My Dog By Simon K. Parker

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HARRY, 19, TONY, 22, and MARIEM, 21, all dressed in thick heavy winter coats stand in a circle around a small portable stove.

The windows are all sealed off, a single light bulb hangs down from the ceiling.

Harry looks over into corner where MAX, a small brown dog drinks from a bowl.

Harry taps a hand against his leg and Max comes over.

Mariem switches between Harry and Tony.

MARIEM

I'm so hungry.

TONY

We need to stay warm.

HARRY

Food is more important.

TONY

We'll freeze if we go out there.

HARRY

I need to eat.

MARIEM

We all do.

TONY

This is the only place with heat.

HARRY

You can't know that for sure.

TONY

I'm not leaving.

Mariem gives Tony a knowing glance.

Tony drops his head.

Mariem now turns to Harry.

MARIEM

Me and Tony have been talking.

HARRY

Yeah, I hear you two at night whispering.

MARIEM

Do you hear what we say?

No.

MARIEM

We've ran out of options. We're going to have to eat the dog.

Harry is horrified. Harry reaches down and takes Max by the collar.

Harry takes a couple of steps back away from Mariem and Tony.

HARRY

His name is Max, and that's no happening

Mariem comes back to Tony. Mariem kicks at Tony's leg, angry.

MARIEM

Say something.

Tony lifts his head up, turns to Harry letting out a long deep breath.

TONY

I've slaughtered pigs, I can do a dog.

HARRY

Are you insane, you're not eating him.

TONY

Then we die.

HARRY

No, we leave.

TONY

It's safer if we stay here.

HARRY

You can't know that for sure.

MARIEM

Why are you being so selfish?

HARRY

You're not eating him.

MARIEM

He's in trouble too. You don't think he'll eat you, if he gets hungry enough?

No, he'd never hurt anyone.

TONY

It's him or us.

HARRY

Bullshit.

TONY

We can't survive on thin air.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Harry sits upright on the floor, coughing.

Harry looks over and sees Tony and Mariem spooning, asleep on the other side of the room.

Harry reaches down beside him, but Max isn't there.

Harry stands up, looks around the room, but Max is gone.

HARRY

Where's Max?!

Tony and Mariem both wake up, startled.

TONY

What's wrong?

HARRY

Where is he?

TONY

What are you talking about?

HARRY

Max!

MARIEM

You let him go?

HARRY

No.

TONY

Settle down.

HARRY

Tell me where he is?

TONY

I don't know.

You wanted to eat him, and now he's gone.

MARIEM

Maybe you let him go?

HARRY

Fuck you.

TONY

Don't talk to her like that.

HARRY

Tell me where he is?

Tony and Mariem share a look.

TONY

I wouldn't have let it go.

MARIEM

We should have just killed it.

HARRY

Shut your mouth.

MARIEM

It's just a dumb dog.

Harry marches over to the stove, there a box filled with tools beside it.

Harry grab hold out a knife, hold it out in front of him, threatening.

TONY

Put it down.

HARRY

You've killed him haven't you?

MARIEM

How can you care more for that dog then us?

HARRY

He's everything to me.

MARIEM

How?

HARRY

He's the reason I'm still alive.

MARIEM

Why don't you just leave?

Not without Max.

TONY

Nonsense.

HARRY

What?

TONY

You wanting to leave, the way you've being acting. This hasn't got anything with MAx.

HARRY

Just tell me where he is?

TONY

You're still in love with Mariem?

HARRY

What?

TONY

I'm sorry that she chose me and not you.

MARIEM

Is that it?

TONY

Just tell me the truth.

MARIEM

Are you still in love with me?

Harry has to turn away from Mariem , unable to look at her.

TONY

You see, I knew it.

HARRY

I just want Max.

MARIEM

Are you still in love with me, I want to know?

TONY

Of course he is, it's pathetic.

Harry lifts his head back up and looks across at Tony. Harry has tears in his eyes.

HARRY

Why don't you quit being a coward and just tell me what you've done with him?

TONY

Enough.

Tony marches over to Harry. Harry takes a step back.

HARRY

Stay away from me, I mean it.

TONY

Give it me.

Tony tries to take the knife from Harry. Harry and Tony struggle, a fight breaks out.

Harry and Tony fall to the floor, Harry stabs the knife into Tony, blood pouring out of him Tony is unable to speak or move.

Harry quickly gets back up to his feet.

Mariem sees the blood and screams.

MARIEM

What have you done?!

HARRY

I just wanted Max back, nothing else.

Mariem lunges at Harry with her hands out. Mariem attacks Harry, slapping and scratching at his face.

MARIEM

I hate you!

Harry slashing the knife at her, cutting her down.

INT. ROOM - DAY

Mariem and Tony, laying in a corner of the room, are both dead.

Harry kneels down at the stove in the middle of the floor.

Harry holds onto a human finger, cooking it over the flames. Harry takes a bite out of it and swallows.

Suddenly there's the sound of claws scratching at the door.

Harry looks back, and the scratching continues. Harry gets up and answers the door. Max runs in, leaping up into his arms.

Harry hugs Max, kissing the top of his nose.

HARRY

I thought you were gone forever

Max licks him.

HARRY (CONT'D) How did you get out?

Max continues licking him.

Harry glances back at the dead bodies before coming back to Max.

Harry can't help but laugh.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END