

End of the Rabbit Hole

by

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Cast of Characters

JEFF:

20's

MARSHAL:

30's

Place
Fields

Time
Evening

2.

Setting: The play takes place along the side of a road surrounded by fields of tall grass.

At Rise: The play opens with Marshal walking up to where Jeff is hiding.

MARSHAL: Go ahead...

JEFF: You'll never look at me the same.

MARSHAL: Go on...

JEFF: Aw man, I was doin' good, keepin' my head clean and everything, I'm in my third month ya know, but I got this call and I was havin' a rough night, the worst night, had the migraine headache with the sweats and the panic and everything and I was buggin' and so I took the call man, just to get outta the house and I took the fuckin' call and went to the location. I fell back, way back and the only way I was gettin' outta there was if I forced my way out and I did but they got me anyway, threw me in the trunk after they beat me, drove me out here to them fields, but I don't know how this all happened but I got the jump on them when they opened the trunk and I was quick man, I got them both. One in the neck, the other I kept bashin'...I killed em', and then their stupid car wouldn't start. Had to push the damn thing off the road. I can show you...(pointing) over there is the car and over there is their bodies, so...I just needed some air and all this happened. I'm sorry man, I know I did wrong, I got no one else to call but you...

MARSHAL: ...I can't believe you did this..you sure they're both dead?

JEFF: Want me to show you?

Jeff and Marsha walk along a dirt road.

JEFF: This was never somethin' I wanted to happen – shoulda just went for a walk or somethin' but I took the call. Shoulda called Annie but I can't have Annie see me in that way, ya know?

MARSHAL: You still talkin' to Annie?

JEFF: I wanna get married to Annie.

MARSHAL: Ain't nobody gettin' married Jeff if you're out here doin' what you did.

JEFF: I'm always makin' bad decisions.

MARSHAL: Who are these guys?

JEFF: One is Aldo's nephew.

MARSHAL: (stops walking) Aldo's nephew?

Jeff nods.

MARSHAL: Tell me I'm imagining this.

JEFF: I wish you were.

MARSHAL: You killed Aldo's nephew?

JEFF: And some guy named Tom.

MARSHAL: Do you understand what you did?

JEFF: (*shrugs*)

They keep walking.

MARSHAL: You fucked up.

JEFF: ...Yeah, but that's why I called you.

MARSHAL: Jeffrey, what do you expect me to do?

JEFF: Help me!

MARSHAL: Help you?

JEFF: Cover things up.

MARSHAL: I bet the entire club knows what happened to you, who put you in the trunk and where they were taking you.

JEFF: So?

MARSHAL: So? SO?! That means that when these two guys don't return to the club, everybody is gonna start wondering WHY.

JEFF: I know, I know...but if they're missing, then what happens?

MARSHAL: You are the dumbest reject I ever – WHY did I have to get blessed with you in my life? WHY?

JEFF: Come on man, you're making me nervous.

MARSHAL: NERVOUS?! Is that all you're feeling?

JEFF: I'm scared out of my fucking mind man!

MARSHAL: Your life is over.

JEFF: Why?

MARSHAL: Cause you killed Aldo's nephew.

JEFF: Yeah but, there's no proof of what I done.

MARSHAL: You were the last one with them.

JEFF: So?

MARSHAL: So that means you are the primary suspect, ESPECIALLY if you're back in the neighborhood walking around.

JEFF: I can't go back to the neighborhood?

MARSHAL: Never again.

JEFF: ...What about Annie?

MARSHAL: What about her?

JEFF: We was gonna get married.

MARSHAL: I know your lightbulb isn't screwed in all the way Jeff but you must realize that there is no way in hell you are ever going to see Annie ever again.

JEFF: No!

MARSHAL: Jeff, Jeff...Jeff listen to me...you put yourself in a position that there is no way out of...the only thing you can do is run.

JEFF: Where the hell am I supposed to go?

MARSHAL: I haven't figured that part out yet.

JEFF: They were gonna kill me man!

MARSHAL: Because you're a fuck up! You think they just chose you out from a crowd? You owe everybody MONEY! It's a miracle you're still breathing. Only an absolute moron such as yourself is going to go to a club where you already owe your balls so you can sink your balls deeper into debt. How much more did they take you for? THOUSANDS. Am I right? Thousands on top of thousands and you'll never be good for it. If they didn't get you tonight, they'd get you tomorrow because you're long past the money bud, it's about the principle. Don't you get it? You've insulted the wrong people and you have to pay the ultimate price. Don't you get how these things work?

JEFF: But I was making time payments.

MARSHAL: With enough interest to keep you in debt for ten lifetimes.

JEFF: I shouldn't ah gone out tonight!

MARSHAL: No, you shouldn't have.

JEFF: (pointing to ground) Here they are.

Marshal checks the bodies.

MARSHAL: They're dead alright...what a disgrace.

JEFF: I didn't have a choice.

MARSHAL: There's always a choice.

JEFF: They were gonna -

MARSHAL: You've been making dumb choices your whole stupid life. It's not about tonight, it's about what led up to tonight.

JEFF: Well, shit on me.

MARSHAL: Where's the car?

JEFF: Think it's down over the hill...not far.

MARSHAL: Show me.

They walk.

JEFF: What are we gonna do now?

MARSHAL: I haven't the faintest idea.

JEFF: But I called you.

MARSHAL: And I'm supposed to have all the answers?

JEFF: I don't know -

MARSHAL: I've never been in this situation before.

JEFF: But you're smarter than me.

MARSHAL: Just cause I'm smarter than you doesn't mean I'm smart enough for this situation.

JEFF: Yeah, but your thoughts will be better than mine, right?

MARSHAL: Is that it? Think I see it.

JEFF: That's the car, yeah.

MARSHAL: You have the keys?

JEFF: *(checks his pockets)* Right here.

Marshal takes the keys.

They reach the car.

MARSHAL: Fucking mess...blood all over the trunk.

JEFF: (*looks*) I didn't see that.

MARSHAL: DNA flying everywhere.

JEFF: So?

MARSHAL: What do you want me to do?

JEFF: Get me outta here.

MARSHAL: To go where?

JEFF: Make things better for me.

MARSHAL: And if I can't do that?

JEFF: I don't know.

Pause.

JEFF: ...I know what you're thinking.

MARSHAL: What's that?

JEFF: You're thinking if it's better for me to run or die, right?

MARSHAL: I'm thinking how far are you gonna get by running?

JEFF: I don't want to run, Marshal. I'm tired of running my whole life...there ain't no way out for me is there?

Pause.

JEFF: ...Shoot me. I think I called you out here to be the one to get me outta this and the only person I trust enough other than Annie is you and I think I want you to be the one to get me outta this...

MARSHAL: I've never shot anyone ever.

JEFF: But I'm asking ya to do it for me, as a final favor.

Jeff hands Marshal a handgun.

MARSHAL: I can't do such a thing.

JEFF: Takes a second. Look, I go on my knees, you shoot me in the head and drive away. Nobody knows the wiser.

MARSHAL: I'll know.

JEFF: My whole life has been a series of bad decisions. You know me better than anybody. I ain't ever gonna get out of this one Marshal. I've reached the end of the rabbit hole, there's no light left. I'm not the brightest, we know that and I'm guilty of it, but it's not rocket science to know they were gunning for me. I went to the club tonight as a final gesture for them all to kiss my ass. For this life I've lived, to kiss my ass. I celebrated one last hurrah. I'm leaving everything behind. There's Annie. She deserves so much better than any life I could give her, I'll just be selfish to continue on. I love her too much...I gotta go out on my own terms and I can, if you help me out on this one last thing. You've always been there for me and I've never said thank you for any of it...I know it's not why you came here tonight, I know, but it's my only chance at leaving this place with a little bit of self-respect...you understand that. I can't ask this from anyone but you...

MARSHAL: Basically, you're telling me you've lost your mind?

JEFF: I'm being serious.

MARSHAL: There's no way I'm doing what you're asking.

JEFF: You have to.

MARSHAL: No, I don't.

JEFF: Marshal, I can't do it myself.

MARSHAL: I'm not killing you.

JEFF: Why not?

Marshal starts walking to his car.

MARSHAL: Cause you're an asshole, that's why.

JEFF: Come on, man.

MARSHAL: I can't have blood on my hands cause you asked me. It's not what I believe in.

JEFF: Since when do you believe in anything?

MARSHAL: I believe in a lot of shit.

JEFF: Like what?

MARSHAL: Don't start!

JEFF: Just shoot me and go home.

MARSHAL: Fuck off!

JEFF: Takes a split second!

MARSHAL: I said no.

JEFF: Thought you were my best friend.

MARSHAL: What does that have to do with it?

JEFF: Because you can set me free!

MARSHAL: Run.

JEFF: I don't want to.

MARSHAL: You can. I'll help you. You and Annie can live happily ever after.

JEFF: No, we can't! I thought this thing through.

MARSHAL: You have?

JEFF: YES! Please, Marshal, do this one final thing for me.

MARSHAL: I can't do it.

JEFF: But I'm asking you.

MARSHAL: And I'm saying NO.

JEFF: You bastard! I'd fucking kill you if you asked me to kill you.

MARSHAL: Cause you're nuts.

JEFF: I'm loyal.

MARSHAL: Stop talking.

JEFF: You gettin' mad?

MARSHAL: I'm beyond mad.

JEFF: Then shoot me.

MARSHAL: No.

Jeff pushes Marshal from behind.

JEFF: Shoot me, bitch!

MARSHAL: Jeff, you're an idiot.

Jeff pushes Marshal again.

JEFF: Scared bitch!

MARSHAL: Don't fucking touch me!

JEFF throws a punch and hits Marshal in the face.

Marshal raises the gun.

JEFF: Do it! Do it! Shoot me! Do it!

*Marshal throws the gun into the fields.
He gives a hard look to Jeff and walks off.*

Marshal crosses the road and gets into his car.

MARSHAL: (to himself) Stupid son of a bitch! What is going on?!

Marshal starts his car and steps on the gas.

*Jeff throws himself in front of the car.
Marshall hits Jeff and slams on the breaks.*

Marshal slowly gets out of the car.

Marshal sees Jeff on the road. He's on his stomach.

Marshal slowly turns Jeff over. Blood is revealed over Jeff's chin and lips.

JEFF: You got me good...finish it.

MARSHAL: I don't believe you.

JEFF: You got me.

MARSHAL: Stand up.

JEFF: No.

Marshal stands Jeff up. Jeff wobbles but he appears to be okay.

JEFF: Just run me over. Last chance.

Marshal gets in his car.

Jeff stands in the middle of the road.

Marshal revs his car's engine.

Lights out.

END OF PLAY