Continue.

CUT TO: SAMUEL'S
 FLASHBACK

INT. INSIDE THE POTRAVINY - NIGHT

KVAK (IN THE BACKGROUND)
 Yeah, no, another win.
 (A beat)
 3-0.

Samuel gives up on waiting it out and decides not to go through it. He starts to walk out from the aisle and towards the door.

KVAK (IN THE BACKGROUND) (CONT'D)
 Okay cool. Yeah.
 (A beat)
 I'll talk to you later.

Kvak hangs up the phone as Samuel is approaching. Samuel stops and thinks. Now is his chance.

CUT TO: THE
 CONFESSIONAL

INT. INSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - MORNING

SAMUEL
 Wait.
 (A beat)
 Before I tell you what happened next.

LUBOS
 Yes?

SAMUEL
 You you it's between me and god.

LUBOS
 That's right.

Samuel nods and takes a deep breath.

SAMUEL
 Okay.
 (A beat)
 Okay. I approached the cashier.

CUT TO: SAMUEL'S

FLASHBACK

INT. INSIDE THE POTRAVINY- NIGHT

Once Samuel is sure the lady is gone we begins to approach Kvak.

SAMUEL

Yo, can I get a pack of Marlboro
reds?

Kvak turns around to grab the cigarettes as Samuel arrives at the checkout. Samuel pulls the handgun from his pocket and holds it at Kvak. His hand visibly shaking. Kvak turns around with the cigarettes, greeted by a gun in his face.

KVAK

(Afraid)

Hey bro...

(A beat)

It's coo-

SAMUEL

Give me the money now!

KVAK

Let's not do anything we're gonna
regre-

SAMUEL

Shut up!

Vit stares forward waiting for Samuel's next move.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Empty the register! Now!

Vit hesitates.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

(Gesturing with his gun)

(Nervously)

Come on. Come on.

(A beat)

Fuckin hurry up!

(a beat)

Cash! Now!

Kvak slowly moves his hands towards the register and opens it.

Samuel watches carefully, still holding the gun on Kvak. His hand shaking. Kvak then quickly shifts and grabs the barrel of Samuel's gun. They scuffle over the gun for a second.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Fuck!

Samuel and Kvak struggle over the gun.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Dickhead! Let go!

Amongst the commotion and grabbing, Samuel accidentally fires the gun, shooting Kvak in the chest. Kvak's body slumps to the ground. Blood spills out. Samuel leans his head over the counter to get a good look. He is shocked at what he just did, but his adrenaline is still at an all time high.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

Samuel quickly runs around the counter and starts putting pressure on Kvak's wound. But it's no use. Kvak's body is pouring out blood. Samuel grabs the cash and flees out of the store, stepping over Kvak's body.

CUT TO: THE
CONFESSIONAL

INT. INSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - MORNING

Lubos is lost for words. His face shows great concern and shock as he processes what he's just been told. A long moment passes before either speak.

SAMUEL
(Crying)
Well.
(A beat)
Say something.

Lubos puts his head in his hands, he doesn't know what to do.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
(Crying)
Come on!
(A beat)
Say anything!
(A beat)
Please!

Lubos lets out a big sigh and composes himself before beginning to speak.

LUBOS
Do you know what it means to be
good my son?

SAMUEL
What?

LUBOS
To be good?

Samuel shakes his head "no" from behind the screen, but Lubos can sense his response.

CUT TO: LUBOS'
FLASHBACK

INT. INSIDE LUBOS' CAR - NIGHT

Lubos is driving his car down a relatively empty road.

LUBOS (V.O.)
To be good is not to be clean, to
not succumb to your urges, to never
sin... No.

Lubos continues driving.

LUBOS (REAL TIME) (CONT'D)
I need to stop and grab some
coffee, do you want anything?

LUBOS (V.O.)
To be good is to-

Lubos stutters on his answer.

LUBOS (V.O.)
To be good is to be aware. Aware
that our actions and decisions
affect those around us.
(A beat)
To try and be better every day...
To fight to be the person you want
to be.

The camera moves, revealing a young girl (Michaela, 14) in the back seat.

MICHAELA
I need to be home soon or my
parents will get worried.

LUBOS (REAL TIME)
I know, I know. It'll only take a
second.

EXT. PARKING SPOT - NIGHT

Lubos hops out of the car and starts approaching the portaviny

LUBOS (V.O.)
You see our sins don't just belong
to us.

As Lubos approaches the potraviny, we hear Samuel's gun shot. Lubos is startled by this and stops walking for a second. Moments later Samuel comes flying out of the store and crashes into him, knocking him to the ground. They share their look as Samuel runs into the darkness.

LUBOS (V.O.)
Our sins belong to God and to
everyone.

INT. POTRAVINY - NIGHT

Lubos runs to the portaviny and enters. He see's Kvak gushing blood.

KVAK
(Choking on blood)
Help...

INT. INSIDE LUBOS CAR - NIGHT

Lubos gets back into the car and the girl is sitting there.

LUBOS
We need to go. Now.

Lubos starts the car and begins driving rapidly away from the scene of the crime.

MICHAELA
What's going on?

LUBOS
(Nervously)
Nothing.
(A beat)
Nothing

They continue driving.

LUBOS (V.O.)
And God forgives all his
children...

Lubos and Michaela pull up at a stop light. Lubos turns and looks at her.

LUBOS
Remember Michaela, this is our
special night game.

Michaela nods.

LUBOS (CONT'D)
Don't tell your parents, or it
won't be special anymore.

Michaela looks concerned. She hesitates before answering.
Looks looks at Michaela in a serious, slightly scary look.

LUBOS (CONT'D)
Michaela..

MICHAELA
(Nodding, showing
hesitation)
I know.

LUBOS
Good.

Lubos turns back around and thinks for a second, nervously.

LUBOS (CONT'D)
(Under his breath)
Good.

Michaela leans over and kisses Lubos on the cheek. He smiles.
The light turns green and they keep driving.

LUBOS (V.O.)
Remember.
(A beat)
It's never too late to become the
person you want to be.

CUT TO: THE

CONFESSIONAL

INT. INSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - MORNING

Samuel has tears in his eyes as he sits in the confessional.

SAMUEL
Thank you father.
(A beat)
An-and I'm sorry.

Samuel exits the confessional.

INT. INSIDE THE CHURCH - MORNING

Samuel walks towards the front of the church. Right as he is exiting, Lubos steps out of the confessional and catches a glance of his face. The same face he saw that night. Lubos walks toward the alter and kneels beneath the cross and begins to pray.

POSSIBLE END: EXT. STREETS OF PRAGUE - MORNING

Samuel walks down the streets of Prague, confident that he can redeem himself and be a better person from now on. He walks past a pole with a poster on, never noticing. He walks off and we zoom in on the poster with a photo of 13 year old Michaela, reading: Missing. We stay on this poster as the final credits roll in.