

BUDDY

Short Horror Story by Oksana Shafetova

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EXT. STREET - DAY

Tom (13) is coming with a school suitcase along a sidewalk. All of a sudden, Chris, a tall dark-haired boy on bicycle, catches him up. He (14) gives Tom a hard push and brakes.

CHRIS

Sorry, Redhead! I not wanna hurt you

Tom gets up, mumbling.

TOM

It's nothing...

CHRIS

Hey, you've almost got ahead of me in the race today! Nice try.

TOM

Thanks...

CHRIS

It's not praise! Frankly, you are short-legged for long-distance run. But I believe you perfectly fit sprint. Don't you think?.. Show how fast is your redass!

Tom walks off, then leaps over the hedge and dashes across a park. Cris is chasing him along the sideway!

CHRIS

Whoop-whoop!!!

On the side of the park Tom runs out just in front of a teacher, crosses a road and disappears around the corner. In the meantime Cris bumps into the teacher and knocks him down.

The teacher (40's), dressed in a suit, wears the leather case and vintage eyeglasses.

TEACHER

Uhh! Chris!!! You are such a thorn in my toe!

CHRIS

Sorry, Mr. Smith...

TEACHER

I'll tell you what!.. Damn it, help me get up, Christopher!

If you go on fooling around, your life just -
PFFFT!.. Go downhill!

Do you understand me?

CRIS

I got it, sir.

CUT TO.

Being out of breath, Tom stops in front of his house. He puts the ear to the door - the heated argument between his parents seems to be in a full swing.

DAD

...You're such a Drama Queen! You're always making it out of nothing!

MOM

So, I'm overreacting? You missed Tom's race again, you didn't repair his cycle.. Again! And you've fucked that office-whore.

Now.. At the top of the show, you pretend to be a good Daddy!..

Wherever you've picked it up from, no way it stays here.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Tom enters and slams the door. At once blushed parents have shut up and worn up false smiles.

Dad (45's) confused and still mad, fixes slowly his tie to calm down.

DAD

Hey, Tom! You are just on time for a surprise you gonna love!

Let's go, I'll show you!

A black look has passed between parents. Mom turns back, takes a gulp from a big wineglass and proceeds cooking.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

DAD

I thought you need a friend, you know,
while I and Mom cope with our problems...

In the corner the big labrador sits. He has a glossy black fur and different eyes - one blue, one green.

TOM

Oh! Hi, buddy!!! Thanks, Dad! I can't believe
you finally bought me the dog, I've dreamed for
years!

Tom gives Dad a short hug, then goes closer to the animal.

DAD

He's not really bought, but adopted...
Being in the pounds within a week, he quickly
got the reputation for a bright dog. I've
thought, it's perk. So you don't need to train
him, somebody has already done it.

TOM

Wow! Shake, Buddy!

DAD

You'd get to know better...
And I check out your cycle, maybe even bring it
to life.

The dog has already grabbed Tom's attention, so Dad smirks,
then opens the garage and leaves.

TOM

I promise, you'll like this place. Come on,
Buddy, touch! Put out your paw! No?..

The dog keeps still, gazing at the boy. Tom reaches out to stroke him, but, looking at his teeth bared, he changes his mind. The animal looks unfriendly.

TOM

Hey! You are not a kiss-up, ahh? I like that!
If you're not in the mood, I let you alone.

Tom fishes around in the box for a while and drags out an old tennis ball. He waves it in the dog's face.

TOM

I got it! What do you think, Buddy?..

Buddy goes out on the drive and looks around.

EXT. FORECOURT - DAY

Tom plays with the ball - throws it up and catches.

TOM

Want to play? I throw the ball - you catch it!
Ready?

Tom hurls the ball on the lawn. Buddy stays put, but looks after it landed not far away from his paws. Behind the house the electric drill starts working. Buddy perks up ears, looks in the direction of sound, then slowly grabs the ball and brings it to beaming Tom.

TOM

Good boy, Buddy. Do you like this name?
Let it be, ok? It's a perfect match!
Ready? Catch it!

Tom throws the ball further and this time Buddy is more likely to bring it back. Next time the ball has fallen over the hedge, Buddy jogs that way and disappears from view in bushes.

The drill sound is becoming louder.

CUT TO.

EXT. BACKCOURT - DAY

Dad repairs the bicycle near the shed, swearing through roar. The power strip with the drill plugged in lies on the ground near the swimming-pool.

DAD

Who the fuck she thinks she is? Crazy drunk bitch!

I'll sue you into the ground, be sure...

Buddy has peered out the bush. He crawls a couple of metres and snaps the power strip. Dad's noticed him.

DAD

What the fuck?..

Buddy throws the power strip into water and blows a fuse. Dad is being electrocuted; his shaking image is blazed into Buddy's eyes.

EXT. FORECOURT - DAY

Buddy shows up at the drive with the ball. He seems to be more content, waving the tail.

TOM

Here you are! Well done, boy!

Tom has stroked the dog's head and throws the ball again. Suddenly Mom shrieks in the house.

CUT TO.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tom dashes into the kitchen. Mom is sitting and crying on the floor. The cell falls down from her trembling fingers.

On TV the criminal news is broadcasted with no sound. The photo pops up on the screen - bald tall man holds black puppy on his hands.

TOM
MOM!!! What's wrong?

Mom is at loss for words.

TOM
Where is DAD??!

Tom runs to the backcourt door, but Mom catches him and embraces.

MOM
Don't go there!

The sound of the ambulance siren is getting closer and closer.

CUT TO .

INT. HALL ROOM - DAY

Looking out the window, Tom observes as Mom nods in response to doctor near the ambulance car. Tom sits down on the couch in silence, automatically grabs the clicker and turns on TV. Buddy looks at Tom with interest, then shifts gaze on the screen. News is on air.

DICTOR
The criminal, who goes by nickname 'The Family
killer',
was murdered last week at attempt to resist.

Paying no attention on the screen, Tom sits with a vacant look in shock, but Buddy listens to news attentively.

DICTOR
During the raid the police found out the murder
had the dog, having escaped until they broke
into. If you see a homeless dog resembles to
the one on the photo, please call the number on
the screen.

The photo with black labrador on it appears on the screen. The dog has identically colored eyes.

DICTOR

Also, we became aware of exclusive information about rare eyes' pigmentation 'The Family Killer' had. Now, Dr. Rott explains the danger this feature conceals...

Tom has fallen asleep in a sitting position.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. CORRIDOR - EVENING

Mom enters with a totter inside, carrying the paper pack with products in one hand and the bottle of opened whiskey in another one. She stumbles and drops the packet. The noise wakes Tom up.

TOM

Mom? Are you here?

Tom peeks in the corridor. Mom collects the goods all over the floor and cries. Buddy looks closely at Mom.

MOM

I need a shower. Do up!..

Mom grabs the whiskey and goes upstairs. On the middle she turns back, glances at Buddy with disgust, then switches to Tom.

MOM

You did it. I got it...

TOM

Mom? What are you..?

MOM

Shut up! They said that's not accident.
You...I...know it!

He'd take everything... this house... money... you...
and live happily... ever after with his
whore!!! He deserved this.
...Anyway...

Mom gestures at Buddy.

MOM

...This filthy animal won't live with us! I
kick it out...tomorrow.

Seized the banister to stay on foot, Mom slowly disappears in
the groom of a second-floor. Fighting back tears, Tom picks up
the goods. Buddy goes upstairs.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sitting on the sill in front of the open window, Mom, wrapped
in a towel, takes a next gulp from the half-empty bottle.
Buddy shows up at the doorway and his eyes are glowing in the
dark corridor. He slides in the room.

MOM

YOU! Lousy animal... You came to butter me in?..

Buddy is stalking, looking strictly at Mom's eyes.

MOM

One blue, one green ... It rings a bell.

Mom drinks one more gulp. The scare has lied on her face like
she has recalled something.

MOM

The killer's eyes... F-f-fred fucking whosis...

Buddy jumps on Mom, so she lurches forward and appears on the
ledge. He growls, while she is keeping hardly balance, then
bares the teeth, and the frightened woman slips down in the
dark garden. Buddy hangs over the window and peers down.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FORECOURT - MORNING

Sitting in the police car parked in front of the house, Tom has glued to the rear window, staring at Buddy. The dog calmly sits on the lawn hardly moving the head.

Buddy closes the lids for a second and opens them again - his whole eyes has changed color. Now they are full red. If only one glances onto his eyes, he transits in the room with the floor stained by blood.

INT. APARTMENT OF 'THE FAMILY KILLER' - NIGHT

In the pool of blood, Fred Garrison, 'The Family killer', lies on the floor. He is dying. The black labrador runs around him. With the last effort Fred grasps the dog's collar and drags the whining animal to himself. Fred is mumbling.

FRED

Make Daddy happy!

The differently colored eyes of the master meet the dogs' ones. The labrador growls and shakes Fred's hand off. In a second the master's grip loosens.

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT - THE DOG'S POV

The dog runs, crawls through bushes, runs again, then stops at the sideway to look around - turns right and proceeds running along the big highway.

CUT TO BLACK

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. HALLROOM - MORNING

Tom opens his eyes - the brown colour of his left iris has half changed on the blue. The boy wakes up, heavily gasping,

like he has just seen the nightmare. Buddy stands up, comes closer, waving the tail.

TOM

Hi, Buddy. Hungry?

CUT TO BLACK

CHRONO-KEY: A MONTH LATER

EXT. FORECOURT - MORNING

Tom rolls out his bicycle over the morning newspaper. On the front page the bold title is 'Who imitates Freddy Garrison? Murders are proceeding!'

TOM

You'd better not to go out. Ok?

Buddy watches Tom's going.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Tom cycles along the sidewalk, when suddenly Cris appears and blocks the road.

CHRIS

Hey, Redhead! Don't wait mercy as you're now bum!

Life's hard and survives the stronger...

TOM

Wanna something else?

Cris clams up and gazes at Tom.

CHRIS

Well... I warned you not to show off at the school race, otherwise I promised to break your leg. So...

Tom looks fearless, moreover, he enjoys the situation.

TOM

Come on, one should keep promise.

Chris drops the bicycle, trying to throw the first punch, but Tom easily dodges. At the same moment Buddy leaps out of the bush and bites Chris's leg. Tom bursts into hysterical laughing. His opponent falls down and screams suffering from pain and fear. Tom commands Buddy to stop, when Chris has totally dissolved into tears.

TOM

Let him go, Buddy! Let him run...

Chris stands up and gets out, dragging one leg. Tom tousles Buddy's fur - one dog's eye became normal brown color, while Tom's left eye turned into blue. Tom grins.

TOM

Now, ready? Make Daddy happy! Catch him,
boy!

Buddy dashes away in the direction of Chris. Tom is laughing.

CUT TO BLACK

THE END

