

ALMOST GONE

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

JACOB (16), muscular, paces the floor. Hesitating.

Jacob spots a pair of keys on the coffee table. He grins. Grabs the keys. Then shoves them into his pocket.

He glides his way out the door.

FRANK (20s) emerges from the hallway. He scans the coffee table.

Frank searches the TV. The wall unit. The couch. Then stamps his feet.

FRANK

The hell I do with them keys?

Frank looks everywhere. No keys. Jacob barges in. Frank scans in Jacob's direction.

FRANK

You seen the keys?

JACOB

Nu-uh.

FRANK

I know I had it.

Frank resumes searching. Jacob smiles. Breathes a sigh of relief. Frank shuffles to the sofa. Flips open the cushion.

He faces Jacob. Jacob shoots a straight face.

FRANK

Now wait a minute. I thought I set them keys on the table. You hid it, did you? Don't lie. 'Cause you always do this.

JACOB

I didn't.

They lock eyes. Frank shakes his head in disbelief.

JACOB

Alright. I surrender.

He tosses the keys to Frank. Jacob sighs.

FRANK

Now what?

JACOB

Do I have to go?

FRANK

But it's our first anniversary.  
Can't you spend time with me for  
once? And remember you said you'll  
come if I let you go bowling?

JACOB

What? You call that fun?

INT. BOWLING ALLEY (FLASHBACK) - DAY

Crowded.

Jacob rolls the ball.

Strike!

People applaud. Jacob raises his hand in the air.

CINDY (20s) sits at a table. Slurping on soda. Slams the can  
against the counter. She turns to Jacob.

CINDY

Alright, I'm ready to go.

Jacob turns. His joy is replaced with wonder.

JACOB

But it ain't over yet.

CINDY

Don't but me. We can come back some  
other time.

Jacob groans.

CINDY

What a dork.

Jacob rolls the ball down the lane.

CINDY

I said let's go!

JACOB  
Okay, okay! Gosh!

INT. LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK - DAY

A football game on TV. Frank, on the couch, stares intently at the screen.

Jacob reads a newspaper about job search. He looks around, then stares at Cindy. She growls.

CINDY  
What are you looking at?

JACOB  
I can look at whoever I want.

FRANK  
That's not how you talk to your sister-in-law. You owe her an apology.

JACOB  
But--

FRANK  
Apologize.

Jacob gazes at Cindy in disgust. He shakes his head.

JACOB  
Sorry. There. Happy?

INT. LIVING ROOM - PRESENT

Frank steps away from Jacob. Frank covers his mouth.

JACOB  
She even cost me my job.

FRANK  
I know she can be rough. Tell you what. If you come, I'll take you to the movies. Just you and me. Pinky swear.

Jacob stares in disbelief.

JACOB  
Okay.

Jacob bows. Holds himself. Grabbing his pants. Frank pats Jacob's back.

JACOB  
I gotta pee.

FRANK  
Alright. Hurry up.

Frank opens the door. He stops, then eyes Jacob.

FRANK  
And don't be all day either.

Frank stands waiting. Jacob disappears into the hallway.

A thud.

FRANK  
You alright in there?

JACOB (O.S.)  
Yeah! Be out in a sec!

A long silence.

Jacob walks up to Frank. Frank exits.

Jacob's hands twiddle with an object in his pocket. A large smile and a devious laugh grows from Jacob. He exits.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jacob hops in. Mumbling to himself. Tapping against the window.

Frank sits in the car. He starts the ignition. It fails. He turns the key. The car doesn't start. He scans the gas meter.

FRANK  
Hm? That can't be.

EXT. CAR

He rushes out. Pops open the trunk, then scans. Frank notices something.

No battery.

FRANK

The hell? Jaaaaacob! Where's the battery?

JACOB

Oh shoot! My bad!

Jacob crawls over to the backseat. Heaving and dragging out the battery.

He stamps it against the ground. Frank enters the backseat. Grabs combination tools.

FRANK

Enough with he pranks. Got it?

JACOB

I said I was sorry.

Frank unscrews cable cords. Re-installs the battery. Re-screws the cords. Then slams the trunk shut.

EXT. CAR (MOVING)- DAY

A gas station.

Frank's car passes it up. The car makes a U-Turn. Then parks. Frank exits the car.

Jacob watches through the window. Frank approaches the pump, opens the tank, then removes the pump. He closes the tank once done pumping.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Frank hands five dollars to the cashier.

INT. CAR

Jacob's facial expression indicates the distrusting taste in his mouth. Jacob rubs his stomach as if full. He lets out a loud burp. Frank enters.

JACOB

Frank? Wait 'til you see the gift  
I'm about to give Cindy. I hope she  
likes it.

FRANK

Aw. How sweet. I'm sure she'll love  
it.

Jacob and Frank share a smile. Frank warps his arms around  
Jacob.

EXT. CAR

As music blasts, an empty bottle of Nyquil alongside the  
wheel rolls away when the tire squeals down the road.

FADE OUT.