

Catherine

31.

Joe sits up, pops the pills, sips the water.

JOE
That was like four hours ago.

A KNOCK at the door. They freeze.

ANOTHER KNOCK.

Joe stands up, wraps the blanket around himself. Loyal runs into the kitchen and returns with a hammer.

MAYA (O.S.)
Loyal? Joe? You guys in there?

They breathe a SIGH of relief. Joe fixes his hair in his reflection off the television, attempts to make himself

Catherine and Maya walk in. Maya carries a plate of cupcakes with black icing. Loyal grabs a cupcake and jams the whole thing into his mouth. The black icing turns his lips, teeth and tongue black.

LOYAL
(muffled)
Mmm! Great goth cakes, ladies.

He stuffs another one in.

CATHERINE
Those weren't for you, Loyal.

MAYA
We heard about your finger, Joe.
Is it true?

Joe conceals his finger behind his back.

JOE
Hi, Catherine. It's great to see you. Sorry about the mess in here. Loyal jams yet another cupcake in.

LOYAL
(muffled)
I'm out of here. Thanks for the cupcakes, Maya. Shake on it.

Loyal sticks out his hand. When Maya goes to shake he pulls his hand away and sticks out his crotch so she touches it.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

MAYA

Ah! Loyal!

Loyal runs out.

MAYA (CONT'D)

(to Joe)

We made these for you. Want one?

She proffers what's left of the cupcakes to him. They drip with frosting. Joe's pallor changes to a dull green.

JOE

No thanks. I'm a little nauseous from the pain meds. Could you just put them in the kitchen?

Maya disappears into the kitchen. Catherine scoots the blanket down on the couch and sits down. Joe, a little woozy from the Vicodin settles down next to her.

JOE (CONT'D)

You look really great tonight.

Sensing the vibe, Catherine stands up. Joe pursues her and stands uncomfortably close.

CATHERINE

The real reason we came is because Loyal's been telling everyone you're in serious trouble. And, I know a way you can get out of it. Tonight. Are you ok, Joe? What kind of pain meds are you taking?

Joe, now fully buzzing from the meds can't tell that he's being too forward.

JOE

I'm cool. I'm just really glad you're here.

He grabs her hands. She pulls them away and grabs him by the shoulders. Maya re-enters.

MAYA

Did you tell him?

CATHERINE

I'm trying to. Focus for a second, Joe. Do you remember Erica Gilbreth?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED: (2)

Joe shakes his head. He puts his finger on her lips to shush her. She pulls his hand away, ignores him.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

I used to hang out with her when I was little. She lives on the hill. Her dad has a safe full of cash and I can tell you how to get it.

Joe smiles at her through half-closed eyelids.

JOE

Cool plan . . . Wow. Does this mean you like me?

Catherine and Maya exchange looks. Catherine LAUGHS.

CATHERINE

I think you're high and we should talk about this when you sober up.

JOE

Ok. I'm really tired.

Joe buries himself again in his blanket.

CATHERINE

We should go.

The girls walk to the door.

MAYA

Feel better!

CATHERINE

And, think about what I said, Joe.

INT. SPIDER'S RUNDOWN APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Spider's place is straight out of the 70's with plastic-covered furniture and bad wallpaper. Spider climbs onto the counter and feels around on top of one of the kitchen cabinets.

LOYAL

What did your grandma die and leave you this piece of nice plastic.

SPIDER

Yes, she did, asshole. Thanks for pouring salt in a very tender wound.

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