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The only way out is through

"The only way out is through" is a fiction story in which Alethea Black, the author, is a fascinating story because it touches the feeling of the relationship between father and son specifically and family in general. Mr. Fetterman is the main character of the story; he was the sample of the father who felt ashamed because he was not paying attention of his son. After a while he found out that he start losing control of his son and tried to use new tenderness, which was going on a camping trip with his son, to fix the relationship between them. Derek is the Fetterman's son, and he was the most miserable character in the story because he thought his father did not like him and did not want him, but he did not know why. Fetterman got married to two women Sonya and Carla. His two ex-wives were perfect opposites in everything in their life. For example, Sonya likes to eat healthy food while Carla wants to eat fast food. Even physically, Sonya has black hair and sharp nose however Carla has frosted bangs and Cupid's bow mouth. Fetterman has difficulties in his two marriages that led to divorced and he was afraid that he did not want to lose his son he wants to try hard to reconnect his relationship with Derek using a different way than he usually used to fix his relationship with people that he loved and those ways were all failure. By remembering advice from his ex-wife Sonya, his relationship with Derek, his son, became much better than it used to be (paragraph 3).

The relationship between Derek and Fetterman was bad; however, the author did not mention at the beginning of the story how worse this relationship was starting from Derek's birth until the

camp trip part. The story began in the end, and everything only happened while Fetterman was driving the car in the way to go camping and he remembered what happened in the past. The main thing when the reader notice the truth that Derek was right that his father did not want him when he born was by the end of the story when Derek was about to kill himself (paragraph 31). Instead, the reader needs enough details such as actions and words starting from the beginning of the story about the relationship between Derek and his father at home in order to understand what Derek feels what since the whole story was talking about Fetterman' life with intricate details (paragraph 1,2,3,4,5,6,10,11,23, 24,25,26).

Fetterman had a bad relationship with his own father as well according to the story, and his father died after Fetterman went to college (paragraph 11). Derek was not cared to hear about his dad's life because he thought there is no reason to know about someone who does not care about you. That was clearly mentioned in the story as "Fetterman did not tell his son much about his own life, either, but it seemed the boy did not want to know him" (paragraph 23).

Derek was not a bad boy all he wanted was to get extra attention from his dad. According to Fetterman in the story when he talked about his son while he stole furtive glances in the rearview mirror, he said " Derek had no nose piercings, no Mohawk, no black eyeliner, no trench coat. His face was so nakedly defiant; it was as if he did not need the props" (paragraph 7).

When Fetterman was finally realized being a good dad is a big responsibility, he must control his son before he gets lost with some bad boys. He tried hard using the ways that he always used to fix his problem, but all the methods that he used did not work to control his son as mentioned in this part of the story " that things had gone from bad to unbearable with Derek, that they'd lost control of him" (paragraph 3).

Fetterman decided to take his son on a camping trip because he believed that going on a camping trip would be the perfect plan to break the silence between them. Also, Fetterman follows his ex-wife advice when he felt he lost control of his son, and there is no way to fix it, but his ex-wife disapproved that and gave him advice which was "when you correct others do not humiliate them. Show them new tenderness; then, they will bumble themselves" (paragraph 3). This words that he remembered for his ex-wife, who has no children of her own, let him rethink to try "new tenderness" (paragraph 3) to reconnect the relationship between him and his son which was a camping trip. Fetterman tried his best to become a good father for his son and attempted to explain everything that was in the past for his son. On the other hand, Derek agreed to go on a camping trip even though he did not like his father, why? That what made Fetterman worried why his son decided to go with him, is there any reasons for this agreement? Yes, the reason that Derek agreed to go with his father to get rid of him, which was a bad idea. He carried his gun with him on the trip without anybody noticing and tried to kill himself with this weapon. Also, he locked the car door on his father because he thought his father did not want him and did not like him.

Cited Work

- 1- Black, Alethea. "The Only Way Out Is Through." *Narrative Magazine* 2009. 28-44. Web. 28 Jan. 2016.