

True Blood Ties

by Joseph Arnone

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In this dramatic short script, SHAWN visits his/her parent GIN MALONE in prison.

INT. PRISON – FAMILY MEETING ROOM – MORNING

SHAWN sits at a small square table in the center of the room. In comes his/her father, GIN MALONE, a prisoner. SHAWN stands up and they both hug affectionately.

GIN: Sit down. You look good.

SHAWN: Thanks. How've you been feeling?

GIN: Got rid of that head cold finally. Took months.

SHAWN: You got more color in your face.

GIN: I feel good. How about you? Every time I see you, you've gotten even taller. How are things? How's your wacko mother/father?

SHAWN: He's/She's alright.

GIN: Leaving him/her was the best decision of my life.

SHAWN: What are you talking about? He/she threw you out.

GIN: Yeah, but I didn't go crawling back like he/she wanted.

SHAWN: And that makes you happy?

GIN: At least I have some pride left in the salt shaker.

SHAWN: Look, if you're going to act like this, then I'm outta here.

SHAWN stands up and the supervising guard stares at him/her and Gin.

GIN: Alright, alright, just sit down, okay? I'll cool it. I haven't had the best of mornings. Someone stole my soap and I had to shower with just water.

SHAWN: Well, I've had a bad life, so we're even...

GIN: Okay, I'm sorry. I'm really sorry.

SHAWN sits. A calming moment between them.

GIN: How is your mother/father, really?

SHAWN: He/She drives me crazy.

SHAWN and Gin look at each other and burst out laughing together.

SHAWN: But he's/she's okay, I guess. He's/She's taking heavier doses of meds now and he/she...lately, I catch him/her in daydream states. He'll/She'll be talking with me and suddenly He'll/she'll stop and he's/she's off somewhere else. Then he'll/she'll snap right back into the conversation like nothing happened.

GIN: Right.

SHAWN: I think he/she knows he/she goes off but we never mention it to each other, cause, you know...it's just—

SHAWN holds back the emotion welling up inside,

GIN:

I'm going before the board next month and you never know, most likely they will want me to stay the whole ten but since I've done half, you never know, they may let me out sooner. I doubt it but if they do, things will change and get better. I'll be home and I'll be there.

SHAWN: It's a long shot Mom/Dad.

GIN: Let's not depend on it but—I know your situation cause it's my situation. You understand?

SHAWN feeling better nods.

GIN: Are you keeping up with things?

SHAWN: Yeah, things get rough but we're getting by.

GIN: I'm so sorry that you're caught in the middle of all this.

SHAWN: Nah, it's okay...

GIN: No, no it's not. And I'm going to do everything I can to make things better for you. You just gotta hang in there a little bit longer. Can you do that for me?

SHAWN: Yeah.