

SCENE 1

INT. MOTEL LOBBY - MORNING

Max enters in his same outfit from the previous scene but with a robe. SHERIFF O'BRIEN, 60s, well put-together fella, stands up and greets Max. Janice gets Max his coffee.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN

Mr. Mayhew...

The Sheriff extends his hand. Max shakes it. It's a firm handshake.

MAX

Good morning.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN

I'm Sheriff Robert O'Brien, but everyone just calls me Bob.

Janice gives Max the coffee.

MAX

I don't drink coffee, sorry.

JANICE

More for me, then.

Janice takes a sip.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN

We're excited to have you in town.

MAX

It's been a long time since I've been back.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN

Some things have changed and some things haven't.

Max looks around the old motel.

MAX

I see that.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN

Do you really think Harold Binetti is innocent?

MAX

I don't know what I think yet.
Something just isn't adding up.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN

Well, if I can help with anything,
let me know.

The Sheriff gives Max his card.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

Feel free to just call me. No need
to go through the whole department.
We're understaffed and overworked
as you can imagine.

MAX

Isn't that something you could
change as Sheriff?

The Sheriff laughs.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN

I wish. The state keeps changing
our funding. Up one year, down the
next, it's been a real problem.
Causes a lot of clerical issues
with cases.

MAX

That's concerning.

Max lights up a cigarette.

JANICE

Sorry, no smoking. We had a gas
leak not long ago and I'm not sure
if it's still floating around.

Max puts down the cigarette.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN

I also took it upon myself to plan
a small gathering in your brother's
honor tonight being that it's the
20 year anniversary.

END SCENE.

SCENE 2

O'Brien pats Max on the back and walks to the stage.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

Good evening everyone. Thank you for coming. Today we commemorate the single greatest tragedy to befall our peaceful little town.

Max listens while looking over the crowd.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

Twenty years ago, 16 year old Benjamin Mayhew was driving down Jugtown Road when he came across Harold Binetti stumbling in the night. Out of good citizenship, we believe Benji stopped his car to help Mr. Binetti.

Max finds Loretta in the crowd who looks at him.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

The truth of the events which followed remains unknown. However, DNA matching confirmed Benji's blood was found near a field along county line road. The fabric which contained Benji's blood also contained hair which matched the DNA of Harold Binetti.

Max moves his focus to the Sheriff.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

After a two year investigation and an eventual confession, Harold Binetti was found guilty of first degree, aggravated murder of a minor. Although his body was never found, Benji finally received three weeks ago when Mr. Binetti was executed.

A beat.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

The events which occurred that day remains heavily with each of us. An innocent child taken from this world by a monster. The world is unjust, unfair, and cruel.

(MORE)

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

We ask 'why God' must these horrible things happen. And we wait in anger knowing an answer might never come. But that is life. Life continues, no matter the pain. No matter the challenges. We look on and choose believe this world is good. We choose to believe that it will all be okay.

The crowd nods in agreement.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

Today we remember the bright soul that was Benji Mayhew. May each of us carry his light with us.

He bows his head in silence. Max continues to look over the crowd.

SHERIFF O'BRIEN (CONT'D)

Thank you. And now, a few words from Benji's older brother, Max Mayhew.

END SCENE.