

**The Magic Roadhouse Inn
When Is Blood Thicker Than Water**

Jongleur Music Pictures
Treatment By Elisabeth Revel and Gary Revel
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Why do bad things happen to good people? This is the question many people are asking themselves after Chuck Brown's remains are found in a shallow grave in an orange grove in Orlando Florida. Chuck had been murdered in a grotesque and horrendous manner that is more like a sadistic Satanic ritual or drug crazed orgy of blood than the drunken brawl the Orange County Sheriff's Office is reporting to the press.

Chuck's long lost love, Cheryl Brooks-homicide detective, is asking who could have done this, his family seems sure of the answer, but the sheriff's department is of no help and their actions shout "Good Riddance".

Chuck always feared death but you wouldn't have known it from the way he lived life. He lived like he was dying. He was the only son and last child of Jonathan Brown and Susan. He had four older sisters whom would have died for him if given the chance, but Chuck was ever-ready to protect their honor. He was just starting his own landscaping company, he adored and worshiped his three year old daughter, and now had found his long lost love that he had been hoping for years to find and spend the rest of his life with.

His Daddy, Jonathan Brown, was not a great father or husband. That is why Chuck had always said he was going to be the best father he could be and if he ever found the right woman to marry, he would be the best husband in the world.

Alcoholism made Jonathan a monster that the children would try to hide from whenever he was drinking. On a number of occasions Susan would be beaten by Jonathan, almost to death. Chuck grew up in this kind of abusive household. He never wanted to become an alcoholic like his father. In fact even though he did become an alcoholic, he never took the road his father had taken. His father had spent a few years in a Florida Prison for armed robbery and never had much regard for the local lawmen in and around Central Florida.

Chuck met Cheryl in high school, he was a Senior and she was a Freshman when they first met. It wasn't until Cheryl was a Senior and Chuck was in college that they began to date. He carved a heart with their initials on it on a tree in a park in Winter Garden Florida where it continued to demonstrate their love all this time. He was head over heels for Cheryl and after five years of dating at the age of twenty he wanted to ask her to marry him. Chuck bought a ring and drove to Cheryl's house hoping that she'd say yes to his marriage proposal. Cheryl was outside watering her yard, her mother was working in the flower bed and saw Chuck recklessly pull into her driveway. Chuck walked over to Cheryl and dropped on his knees. He pulled out the box with the ring in it and asked Cheryl to marry him. Cheryl said yes and Chuck was the happiest man alive.

Cheryl's mother and father thought he was too old for her and knew all about his father being the town drunk and a violent man who had no regard for the law. There were rumors of his father being involved with the mafia. The parents left Chuck and Cheryl sitting on the sofa talking and went to bed.

Chuck awoke in Cheryl's living-room the next morning. He overhears Cheryl and her parents arguing about them getting married. Cheryl had just turned seventeen and thought she was ready because she loved Chuck. It wasn't the fact of her age that bothered her parents. It was obvious that they had a problem with Chuck and his father's reputation. They wanted her to marry a young man named JT who was a judge's son and closer to her age who wouldn't be able to get married until after high school. He was going to enter law enforcement the same occupation they wanted for Cheryl, because her father was a Lawyer.

Cheryl threatened to run away and get married without their approval and never see them again. Her father ended the argument telling her it didn't matter because he had been transferred and they were moving. Chuck was devastated and left Cheryl's house without saying goodbye Cheryl told her parent's she was going to say goodbye to some girlfriends to get out of the house. Cheryl waited beside the tree with the carving on a hunch that Chuck would come there too. Chuck saw her and slowly walked over to her. He knew it was going to be the last time he might ever see her. Cheryl told Chuck that they might move back after she graduates high school. Chuck didn't believe her, but he wanted to be happy for Cheryl, he smiled and told her that he'd be here when she got back and then they could live happily ever after. Cheryl told him that she wanted to make love to him. They found an empty room in a nearby church that was left unlocked. They made love there then they parted ways promising to be together again someday.

Chuck drove over to his father's. His dad lived in a mobile home outside of town and away from any neighbors. He opened his father's trailer door and was smacked in the face with the stench of rotting flesh. He slowly approached the monstrous decomposing remains sitting on the floor and slumped against the wall. Chuck found himself staring into the face of death. He began to cry and called 911. After he got off the phone he took the half full bottle of Jim Beam from the table and crawled into it never to come out again.

As he heard the sirens approaching Chuck just up and left feeling as if his life was nothing but garbage now. He drove until he saw a dumpster near a building. He stopped the car, got out, pulled himself up over the edge of the dumpster and fell in. He decided he would lay there and die. Life no longer had any meaning to him whatsoever.

The family heard the news about Jonathan Brown's death and many just assumed he had been murdered. Someone went looking for Chuck and finally found him in the dumpster. He was brought home where he told them all why he was so depressed. His family encouraged him and his mother told him that God had a plan for everything and he should look to God for help and not any other person. She told him that they had to be strong even as she herself broke down and sobbed over the death of her former husband.

Chuck went looking for and found pain pills and whiskey in the house which he used to soothe his painful body and spirit. Later he went to his mother and hugged her. He found the liquid courage he needed to get through another day without killing himself.

Chuck continued in a deep depression because of his father's death and his failed romance. He began drinking heavier, getting into the occasional bar fight, crying alone in his room, praying for God to bring Cheryl back to him. He would find escape in alcohol and drugs. This went on for the better part of ten years. He had several failed relationships but had a couple of children and tried to be a good father. When he met his next girlfriend, Tarina, they agreed they didn't want to marry. They enjoyed each other's company and just wanted to have fun. They soon had a little girl and named her Ashlynn Chuck Brown. It was then Chuck realized he had to try to straighten up and start living right.

Chuck started working for Jeremy, his sister Marsha's husband, who owned a landscaping business. Jeremy hired him on and Chuck shortly found out that Jeremy's employees were more gangsters than the upstanding citizens they were made out to be. Bruce Davidson was Chuck's nephew, Marsha's son by another man. Bruce worked for Jeremy in the landscaping business but also in the drug trade. Chuck told Marsha that he didn't like his nephew being part of that kind of life and he didn't like it that Jeremy was running a criminal operation. Marsha told him that she didn't necessarily like it either, but Jeremy was the one who owned the business, the homes and made the money, so whatever he wanted was what was done. Bruce and two other young boys who worked for Jeremy lived in one of Jeremy's homes next to Jeremy and Marsha's house. Some called it the Magic Roadhouse Inn because that was where crystal meth was made and sold. The place got the reputation of being a party house for the most part.

Chuck told Bruce that he was going to start his own landscaping business and that he wanted Bruce to come to work for him. Bruce told Chuck that he was in a gang and he could never get out alive, even if he wanted to.

While working for Jeremy he had learned the ins and outs of the landscaping business and now began to create his own company. Jeremy tells Chuck that he knows he's trying to start his own landscaping business. Jeremy makes it clear to Chuck that he has only helped him out these past years because he is his wife's brother and that if he had it his way he would never have hired him. Jeremy tells Chuck that he'll never make it in this town because everyone knows him and that he doesn't want competition from Chuck. Chuck tells Jeremy that he's going to continue building his own business because he has a family to support and that the day he is stopped from supporting his family is the day he might have to kill somebody.

Chuck is able to kick the continual use of drugs but still takes a few pills for pain occasionally and still gets drunk more than he should. Whenever he drinks too much he crashes at the Magic Roadhouse Inn with Bruce and 'friends'. Bruce and his friends are usually there every night. One night he watches as they make some crude weapons. They use tools, chains, axes, wood planks; things that can be fashioned into deadly instruments. Drugs and alcohol flow as the night draws on and Chuck drifts off to sleep on the couch.

Bruce starts beating Chuck in the head with the chain attached to the axe handle. Chuck is bleeding but not waking up. Bruce runs to Marsha and Jeremy's and wakes them up. Bruce says he was just testing out his new weapon but he might have killed Chuck. Jeremy and Marsha run to the roadhouse inn. They see Chuck bleeding and Marsha tells Bruce to call 911. Jeremy tells Marsha not to call 911, that they'll take Chuck to the hospital themselves.

Bruce and two boys carry Chuck to Jeremy's truck and throw him in the back. Jeremy drives off with Bruce and tells him not to confess to hitting Chuck to anyone. They take Chuck into the hospital and Jeremy tells the hospital staff that Bruce found Chuck on the floor after he said he wanted to kill himself. Jeremy tells the staff that Chuck takes a lot of pain pills because he has a bad back and drinks heavily.

Chuck wakes up with no idea of what happened to him. He goes home and tells Tarina what happened. He can't work for a week because of the head injuries. Tarina is angry that he is missing work and makes Chuck go tell Jeremy to give him a weeks pay for being out of work because of his son.

He questions Jeremy about what happened. Jeremy says Bruce found you beaten, didn't know what happened. Chuck tells Jeremy that he thinks they beat him to try out their weapons. Jeremy tells him there's nothing he can do about it. Chuck threatens to go to the police about the gang and the crystal meth. He tells Jeremy to make them stop everything or he'll tell the cops about Jeremy's criminal operations. Jeremy is not afraid because the cops won't believe Chuck over him, and if they do he can easily turn it around in his favor.

Jeremy is friends with an Orange County Deputy Sheriff, JT. They grew up and live in Belle Isle, a small upper class town where everyone knows everyone and you are what they say you are. JT's father is a judge and they have gotten away with a lot and have even framed others for their dirty work. It isn't easy for anyone if you're not a member of the 'good ole boys' club.

JT pulls Chuck's car over one day and provokes him into a fight. He arrests Chuck for assaulting an officer and resisting arrest. When they bring him into the station Chuck is throwing a fit and threatening to sue the entire department. The Sheriff talks to Chuck and JT, he decides that JT should be suspended for a day and Chuck can go free if he agrees not to press charges against JT. Chuck decides to leave because that is the only option he can agree with. Chuck notices a familiar face on his way out of the sheriff's station and does a double take. It is Cheryl Brooks, his first love. She looks up from her desk and sees Chuck starring at her. She gets up from her desk and he walks away and out of the station. Cheryl is confused and dismisses the idea that it was Chuck.

Cheryl begins to reminisce about her first love, Chuck, she always wanted to look him up and find him again. She was too scared to try, she always thought he had moved on by then and was probably married. She didn't want to take any chances because she was worried about what would happen if she did. Cheryl decided too much time had passed

and it was too late so why even bother. Finally curiosity got the best of her and she asked JT who he had just brought in. JT told her it was Chuck, some scum from Belle Isle driving recklessly. Cheryl couldn't believe it and she hid the excitement she was feeling because JT was her boyfriend at the time. Cheryl decided that she would go talk to Chuck and maybe they could be friends if they couldn't love each other again.

JT invites Cheryl to dinner with him and some old friends. Cheryl realizes she is having dinner with one of Chuck's sisters. She gets Marsha alone and asks her about Chuck. Cheryl finds out that Chuck lives nearby and that sometimes he stays in their guest house. After dinner JT tells the story about arresting Chuck. Cheryl finds herself very disturbed at everyone because they are all laughing. Cheryl goes along with them all until she gets in the car alone with JT and on the way home Cheryl rips into him for misusing his authority as a deputy of the law and how she is disappointed to see that he is that kind of person. She breaks up with him.

After dinner Marsha calls Tarina and tells her about Cheryl asking where Chuck lives. Tarina questions Chuck about Cheryl. Chuck explained that nothing has happened so there is nothing to worry about. Chuck is excited to hear that Cheryl was asking about him, but he is not happy to hear that she was over there with JT.

Chuck quits Jeremy's landscaping business telling Jeremy that he didn't appreciate him having his buddy pull him over, provoke him into a fight and then falsely arrest him. Chuck tells him that he has started his new business and is taking his two best clients along with him. Jeremy tells Chuck that he is not just starting a new business, but he's starting a war.

Tarina kicks Chuck out for quitting his job and not thinking about her and their daughter. Chuck tries to explain that he did it for them and that he has two appointments already for his own landscaping business. Tarina argues that he's lying and he was really fired and that he's really going off to cheat on her with that detective who asked about him at Marsha's house. Chuck wanted to argue but instead he gives up and heads to the Roadhouse. Chuck tells Bruce not to tell Marsha or Jeremy that he is there but he has to be there for a little while until he makes up with Tarina.

Cheryl finds Chuck at the Roadhouse one afternoon. They reconnect as if they never left each other. They make plans to see each other the next weekend at the local bar. When Chuck doesn't show up, Cheryl goes home alone, drinks by herself, checks her phone for any missed calls, and falls asleep depressed.

The next morning Cheryl finds JT passed out on her door step. She wakes him up, he looks drunk and has dirt and what looks like blood stains on his shoes and clothing. Cheryl asks what happened to him and he says he was in a bar fight. JT starts rambling about Chuck and asking Cheryl if she broke up with him because she wanted to be able to chase after Chuck. Cheryl told him she broke up with him because he showed his true colors when he pulled over Chuck to arrest him just because his buddy didn't like him. JT tells her it was still Chuck's fault. Cheryl tells JT that it wasn't Chuck's fault that

Chuck has nothing to do with it and that if he doesn't leave her alone she will report him for being unlawful and corrupt. JT threatens Cheryl and then apologizes and says he is joking and he's still drunk from last night. Cheryl gets in her car and drives to work.

Cheryl walks in and notices Chuck's sister Peggy in the office reporting Chuck missing. Cheryl talks to Peggy and tells her she will help in any way she can. Later Cheryl walks into the morning briefing and JT is talking about Chuck. He is telling the company that he will handle the missing person's case, it is a low priority case and to refer anything and everything to him. He mumbles to the Sheriff that he knows the guy and how he probably took off on a binge with a prostitute.

Cheryl approaches the Sheriff after the briefing and tells him that JT should not be in charge of this case. The Sheriff tells Cheryl that he knows they didn't like each other, but that JT is going to take this job seriously just like any other missing person's case. Cheryl tells him that JT purposely provoked Chuck the day he arrested him, the Sheriff looks at Cheryl and tells her that Chuck and JT know each other, he'll probably know where to find him. Cheryl tells the Sheriff that he's making a mistake and that JT is probably involved and she thinks there was foul play because of how she saw him that morning. The Sheriff tells Cheryl to tell JT about the last time she saw Chuck because he knows she knew him too and it needs to be in the file.

Cheryl decides she should look for Chuck and starts asking his family and friends about the last time they've seen him. Cheryl realizes she may be getting in over her head as she hears more and more that some are thinking as she is; Chuck was murdered and Jeremy, Bruce, and Marsha all played a part in the homicide.

Cheryl finds out that Marsha has called her mother and left a message about the murder. She drives up to Georgia where Susan lives and sits with her listening to the tape. It is obvious Marsha is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and sounds depressed but it is also clear she thinks Jeremy killed Chuck and buried him near the Magic Roadhouse Inn. She returns to Florida where she leads a search for Chuck's body. They find the remains of Chuck in a shallow grave 20 yards from the house at the edge of an orange grove.

Soon the twenty year old Bruce Davidson and a seventeen year old named James Bush are brought in and booked for First degree murder in the case. Cheryl continues her investigation and finds that illegal and prescription drug use underpins the murder and overlaps the investigation in ways she never dreamed could be. Conspiracy and corruption prevails for four and a half months while Chuck is on the Missing Person's list and hides the facts of Chuck's murder.

Cheryl had to focus all the strength and courage she could muster but with the help of a friend who worked for the FBI and her own determination to make right things that were terribly wrong she cracked the case wide open and brought all those guilty of Chuck's murder to justice. After it was over she accepted an offer from the FBI to become an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Just before she was about to leave to

enter the FBI academy she had to visit the park in Winter Garden where Chuck had carved their initials into a tree. She arrived to see bulldozers and wood chippers, they were cutting down trees. She headed over to the tree just in time to salvage the only piece of Chuck she could ever keep, that piece of tree he carved just for her. She sat it on the seat beside her and with her new sense of strength she began the drive to her new life with the FBI.