

Run from Doubt Town

Written by

Isaiah J. Lawrence

FADE IN.

EXT. WEST DOUBT TOWN MALL - DAY

PHOENIX (19, a brunette with curly hair and rosy cheeks) exits the revolving doors of a two-story mall. In her left arm is a white bag full of purchased clothes. Strapped to her right arm is her purple purse. She has on an 80s western attire with a brown, suede vest and light blue jeans. There are tattoos of angel wings on the veins of her wrists.

As pedestrians walk with sad faces, Phoenix smiles. When she crosses the street, the light signal turns green. A pigeon smoothly lands in front of her path, and she bypasses it. The sun shines in her eyes as she glances at several COPS around the corner. They hold devices in their hands with monitors on the screen, to watch their every move.

She waves her right hand at the cops, and they don't wave back. OFFICER HASH nods his head, OFFICER SHIFT crosses his arms, and OFFICER SLUGGER looks back at his monitor device. OFFICER SLUGGER presses a blue button on the device. Metal straps extend from each side, and he attaches it around his right wrist.

EXT. SOUTH WEST DOUBT TOWN STREET - DAY

Lance (20, a bald-headed, skinny person) walks behind Phoenix, and hugs her. Lance has a timid face with an 80s, black western jacket.

PHOENIX

How many times do you have to sneak
up on me?

LANCE

Until I never leave your mind.

PHOENIX

(sarcastically)
My weirdo.

LANCE

I love you too. It's not safe out
here anyway. I told you to always
take the shortcut home.

The cops jealously grin at him as he kisses her on the cheek.

PHOENIX

I'm glad I chose you. I almost didn't. You never would stop asking.

LANCE

That was the day I stopped being a paying customer. Your stripper days were pulse-pounding.

Lance's cell phone rings. He places the phone to his ear.

LANCE (CONT'D)

Sorry. My manager texted me. She always wants me to stay overtime. If there's one thing I need, it's a promotion. I receive the most depressing clients wanting to commit suicide. There's always a brighter side, you know?

PHOENIX

You don't need to continue at this job. I left the runway a year ago. I was fortunate enough to be a model after underage stripping. I'm financially stable. I mean, a woman can make more than a man and coexist.

LANCE

I know. What was it you were going to say?

PHOENIX

We should move far away where there's a warm climate.

LANCE

Sometimes, I question why you would even want to be with me. For generations, nobody was capable of escaping this town. I've been living here my whole life. I promise you, we will escape.

EXT. SOUTH WEST DOUBT TOWN ALLEY - DAY

Lance follows Phoenix in an alley. Lance sees Officer Shift press a special, red button on his device.

There is a person with a hooded, black jacket selling drugs. The drug dealer darts his head, and Officer Shift walks in his sight. The drug dealer runs. From the section of the concrete, electricity shoots out from wires, extended above the ground. The person crashes his back into a black, metal dumpster and falls forward.

The electricity leaves the person unconscious.

Phoenix and Lance watch Officer Shift and Officer Slugger beat the drug dealer.

Officer Shift handcuffs the drug dealer.

EXT. SOUTH WEST DOUBT TOWN PARK - DAY

They spot Officer Hash frowning. Officer Hash aggressively chases them down the vacant park with a gun. Then, the officer gets tired and presses the red button to the device. Electricity shoots from the concrete blocks. Lance and Phoenix fall, and get their hands handcuffed behind their backs.

Officer Hash tightens the handcuffs of Lance's and bends his arms backwards. Lance yells. The cop takes out small, see-through bags of illegal drugs, and stuffs them in Lance and Phoenix's back pockets. Phoenix cries.

LANCE

I'm innocent. What's your problem!

OFFICER HASH

You and your slut have the right to remain silent until proven guilty in a court of law. Sluts aren't off-limits.

When backup comes, Officer Hash removes the drugs from their pockets.

The cops take turns beating Phoenix with their nightsticks.

They then beat Lance with the nightsticks.

Officer Slugger bends down. He takes out a keen knife strapped to his left boot.

Lance's vision turns blurry.

Officer Slugger sits on Phoenix's back and gently move the knife down her back.

Officer Shift laughs, and squats to look closer at her face.

Officer Slugger kisses Phoenix on the cheek, then passionately on the lips.

Lance's entire body shakes. He struggles to move upward with his knees. He sees Officer Shift drag Phoenix under the blue monkey bars. Officer Shift hits him in the back of the head with the nightstick. Lance falls to the grass.

INT. WEST DOUBT TOWN PRISON - NIGHT

MATAR (999, grey, short hair with a long, grey, pointy beard) stares at Lance waking up.

INT. CELL BLOCK 94622 - NIGHT

Lance looks frightened by Matar. Lance sees Matar's white straight jacket and gives Phoenix a hopeless look. Lance wraps his arm around her. She removes his arm.

PHOENIX
(whispering)
I don't want to be touched.

INT. WEST DOUBT TOWN PRISON HALLWAY - NIGHT

Inmates in their cell blocks yell profanity in their sentences, kick the black concrete walls, and strike daggers against the metal, black bars.

INT. CELL BLOCK 94622 -NIGHT

Matar yells and attempts to rip apart the jacket. Everyone turns silent.

Matar's angry eyes stare into Lance's blurry vision. Lance's vision gets clear, and he turns his head in fear. To his right, he sees Phoenix against the wall with tears running down her cheeks.

A folded note attached to a long string dangles down between the bars. Lance opens the note. There are two pictures of him and Phoenix when they were beaten by the cops.

In one picture, Phoenix is in a prone position, being raped by Officer Hash. In another picture, he has a bloody face.

The next picture shows Phoenix being beaten with the nightsticks. Lance's face is in shock.

When Lance removes the pictures, from left to right, he sees a drawing of an eye, a brain, a question mark, and an equal sign on the top section. In the middle, he sees a drawing of a fist. On the bottom, he sees a drawing of a key, and arrow, and a tear.

Phoenix glances at a sad woman with black, frizzy hair in the right corner. The woman has her head down to her chest with her knees slightly bent.

Lance sits on the bottom bunk bed. Officer Hash opens the cell with a key. Officer Hash laughs with his key extended. Lance sees Officer Hash's eyes turn black, and vein show through his skin. The background behind Officer Hash is black. Lance stands confused.

OFFICER HASH

We have questions.

Lance walks toward Officer Hash, then runs hoisting him in the air. Officer Hash's back hits the bars to another cell block. Blue fluorescent lights from the rafters shine down as an alarm sounds off.

Phoenix looks up shocked at what she sees.

Matar nods his head sideways.

Matar stares at the white walls in the back. Matar sits in the center of the room on his knees, and scrapes his forehead against the concrete floor. Blood pours to the floor.

DEMETRIUS (19, with long, black dreadlocks) has on a red uniform. Demetrius stands beside Matar.

DEMETRIUS

Again, man! He always be doin' this
shit!

Matar rests his body on the blood. He fails to break free of the straight jacket.

Phoenix continuously looks at Matar in fear.

Johnny (26, muscular, with green tattoos covering his entire face and body) rests on the top of a bunk bed. Johnny ignores Matar by looking at a book.

JOHNNY

(to Phoenix)

What are you in for?

PHOENIX

Corrupted cops put drugs on my case.

JOHNNY

Get used to it. Inmates would kill you if they heard that case. In here, we're in the same ass rooms as pedophiles and serial killers. The cops don't give a fuck. You see they got Matar up in here. I've been trying to escape here for seven months. Rumors are that he killed over thousands of people. Matar is a godhead.

Again, Matar does the routine of scraping his head against and wiggling around. 10 minutes later, Matar breaks free of the jacket.

Johnny's eyes widen. Demetrius steps backwards.

Matar dips his right index finger in the blood and forms an inverted cross on the wall.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. MATAR'S WIFE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Matar (21, with black, curly hair) looks at images of his wife on a social website. In many pictures, she kisses another man. The man has blue eyes, short, brown hair, and a black mustache. In one image, Brin aims red lipstick at her boyfriend's lips at a park. Brin has the same facial features as Phoenix.

Matar sits up from his bed shocked and turns on the zebra striped lamp, which shines a light blue light. He makes fists, then his fingers shake. He searches pictures of Brin hugging the man, then rushes off the bed.

His legs shake as he rushes to the bathroom to stare in a mirror. A smiling Brin and muscular man appear. He shuts his eyes. The see-through shower curtain falls. Water shoots out of the shower head. Water shoots from the sink faucet. He opens his eyes, and he sees himself.

He takes heavy breaths and hears the sound of Brin's laughter. Her laughter gets louder, and he covers his ears.

INT. BRIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Matar sits on the kitchen counter. He hears the front door open.

INT. BRIN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brin locks the front door and throws off her red jacket. She heads in the kitchen to turn on the light. A light flickers on from the bathroom, and she nervously darts her head around. She hears a scream.

BRIN

What's going on back there?

INT. BRIN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

She rushes to the area. She notices the walls are painted black. There is a tape recorder of his prerecorded voice. In the sink, print out images of herself and her boyfriend sit. She worries.

Behind her, Matar wears a black, hooded sweatshirt, rubber gloves, blue jeans, and black shoes. She turns around and jumps in fear. He swings a black sledge hammer at her skull. She hits the concrete floor. Blood leaks from the right side of her cranium.

He drags her body as she screams and cries. Brin tries holding on the wall. He swings the sledgehammer in the middle of her back. She grunts as he flicks the bathroom lights off. Her fingers loosen from the wall.

INT. BRIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Her trail of blood reaches the kitchen after dragging her. Matar opens a brown, wooden drawer and takes out orange shears. Matar walks to her writhing body. She crawls the opposite way of him. He cuts her right ear off and blood pours on the floor.

Matar places the shears on the counter. He takes a thick knife from the drawer. He stabs her.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CELL BLOCK 94622 -NIGHT

Lance is let in the cell block by Officer Slugger.

PHOENIX

(whispering)

Hun, I have to tell you something important. If anything happens to me, I want you to know the truth. I wasn't honest from the beginning, and I was hoping that the time will come that you'll accept me. I was born a boy.

LANCE

Really?

PHOENIX

Really. My name was Oliver.

Lance hears his mind laugh.

DEMETRIUS

Look at what we got here! We have a transexual! Welcome to West Doubt Town Prison! I know a bitch that would take hydrogen peroxide after staring at your face! She'd boil it with your father's sperm, and plant it in your daughter! If you want to live, you're doin' favors for me. It's a feel good moment, and I demand answers, now!

LANCE

Leave her alone!

DEMETRIUS

(to Lance)

What the fuck are you gonna do? Mister hero is about to get some friction! See this? This is my bitch, now! You ain't gettin' her back! Stand your ground, you little bitch!

JOHNNY

Let it fly.

LANCE

What's your problem. That's my girlfriend.

JOHNNY

Defend her then.

LANCE
 (to Demetrius)
 Stay away from her!

Demetrius punches Lance in the jaw. Lance falls and bleeds from his right nostril.

JOHNNY
 Keep this up, and you'll be dead before sunrise. You have to let the past go. There are many innocent people locked up. These inmates aren't fighting the cops, so that shows you who runs things around here.

LANCE
 Are you gonna fuckin' help me or talk?

Demetrius kicks Lance in the ribs three times. Demetrius then stomps on Lance's face. Lance bleeds from the back of his head.

Phoenix cries.

Demetrius rubs a tear from Phoenix's cheek. He firmly holds her right hand, and lowers it to his crotch.

DEMETRIUS
 (to Lance)
 You're not gonna fight for your bitch? Fight, you scared coward! You're not gonna last around here! People like you break all the time when they step in here! You step in this cell, I'm your God! You see this red suit? This suit means I killed over thirty people.

LANCE
 I'm gonna kill you!

PHOENIX
 (shaking in fear)
 I want to be alone.

DEMETRIUS
 (yells while spitting)
 Bitch, you ain't gotta be scared! I'd bash your fuckin' head into this fuckin' wall! I ain't gotta know you! I have no fear in my heart!

(MORE)

DEMETRIUS (CONT'D)

Around here, speakin' out of turn
is snitchin'! You don't wanna be a
snitch, do you? You give me
service!

Demetrius strikes Lance in the face eight times.

Matar watches while licking his blood from his fingers.

JOHNNY

(laughing)

What are you in for? Everybody
wearing white are here for minor
offenses. As the colors get darker,
the worse the crime is. Don't worry
about Demetrius. They aren't as
scary as Matar.

Matar stands up and walks near Johnny.

Lance hears the voice of Matar. Matar's mouth does not move.

MATAR

(to Lance)

They call me Godhead Matar. There
are different sects of Satanism.
Devil worshipping is an overused
word of panic. Just because I'm a
philosopher, it doesn't mean I have
to follow my every theory. I live
up to my standards because I'm my
own self. Satan is my true God.

Lance turns away to Phoenix and yells.

MATAR (CONT'D)

Your girlfriend looks like my ex.

Matar sits on his legs meditating.

JOHNNY

All of the cops are corrupted
around here. They put wires under
each concrete block to control us.
They monitor us, and when we act
up, they electrocute us. I've been
working on an escape plan for seven
months. All I have to protect me in
here is God.

LANCE

Would you shut the fuck up!

JOHNNY

I'm your only help. Demetrius is the least of your worries. I know Matar. As a dangerous person, he is an exception to wear white. Matar is known for living here for over eight hundred and fifty years and escaping prison three times. He's suppose to be all powerful, but why doesn't he open these gates? I never saw his power.

Demetrius rubs on Phoenix's butt.

LANCE

(to Johnny)

Shut up!

JOHNNY

God is the only way out of this circle. Rejoice.

LANCE

Shut up!

JOHNNY

Who the fuck are you talkin' too! Don't make me off you, boy! It's rumored that Matar killed five nuns in West Woodwork Forest. He's here after killin' his wife. He stabbed her over nine hundred and ninety-nine times. He claims he isn't livin' in prison, but I doubt that's possible. Listen, you have a pretty friend, but this ain't the place for love. Show love, and you'll have a boyfriend.

The last words Johnny says echoes into his ears repeatedly.

Lance pulls Johnny by his legs. Johnny falls off the bunk bed and hit his head on the concrete floor. Blood pours from the back of Johnny's head. Lance yells striking Johnny in the face twenty-five times.

Demetrius laughs.

DEMETRIUS

(to Lance)

You think fightin' other people
makes you tough? Why don't you
try...

LANCE

(he interrupts)

Shut up! Shut up! Shut the fuck up!

Johnny takes shallow breaths.

Demetrius removes a metal pipe from his suit, and points it
at Lance's face.

DEMETRIUS

(to lance)

Look who's silent now.

Phoenix screams and fails to reach for the pipe.

Demetrius strikes her in the mouth. He chokes her against the
wall.

Demetrius kicks Phoenix in the jaw. Then, Demetrius kisses
her on the lips.

LANCE

(to Demetrius)

Leave her alone!

MATAR

(to Lance)

Shut the fuck up!

Officer Hash rushes near the scene. Demetrius is escorted out
of the cell block by Officer Hash.

Lance cries over Phoenix.

LANCE

(looking at Johnny)

Someone help.

PHOENIX

(to Lance)

I love you.

LANCE

(to Phoenix)

I love you too.

Lance hears other inmates yell at him.

PHOENIX
(crying)
Keep talking to me.

LANCE
I'm here. I'm not going anywhere.

PHOENIX
I should've just took the shortcut
to the house.

LANCE
Give me a kiss.

Lance gives Phoenix a kiss on the lips.

INT. WEST DOUBT TOWN PRISON HALLWAY - NIGHT

Officer Shift and Officer Slugger hear screaming. They enter the cell block shocked. Matar is nowhere to be found. They cover their noses from the stench of blood.

Lance cries and stares at the decapitated head of Officer Hash on a mattress. The body of Officer Hash is resting inches from the head. The sight of blood makes him nearly puke. He stands against a wall while constantly scratching his arms.

Phoenix hears the inmates in other cells get silent.

PHOENIX
(to Lance)
It's going to be okay, love. I saw
what happened.

LANCE
(to Phoenix)
I didn't do it. I never killed
anyone! You have to believe me! I
never went asleep last night. I
turned around, and saw him dead!

Officer Shift and Officer Slugger are devastated from the scene of Officer Hash's decapitated head.

PHOENIX
(to the cops)
Don't touch him! He's innocent! He
didn't do anything!

LANCE
(to Lance)
I didn't do the crime.

A stunned face shows on Lance.

PHOENIX
You're crazy, Lance. You killed
those inmates.

Lance hears a whisper from an invisible Matar.

MATAR
(to Lance)
You're sane.

LANCE
Who said that?

PHOENIX
(to Lance)
Me, you weirdo!

LANCE
Not you!

MATAR
(to Lance)
Tell them. You killed him.

LANCE
I killed no one! Stop talking to
me! What's your problem! Matar did
it!

Phoenix's face turns to shock.

PHOENIX
(nervously to Lance)
What's going on?

Officer Shift and Officer Slugger handcuff Lance and restrain him to the concrete floor. Lance yells in agony.

Phoenix looks at the mattress. Her eyes widen. She sees the decapitated head Officer Hash gone along with the body. There is no trace of blood on the mattress.

PHOENIX (CONT'D)
The head is gone!

Officer Shift and Officer Slugger look at the mattress shocked. Officer Hash is not in sight. Lance turns to see Officer Hash gone from the cell block.

LANCE
I told you I didn't do it.

Officer Shift walks out of the cell block as Officer Slugger remains still.

MATAR

(whispering to lance)

Move the bunk bed below the vent.
Feel against the wall. There's an
opening.

Lance strikes Officer Slugger in the face. Phoenix's jaw drops.

Officer Shift returns to the cell block and Lance punches him. Officer Shift falls to the mattress.

Johnny crawls to hold Lance's leg.

Phoenix kicks Johnny in the face.

Officer Shift reaches back to his feet. Lance punches Officer Shift in the face. Officer Shift falls back on the mattress.

LANCE

(to Phoenix)

Help me push the bed. There's not
much time.

Lance pushes the bunk bed against the wall while Phoenix stares at him confused. Lance lifts himself to the top of the bunk bed, standing. He feels against the walls.

PHOENIX

What are you doing?

LANCE

There's an opening in the wall. I
know there is.

Lance pushes concrete pieces inside a wall. His face turns to joy. He then removes the concrete pieces outward.

Phoenix sees Officer Slugger rise to his feet. Phoenix picks up a piece of concrete to whack Officer Slugger in the head.

Phoenix then rises on the bunk bed to follow Lance in the wall.

INT. IN THE WALL - NIGHT

The pathway in the wall is dark.

LANCE

Matar spoke to me.

PHOENIX
Where is Matar?

LANCE
I don't know, but I heard him.

PHOENIX
You sound crazy.

They crawl out of the darkness. An alarm goes off with bright, blue lights that flicker behind them.

EXT. WEST WOODWORK FOREST - NIGHT

There is a full moon. A sign with an arrow points at South Doubt Town five miles away.

THE END.