

GROOMSDAY

Written by

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FADE IN:

1

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

1

We open on a MAN'S face covered in blood. His eyes POP open revealing blood soaked eyes where the whites should be.

WE SLOWLY PULL BACK to reveal more of the man. This is CONNOR. He's 25 and has been badly beaten. As we PULL back we end with at a medium shot. He's wearing a black tuxedo and the whites of his shirt are soaked in blood. There is a 3 inch gash just about his right eye that is in desperate need of stitches.

Confused, he slowly sits up trying to understand his surroundings. As he RISES he grabs the right side of his rib cage WINCING in pain. His eyes try to focus.

CONNOR'S POV: Everything is blurry. A figure comes into view and CAMERA slowly comes into focus. The figure is another man, same age.

BACK TO ALLEY

Connor sees the man is wearing the same style tuxedo too and is also covered in blood.

CONNOR

Landon?

Connor starts to get up, but his knees fail him and FALLS onto the pavement. He faces the other unconscious man. This is LANDON.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

No, no...

Connor slowly sits up again and CRAWLS his way to Landon shrewing in pain the whole way. The gash on his forehead drips blood into his right eye. He wipes it off and finally arrives at Landon.

CONNOR'S POV: Landon is brutally beaten. Both eye sockets appear to be busted. Blood pours from an open gash on his cheek.

A BUZZING streetlight hums above Connor. He looks directly into the light as...

SCREEN GOES WHITE

2

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

2

Connor lays in bed naked. A sheet is pulled over to cover his waist down. The toilet FLUSHES waking him up.

He sits up to see LANDON exit the bathroom naked. He's lean and muscular. Landon slides on his boxers.

CONNOR

Morning.

Landon sits on the end of the bed and begins to slide up his jeans. He turns to Connor.

LANDON

Sorry, I didn't want to wake you.

CONNOR

No, I'm glad you did.

(teasing)

Were you just going leave without saying good-bye?

He buttons his jeans.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

Wait, what are you doing? Where are you going?

LANDON

Last night was fun. That's what this was, right? Fun.

Connor thinks for a moment, then PULLS Landon into his arms. Connor places his hands on Landon's jean's button and unbuttons them.

CONNOR

Take them off.

Landon laughs and removes his jeans. Connor pulls him onto his waist straddling him.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

Don't go.

LANDON

You wanna go for another round?

Landon eyes the time on his phone sitting on the night stand.

LONDON (CONT'D)

I can squeeze you in for another 3 minutes. That should be enough time, right?

Connor LAUGHS.

CONNOR

Hey now. It's been a while for me.

Landon leans down for a kiss.

LONDON

It's all good.

Landon hops off and grabs his jeans.

CONNOR

Can I see you again?

LONDON

You really don't know the definition of a hook up, huh?

Connor shrugs.

CONNOR

Have breakfast with me.

LONDON

Now?

CONNOR

Yes now. Do you have better plans on a Saturday morning? I know a place that has bottomless mimosas.

Landon thinks for a moment.

LONDON

You do realize these things are supposed to kind of end the next morning, right? There's no obligation...

Connor hops out of the bed naked and walks around to Landon.

CONNOR

One breakfast. And if you don't fall in love with me by the end of the day, you can go.

Landon's face falls.

LANDON
Yo, I'm not...

Connor puts on his underwear and tosses Landon his shirt hitting him in the face.

CONNOR
Relax. I'm joking.

Connor passes him slapping him on his butt again. Landon jumps smiling.

3 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

3

Connor is on his knees looking down at Landon.

CONNOR
Landon, wake up. Can you hear me?

Connor cautiously shakes Landon's torso trying to wake him up.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
Come on, baby. Please wake up.

He places his left hand behind Landon's neck and cradles him. Connor looks around, but can't see well. The blood just won't stop pouring into his right eye.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
Somebody help!

His voice is hoarse and almost inaudible. His vocal cords have been damaged.

CONNOR'S POV: Everything is red. Landon comes in and out of focus.

CONNOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Help.

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

4

Connor and Landon lay on the couch together cuddling and watching television. Landon eyes six moving boxes that sit in the corner of the room. Connor notices.

CONNOR
What's wrong?

LANDON
It's weird. My whole life is summed
up to those six boxes.

Connor laughs.

LANDON (CONT'D)
I thought I had more stuff than
that.

CONNOR
I'm glad you don't. Your roommate
pissed you moved in with me?

Landon sighs.

LANDON
A little. She said 'we're' too soon
and I'll be back.

CONNOR
Lesbians do it all the time.
Sometimes after one date.

LANDON
Three months is good enough, right?

They embrace one another and give a peck on the lips.

CONNOR
Well, you're home now.

Landon smiles. They continue to lock eyes.

LANDON
It's good to be home.

Landon glances at the boxes one more.

LANDON (CONT'D)
At least moving in was easy.

CONNOR (V.O.)
Come on, baby. Please, God. Please.

LANDON
What?

Connor has managed to lay Landon's head onto his lap. Connor leans forward back and forth praying for Landon to wake up.

CONNOR
Come, on baby. Please, God. Please.

6 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

6

Lit candles fill the bathroom creating an ambient warm feeling. Connor and Landon share a bubble bath, each laying opposite sides and facing one another. They have a hint of sweat from the heat. Connor grabs Landon's foot and starts massaging.

LANDON
That feels nice.

Connor switches to the other foot.

LANDON (CONT'D)
Tell me your darkest secret.

Connor briefly thinks.

CONNOR
Hmm, that's a question no one has asked me before. Darkest, huh?

Landon nods.

LANDON
Yeah, something no one else knows about you.

Connor thinks.

CONNOR
You're going to judge me.

Landon nudges Connor with his foot.

LANDON
I promise, I won't.

CONNOR
When I was in high school, I made out with my sister's college boyfriend.

LANDON
What? That's insane. Did she ever find out?

CONNOR
Hell no. You said to tell you something no one else knows.

LANDON

Well, 'he' knows. Wait, why did he make out with you if he was dating your sister?

Connor laughs.

CONNOR

I don't know. One day he came over and she was still at work and we were just chilling on the couch. I leaned forward to grab the remote and I guess he thought I was leaning in toward him and he kissed me.

LANDON

(laughing)
That is so hot.

CONNOR

So I kissed him back. It was for like 30 seconds then my mom busted through the door nearly catching us. I never saw him again either. The next week he dumped my sister.

Landon shakes his head.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

What about you?

LANDON

My darkest secret?

CONNOR

Yeah. Same question, back at ya.

Landon's face slowly turns serious.

LANDON

Mine isn't as fun as yours.

CONNOR

Who cares. Give me your worse.

Landon straightens up.

LANDON

When I was in 10th grade, I got picked on a lot. I was really skinny. I didn't play sports.

(MORE)

LONDON (CONT'D)

My dad thought it would be good for me to be around the players on our school's lacrosse team. You know to 'butch' me up. He got me an assistant job with the coach. It was mainly just cleaning the locker room after games and mopping and wiping down the showers. So one day I was mopping the locker room floor when I heard the door open and three guys from the team came in. They brutalized me my freshman year. They pushed me around a bit, then they slammed my head against the bench. One held my head down while the other pulled down my pants. I heard the janitor's closet door slam and the third guy brought out a plunger. I can still hear the slam of that door in my head. They held me down and pushed the wooden handle of the plunger in me from behind. They laughed as they jammed it in.

Connor's face falls.

LONDON (CONT'D)

They did it... Over and over. When they left, I just laid there. Bleeding. I didn't go back to school for a week. I couldn't let them see me. Not being able to sit down without wincing in pain.

CONNOR

Jesus.

LONDON

What can I say? Teenagers are mean.

CONNOR

Did you ever report them or anything?

LONDON

No. My dad would have been humiliated. I mean they went on to take our school to state. That kind of shit leaves scars on ya. You know? Like brutal emotional scars you carry with you into adulthood.

Connor extends his arms.

CONNOR

Come here.

Landon slides into Conner's arms and Connor holds him.

CONNOR (CONT'D)

It's not supposed to be like that.

LANDON

To this day I have not been able to bottom for anyone.

CONNOR

It's supposed to be nice. And it's supposed to be gentle.

LANDON

So I've heard.

Connor kisses the top of Landon's head.

CONNOR

Whenever you're ready I'll show you how it's supposed to be done.

They kiss.

7 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

7

Connor is on top of Landon in the bed making love.

CONNOR

(gently)

Are you okay?

LANDON

Yeah.

CONNOR

...I love you.

Landon smiles.

LANDON

I love you too.

8 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

8

Connor continues to hold Landon. The "I love you too" RINGS in Connor's ears.

9

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

9

Connor and Landon are making homemade lasagna. Connor pulls out a deformed noodle from a pot.

CONNOR

Are you sure you're supposed to cook the noodles first? Isn't the point to bake it?

Landon looks at the recipe paper hanging up on the refrigerator.

LANDON

That's what it says.

Connor places the deformed noodle in a casserole dish. Landon looks inside the fridge.

LANDON (CONT'D)

Where did you put the cottage cheese?

CONNOR

What cottage cheese?

LANDON

For the lasagna.

CONNOR

I bought ricotta cheese.

LANDON

No, the recipe specifically says cottage cheese.

CONNOR

That's absurd. Who puts cottage cheese in lasagna?

Landon faces Connor.

LANDON

My mom. My grandma. Her grandma...

CONNOR

You mean ricotta cheese?

LANDON

(laughing)
No, cottage cheese.

They stand in front of each other. Landon sees all the noodles in the casserole dish are broken and deformed.

CONNOR

They broke apart when I tried to take them out. They're also really hot.

LANDON

I'm pretty sure you were supposed to cool them down with cold water.

CONNOR

What? This is too much work.

LANDON

Check the recipe.

Connor walks to the fridge and pulls down the recipe. He notices an orange post-it bleeding through from behind the paper.

Landon walks up to him. Connor pulls the post it off. It says "MARRY ME." Connor seems confused at first, but then looks to the smiling Landon. They stare for a moment at one another.

CONNOR

You're serious?

Landon kisses him.

LANDON

100%.

Connor smiles big.

CONNOR

I don't want a big wedding. My parents won't come.

LANDON

Neither will mine.

Connor shakes his head YES. Landon smiles from ear to ear.

CONNOR

Yes, Landon. You're crazy, but yes I will marry you.

They kiss again.

LANDON

So an intimate wedding?

CONNOR

City Hall?

LANDON
And then a honeymoon to Palm
Springs?

They kiss again in agreement.

CONNOR
Sold.

They both eye the broken lasagna.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
Pizza?

LANDON
Sold.

DISSOLVE TO:

10 EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT 10

Connor and Landon hold hands, both sporting wedding rings and wearing tuxedos. They are smiling. They are happy. They are married. They walk home and begin their new life --

--Unaware a vehicle, with THREE YOUNG MEN inside, 20's, drive by.

THREE MEN'S POV: They pass Connor and Landon, wearing tuxes, holding hands.

BACK ON CONNER AND LANDON: The vehicle comes to a SCREECHING stop.

Connor and Landon look over to see...

The three men HOP out of the vehicle and POPS the trunk. One grabs a crow bar and another grabs a baseball bat. They charge.

Connor and Landon RUN.

11 EXT. ALLEY ENTRANCE - NIGHT 11

Connor and Landon run down a poorly lit alley. Moments later two of the men chase them.

12 EXT. - ALLEY - NIGHT

12

Connor and Landon come to a dead end. Only parked cars and a dumpster occupy the space. They turn to see the two men chasing after them.

They spot an exit, they head for it just as the third man, with the baseball bat, blocks their entrance. The other two men are now behind. They're surrounded.

LONDON
(terrified)
Connor, what do we do?

The three men circle them.

CONNOR
Landon, I love you.

And they ATTACK.

SLAM CUT TO:

13 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

13

Connor still sits over Landon. His tears have left blood trails down his cheeks.

CONNOR
No, please don't die. Please stay
with me.

FOOTSTEPS are HEARD. Connor snaps his head up to see a GOOD SAMARITAN, 30's, run to him.

GOOD SAMARITAN
Oh my god. What happened?

CONNOR
Please call 911.

The good samaritan immediately checks Landon's pulse from his neck.

GOOD SAMARITAN
I used to be an EMT.

The good samaritan's face drops.

GOOD SAMARITAN (CONT'D)
Who did this to you guys?

CONNOR

They did.

Connor points to the darkness. The good samaritan looks behind him. Just darkness beyond the alley. No one is there.

GOOD SAMARITAN

Where are they?

CONNOR

They're still out there.

Connor never lets Landon out of his arms as we...

FADE OUT.

14 MAIN CREDITS ROLL -- THEN -- 14

15 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT 15

EXTREME CLOSE UP ON LANDON in Connor's arms.

HIS EYES POP OPEN and he GASPS for air. He's alive.

BLACKOUT.

CONTINUE ROLLING CREDITS