"THE OTHER WOMAN"

by ROGER SMITH EXT. BACKYARD - DUSK

The reddish orange sun sets slowly in the west, the sky glows with an orange hue.

An American flags that hangs on a large pole nest to the house ripples through the air.

A large picnic table sits in the middle of a large sprawling backyard.

There is a badminton net ten feet away from the table, and a tether ball poll to the adjacent side.

At the table sits a group of eight. There is GEORGE and MARTHA, both in their early forties, beside them is JENNY (19) and WILLIAM (20), who's arm is in a sling.

On the other side of the table sits DYLAN and TYLER, identical twins, both ten. Next to the twins are ARNOLD and SUSAN, both in their forties.

There are wine glasses in front of everyone except the children filled with white wine. The plates that sit in front of them are empty except for Dylan, who has a mound of potato chips stacked onto his plate.

Tyler reaches over and grabs a chip.

DYLAN

Hey! Those are mine!

Dylan gives Tyler a light shove.

TYLER

Stop it you dink. You gotta whole plate full and I don't see you eating any of them.

Tyler shoves Dylan back.

DYLAN

Cause I was saving them for later you spazoid.

**GEORGE** 

Hey you two knock it off. Why don't you two go off and play.

DYLAN TYLER

Yes sir.

Yes sir.

Tyler and Dylan get up off the bench and run over to the tether ball pole.

George gets on his feet and raises his wine glass.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I think a toast is in order.

He looks around the table. Everyone but William picks up their glass.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Today, the fourth of July, we celebrate our independence, and also the safe return of our dear son William who served his country bravely over there in the middle east. So, to God, to country, and to William who is back home now with his family and his beautiful fiance Jenny.

Everyone toasts but William. Jenny looks over at him and gives him a little nudge. He grabs his glass and joins in the toast.

They all take a sip then put their glasses down.

Arnold leans forward.

ARNOLD

So William. How's your arm?

WILLIAM

It's fine, just a little sore.

GEORGE

He even got a medal for it.

ARNOLD

Really?

WILLIAM

Yes sir.

ARNOLD

You must be very proud.

WILLIAM

There's nothing to feel proud about getting shot.

Susan moves closer to Arnold.

SUSAN

(whispering)

I think he feels uncomfortable talking about this, maybe you should just let it go.

Susan looks over at Jenny and William.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

I have a more important question. When are you two getting married?

William sits there in a daze, Jenny has a huge smile on her face.

**JENNY** 

We're thinking January, but we really don't have a date set.

Martha leans forward.

MARTHA

I think January is a wonderful month to get married, the start of the new year and all that jazz.

SUSAN

Well I'm very happy for you two.

Over by the tether ball pole Tyler whips the ball around and it smacks Dylan on the back of the head. He falls to his knees.

DYLAN

You did that on purpose you turd!

TYLER

No I didn't you knob!

DYLAN

Yes you did!

TYLER

No I didn't!

DYLAN

Yes you did!

TYLER

No I didn't!

George gets up.

**GEORGE** 

Cut it out you two or I'll send you off to bed and you'll miss the fireworks!

DYLAN TYLER

Yes sir.

Yes sir.

George sits back down. He looks over at William who still seems like he is in a daze.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

What's the matter boy? You look like a zombie.

WILLIAM

Sorry dad, just a little tired.

Susan looks over at Martha.

SUSAN

You guys are so lucky to be able to see the fireworks from here, we can't see anything from our place.

Jenny grabs a hold of William's hand.

JENNY

Are you sure you're okay?

He looks into her eyes and gives a forced smile. She kisses him on the cheek.

At the tether ball pole, Dylan whips the ball hard and is smacks Tyler on the face. He falls down on his butt.

DYLAN

There! Now we're even.

TYLER

You fag!

Tyler gets up on his feet and charges towards Dylan. He tackles him to the ground.

DYLAN

Get off me butt face!

George gets up yet again.

**GEORGE** 

Okay you two I have had just about enough! Don't make me take off my belt!

Tyler gets off of Dylan. Both boys rise to their feet.

DYLAN TYLER

Sorry sir.

Sorry sir.

George sits back down.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I swear those two are going to put me in an early grave.

Martha looks at her watch.

MARTHA

look at the time. The fireworks are going to start pretty soon.

Everyone gets up on their feet. Martha starts clearing the table.

SUSAN

Would you like some help?

**MARTHA** 

I'd love some, thanks.

The two woman clear the table.

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

The sky is mostly dark. The moon and stars fill the sky with a dim light.

George, Martha, Susan and Arnold sit on lawn chairs in the middle of the large yard. Dylan and Tyler sit on the grass in front of them, their heads look up into the sky.

On the other side of the yard stands William. He has a blank look on his face.

Jenny walks up from behind an wraps her arm around his waist. She gets up on her tip toes and gives him a short kiss on the lips. He does not kiss her back.

**JENNY** 

What happened to you William? You've seemed so distant since you got back.

He looks over at her.

WILLIAM

I'm not who I used to be.

JENNY

What do you mean by that?

WILLIAM

I'm not that boy you met sophomore year.

**JENNY** 

What happened to that boy?

WILLIAM

He died.

He looks away. A tear runs down his face.

Suddenly the sky fill with a bright red and blue light, they are followed by a loud pop. William jolts where he stands. Jenny holds him tight but he breaks free and moves a foot away from her.

**JENNY** 

Tell me what happened.

William turns around.

WILLIAM

My unit was sent to this town called Mahmudiyah.

EXT. STREETS OF MAHMUDIYAH - DAY

The town of Mahmudiyah is in ruins. Buildings are blown to bits, cars are on fire and bodies of men, women and children lay on the streets.

William and A group of soldiers walk through the streets with weapons in hand. A large tank follows from behind.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

The town was in ruins. The buildings were destroyed and there were bodies everywhere. We couldn't see a single living soul.

The SOLDIER walking next to William suddenly spins around. A bullet blows out the back of his head. The soldier falls to the ground.

The Group of soldiers breaks apart as they become under fire.

Another soldier is hit in the leg, then in the face. Blood flows from the hole.

WILLIAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We were ambushed and I got split apart from my unit.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

William moves further away from Jenny.

WILLIAM

I ended up in this building that was blown all to hell.

She moves closer to him. He turns around.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

And that's when I saw her.

**JENNY** 

Saw who?

INT. BUILDING IN MAHMUDIYAH - DAY

William burst through the door of the dilapidated building. Bullets pierce through the wall. He gets down on the floor.

On the other side of the room lies a WOMAN, around seventeen, completely naked and soaked with blood.

Her throat is half slit and she has several stab wounds all over her body.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

There was this woman, this girl, younger than you, looked like she was raped. She was stabbed all over, I guess they thought they killed her, but she was still alive.

William crawls over to the young woman. He looks closely at her wounds. He sees her throat half slit. He puts his hand over her neck. Blood spills between her fingers.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Oh m y God! What did they do to you?

The young woman mumbles. She gurgles on her blood.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

You're gonna be okay. I'm gonna get you out of here.

William unbuttons his shirt and covers her body. He moves like he is about to pick her up.

Suddenly PRIVATE KURTZ, twenty, bursts into the room.

PRIVATE KURTZ

Anderson! What the fuck are you doing over here? The fucking unit is on the other side of the fucking town.

WILLIAM

You gotta help me, she's hurt real bad.

PRIVATE KURTZ

How bad?

WILLIAM

She's friggin' dying, that's how bad.

PRIVATE KURTZ

Son of a fuck!

Private Kurtz makes his way over to the woman and William.

PRIVATE KURTZ (CONT'D)

Who the fuck did that to her?

WILLIAM

I don't know.

PRIVATE KURTZ

Mother fuck!

Private Kurtz adjusts his helmet.

PRIVATE KURTZ (CONT'D)

Pick her up and lets get the fuck outta here!

As he says that a series of bullets pierce Private Kurtz, one of the bullets strikes him through his neck. He falls to the ground.

WILLIAM

Michael!

Private Kurtz has his hand over his throat. He spits out a mouthful of blood.

William gets up. He is struck in the shoulder by a bullet. He spins around and falls to his knees. He crawls over to Private Kurtz.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I'm gonna get you outta her okay!

More bullets fly through the room. William looks over at the wounded woman, then at Private Kurtz.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Oh my God. What am I gonna do.

He looks back at the woman.

WILLIAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I could only take one of them. Both were hurt badly, and both probably would die anyways. I didn't know what to do.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

William walks towards Jenny.

WILLIAM

I had to make a choice. I could take Michael, or this woman. I froze. I looked into this girls eyes and all I could see was pain.

INT. BUILDING IN MAHMUDIYAH - DAY

William crawls over to the dying woman. He wraps his arm around her. Tears fall from her eyes as blood spills from her mouth.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

I couldn't leave her there to suffer. I thought what I did would be the humane thing to do.

William pulls out his side arm as he holds onto her with his wounded arm.

She trembles in his arm. He raises the gun to her temple.

WILLIAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I didn't think I would be able to do it.

I look at her as a pulled the trigger.

William pulls the trigger. The side of the woman's head blows out. Skull, blood and brain splatter everywhere.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Tears flow from Williams eyes.

WILLIAM

The only person I killed the whole time I was over there was an unarmed dying woman.

Jenny tries to hold his hand but he pulls away.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Michael dies even before we made it to the others. But they gave me a medal anyways, for not saving one life and for taking another, of course they have no idea what happened in that building.

He turns away from her.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

The thing is Jenny.

He pauses.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I can't marry you.

A shocked look overcomes her face.

**JENNY** 

What?

WILLIAM

I can't be the man you need, and I won't be the man you want.

**JENNY** 

What are you talking about William. You are the man I need. You are the man I want.

WILLIAM

I won't be able to give you anything but heartache.

**JENNY** 

That's not true.

WILLIAM

Yes it is. I can't even look at you anymore.

**JENNY** 

What do you mean.

WILLIAM

I mean every time I look at your face I see hers, and it kills me.

He turns back towards her. The fireworks continue to light up the sky.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I love you, I really do. I love you so much that I won't make you deal with what you can't deal with.

**JENNY** 

We can work this out.

WILLIAM

No we can't, I can't. I have to live with this.

He wipes the tears off his face.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I know God will forgive me for what I did, but I will never be able to forgive myself.

The fireworks stop. The group across from William and Jenny cheer and clap.

Dylan and Tyler run over to them.

TYLER

Hey Willie what did you think? They were pretty awesome weren't they!

DYLAN

Yeah, that totally kicked butt!

WILLIAM

It sure did.

TYLER

Why do you look so sad? Have you been crying?

WILLIAM

No, just allergies Tyler.

TYLER

Yeah I know how that feels. I'm allergic to doofus over here.

Tyler points to Dylan.

DYLAN

Very funny bunghole!

The twins start shoving each other. George looks over at them.

**GEORGE** 

(shouting)

That's it! Get your butts to bed right now!

The twins stop shoving each other.

DYLAN

TYLER

Yes sir.

Yes sir.

The twins make their way over to the house.

William looks over at Jenny.

WILLIAM

I'm sorry I did this to you, but I can't put you through this.

**JENNY** 

(through her tears)

You're killing me.

WILLIAM

Killing you would be me staying with you, and I won't do that to you. I will always love you, I want you to know that.

He leans forward and kisses her on the lips. He then turns around and walks over to the house.

Martha walks towards Jenny.

MARTHA

Jenny? What's the matter dear?

Jenny collapses into Martha's arms and sobs uncontrollably.