

White Knuckle Ride Alternative Ending

by

Lee Thorneycroft

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alec enters the house. He looks pretty exhausted after the day he's had. He notices Cassie setting up some glasses at the table in the living room.

ALEC

Hey.

CASSIE

(unnerved)

Hey.

Cassie continues with what she's doing. She doesn't want to exchange pleasantries right now.

Alec notices a bag full of luggage in the hallway just outside the living room. He looks suspicious.

ALEC

(hangs coat up)

You alright?

He makes his way to the living room, only to see Calvin and Jake sitting on the sofa. He freezes for a moment.

ALEC

What's going on?

CASSIE

(points to Calvin)

Ask him.

Calvin sits there, still in his homeless man's clothes, building himself up to what he's about to say.

Jake looks like his old self: pale skinned, bloodshot eyed and as frail as an old widow.

ALEC

Calvin? What's up?

CALVIN

I'm leaving.

Alec looks surprised.

ALEC

(pause)

Well not looking like that, I hope.

CALVIN

(blunt)

I'm afraid so.

Alec looks at Cassie. He seems a bit overwhelmed, partly due to this, and partly due to how and when to relay his newfound information to Jake.

ALEC

Alright, i'm going to have to take a step back here for a minute... So what, you're leaving?... Why, because of me and Cassie?

Cassie answers for him.

CASSIE

Yep. Because of us.

Cassie grabs the bottle of red wine from the table, unscrews the lid, and starts pouring into the glasses.

Three have been laid out - one for Cassie, one for Alec, and one for Jake.

CALVIN

It's my decision Alec. I want to leave.

Alec, still overwhelmed, walks over to the table.

CALVIN

I bought you both that as a leaving present. To say good luck to the two of you.

Alec examines the bottle.

ALEC

Oh, not bad. Chateau Margaux. How much did that cost you?

CALVIN

Everything.

The room goes completely silent. Everyone is looking at Calvin. Cassie looks at him like an insect, like he's too imperfect to even make an impression on her.

Alec tries to break the tension.

ALEC

So... shall we toast? That's what we're all here for right?

Alec picks up his glass.

CALVIN

(quickly steps in)

Not Jake...

Jake freezes, awkwardly.

CASSIE

Why not? Jake lives here doesn't he?

Cassie picks up her glass. As if it wasn't enough before, Calvin is even more hurt now.

CALVIN
(careful with his words)
Well Jake's my friend and I don't
want him getting addicted.

Alec starts drinking and looks at Jake as he does so, staring at him with an evil eye. Jake notices and looks a little nervous.

CASSIE
Well Jake, do you want some or not?
It's your decision.

Calvin nods. Yep, that's another attempt at degrading him.

JAKE
Err I'm alright thanks Cassie.

CASSIE
You sure? Don't let Calvin stop
you.

JAKE
No, i'm alright, honestly.

Jake looks back at Alec who is still staring at him. Calvin just sits there, dazed and motionless.

CASSIE
Oh, I nearly forgot...

Cassie raises her glass.

CASSIE
A toast to Alec, my new boyfriend,
from now, until my dying day...
cheers.

Cassie starts drinking her glass straight away. Alec, looking like he's in a dream world, takes a second to contemplate what was just said. Then...

ALEC
Cheers.

Alec finishes the rest of his glass. He doesn't look like he enjoyed the taste. And then, decisively...

CALVIN
Cheers.

Calvin raises the entire wine bottle.

Cassie, Alec and Jake turn to Calvin. Calvin looks into Cassie's eyes and starts to down the bottle at a pace, making sure to look as though he's enjoying the taste.

After he's consumed at least half the bottle, Calvin slams it onto the table and stands. Cassie lowers her glass as Calvin walks over to her. He holds out his hand and offers a hand shake. His eyes look bloodshot.

CALVIN

Cassie...

His voice sounds heartbroken. Jake stares down Cassie. He looks ready to punch her - what a heartless bitch!

Cassie raises her hand to Calvin, awkwardly. She looks like she doesn't know what she's doing... So Calvin shakes her hand for her.

Next, Calvin walks over to Alec, who looks at him sympathetically. Calvin offers him a hand shake. He's happy to immediately shake his hand.

ALEC

Good luck mate.

CALVIN

It's you who's gonna need it.

Amidst the heartache, Calvin manages a smirk. Jake looks amused. He turns to Cassie, who's looking somewhat guilty but not defeated.

Jake looks at her in disgust - her own brother, staring her down like filth. Calvin walks towards Jake and pats him on the shoulder.

CALVIN

Stay out of trouble yeah.

And with that, Calvin picks up his bag of luggage from the hallway and heads towards the door.

Everyone stares at him in silence until Jake speaks.

JAKE

Calvin.

Jake rushes over to him. Calvin turns back around. Jake shakes his hand.

JAKE

Thanks for everything. Thanks for... Well you know.

Alec watches Jake suspiciously.

CALVIN

Don't mention it mate. I'll see you around yeah.

JAKE

I hope so.

Calvin smiles at Jake and turns to leave. Cassie doesn't know what to do with herself. She looks down at the wine bottle on the table.

CASSIE

Calvin.

Calvin stops. Knowing it was Cassie who spoke, he hesitates before turning back around. When he does, he sees Cassie holding up the wine bottle.

CASSIE

Take the wine with you. Knock yourself out.

Cassie gestures for Calvin to come and get it. Calvin pauses for a moment, then walks over to her and grabs the bottle.

Alec is focussed on Jake, who stands transfixed on Calvin and Cassie from the hallway.

Calvin nods farewell to Alec and turns to leave, walking passed Jake one last time. He shuts the door with a bang.

There's several moments of silence.

Then, Alec takes a few steps towards Jake from over his shoulder.

ALEC

Thanks for what Jake?

Jake breathes out a discrete sigh. He knows full well the answer to Alec's question. He turns to face Alec from the hallway.

JAKE

You what?

ALEC

You know what I mean.

There's an awkward silence. Alec looks at Jake like he's about to snap. Cassie steps in.

CASSIE

Alec, Jake was just saying he appreciated Calvin bringing him home, that's all.

Alec turns to face Cassie.

ALEC

You gonna defend him now are you? You know full well what's been going on with Jake the past six months.

For the first time, he looks angry with her. Cassie takes a step back. Jake cowers in the hallway - his frail little body is only just visible over Alec's shoulder.

ALEC

Why are you defending him? He's a drug dealer. He's a junkie.

CASSIE

And he's my brother.

Cassie looks incredibly vulnerable yet again. In the distance, Jake rests his arm against the wall.

ALEC

(pause, coldly)

And...

Jake presses his hand against his chest in the distance, starting to slouch against the wall.

ALEC

(pissed)

Just because he's family, doesn't mean he's innocent...

In the distance, Jake collapses to the floor with a loud BANG.

Alec turns around. Cassie looks ahead in horror. For a brief moment, it seems like the world's just ended.

Cassie runs over to Jake's side. His body lies motionless.

CASSIE

Jake!

Cassie leans down and checks his airway for a breath. He's not breathing, nor does he appear to have a pulse.

Cassie panics. Her voice is cracking up.

CASSIE

Jake!!

Alec walks towards her, slowly. He looks like he's not all there. He stops just behind her.

CASSIE

Why are you standing there! Call an ambulance!!

Alec is shaking. He's staring into Jake's dead eyes, looking as though he's having a flashback.

EXT. POSH STREET - THE NEXT MORNING (FLASHFORWARD)

Calvin walks down a long street in a posh part of London, carrying his wine bottle in his hand in the same way a tramp would carry a bottle of cheap beer.

The morning sun is on the horizon. Its light rays shine on him through the clouds. Calvin breathes in the fresh morning air, looking rather optimistic despite current events.

Wealthy men and women pass him by, staring at him like filth as he plunders through the street in his homeless man's guise.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Cassie is grieving for Jake, tearing up in a heap on the floor. Alec stands behind her, dazed and motionless.

CASSIE

Alec, call an ambulance!...
Please!!

Cassie falls away from Jake. She's crying so much, she can't speak anymore. She knows Jake's dead.

Alec stands shaking, much more noticeably this time. He's breathing irregularly, clutching his chest. He leans his hand against the wall for support, looking as though he's having another panic attack. This time though, Cassie bears witness. She looks at him like dirt, like he's nothing more than dog shit.

She turns to Jake's dead body. There's nothing they can do. If Jake even had a chance before, it's already too late.

EXT. POSH STREET - THE NEXT MORNING (FLASHFORWARD)

Calvin continues his long walk into yonder.

More men and women of wealth pass him by, diverting around him like a sea of gems parting in the presence of a rotten apple core.

Calvin smiles to himself in spite of his lack of belonging. Although deeply hurt by his former love, he looks ready to embark on a new chapter in life.

Appeased, Calvin finishes the last few drops of the wine he drank so lovingly all those years ago, when both he and Cassie could indulge in their love and wealth.

CUT TO BLACK