

ROCK BOTTOM By Dennis J, Manning WGAE I388808

Synopsis

Opening Image: Baltimore hitman **Harry Miles** lives by a strict code, carrying out brutal assignments with detached efficiency while hiding behind routine, discipline, and emotional isolation.

Inciting Incident: Harry's world is shattered when twelve-year-old **Stephen** arrives carrying a handwritten note from Harry's former mentor, **Jonas Reynolds**. The note simply reads, *GO FILL THE WELL*. Stephen reveals Jonas is dead—and claims Harry is his father.

Debate: Harry dismisses the claim but cannot ignore Stephen's knowledge of Jonas or the growing evidence connecting the boy to his own past. As Harry struggles to uncover the truth, his partner **Caleb** begins forming an unexpected bond with Stephen, exposing a side of Harry he has spent years trying to bury.

Break into Act II: Harry discovers Stephen's connection to the powerful **Vance family** and commits to uncovering why Jonas sent the boy to him, placing all three of them on a collision course with dangerous enemies.

Fun and Games: As Harry investigates, Stephen experiences the simple joys of childhood he has never known—shared meals, music, card games, and genuine affection—while Caleb becomes the emotional bridge between the guarded hitman and the lonely boy. At the same time, Harry continues working violent assignments, desperately trying to keep both worlds from colliding.

Midpoint: Harry learns the Vance family has spent decades hiding devastating secrets. The theft of a priceless guitar is only the surface of a much larger conspiracy involving identity, inheritance, and betrayal, all leading back to Jonas.

Bad Guys Close In: Powerful enemies close in as Harry's criminal employers, the Vance family, and those protecting the truth begin targeting everyone connected to Stephen. Harry realizes the mission is no longer about solving a mystery—it is about keeping the boy alive.

All Is Lost: Harry discovers Jonas himself had been living behind a false identity, sacrificing everything to protect Stephen. The truth forces Harry to confront the life he has built and the man Jonas believed he could still become.

Break into Act III: Refusing to abandon Stephen, Harry chooses redemption over survival and prepares to confront the people responsible for the lies that destroyed so many lives.

Dark Night of the Soul: Harry finally understands Jonas's last message. Rock bottom is not a place—it is the moment a person chooses whether to stay there.

Break into Three: Armed with the truth and supported by Caleb, Harry embraces the role he never wanted: protector, mentor, and father.

Climax: The secrets surrounding the Vance family are finally exposed, bringing Harry face-to-face with those who manipulated the past. The confrontation tests Harry's loyalty, morality, and willingness to sacrifice everything for Stephen's future.

Resolution: As Stephen begins a new life with the Vance family, Harry notices the estate address—**410 Reynolds Lane**—and finally realizes Jonas had hidden his true identity in plain sight for years. Smiling through the grief, Harry quietly mutters, *"You fat bastard."*

Final Image: Months later, Harry's apartment is no longer empty. A Scottish Terrier named **Sparky** waits faithfully at his feet as Harry opens **The Old Man and the Sea** and discovers Jonas's final note: *GO FILL THE WELL*. Harry smiles.

"I'm working on it, Jonas."

A knock at the door.

Harry is no longer alone.