

My birth name is Byron Donovan. It says so right on the paper. But everyone around here calls me Brick. It pisses me off. In high school, a hot shot named Raymond Thornton threatened to bash my head in with a brick.

The principal told him, "Thornton, if you brick Donovan, you're out of here."

The name stuck. It's just one reason why I hate him.

I might have turned out better with different parents. I was only eleven when I shot Daddy in the back. He was hitting Mama with an axe handle. I don't even know how many foster homes I was in. I lost track. Mama finally got me back. I think they kept me away from her until Daddy got locked up. Mostly I remember her being drunk.

Folks who knowed Wilmer Donovan called him Butch. I just knowed him as Daddy. He went to prison for trying to kill Mama. They said I saved her life, so they never done nothing to me for it. They just passed me around like a bag of maggots.

Actually, it don't surprise me none that he died inside. A bunch of niggers stabbed him to death in the riot of 61. It just goes to show why I hate them so much.

That's how I got crippled. I was kicking this black kid in the head when Thornton tackled me sideways like. It wasn't no accident. Knees aren't supposed to bend like that. Now my left one don't hardly bend at all. That's the mainest reason he is my enemy. I think about ways to hurt him all the time.

I think how much I hate Raymond Thornton every time I pull on a pair of pants or take a crap. Him and his two buddies. Don't matter to me that one of them is the sheriff. They are just a bunch of nigger lovers who ruined my life. I went to prison on account of them. It was bad. There were men there who ... well, forget about that.

It's hard to get work after doing time. I drove a garbage truck until they fired me. Today I got like eighty-seven cents to my name. I ain't got nothing more to lose. So my mind is on justice. Just thinking about it makes me feel good.

Daddy did teach me one thing. Revenge is sweet if you can wait for it. Only, strike from behind and use a big stick.