

# SAFE

## Synopsis

Rififi meets Get Carter.

When ageing safecracker and much respected old-time criminal Albert Graves dies a week before his latest job, his criminal associates see the chance of another big score begin to slip from their grasp.

But on the day of Albert's funeral, his grandson Johnny, the heir apparent to the family safecracking throne, overhears a conversation about the need to find a substitute Peterman (a safecracker) and soon. Johnny goes in search of the men to offer his services, but finds only his alcoholic, abusive father. By the time Johnny extricates himself from an unwanted showdown, the men have already left.

The following day Johnny wakes to discover his grandad's criminal associates have returned in 'search' of the specialist tools and blueprints needed to complete the safecracking job. Johnny makes an impromptu offer of his services, but is turned down with no small amount of derision and contempt. They know who's grandson Johnny is, and that he has been schooled in the art of safecracking, but they also know that Johnny is a long-time smack-head and all round scumbag. A young man to be mistrusted and shunned by family and friends alike.

Later that same night, whilst scoring his next fix, Johnny is confronted by his grandad's criminal associates and forced to accompany them. After a short, brutal meeting with the apparent head of the organisation, it becomes clear bigger fish are willing to overlook Johnny's addiction in exchange for his apparent skills. Johnny is whisked away under cover of night to a derelict, farmhouse to complete the job his grandad had begun. In this abandoned and foreboding place, beyond all prying eye's four men and one smack-head go to work. Four men under strict instruction to come down hard on Johnny. If he fails the job he has been contracted to do. Four men, all with their own secret reasons for wanting Johnny to succeed or fail in equal measure.

Alone and locked in a dank cellar, far from his next fix and with the threat of bloody violence looming over him, Johnny waits. He waits for the first itch of withdrawal. An itch he knows will quickly become a flood of pain, dragging him down to that hardest of places where the demons of his past, the unforgiving safe and the ghost of his dead grandfather all wait.

But as Johnny fights his demons below and the four men are locked in their petty rivalries and power struggles above, are all unaware of the shit-storm of violence and recrimination that stalks through the burnt out hallways of the old farmhouse.

Safe is the brutal and redemptive story of a young man's journey from the lowest of the low, from street crawling smack-head into something altogether more noble, something his beloved grandad had always hoped for, that one day Johnny would become a good thief.

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