

Phillip

We stopped looking over our shoulder and we lost him. (*Beat*) When I was a boy, I remember my father pointing at a man. He was wearing really tight jeans and women's cowboy boots. I remember that. And a red shirt with pearl buttons. He was flashy. He was happy. Like he'd decided to not care what people thought and he was just going to be himself. And my father said, "You see that... If you ever turn out like that, I'll kill you." I must have been ten. And in that moment, I knew my father knew I was gay. I knew I would never be what he wanted. And I think that's why...he checked out on me after mom died. He didn't want to deal with what I was on his own. I promised myself that I would never let Caleb down the way my father let me down. But I did. Because I think what my father was really trying to tell me was that we'd never be safe. And we're not.