

The Big Stiff  
(short)

by  
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Third Draft  
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FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

The sun shines in a pure blue sky.

A group of people, all dressed in black, are gathered outside the church.

Among them is DAVID, he is in his mid twenties, average build with short spiky hair. He stands with his hands deep in his trouser pockets and bounces on his toes.

David catches a glimpse of BARBARA looking at him.

Barbara is a middle aged lady and slightly over weight. She gives David a deep eyed stare.

David stops bouncing and blows out his cheeks.

TREVOR, in his fifties with grey hair, stands next to David and gives him a nudge.

DAVID  
(loudly)  
What?

TREVOR  
(embarrassed)  
Shut up!

David removes some tiny earphones.

DAVID  
What, you nudged me?

TREVOR  
Do you have to listen to that now son.

DAVID  
He wont mind.

TREVOR  
No but other people do.

DAVID  
Fine.

David removes an mp3 player from his inside pocket and turns it off.

TREVOR  
Oh, look after these for me will you?

Trevor removes a large glasses case from his trouser pocket and hands it to David.

DAVID  
What, why can't you keep hold of them?

TREVOR  
Because they weigh my trousers down.

David frowns and mimics weighing the glasses case in his hands.

TREVOR  
There's not many here, well kids I mean. I can't see Ted's kids or cousin Archie's.

DAVID  
And?

David slides the glasses case in his trouser pocket.

TREVOR  
I just thought they'd have the decency to be here. I mean your here.

DAVID  
(whispering)  
Yeah and I didn't even know him.

Trevor surveys the crowd, looking behind him.

TREVOR  
Oh Christ your aunty Judith's here.

DAVID  
Dad, why do you hate her so much?

TREVOR  
I don't hate her, that's too strong a word. I just...don't like her.

David frowns.

DAVID  
What, you don't hate her but you don't like her.

TREVOR  
It's personal son.

David looks at his watch and sighs.

DAVID  
What's personal? What have you  
done?

TREVOR  
Let's not get started son, not  
here.

DAVID  
Oh touched a nerve there I think.  
Come on spill the beans.

TREVOR  
I told you, not here.

DAVID  
Why who's listening?

David shrugs his shoulders.

DAVID  
Right well I'll just ask aunty  
Judith then.

David sets off to walk but is pulled back by his dad.

TREVOR  
Alright, keep this quiet though.

Trevor sighs.

TREVOR  
Well, erm I'd had a few.

DAVID  
There's a surprise.

TREVOR  
What do you mean?

DAVID  
Everything stupid you've done  
starts with, well I'd had a few.

Trevor looks shocked.

DAVID  
Like the time you pissed on the  
Christmas tree.

TREVOR  
When was that?

DAVID  
 Christmas 1986. I remember it  
 well, the sight of Father  
 Christmas urinating on your  
 Millennium Falcon can really scar  
 a kid.

TREVOR  
 Anyway, this happen when your  
 mother and me...were going  
 through a bit of a rough patch.  
 Your aunty Judith, who I always  
 suspected fancied me, suggested  
 something to enhance our  
 relationship.

A hearse pulls up outside the church gates.

TREVOR  
 And the our didn't include your  
 mother.

Four men slide a large coffin out of the vehicle. Their  
 legs buckle when they take the weight and they have to  
 place it on the ground.

David looks over.

DAVID  
 What? The car's here.

Trevor looks round at the hearse.

An OVERWEIGHT WOMAN in her fifties barges into the back of  
 him. She holds a handkerchief to her face.

TREVOR  
 (under his breath)  
 What the f...

She stands in front of David and Trevor with her back to  
 them.

DAVID  
 Hello aunty Judith.

Judith turns.

JUDITH  
 (sniffing)  
 Hello love.

She quickly turns back.

DAVID  
 (quietly)  
 No idea who I am.

JUDITH

Oh it's such a shame, cut down in his prime.

David leans in to his dad.

DAVID

He was eighty four wasn't he?

Trevor eyes Judith and shivers.

DAVID

Dad?

TREVOR

(nodding)

Aye, he was son. Three strokes and two heart attacks and he made it to eighty four.

Another black car pulls up behind the first. The vehicles doors open and the occupants exit.

DAVID

So it was old age then?

TREVOR

No it was a heart attack. He was...shall we say, big boned,  
(nodding his head at Judith)  
not unlike some other members of the family.

The four men attempt to lift up the coffin. Two men in the gathering see them struggling and go over to help. The six men struggle but are able to lift the coffin. They slowly carry it toward the church.

TREVOR

He was bed ridden for years.

DAVID

Why because he was...well, fat.

TREVOR

Yeah. Shall we go and get a good seat.

David's eyes focus on a young woman, SARAH, walking in the group behind the coffin. She is tall, slender with long dark hair and wears a tight black blouse with the top few buttons open, almost exposing her large breasts.

DAVID

Er yeah alright.

They turn and gently push their way through the group toward the church entrance.

FRANK, an elderly gentleman, stands by the entrance. He wears a new suit and gleaming new shoes. His hair slicked back with grease and a set of bright white false teeth.

David and Trevor pass by Frank, both stare with intrigue.

DAVID  
Who was that?

TREVOR  
I don't recognise him? Probably  
lives in the home.

DAVID  
What's with his teeth?

Trevor shakes his head.

TREVOR  
I never noticed them son.

DAVID  
How did you not notice them, they  
were whiter than a polar bears  
white bits.

INT. CHURCH

The large coffin sits on a stand at the front of the church. The stand creaks under the weight.

The mourners are gathered and seated.

A PRIEST stands at the front and begins a reading.

David scratches his head and turns to look over at the seating opposite. He sees Sarah and nudges his dad.

DAVID  
Who's that over there?

Trevor ignores him and continues to look to the front.

DAVID  
The foxy girl. Is it er...Donna,  
Tracy's daughter. Are we related  
to them?

TREVOR  
Son this is neither the time nor  
the place.

DAVID  
 (quietly laughing)  
 Er forgive me if I'm wrong but  
 did you or did you not meet mum  
 at her Grandfathers funeral.

TREVOR  
 That's completely different.

DAVID  
 (smugly)  
 How? In fact you were only there  
 in the first place cos you woke  
 up in the cemetery, hung over and  
 curious.

TREVOR  
 Look son...

Suddenly everyone stands and open their hymn books.

Trevor and David quickly follow suit.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY - FLASHBACK

Dark clouds rumble and spits of rain begin to fall.

A small church is surrounded by numerous graves, one plot  
 lays open.

Muffled singing emanates from inside the church.

Trevor, in his twenties, wears a pale blue suit and white  
 shoes. He lays face down in a ditch near the cemetery  
 wall.

Trevor stirs, lifts his head and spits dirt from his mouth.  
 He struggles to feet and looks over to the church.

His clothes are damp and dirty. He brushes himself down  
 and notices a yellow stain over his crotch.

TREVOR  
 Oh bugger, think I've had a bit  
 of an accident.

He sways his way toward the church, tripping and stumbling  
 over the slightest tuft of grass.

The singing inside fades out.

Trevor reaches for the church door. It opens from the  
 inside startling him.

Trevor is confronted by a teary eyed ELDERLY LADY.

TREVOR  
Lovely day for it.

The elderly lady bursts into tears and barges past him.

A MIDDLE AGED COUPLE stare at Trevor as they pass, followed by a fresh faced YOUNG GIRL.

The girl stops, sniffs back a tear and looks at Trevor.

Trevor smiles back with an open grin. Confidently he leans back against a nearby gravestone but misses and thuds into the moist turf.

INT. CHURCH

Everyone is seated again. The priest continues the reading.

David looks over at Sarah. He pouts his lips to mimic a kiss.

Barbara, who is seated in the row behind Sarah, sees David pouting and winks back.

David quickly turns and faces the front. He slowly looks up at the sculpted ceiling.

DAVID  
(whispering)  
How long's this last?

Trevor shushes him.

David turns and looks at Sarah again. He eyes her up and down, pausing on her large chest.

Trevor nudges him out of his trance.

DAVID  
What?

TREVOR  
That's it.

DAVID  
What we're done?

Everyone stands and begin to filter out of the church.

David stands on his tiptoes, trying to see Sarah over the exiting crowd.

Trevor nudges David in the back.

TREVOR  
Come on, what's the hold up?

DAVID  
I'm going.

David walks into the aisle and is confronted by aunty Judith. He looks past her, trying to see the movements of Sarah.

JUDITH  
It was a lovely service don't you think.

David catches a glimpse of Sarah as she nears the exit.

DAVID  
Sorry?

JUDITH  
Very moving.

David loses sight of Sarah as she leaves the church. Disappointment descends over his face and he looks back at Judith.

DAVID  
Yeah it was lovely aunty.

JUDITH  
Oh come here my love.

She surprises David by grabbing him and gives him a tight hug.

Both David and Judith's eyes widen. Judith holds the embrace for a few moment before breaking away.

JUDITH  
(winking)  
You must be Trevor's boy.

Judith and David both look down.

There's a large bulge in the front of David's trousers.

David looks up with an embarrassed smile.

Judith walks away.

DAVID  
No, it's not....oh Jesus.

The Priest overhears and glares at David.

DAVID  
(quietly)  
Sorry.

David turns round but his dad has gone.

INT. BUFFET ROOM / TABLE

A few people, carrying paper plates, hover round tables topped with buffet food.

The remaining group are seated on sofas and chairs.

Trevor gulps down a glass of wine, then picks up a plate in one hand and dives into a bowl of salted nuts with the other.

Judith enters the room, closely followed by David.

David immediately walks up to the table, snatches a plate and stands behind Trevor.

DAVID  
(angrily)  
Thanks for that dad!

Trevor drops a hand full of sausage rolls onto his plate.

TREVOR  
What's that son?

David puts a number of sandwiches on his empty plate.

DAVID  
Thanks for leaving me at the church.

TREVOR  
I didn't leave you, you weren't there when I left.

David grabs a handful of nuts.

DAVID  
You left before me!

Trevor holds up a sandwich and sniffs. He repels and drops it back on the plate. He picks up another glass of wine and knocks it back.

TREVOR  
Well your here now, stop moaning.

DAVID

Stop moaning. I had to share a car with aunty Judith and after I made a complete tit of myself as well.

TREVOR

How?

Trevor picks up a different sandwich and puts it on his plate.

David picks up the one just dropped by his dad.

DAVID

Because of this.

David takes the glasses case out of his trouser pocket and hands it back to his dad.

TREVOR

Why you giving me this back?

DAVID

Look just put it in your pocket.

Trevor sighs, slips it in his pocket and picks up another glass.

TREVOR

My trousers will sag now.

DAVID

Then tighten your belt, and how many of them have you had?

TREVOR

A couple son, don't worry I know my limit.

David shakes his head.

Barbara moves over to the buffet table and glances at David, catching his attention. She smiles and winks at him.

David smiles and turns away.

DAVID

Oh I don't need this either. What's with everyone?

TREVOR

How do you mean?

DAVID  
 Crazy old women winking at me and  
 aunty Judith hugging me and  
 thinking...I was...you know,  
 excited.

David sniffs the sandwich.

TREVOR  
 Excited?

DAVID  
 And she picked that moment to  
 remember me. She's a bit weird  
 though isn't she, especially  
 around you.

He takes a bite.

DAVID  
 (mouth full)  
 Why is that?

TREVOR  
 (quietly)  
 We slept together.

David chokes and coughs up a piece of half digested bread.  
 It lands on the buffet table.

Trevor walks away and loiters around a large pot plant in  
 the corner of the room.

David rushes after him.

Sarah enters and walks over to a group of relatives.

CORNER OF ROOM

David and Trevor both stare at Sarah.

DAVID  
 You slept with her?

TREVOR  
 I wish.

David notices his dad looking at Sarah.

DAVID  
 Not her. Aunty Judith, you slept  
 with aunty Judith. Isn't that  
 incest or something?

Trevor stuffs a whole sausage roll into his mouth.

TREVOR  
(chewing)  
I'm not proud of it son. And no,  
it's not incest.

DAVID  
I bet your not proud of it.

A YOUNG BOY runs into the room screaming.

The whole rooms attention is drawn to him and watches as he crashes into the buffet table. Food jumps from plates and settles again.

The room falls silent.

The boy is silent for a few seconds and then bursts into tears.

The conversations start up again.

DAVID  
I can't believe you cheated on  
mum, and with her sister!

Trevor stops eating.

TREVOR  
Like I said, I'm not proud of it  
and we were going through a rough  
patch.

DAVID  
Yeah, then you went through one.

David chuckles to himself.

A WOMAN enters the room and grabs the boy by the arm, lifting him to his feet.

TREVOR  
What...what do you mean?

DAVID  
You know...rough patch.

Trevor looks blankly.

DAVID  
Oh forget it. It doesn't bare  
thinking about anyway.

The woman slaps the crying boy across the buttocks.

The room falls silent.

The woman sniffs and repels.

WOMAN  
(angrily)  
Oh you dirty little boy!

Nearby people back away.

The woman drags the boy toward the exit.

WOMAN  
You did it, you can stay in it.

They exit.

The conversations begin again.

Sarah moves to the buffet table and picks up a plate.

DAVID  
Right, who is that?

TREVOR  
That's er...

Trevor notices Judith as she approaches, but she is stop in her tracks by teary eyed relative.

Trevor sighs with relief.

TREVOR  
She was slimmer at the time.

David looks over Sarah.

DAVID  
There's not much of her now.

TREVOR  
What?

DAVID  
What?

David takes a bite of his sandwich.

DAVID  
It's a bit of a minefield though  
isn't it. I mean we could be  
related. Mind you, that didn't  
stop you did it.

Trevor looks at his son and shrugs his shoulders.

David shakes his head.

DAVID  
I'm gonna mingle.

TREVOR  
At a funeral?

DAVID  
Yes, at a funeral.

David walks to the buffet table.

FRANK enters and is immediately surrounded by a group of younger women. Trevor watches with questionable eyes.

BUFFET TABLE

Sarah places a range of salads on her plate. RACHEL stands beside her filling her plate.

Rachel is slender, mid twenties and wears a red dress.

The two friends whisper to one another.

Rachel walks away.

David stands beside Sarah and casually places a sausage roll on his plate.

DAVID  
Lovely spread isn't it.

SARAH  
Sorry?

DAVID  
The food, there's a nice selection.

SARAH  
Oh er...yes, very nice.

CORNER OF ROOM

Trevor surveys his plate and stuffs another sausage roll into his mouth.

He looks up and is startled by Judith, who stands in front of him.

JUDITH  
You not talking to me then?

Trevor motions to his full mouth.

JUDITH  
Still a pig I see.

Trevor quickly munches and swallows.

TREVOR  
It's so good to see you Judith.

JUDITH  
There's no need to over do it.

Trevor smiles.

TREVOR  
How are the kids?

JUDITH  
They're fine. Debbie's off to university next month and...

Trevor, uninterested, picks salad from his sandwich. Judith stares at him.

JUDITH  
I see your manners have not improved.

TREVOR  
Why do they always put salad in sandwiches?

Judith takes a sausage roll from Trevor's plate and pops in her mouth.

TREVOR  
Help yourself.

Trevor looks over at Frank.

TREVOR  
Who is that?

Judith looks round.

JUDITH  
I'm not really sure of his name but he lived next door and, god rest his soul, found him on the floor.

TREVOR  
Found who...oh sorry. On the floor, I thought he was bed ridden for the final years?

Judith nods.

JUDITH  
Yeah, he must have struggled for help. Always a fighter.

INT. BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

A very large ELDERLY GENTLEMAN stands in front of a television. He wears only a pair of white briefs and matching vest. His wrinkled skin hangs loose from his legs and torso.

In his hand he clutches a small piece of paper.

ELDERLY MAN  
Come on, come on you bastard.

The television shows a lottery programme. The final number is shown.

The elderly man gasps. He quickly studies his ticket.

ELDERLY MAN  
Oh my god, oh my god!

His flesh ripples as he bounces his ample frame with joy.

ELDERLY MAN  
Oh my god, oh my...

He clutches his chest and crashes to the floor, falling on a nearby table and smashing it to pieces.

A moment of silence.

A knock on the door. (O.S.)

FRANK (O.S.)  
Hello, you alright buddy?

The bedroom door opens and Frank enters. He is wearing a shabby old suit.

FRANK  
Jesus.

He looks down at the elderly man and then up at the television.

He looks down at his hand still clutching the ticket and then back at the television.

INT. CORNER OF ROOM

Trevor stares at Frank.

TREVOR  
I can't imagine finding a body.

JUDITH

It must have been awful for him.  
Some struggle to get over such a  
shock, but he's putting a brave  
face on which is nice.

Trevor and Judith watch as Frank laughs and jokes with the  
young women.

INT. BUFFET TABLE - FLASHBACK

Sarah stands by the table, looking over the food.

Rachel enters the room and quickly moves over to Sarah.

RACHEL

Hiya.

Sarah smiles.

RACHEL

Sorry I couldn't make it this  
morning.

SARAH

That's alright, I'm just glad  
your here.

Rachel wraps her arm around Sarah's waist.

RACHEL

Why honey, what's up?

SARAH

That guy over there keeps staring  
at me. It's making me feel  
weird.

RACHEL

He probably fancies you, I mean  
who wouldn't.

SARAH

Stop it...until later.

Rachel collects a plate and covers it with food.

Sarah places a range of salads on her plate.

SARAH

(whispering)  
Oh God he's only coming over.

RACHEL

Well I'll leave you two to get  
acquainted.

SARAH  
Don't you dare.

Rachel walks away.

David walks up to the table and picks up a sausage roll.

DAVID  
Lovely spread isn't it.

INT. BUFFET ROOM / CORNER OF ROOM

Trevor and Judith stand in silence.

Trevor stares at Frank.

Judith stares at David.

JUDITH  
He takes after you. Well in one  
respect anyway.

Trevor ignores her.

INT. HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Trevor, in his thirties, slouches on the sofa, clutching a can of beer and watching the television.

David, six years old, drives a toy car round the carpet with his hand.

A door bell is heard (O.S.)

TREVOR  
Will you answer the door son?  
I'm busy here.

David drives his car out of the room.

JUDITH (O.S.)  
Where is he, the useless git!

Trevor rolls his eyes.

Aunty Judith enters the room. She is in her thirties and of average weight.

JUDITH  
Oh what a surprise, your on the  
sofa drinking.

TREVOR  
Judith, what do you want?

JUDITH

You know what. My sister, your wife, is round our mums in tears.

Trevor shakes his head.

TREVOR

All because I forgot to Hoover up.

Judith walks over to the television and turns it off.

TREVOR

Oh what!

JUDITH

It's not all because you forgot to Hoover. Jesus Trevor open your eyes cos this marriage is falling apart.

TREVOR

Don't be so over dramatic. So we had a row, it's nothing that won't be forgotten tomorrow.

JUDITH

Really. Well I beg to differ.

David drives his toy car back into the room.

TREVOR

It's not all one way traffic you know. She gets on my goat too. Like she's always got a headache.

JUDITH

And there it is, it's always to do with sex isn't it!

TREVOR

Hey my arms been doing over time lately.

David drives his car into the foot of Judith.

Trevor and Judith look at David.

JUDITH

You go play in your bedroom David. Your dad and me have some things we need to talk about.

David drives his car out of the room.

TREVOR  
You gonna start shouting again  
now?

JUDITH  
No. I'm gonna offer you some  
advice.

Trevor looks with sceptical eyes.

JUDITH  
If your not happy, you should  
spice things up.

TREVOR  
Spice things up? What the hells  
the kitchen got to do with this?

JUDITH  
Trevor you moron, I'm talking  
about the bedroom.

Trevor swings down his beer and stands.

TREVOR  
Well I need another one if your  
gonna rabbit on.

Trevor walks past Judith, who rubs his bottom as he passes.

Trevor turns and Judith winks at him.

Trevor looks confused.

TREVOR  
I'll never understand women.

JUDITH  
Shall I spell it out?

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Sarah stands by a wall, overlooking a beautiful garden.

David emerges from the house behind Sarah.

DAVID  
I wondered where you'd got to.  
It's nice and quiet out here.

Sarah rolls her eyes.

David stands beside her and takes a bite from a sandwich.

Sarah stares out into the garden.

David glances at Sarah's breasts.

DAVID  
Beautiful view.

Sarah nods.

DAVID  
Are you on Susan's side of the family?

Sarah is unmoved.

SARAH  
Sorry what?

DAVID  
Nothing. You baring up OK?

Sarah shakes her head.

SARAH  
It's was just such a shock.

DAVID  
It was for us all.

Sarah turns to David.

SARAH  
I only saw him a few weeks ago and he was full of beans.

DAVID  
Yeah I heard he liked his food.

SARAH  
No, I mean he was healthy, or as healthy as he ever was.

David looks embarrassingly at Sarah.

DAVID  
Right.

SARAH  
When did you last see him.

David crams a hand full of nuts into his mouth and loudly crunches them.

DAVID  
I er...think it was a couple of weeks ago.

SARAH  
It's just so unbelievable.

DAVID  
I know what you mean.

Sarah looks over as Rachel exits the house behind David.

Rachel winks at Sarah who smiles back.

David smiles back at Sarah.

DAVID  
Yeah it's good to put a brave  
face on it. A nice hug always  
helps the pain too.

David puts his plate on the wall and opens his arms  
invitingly.

SARAH  
Sorry what?

David beckons Sarah with his hands.

Sarah tentatively accepts, and hugs David.

SARAH  
I'm sorry but this feels a bit  
weird, I don't even know you.

DAVID  
There's time for that.

They break the embrace.

Sarah looks at David strangely.

DAVID  
Not in a funny way.

Sarah looks down. There's a bulge in David's trousers.

DAVID  
Oh, that's not what you think.  
It's my dad's bloody glasses  
case.

She smiles with relief.

DAVID  
Well that's lightened the mood.

Sarah laughs.

SARAH  
Yeah, I thought you had a...you  
know. And that would have been  
weird cos we're probably related  
and also I'm...

DAVID  
(interrupting)  
Yeah that would be weird.

David puts his hand in his pocket and tries to conceal the bulge. He picks up his sandwich and takes a bite.

Trevor approaches David from behind and taps him on the shoulder.

TREVOR  
Son, will you please look after this. Its weighing my trousers down.

He hands David his glasses case.

Trevor looks to Sarah.

TREVOR  
Hello love, you OK?

Sarah looks at David and then at his crotch.

SARAH  
No not really.

She walks away in disgust.

David stares at his dad.

Sarah walks over to Rachel, who is talking to Barbara.

DAVID  
Thanks again dad.

TREVOR  
For what?

David watches as Sarah points him out. Rachel looks over in disgust, Barbara looks over and winks.

DAVID  
Well times cracking on dad, shall we make a move?

TREVOR  
If you want son but we'll have to wait for a lift. I think Barbara said she was going our way?

DAVID  
(sarcastically)  
Brilliant.

FADE OUT.