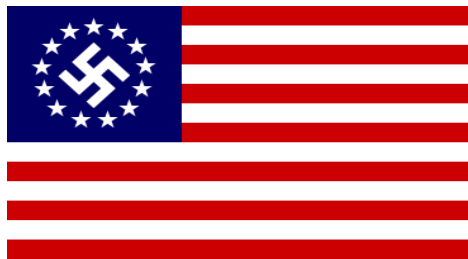


# DREAMTIME



A SURREAL PLAY

BY MAURA CAMPBELL

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Dreamtime  
By Maura Campbell

I        Inspired by the lives of Dartmouth professors  
         Half and Susanne Zantop, murdered in their home  
         January 27, 2001.

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Noah, a seventeen year old boy  
Willy, a seventeen year old boy  
Joerg, a middle aged geology professor, German born  
Greta, Jorg's wife, a Russian professor, German born  
\*Actor 1  
\*Actor 2

\*Actors 1 and 2 play various characters

### **SETTING**

A space that represents The Mountain, The Cell, and Joerg and Greta's Home. Many other locations are suggested. The fluid use of space is effective since scenes and dialogue constantly overlap.

### **MUSIC**

The sound of an Australian Bullroarer, the Gumleaf, and the Didjeridu.

### **TIME**

The present although the play moves forward and backwards in time.

### **NOTE**

*Dreamtime* is inspired by the murder of Dartmouth professors Susanne and Half Zantop in their New Hampshire home on January 27, 2001. After a short and intensive investigation, two teenaged boys from nearby Chelsea, Vermont were arrested for the murders. Jimmy Parker and Robert Tulloch, 16 and 17, hatched a plan to rob people for their bank PIN numbers and escape to Australia.

SCENE 1

(Hear the sound of a didjeridu. Joerg stands on a mountain; Greta is below.)

GRETA  
Joerg... Joerg... Joerg!

JOERG  
What is it?

GRETA  
You're sleepwalking again.

JOERG  
What?

GRETA  
You're sleepwalking. Again.

JOERG  
Sleepwalking?

GRETA  
You're going to kill yourself.

JOERG  
Not possible.

GRETA  
Come down now.

JOERG  
I was dreaming-

GRETA  
Come down now.

JOERG  
I can't. I've lost my footing. I can't remember what comes next. Do I cut the rope?

GRETA  
There's a thing-a-ma-jig. A clip. Undo that.

JOERG  
My weight is on it. There's no way.

GRETA  
Maybe we'll have to cut the rope.

JOERG  
Surely I've got a knife. Now let's see... This isn't my knife.

GRETA

It isn't?

JOERG

I must have picked it up, though. Very strange.

GRETA

Well. You were dreaming.

JOERG

Of course! Greta- perhaps... perhaps we're still dreaming!

GRETA

I don't feel asleep.

JOERG

Not now, no. But when you wake up, you'll say... what a strange dream. And it will fade, the way these things do, and it won't have any resemblance to reality.

GRETA

That would be a relief. Now come here-

JOERG

If I could just come down there... I'd kiss you! All over!

GRETA

What if I came up there?

JOERG

But that's not possible. You don't climb.

GRETA

But I can. If it's a dream, then it's no problem. I used to fly in my dreams. What's a little climb?

JOERG

But you're not wearing a harness. What if you should fall?

GRETA

I'll chance it.

JOERG

Steady now... grab hold... don't look down... full concentration... by God, you're a natural! Nerves of steel! You're here... take my hand...

GRETA

I can't...

JOERG

It's all right. You're fixed there. You're got a hold. Feel your center. Take a breath. Now let it out. Imagine... imagine you've held out your hand. And I've taken it.

And I've pulled you to me. And I'm holding you. Holding you like a baby. I've got you. You're safe. Are you seeing that?

GRETA

No.

JOERG

We're one and two, Greta. There is nothing between us. Not even air. When you are climbing with a partner, you become one organism. One mind. One creation. You no longer have two legs, you have four. Not one heart, but two. That's the paradox. We are one multiplied by each other.

GRETA

You're asking me to have faith. Is that it? Is that it simply? Just ask me to have faith.

JOERG

Have faith. Greta! Greta!

(Greta falls as if dead.)

SCENE 2

(Actor 1 as Delivery Man enters.)

ACTOR 1

Package for Noah Stone!

NOAH

Uh, that's me.

ACTOR 1

Sign here.

NOAH

Do I have to sign?

ACTOR 1

It says right here, signature required.

NOAH

You couldn't just leave it?

ACTOR 1

You want someone else to sign... Not sure I can make that out. Could you sign it again?... Something rattling around in there! Hope it's not breakable!

NOAH

It's a present. For my mother.

ACTOR 1  
"Noah Stone." Noah Stone. Hm. I know that name. You're not on television?

NOAH  
Uh, no.

ACTOR 1  
Did I read about you in the newspaper?

NOAH  
Must be a common name.

ACTOR 1  
I'll think of it. It's on the tip of my... Present, huh? For your mother? She raised a good boy. Well, Noah Stone. Thanks for the autograph. *'ave a great day, mate!*

(Actor 2 appears as Mother.)

ACTOR 2  
Noah!

NOAH  
Yes, Mom?

ACTOR 2  
Who was that?

NOAH  
It was the mail man!

ACTOR 2  
Mail comes at noon!

NOAH  
It was the delivery man.

ACTOR 2  
What did he deliver?

NOAH  
Nothing! He wanted to know if we lived here in case we ever got a delivery!

ACTOR 2  
And our tax dollars are paying for this! Take out the compost! Where's your father?

NOAH  
He went into town!

ACTOR 2  
He didn't take my grocery list!

NOAH

I'll go in later!

ACTOR 2

Your sister's coming home and there's nothing in the house she'll eat!

NOAH

She'll eat turkey like the rest of us!

ACTOR 2

You know what I mean! None of her special food! And Uncle Harry won't eat potatoes so we've got to have rice! And I need three cans, no, four cans of whipped cream! And a bottle of Kitchen Bouquet!

NOAH

I'll go to the store!

ACTOR 2

Did you hear what I said? Kitchen Bouquet! WI'd better write it down. And watch the roads, they're glazed over! And don't go over to Willy's, I need you back here! You hear me? You spend too much time with that boy, I don't like the way he skulks around! Noah! Come and get this list!

SCENE 3

(Actors 1 and 2 appear as Scientists.)

ACTOR 1

I'd like to begin with the results of the medical examinations taken just after the arrests and compare those to the subsequent examinations after the trials. Specifically, the comparisons of the brain scans. My colleague and I analyzed the data and I think you'll find the results surprising. Why don't you begin. As we discussed.

ACTOR 2

I'm sorry?

ACTOR 1

The results of the brain scans. The comparisons. You have the graph there-

ACTOR 2

Oh, the brain scans. Let me see... You sure I have them?

ACTOR 1

We settled it last night. It was late-

ACTOR 2

Yes, it was late. I do remember, however, but it's the funniest thing-



ACTOR 1

What's funny?

ACTOR 2

I was absorbed just now in the most peculiar fantasy.

ACTOR 1

I think if you just look through there again-

ACTOR 2

I was on a ship. I could see a vast ocean. Gray. Steel gray. Rough waters. I was on the deck, leaning over the rail. Watching for mammals.

ACTOR 1

Mammals?

ACTOR 2

Aquatic mammals. Porpoises. Whales. Dolphins. I can follow it back easily. I was standing here. With you.

ACTOR 1

Yes.

ACTOR 2

And looking out. At them. And thinking, "He addressed a sea of faces." And that set me off. You know, I've never even been on a ship. Can't stand movies about sea life. And yet, there I was. There it was. Was I there?

ACTOR 1

I can state with complete authority that you were right here. No water. No aquatic mammals. Not even, apparently, a medical report.

ACTOR 2

But it was so vivid.

ACTOR 1

Does this happen frequently?

ACTOR 2

I'm not sure. But it was exciting.

ACTOR 1

About the reports-

ACTOR 2

Ah, yes. I have it right here.

ACTOR 1

When asked to describe the events on January 27 of this year, the first subject, Willy Ranger-

(Willy appears.)

ACTOR 2

We detected nothing unusual. No excitement of electrical activity, no increase of blood pressure.

ACTOR 1

After the examination, the subject reported he was hungry.

ACTOR 2

Ravenous, was the word he used.

ACTOR 1

Reliving an episode is tantamount to experiencing it in terms of physical and chemical reactions. At least, that is what we commonly observe.

(Noah appears.)

ACTOR 2

The second subject, um, Noah Stone, had a very different reaction.

ACTOR 1

Resting pulse at the start of the examination was sixty-two-

ACTOR 2

Elevated to a hundred and twenty within sixteen seconds-

ACTOR 1

We stopped the examination. There was a concern of cardiac arrest. After the trials, we repeated the examination. Willy had the same readings-

ACTOR 2

Noah, however, had a very different reaction the second time we questioned him. His resting pulse went from seventy-two to forty-four.

ACTOR 1

Never seen anything like it.

ACTOR 2

Afterwards, he went to sleep. He snored.

ACTOR 1

Brain activity, on the other hand, increased.

ACTOR 2

He was dreaming. Interesting pattern.

ACTOR 1

What does it mean?

ACTOR 2

We're not supposed to ask that question. We're supposed to answer it.

ACTOR 1

Oh.

SCENE 4

(Greta's and Joerg's Home.)

JOERG

I don't know it needs something-

GRETA

Throw in some beans. "Alienation is the primary theme of Crime and Punishment. At first, Raskolnikov's pride separates him from society. He sees himself as superior to all other people and so cannot relate to anyone." Hm.

JOERG

Tell me what you think. Do you think it needs salt?

GRETA

I think she's plagiarized this. It's familiar.

JOERG

Yes, well, the Internet. Students are all over it. What about books? What about the dusty shelves of libraries, the time it takes to search - the abbreviation of experience, that's what has happened. Now take this soup, for example- This chicken stock - do you remember Mariah's third birthday party? I made the fricassee. Last April. Do you remember?

GRETA

Of course, I remember, how many granddaughters do we have?

JOERG

What did she call it? "Chicken Tennessee?"

GRETA

She's precocious.

JOERG

You're not making the connection.

GRETA

"Within his personal philosophy, he sees other people as tools and uses them for his own ends." These are simply not her words.

JOERG

I made the stock from those bones! And put it in the freezer! Taste. Go ahead.

GRETA

It's a little weak. Sauté some onions. I'm dealing with plagiarism here!

JOERG

Thanksgiving! I froze the date nut bread! (To himself.) A little of this, a little of that...

GRETA

You're not putting date nut bread in the soup!

JOERG

My mother put everything in soup! (Gleeful.) Hee, hee, hee!

(Lights on Noah and Willy in the Cell.)

NOAH

Hey.

WILLY

Hey.

NOAH

Whatcha looking at?

WILLY

Chat room.

NOAH

You want me to come back? I'm going to the store.

WILLY

No. Wait. I'm... done. How about a trip to Massachusetts?

NOAH

What?

WILLY

We're invited. That is, I'm invited. But I can invite you. I mean, I can once I join.

NOAH

Join what?

WILLY

American Nazi Party.

NOAH

Are you nuts?

WILLY

Do you know that by the year 2025 white Americans will be a minority?

NOAH

So?

WILLY

So think about it. We live in a democratic country. Suppose the majority of elected officials are black. Or Jewish. Or Latino. Have you read The Constitution? Not what the founding fathers had in mind.

NOAH

We've only got one black kid in school and he isn't even that black.

WILLY

You have to think ahead. Think of the long term. This is America. Look at this. More than fifty chapters all over the country. Notice anything?

NOAH

What?

WILLY

There isn't one in Vermont.

NOAH

Yeah, Nazis would be pretty unpopular here.

WILLY

You're not getting it. We start a chapter. They train us.

NOAH

Train us in what?

WILLY

I don't know - weapons. Physical combat. These guys are planning a revolution.

NOAH

My mom would kill me if I became a Nazi.

WILLY

She won't even know. Listen. "In the American Nazi Party, you will find no uniforms or ranks, we do not engage in publicly exposing our Comrades to undo publicity through pointless and dangerous Rallies or Marches. We instead stress Small Cell, and Individual Activism as the path for which to build our Movement, as securely and in a responsible manner as possible." Small cells. That means units.

NOAH

He's asking you when you want to come to Boston.

(Joerg massages Greta's shoulders.)

JOERG  
Why don't you stop all that?

GRETA  
Hm?

JOERG  
Look, it's starting to snow.

GRETA  
It's January, Joerg. It snows.

JOERG  
Not usually when it's this cold. Pretty, pretty flakes. I shoveled the deck.

GRETA  
Good for you. Now let me work.

JOERG  
Try it now. I put in some sausage.

GRETA  
I'm not sure- Still needs something. Did you try the onions?

JOERG  
We're out. Just one dried up morsel in the crisper. We might have some flakes.

GRETA  
Dehydrated onion? Please. "The manner in which the novel addresses crime and punishment is not exactly what one would expect. The crime is committed in Part I and the punishment comes hundreds of pages later, in the Epilogue." She copied this.

JOERG  
How can you tell?

GRETA  
You teach a novel for thirty years, you come to know the manner, the beat, as it were, of young minds. There's nothing original here. No fingerprint. It's from the Internet. I could key in *Crime and Punishment*-

JOERG  
Internet's down.

GRETA  
Ah, well.

JOERG  
Probably the weather.

GRETA

The weather has nothing to do with it.

JOERG

A day like this makes you want to stay in bed.

GRETA

I've got work to do.

JOERG

What work? The work was done by someone else, you said so yourself.

GRETA

"The real focus of the novel is not on those two endpoints but on what lies between them—an in-depth exploration of the psychology of a criminal." Why would she do that?

JOERG

Lazy. I had a student last semester that copied the flyleaf of the book we were using. When I confronted him, he said it was accidental. How do you do such a thing accidentally? He said it contained a point he wanted to make, and he inserted it in his paper meaning to delete it later and simply forgot.

GRETA

What did you do?

JOERG

I gave him the benefit of the doubt.

GRETA

You always were a socialist. (Pause.) There's someone at the door.

(Greta and Joerg look toward the door and freeze.)

NOAH

Don't tell him my real name.

WILLY

You in or you out?

NOAH

I don't know.

WILLY

They'd have to approve you, anyway.

NOAH

Who's going to approve you?

WILLY

You're kidding, right? I'm perfect. I'm white-

NOAH

I'm white-

WILLY

I'm English and German, the operative word being German. You're Irish as evidenced by the way your old man gets drunk on St. Paddy's day, not to mention Monday, Tuesday-

NOAH

What if they want you to kill someone?

WILLY

They're not monsters. Look, read what it says, "We are not monsters." I just want the training.

NOAH

Well... You can start with this.

WILLY

They came?

NOAH

Special delivery.

WILLY

Let's have it!... That's what I'm talking about!

NOAH

Wow. I didn't realize they would be so big.

WILLY

Man, I can think of more than one person I'd like to show this to! You know, like the entire student council!

NOAH

These are serious.

WILLY

Worth every penny. What's the matter?

NOAH

Nothing.

WILLY

Don't you like them?

NOAH

Sure I do. I just think they're kind of big. Heavy, you know?



WILLY

Look, we studied this. We spent hours picking them out.

NOAH

I know, I know. It's fine. It's just on the computer screen they looked different. I was just kind of surprised.

WILLY

Wait a minute, wait a minute. Check this out. Now that is hot. Go on. Tell me if you can see it. What?

NOAH

I don't know, you're walking kind of funny.

WILLY

There's nothing funny about having a knife like this on you. I don't like being laughed at.

NOAH

I'm just fooling around. I never know with you. I never know when you're acting serious.

WILLY

What?

NOAH

Nothing.

WILLY

Hey, I am just messing with you.

NOAH

It doesn't feel like it.

WILLY

I got something for you. Early Christmas present.

NOAH

Is this the chemistry test?

WILLY

No. That's the chemistry answer sheet.

NOAH

Jesus, Willy! How did you get this?

WILLY

Very carefully. Actually, it was just lying on Mr. Prescott's desk. So... I picked it up.

NOAH

Won't he miss it?

WILLY

Maybe. But so what? He knows the answers. He's been giving tests for a hundred years.

NOAH

You're saving my life.

WILLY

What do you want to do this weekend? Besides memorize that thing.

NOAH

I don't know. My sister's home for Thanksgiving.

WILLY

Uh huh. The Jacobs are out of town.

NOAH

So?

WILLY

So I'm thinking maybe we'll hang out at their house. I've got a key.

NOAH

Did you ask them?

WILLY

I work for them! I would just say we were checking on the place. Come on, Noah. The hot tub. The big screen.

NOAH

The bar...

WILLY

The bar... Sarah and Kelsey... Hey, let's try these out. You know the Miller's dog?

NOAH

Yeah? What?

WILLY

Let's get it.

NOAH

What are you talking about?

WILLY

It's old. It can barely walk.

NOAH

I'm not killing a dog.

WILLY

Look, we have to know what these can do. In case we ever need them.

NOAH

I'm not killing a dog, Willy!

WILLY

All it does is bark. Jesus, Noah! I'm just kidding. I'm just testing you. Come on, you think I'd kill a dog? Lighten up.

NOAH

I've got to go to the store.

WILLY

I feel like climbing. God, it's so claustrophobic in this town! Let's go to Burlington.

NOAH

My mom has to make the stuffing-

WILLY

Okay, look, I just need to pick something up. We'll be back in two hours. When does she need to make the stuffing? Thanksgiving's not until tomorrow!

NOAH

She's- I don't know, I'm supposed to get the celery-

WILLY

Fuck it. Let's go to the gym.

NOAH

Fuck it. I'm going to the store.

WILLY

We're climbing. Then we're going to the store.

NOAH

Okay, okay. Hey, aren't you going to turn that thing off?

WILLY

Nah. My mother never comes in here.

(Willy and Noah exit to the Mountain and begin to climb. Greta and Joerg come back to life.)

JOERG

What time should the roast go in the oven?

GRETA

We have until four o'clock. We'll have drinks at six, I made mushroom caviar. The roast will be done before seven.

JOERG

With those cheese crackers? Are you making those?

GRETA

If you'll leave me be another hour!

JOERG

Fine, but what's for lunch?

GRETA

What about your soup?

JOERG

If there was something else I could add- maybe a can of tomatoes! Ah, here!

GRETA

Now what are you putting in?

JOERG

Just taste, just taste. I think I've finally hit on it!

GRETA

It's good.

JOERG

Kitchen Bouquet!

GRETA

That's for gravy!

JOERG

My mother put it in everything. How's the plagiarist?

GRETA

Look here. Look at the font. Do you see?

JOERG

Not without my glasses.

GRETA

There are two fonts in the paper. Conclusive proof. She copied and pasted parts of it from the computer.

JOERG

That's what you get for making them read *Crime and Punishment!*

GRETA

One of the greatest novels in the world!

JOERG

These young people. They want reality shows. If it's not real, they're not interested. What do you say we go upstairs?

WILLY

So, I've been thinking. Do you know how much money there is in Hanover? With the college? We go over the mountain and scope out some of the expensive houses in the country. Just outside. And we go in, we find the PIN numbers.

NOAH

What, do you think they leave PIN number lying around?

WILLY

These people are arrogant. My dad works for lots of them. They just leave information on their desks. And, you know, if we have to be persuasive-

NOAH

But they won't be home, right? When we go in?

WILLY

Sometimes there are opportunities that we can't pass up. That's what I was saying about the dog. In case we have to make an adjustment.

NOAH

I'm not killing a dog, Willy!

GRETA

You're forgetting one thing.

JOERG

What's that?

GRETA

The strudel! We have to pick it up before two.

JOERG

All right. All right. I'm going out.

(counting his money)

Fifty, sixty, a hundred... and forty, fifty... I'm rich! What time are they coming?

GRETA

Six o'clock.

JOERG

I thought perhaps Bordeaux would go nicely with the roast. What were you thinking?

GRETA

We need whipped cream.

JOERG

The last can didn't work. Should I get Cool Whip as a backup?

GRETA

I'm not serving Cool Whip.

JOERG

I'm just saying, the last can of whipped cream was a dud.

GRETA

Then get ice cream.

JOERG

It's not the same. My mother used to make her own. First she'd milk a cow-

GRETA

I told you, no cows.

JOERG

Then we'd have cream! Real, fresh- you grew up in the city, so you don't know the joy of homemade butter and fresh whipped cream.

GRETA

So get whipping cream and I'll whip it up, will you be happy?

JOERG

And, of course, she made her own strudel. With currants, not raisins.

GRETA

I'll go to town. You stay here and fantasize.

JOERG

We'll both go. Someone has to hold the strudel. It leaks right through the box. That's how I know it's good.

GRETA

What time are they coming?

JOERG

Six thirty, seven. We'll know when they get here.

GRETA

It's snowing. You didn't get the new tires.

JOERG

I know, I know. I have an appointment on Monday. What's a little snow? I have a surprise for you when we get back.

GRETA

I'll bet.

JOERG

It's an outdoor activity.

GRETA

Outdoors? In this weather?

JOERG

A surprise. What is life without surprise?

(Noah starts to fall. Actors 1 and 2 enter as Climbing Attendants.)

ACTOR 1

You boys all right there?

NOAH

Willy? I can't...

WILLY

Give me your hand.

NOAH

No. I don't know. It's... I don't want to come up there.

WILLY

What are you talking about?

NOAH

I'm feeling frozen, like. I'm frozen.

WILLY

Give me your hand.

NOAH

I need to get down. I'm dizzy. I can't hang on.

WILLY

I've got him! Look, you've just got to concentrate. You've done this a thousand times.

NOAH

I'm seeing... like when I look down...

WILLY

Don't look down-

NOAH

But I'm seeing... like nothing below... a pit, except there's no bottom, no sides-

WILLY

You're in a gymnasium, moron. We're in Burlington, Vermont and you're fifteen feet above the floor and we've done this a thousand times.

Willy- NOAH

Noah! WILLY

He okay? ACTOR 1

He's fine. WILLY

How many fingers have I got up? ACTOR 2

Hold on, Noah! I've got you! WILLY

They say that if you die in your dreams, you really die- NOAH

Give us room! What's your name, son? ACTOR 1

Noah... it's Jimmy... Willy... NOAH

He's all right, he just got dizzy. WILLY

Jimmy what? ACTOR 1

I've been getting these... these spells... sometimes when I'm driving... it's the weirdest thing... I'm going along and looking at the road, the fields, whatever... and then it's gone. Just completely gone. Like I'm nowhere. Like I'm in the sky except there aren't any clouds. Nothing. Just me. NOAH

I'm calling an ambulance. *Heil Hitler!* ACTOR 2

You're screwing things up, Noah! WILLY

Where's the box? NOAH

Shut up! WILLY

What box? ACTOR 1



NOAH

I think I hurt my head.

ACTOR 1

We're getting you a doctor.

NOAH

My mom - she half cooks a turkey the day before Thanksgiving. I'm supposed to get the celery.

ACTOR 1

Help me elevate his feet. I'll go get a blanket.

(Actors 1 and 2 exit.)

NOAH

We only have one oven. And we have to make the pies and all. What are you talking about knives?

WILLY

Would you shut the fuck up?

(Actor 2 returns as Nazi Recruiter.)

ACTOR 2

*Racial greetings White Brothers and Sisters~*

NOAH

I was thinking that maybe I should change schools... I think I need a change... I think maybe... after Thanksgiving... if I could just go somewhere else for a while... I'm thinking I really need a change...

ACTOR 2

*We are looking for Men and Women, who are willing to sacrifice for the Good of the Folk, not people who are looking for aggrandizement, titillation, or simply causing undirected and useless mayhem. This is not a game or a gang.*

(Actor 1 returns as Criminal Psychologist.)

ACTOR 1

What did you think of the movie, Willy?

ACTOR 2

*If you are tired of being blamed for all the world's problems - simply because you are White, join with us! To learn more about the American Nazi Party, we suggest writing to our National Headquarters and requesting an Info Pack.*

WILLY

I thought it was kind of stupid, actually. Couple of bank robbers talking about going to Australia, but that's not where we got the idea. Like I'm going to imitate a movie. Like I don't know the difference between fact and fiction.

ACTOR 1 (cont'd)

Then why Australia?

ACTOR 2

*Please enclose a \$5 donation to cover costs. This information will be relayed to you as quickly as possible. If you are willing to join the ranks of your ancestors who forged this land from a wilderness teeming with savages, we urge you to become involved.*

WILLY

Well, like the guy in the movie said, "They speak English there." But, you know, they're kind of... Backwards. Come on, everyone knows the country was founded by low lives. I just- we just thought it would be easy there.

ACTOR 1 (cont'd)

Were you planning on killing people in Australia?

(Actor 2 struts around and hands out pamphlets.)

WILLY

Oh, that. I think... I wanted to kill someone for the experience. You see, I don't believe killing is necessarily wrong. The reality is that it's instinctive. We're born to dominate. Well, let me put it another way. The stronger over the weaker - is definitely human nature. And nobody has to get hurt as long as that is respected.

ACTOR 1

Did Noah share your views?

WILLY

He did what he was told. He stood up.

ACTOR 1

He's going to testify against you.

WILLY

He's going to what?

ACTOR 1

He made some statements. I have it in my notes...

WILLY

I don't believe this.

ACTOR 1

It's true. He told the state how you practiced by breaking into people's home in your own community first. There was the Jacobs-

WILLY

I had a key!

ACTOR 1

Noah says here that you tried to join the Nazi party.

WILLY

Yeah, well, maybe if I had we wouldn't be sitting here having this little conversation. Maybe I'd have some help.

ACTOR 2

*Download Adolf Hitler's masterpiece Mein Kampf [HERE](#).*

(Actor 2 exits.)

WILLY

I'm getting kind of sick of you.

ACTOR 1

There was a house in Vershire.

WILLY

We didn't even go in there. The guy wouldn't let us in.

ACTOR 1

What was your plan if you did?

WILLY

Plan?

ACTOR 1

There was a little boy in there. Seven years old.

WILLY

Yeah, well, it was his lucky day, wasn't it?

ACTOR 1

He said you were trembling all over. Was it excitement or fear?

WILLY

That guy in Vershire better watch his mouth.

ACTOR 1

He didn't tell us. Noah did.

WILLY

You're lying.

ACTOR 1

Noah's cutting a deal with the state. In return for testifying against you he'll serve a twenty-five year sentence.

WILLY

What about my deal?

ACTOR 1

I don't see one on the table.

WILLY

He's fucking dead.

ACTOR 1

You're not exactly in a position to make threats, Willy.

WILLY

I might surprise you.

(Willy and Noah appear in the cell.  
Lights on Greta and Joerg.)

GRETA

Did you lock the house?

JOERG

Oh, we'll be right back.

(Lights down on Greta and Joerg.)

WILLY

How was Thanksgiving?

NOAH

Too much food.

WILLY

You feeling better?

NOAH

Yeah, if we didn't have school tomorrow. How was Boston?

WILLY

Noisy. Dirty.

NOAH

Did you meet the guy?

WILLY

Yeah, I met him.

NOAH

So what happened? Did you join?

WILLY

It was all bullshit. He wanted me to distribute pamphlets. I said, what about weapons training? How do you have a revolution without that? He didn't look like he'd ever shot a gun in his life. I mean, I was willing to start a cell here. You and me. Jesus, Noah, you should have come.

He would have seen that I had some influence. Fuck it. Neo-nazis. I mean, you're what, Irish?

NOAH

My grandfather was Italian.

WILLY

Then you'd be a target probably. These Nazis hate everybody. But listen. It gave me an idea. I was walking by a travel agency and I saw a sign. Australia! This is the place! I've been researching it all weekend. It's like an untamed territory. I mean, they have cities, but most of it is still wild. You see that? It's called the Bush. They've still got wild Aborigines there. It's ripe! We can kick ass there.

NOAH

It looks like desert.

WILLY

Well, of course, it is the desert. But that's just one part. There are mountains. And ocean. Australia's an island.

NOAH

I know Australia's an island, I'm not an idiot. Nicole Kidman's from Australia.

WILLY

Russell Crowe! The Gladiator? That's the kind of people come out of there. So when we get our money together-

NOAH

We'll need passports.

WILLY

Okay, that's nothing.

NOAH

How much will we need?

WILLY

I figure ten thousand each. Here's the thing. Everything's backwards there. We're having summer, they're having winter. So we want to get there before they have winter. Say in May.

NOAH

But we're graduating.

WILLY

Noah, you've got to think beyond that. It's just a ceremony.

NOAH

My parents are expecting me to graduate.

WILLY

All right, look. I'm not sure exactly where we're going to end up. But if it's in the southern part, it's already going to be cold.

NOAH

I thought Australia was hot.

WILLY

It's a continent. It's got four seasons!

NOAH

I'm graduating, Willy. I'm going to need that diploma.

WILLY

Let's make a deal. I come up with the twenty thousand and we go. Whether that's June or whatever. It's a lot of money. And by the time we've amassed it, things might be getting a little hot, you know what I mean?

NOAH

Hot, like how?

WILLY

I'm taking all the risks. I'm planning it all. You'll be able to walk away. So cut me a little slack.

NOAH

I could always join you. You could get us set up.

WILLY

We're in this together. All the way. So look. I figure we need some practice. Just to get an idea of what kinds of obstacles lay in our path. So tomorrow - let's take a field trip.

NOAH

Tomorrow's school.

WILLY

What this with you and school all of a sudden?

NOAH

I'm failing. Chemistry and English. Jesus! I'm not going to graduate if I don't figure something out.

WILLY

I've got it figured out if you'll just listen. Will you listen? We try another town. I thought of Rochester because no one knows us there. We find a nice house. We knock on the door. We say we're doing a survey. Environmental thing, global warming, so forth. Bring notebooks. You come up with some questions and I'll casually look around.

NOAH

Questions about global warming?

WILLY

The thing is we have to practice for when we strike. You know, we could get the whole amount the first time. These things have happened. Twenty thousand. Look. I'll pick you up for school. And we'll head over the mountain. Afterwards we'll go to Burlington. Do a little climbing.

NOAH

But what if-

WILLY

What if, what if. You're thinking too much. What's the expression? Stay in the now.

NOAH

I guess.

JOERG

Hold it steady!

GRETA

I think I can manage. You're getting one piece for dessert, no more. And Julie gets to take the rest home with her! Now where have you got to? Joerg?

JOERG

Greta. Look at this.

GRETA

It's a rock. We've got them all over the house.

JOERG

But it's not where I keep it. It's igneous and it's placed - or rather crammed - in the middle of my metamorphic collection.

GRETA

Perhaps Allie moved it when she dusted.

JOERG

Since when did she start dusting my rocks?

GRETA

I don't know, maybe she had too much caffeine.

WILLY

Anything upstairs?

NOAH

Not yet!

WILLY

Check under the beds!

JOERG

It's very strange.

GRETA  
You must have moved it.

JOERG  
When was that girl here?

GRETA  
What girl?

JOERG  
Your student. With the black hair and glasses.

GRETA  
Yolanda?

JOERG  
That's it.

GRETA  
A few weeks ago. She didn't play with your rocks.

JOERG  
We took a Polaroid.

NOAH  
Willy! I found a roll of quarters!

WILLY  
Genius! Let's get the hell  
out of here.

JOERG  
She was going back to  
somewhere-

GRETA  
Brazil.

JOERG  
That's right. Look at this! Can you see it?

GRETA  
I'm not as intelligent as you. What am I looking for?

JOERG  
Behind her. The rocks. See? There it is!

WILLY  
Let's try the house down the  
road. We can always come back  
here later.

GRETA  
So the rock mover has been  
here recently.

JOERG (cont'd)  
I'll figure it out.

GRETA  
I'm hungry. How about some lunch?



JOERG

There's soup.

GRETA

Maybe a sandwich.

JOERG

There's someone at the door. Ah! It's a couple of kids!

GRETA

Don't let them in!

JOERG

It's just a couple of kids!

GRETA

You'll talk all day! I need you to cut up the vegetables!

JOERG

But they're... it's cold out there! I'll let them in, you come out in fifteen minutes, no, ten minutes and say I've got a phone call! An important phone call!... They were lost! Looking for directions!

GRETA

Have you seen my good knife?

(Willy and Noah stand before a doorway.  
Actor 1 appears as Homeowner.)

WILLY

Hi! I'm Aaron Bradshaw and this is Ian Jones. We're doing a survey, can we come in?

ACTOR 1

Some other time-

WILLY

It will just take a minute; it's for a school project-

ACTOR 1

I'm busy. Aren't you kids supposed to be in school?

NOAH

We go to a private school. In Chelsea.

WILLY

We'd really appreciate it. It will only take a minute. We're trying to get opinions on the dangers of global warming.

ACTOR 1

I think it's a bunch of crap. That good enough?

WILLY

There's a form I'd like you to look at and we're collecting signatures.

ACTOR 1

I'm not signing anything. Look, if it'll make you happy, leave me a flyer or something and I'll look it over later.

WILLY

Can I use the bathroom?

ACTOR 1

What?

WILLY

I drank some coffee and we've been in the car for a while.

ACTOR 1

Look, I don't know what you kids are up to, but the survey is over. Some other time. Watch my car. You're parked kind of close.

(Actor 1 exits.)

WILLY

What did you say?

NOAH

What?

WILLY

You said Chelsea! The school is in Vershire!

NOAH

Oh. I guess it kind of slipped out.

WILLY

Mistakes are deadly, Noah. You're screwing up our future with them.

NOAH

I thought we were practicing!

WILLY

Suppose that fat guy had let us in? And I found the PIN numbers. And you had told him Chelsea. The next thing that happens is he calls the town and finds out who wasn't in school that day. And we're screwed. This guy drives a BMW. You don't think he's got twenty thousand in his bank account?

NOAH

Why don't we just steal his car?

WILLY

Because we don't have those kind of connections. Fencing is another business altogether. Maybe in Australia. But we don't have time to learn the trade. Let's stick to the plan!

NOAH

Okay!

WILLY

Let's just go to Burlington. I feel like climbing anyway.

NOAH

Maybe we should just...

WILLY

What?

NOAH

Go back to school. He's looking out the window at us.

WILLY

Just get in the car.

NOAH

I want to go home.

WILLY

I said we're going to Burlington-

NOAH

I'm going home, Willy!

WILLY

Okay, okay, relax. Jesus, you're jumpy.

(Lights on Joerg and Greta.)

JOERG

Remember that couple that was murdered near Boston? Five years ago. We were on vacation, watching the local news-

GRETA

It was in Maine, what about it?

JOERG

Maine? No, we were at that conference-

GRETA

We were in Bar Harbor in July and we were freezing to death.

JOERG

Whatever possessed us to go to Maine?

GRETA

Your cousin's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

JOERG

Oh, yes. The bed and breakfast - it had those delightful pancakes.

GRETA

What about it?

JOERG

What about what?

GRETA

The murders.

JOERG

Oh, right. You said it was probably a sex thing.

GRETA

Why on earth would I say that?

JOERG

You were guessing. You were supposing it must be something like that. They were in their beds, there were sex toys everywhere-

GRETA

So they had sex and then turned knives on each other.

JOERG

It didn't say anything about knives.

GRETA

Oh. For some reason, I thought there were knives.

JOERG

What was that?

GRETA

What was what?

JOERG

I think there's - oh, its Brendan's dog, probably. Did you put the garbage out?

GRETA

No. Yes. I don't know.

JOERG

I'd better check it. What time are they coming?

(Light on Noah and Actor 2 as Psychiatrist.)

ACTOR 2  
How are you feeling, Noah?

NOAH  
Fine.

ACTOR 2  
Your mother says you blacked out.

NOAH  
Oh, just got a little dizzy.

ACTOR 2  
And an ambulance came?

NOAH  
I think the gym had to call one. Liability since I fell.

ACTOR 2  
You were climbing?

NOAH  
Yeah, me and Willy go to an indoor climbing gym. Petra Cliffs.

ACTOR 2  
And is it the first time it's happened?

NOAH  
I don't think I had eaten. It was the day before Thanksgiving and I was kind of saving up my appetite.

ACTOR 2  
You've been friends with Willy a long time?

NOAH  
What about Willy?

ACTOR 2  
Your mother gave me the names of some of your friends.

NOAH  
Oh.

ACTOR 2  
So, you've known him long?

NOAH  
All my life. Well. Most of it. He moved here in the sixth grade.

ACTOR 2  
And do you have other friends?

NOAH  
What? Sure. Ben, Jeremy, you know.

ACTOR 2  
How's school?

NOAH  
Fine.

ACTOR 2  
How are your grades?

NOAH  
Are you going to take my blood pressure or anything?

ACTOR 2  
I just wanted to talk to you.

NOAH  
Oh. So you're that kind of doctor.

ACTOR 2  
I'm a medical doctor.

NOAH  
A shrink.

ACTOR 2  
Your mother's rather worried. She thinks you're under some kind of stress.

NOAH  
Yeah, well, I'm alive. That's stressful.

ACTOR 2  
Do you worry, Noah? About anything?

NOAH  
Sometimes I worry about dying.

ACTOR 2  
Have you ever known anyone who died?

NOAH  
My grandpa. I was with him when he-

ACTOR 2  
Tell me about it.

NOAH  
It was my turn to watch him. He was hooked up to this machine. I feel asleep. But then I woke up in my own bed.