

TITLE: Dearest Brother

FORMAT: Feature|Action|Drama

LOGLINE: A man is thrown in jail only to learn that his brother set him up and now he must prove his innocence

COMPS: Brothers

WHY THIS STORY NOW: This story is based on Edward Foster and his family's real life story about how he moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the entertainment industry...more specifically acting. Upon moving Los Angeles and navigating the process of the industry, he stumbled upon writing. After giving writing some thought he came up with a logline, only to learn shortly after creating that logline, that his actual real life brother had been arrested and put on death row.

In a Los Angeles apartment in the center of Koreatown...

Ed Foster (39) had been up since 5:30 a.m. pacific standard time participating in zoom calls, and hanging out in the clubhouse app. Soaking up any and everything that had to do with the entertainment industry and how the hell do he get in. You see Ed had just moved to Los Angeles after resigning his job some seven months' prior as a Labor and Employee Relations Specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs. After resigning his job, he sold his duplex that he had owned in order to move to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the Entertainment Industry. Although he initially chose the career path of an actor, and after six months of pursuing that he was already SAG Eligible. But, fate had other plans.

One night after a long day of hanging out on clubhouse, Ed ended up creating in his head something similar to a logline where he was driving up to a prison to pick up his brother Shawn (35) from jail. He had created every detail, all the way down to the type of car that he would drive to go and get Shawn. Shortly after picking Shawn up, they were heading home but on their way home a chase ensued where they ended up at a night club. That was as far as Ed had gotten with the story before he decided to call it a night. The next morning Ed received a phone call from his brother DJ (37) he was crying and telling Ed through his sobs that Shawn had been put in jail and that he was facing 40 years.

At first, Ed was in disbelief because for one, Shawn was the actual brother that he was thinking about when he wrote the story the night before. But what was more bizarre to him, was if anyone in his family thought that any of them would go to jail, they would think that it would be DJ, not Shawn because Shawn was the favorite and could basically do no wrong. Because Ed's in shock, and he doesn't really believe what he was hearing coming out of DJ's mouth. His initial response was "At least he's not dead," and he hung up the phone. The reason that he hung up the phone was shortly before moving to Los Angeles, he wasn't really speaking to any of his family Shawn included. He thought that DJ was making this up only for him to start back talking to the family.

So, he texted his sister Nikita (38) asking her if Shawn had been arrested. She responded back with his actual mug shot, and that's when everything hit him like a ton of bricks. Just like he was trying to figure out in his head the night before how Shawn got into this situation. He was now trying to figure out how he got into this situation in real life.

In order to figure out how Shawn got to this point, there were some things that needed to be addressed. For one, Shawn has a serious drinking problem. But Shawn has to acknowledge that he has a drinking problem before healing can take place. Ed was also dealing with his own problems. Like how in the hell is he going to pay rent for the next couple of months now that he doesn't have a full time job?

Shortly after finding out that Shawn had been arrested and the reasons why, Ed learned that Shawn was put on death row. After being put on death row, Shawn threatened suicide and he was then placed on suicide Watch. After being released from suicide watch, he was placed in a detention center until his court date. All of this is happening while Ed is in the process of losing his apartment and going into a homeless shelter. If our family was ever going to get through this nightmare, there were some hard truths that needed to be addressed and it started with Their mother Anita.

Growing up as a kid Ed's Anita raised the three of them on her own. At first this all seemed normal to Ed. They went to church on Sundays, and because their grandmother Carrie Mae and Pastor Mamie Bryant were really close friends, whenever they came to church, Ed, DJ, and Shawn, would have to go up to the front of the church and sing. Ed hated singing, he didn't like

getting up in front of those people to sing. Shortly afterwards when they went to church and because Ed knew that his grandmother would want them to sing, it became customary for their cousin Tony to have to come and get Ed out of the bathroom to go sing.

Ed, DJ, and Shawn's father Warren was not in the Picture, but whenever he was in town or would call on the phone it would always end up with Warren and Anita getting into some type of argument. These two did not get a long and to this day, they still don't get along. Not because my Warren didn't want to, but Ed doesn't feel that his mother is mature enough to do so. Ed thinks this because they were raised in the church, and scripture teaches "Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ." Ephesians 4:32 (NCV) Warren is a Pastor and through Warren and Ed's many conversations, has expressed being open to having a healthy platonic friendship with Anita. Warren believes that it would help them heal as children, and that it would be beneficial for their children to see their parents getting along as adults. But Warren expressed that he doesn't think that Anita is ready for this type of friendship...and Ed agrees with him.

With that being expressed, Ed believes that is part of the reason why Shawn drinks the way that he does. He has no outlet or proper way to express his disappointment. Before this current prison sentence, Shawn had already been put in jail twice for two DUIs. Before Ed's separation from the military, someone sent him a picture of Shawn passed out in a parking garage from him drinking too much. In that picture, Shawn had pissed all over himself. Shortly after Ed's separation from the military, Ed went to live with Shawn and tried to address Shawn's excessive drinking before Shawn called the cops on Ed to ask Ed to leave his apartment. "Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin." Proverbs 16:18 (NCV)

Although Ed was disappointed in Shawn for his choice to have Ed leave his place. Ed agreed to leave only if Shawn followed the advice of the officers and go to the court house and have Ed removed the legal way. To which Shawn responded "You would make me do that?" And Ed responded, "If you're bad enough to call the cops on your own brother, you will have to go to the court house and do it the legal way." When Shawn left to go to the court house, Ed packed his things and left although he was already enrolled in personal training school. Something that Ed had

researched years because he knew that eventually he would someday be on TV and he wanted to make sure that he was camera ready. "You are not spiritual, because there is jealousy and quarreling among you, and this shows that you are not spiritual. You are acting like people of the world." 1 Corinthians 3:3 (NCV)

By now, you're probably asking where's DJ at in all of this?! Although DJ is the middle child, he's not as close as Ed and Shawn are. At this point in Ed's life, he has successfully served in the Armed Forces. But while he is living with Shawn he found out that Shawn's not actually attending college like everyone thinks that he is. Growing up Shawn was a successful gymnast and he's working at a local gym training young kids to be successful as well. Shortly afterwards Shawn would become co-owner of that very gym.

Shortly after Ed left home to join the Air Force, DJ graduated high school and moved to Atlanta to do his own thing. DJ eventually landed a job doing insurance. Ed and DJ talked about his life adjusting in Atlanta. DJ pitched business ideas which Ed thought were outlandish. One idea in particular which Ed knows became successful via another company.

Ed had just bought his Mercedes after his first deployment and he was preparing to go on his second deployment. DJ pitched this idea that as long as Ed had insurance on his car, DJ wanted to use Ed's car as some type of ride share there in Atlanta. At the time Ed thought that it was a crazy idea but years later, the company Turro had a similar business model. After Ed's second deployment from Saudi Arabia had been complete, he came back home to find out that DJ and his then girlfriend had a baby on the way. When Ed asked him what the hell happened DJ told him that he thought that he was going to die and that was the reason for the baby.

At the time this happened, Ed thought that it was a crazy excuse. When Ed spoke to him a couple of months ago, Ed found out the actual reason that he thought that he was going to die. Although their conversation a couple of months ago had been brief. DJ told Ed that Anita told him that she had taken out an insurance policy on him because of the way that he was living she didn't think that he was going to live too long. That coupled with the brutal beatings that DJ received when they were growing up and to this day Anita denies ever seeing. Ed doesn't know how Anita didn't see one beating in

particular because Anita was standing on the bed with Carey while it was taking place.

That brings us back to the set up. Ed remembers when DJ called him crying about Shawn and the allegations that he was facing about sexual misconduct with a child. DJ also told Ed about some guy coming to visit Shawn while he was in the detention center that had questionable mannerisms. To which Ed laughed and said "I told you!" At the time DJ acted as if he did know or believe what Ed had told him years before when Shawn called the cops on him when he was living with him in Orlando.

But a couple of months ago while talking on the phone with DJ for those two days before Ed blocked his number again, DJ told Ed a story of how when all of these things happened to Shawn, DJ was actually at the police station with Shawn. DJ explained down to the minute how long Shawn was in the interrogation room and that Shawn was telling the police that he was gay and that the alleged allegations were not true. As of last month DJ's living with Warren, and supposedly lost his apartment, he has a trucking business with a semi-truck that's paid off too. But during that conversation DJ asked Ed "Did you know that Uncle Mike and Ma had sex with each other?" Ed responded, "Dad mentioned it to me."

That was the gist of the first conversation that they had a month ago. The second day DJ called Ed, which was the conversation that pissed Ed off was after DJ showed Ed pictures of his semi-truck. DJ goes on to tell Ed while laughing, yeah I took Ryann to California and I fucked her on the beach. DJ then goes on to talk about the Washington, D.C. trip that they had a couple of years back. Ed remembered this particular trip because DJ was being an ass the whole trip. To the point where it was embarrassing. Before Ed called it a night, Ed, DJ, and Shawn were outside of the Airbnb that our parents rented. Ed and DJ were smoking weed, and Ed remembers that DJ was being DJ as usual. DJ said "Ed, say cracker!" To which Ed responded, I am going inside good night!" The time was about 1 a.m.

Shortly after Ed goes inside. Ed's asleep on the couch, and he's awakened by DJ, who demanded "Hey Ed, say cracker!" But according to DJ's conversation last month, he confessed that he and Shawn were already in the house and that it was Shawn that was being loud because he was drunk and woke everyone up in the house. But Ed told DJ that he did not remember it that way, to which DJ hung up the phone. Ed then texted DJ, "Don't call back

either NIGGA! DJ's response "Fuck you;" "Nigga". Ed's response, "Fuck your momma bitch! Your dumb ass should've been locked up!" Ed texted two text of scripture to DJ. "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth." 1 Corinthians, 13:6 (NIV); "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid." Proverbs 12:1 (NIV)