

"Til Death Us Do... "

By

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2017 Gary Stocker

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FADE IN:

1 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

1

Two newly weds in wedding outfits: BEN, 30, and STACEY, 25, are returning from their wedding reception. Slightly tipsy but still holding each others hands. Stacey stumbles slightly but Ben catches her.

NOTE: Throughout these first two scenes we HEAR distant romantic music as if coming from the party downstairs.

STACEY

I'm OK. I'm not drunk. Not even near.

BEN

Yeah right. You've sunk half the bottles of champagne we had. You and your mother!

STACEY

I told you about your mother-in-law. You've known for ages. Don't give me all that. Where are we?

BEN

It's just round that corner.

STACEY

Hang on a bit.

BEN

What's up now?

STACEY

Hang on. Got my shoe stuck in the dress.

BEN

Don't worry about that. I've got you.

Ben then puts an arm underneath Stacey's behind and sweeps her up off her feet.

BEN (CONT'D)

It may only be the hotel room but let's do this properly.

STACEY

Oh quite the gentleman. Hope you keep it up.

BEN  
You'll find out in a bit.

STACEY  
I need sleep.

BEN  
You will... At some point.

They get to the hotel room door. Ben tries to find the key in his pockets while still trying to keep a firm grip on Stacey.

STACEY  
Don't tell me you've lost it.

BEN  
Nope.

Ben withdraws the key and places it into the lock. It doesn't open first time.

STACEY  
Am I getting heavy?

BEN  
I've got this.

The key turns and the door opens.

2 INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

2

The couple pass the "threshold" and enter the room. It has a double bed but has nothing especially Honeymoon sweet about it. There is an en-suite off the room but fairly sparse. Their bags are in the corner.

STACEY  
On the bed, please, sir.

BEN  
As you like it.

Ben places Stacey gently down on the bed.

CUT TO:

CU of Ben's face. His expression changes to disappointment.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Bloody Champagne.

CUT TO:

WIDE SHOT of Stacey sprawled out starfish in the MIDDLE of the bed. She is smiling to herself with her eyes shut. Clearly there will be no consummation tonight.

Ben resigns himself and sits on the bed and takes his boots off. He then looks over at Stacey who is now quietly sleeping. He leans over and kisses her cheek.

BEN (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
Night, Princess.

Ben then lays next to Stacey, both fully clothed.

FADE TO BLACK.

3 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

3

FADE IN FROM BLACK.

Silence. ECU Stacey's eyes closed. A shaft of sunlight crosses her face. She slowly wakes and shields her eyes.

Medium shot of Stacey sitting up, still in wedding dress. She is alone. She looks to the en-suite.

STACEY  
Ben?

A Pause. No reply.

Stacey raises herself unsteadily from the bed. She makes her way to the en-suite door.

STACEY (CONT'D)  
Ben?

4 INT. EN-SUITE - DAY

4

Empty.

5 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

5

Stacey then turns and moves over to their bag. She pulls it out and opens the side pocket removing her mobile phone.

She dials "BEN"

No signal. She puts the phone back on the bed. She is concerned now. Everything is silent.

6 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY

6

An empty corridor. The door to Ben and Stacey's room is tentatively opened. Stacey slowly eases herself out. She looks tired and out of place in her wedding dress.

She looks down one way and then the other. There is no one about and it is deathly quiet. She spots the door to a room opposite. Hesitantly she taps on the door. It opens slightly with her touch.

Stacey looks around for anyone before she enters.

7 INT. OTHER HOTEL ROOM - DAY 7

An empty room. But an unmade bed.

Stacey enters slowly. Looks around then walks over to the window and peers out. It is still quiet.

8 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY 8

Stacey is walking at a slightly quicker pace than in previous shots. She reaches another hotel room door. It is also open.

9 INT. THIRD HOTEL ROOM - DAY 9

She enters. Another empty room. Another unmade bed.

10 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY 10

Stacey ups the pace back to her room. She calls out.

STACEY

Ben? Where are you. Hello?

She stops dead outside her room. The door is slightly ajar.

She is starting to sweat.

STACEY (CONT'D)

Ben?

She pushes the door softly. It opens slightly. She tries to look inside but the door is not open enough. She will have to push again. She does.

11 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY 11

The door opens inwards. Stacey is standing right in the doorway. ECU of her eyes which widen as the door opens fully.

WIDE SHOT of the empty room. Everything is as it was. Stacey's phone is on the bed. The bag is in the corner as before.

Stacey moves over the hotel phone and dials reception.

We HEAR the dialling tone but...

No one answers.

STACEY

Damn it.

She sits down on the bed and brings her knees up to her body in protective stance.

In the quiet, we HEAR a slight scratching from under the bed.

Quiet at first but gets louder.

A TAP is dripping in the en-suite, again this gets louder.

Stacey puts her hands around her ears and buries herself against a pillow.

As the noise of the scratching and the tap dripping builds, a CAR ALARM goes off outside.

This spurs Stacey into action. She leaps off the bed, grabs a set of car keys from the side pocket of the bag, goes to the window, presses the fob and at this moment ALL the noises stop.

Stacey stands, disheveled, at the window for a moment.

UNDER BED POV - Stacey's bare feet by the window. It follows Stacey as she walks back round to the bag.

MEDIUM SHOT - Stacey tries to get BEN on the mobile again. Still no signal.

UNDER BED POV - It follows Stacey as she walks over and climbs on the bed.

MEDIUM SHOT - Stacey sitting on the bed, feet drawn into chest again. We HEAR the scratching again.

STACEY (CONT'D)

Oh God, what is that? BEN!

The scratching of the floorboards gets louder. Stacey is starting to panic on the bed.

The Hotel Room Phone RINGS...

Stacey has to answer it but doesn't want to get off the bed.

She reaches over but it is too far away. She is looking down at the floor to see if "it" is there. She cannot see anything. Stacey finds the courage to get off the bed and bounds over to the phone. She answers...

STACEY (CONT'D)

Hello?

There is silence the other end.

STACEY (CONT'D)  
Hello? Who's this? Ben, is that  
you? This isn't funny. Ben?

There is a click from the other end as it goes dead.

We HEAR the TONE for a beat. Then the SCRATCHING starts  
again. Stacey slams the phone down.

The TAP starts dripping. Stacey is in the middle of the  
room looking down at the bed.

UNDER BED POV - "It" is looking at Stacey looking down at  
camera. She is horrified and frozen to the spot.

ECU - Stacey's eyes. Wide open and scared. She is  
breathing heavily.

The CAR ALARM goes off again. It is LOUD, as is the  
SCRATCHING, as is the TAP dripping. It reaches a  
crescendo.

WIDE SHOT - Stacey bolts to the door and tries the handle.  
It is locked. Panicking and screaming she tries it again.  
She still can't get out. She bangs on the door.

STACEY (CONT'D)  
(screaming)  
Help me. Anybody. Help.

UNDER BED POV - "It" is looking at Stacey trying to escape  
through the door, panicking. "It" moves towards Stacey...

WIDE SHOT - Suddenly, the door opens. Ben enters.

He bursts past Stacey, grabs the car keys and presses the  
fob at the window.

ALL THE NOISES STOP AT THE SAME TIME.

A Beat.

At the window Ben turns to Stacey, he stares and then  
smiles.

BEN  
Stace, darling. I only went to  
get some more champers. Champagne  
breakfast. Come on. You look  
awful.

STACEY  
(sarcastic)  
Thanks. Where's your phone? I  
tried it but couldn't get hold of  
you.

BEN

No. There's no signal in this place. I did try to call the room from reception as they've run out of champagne.

STACEY

Oh Ben.

Stacey collapses into Ben's arms.

BEN

It's OK, Stace. Everything's alright.

As Ben is hugging Stacey we catch a view of a crooked smile on his face.

STACEY

I know it is. I know it is... I'm just going to wash my face.

Stacey kisses Ben, composes herself and enters the en-suite.

Ben follows Stacey with his eyes. Then looks down at the floor and smiles once again. A small mouse appears from under the bed.

12 INT. EN-SUITE - DAY

12

Stacey looks at the dripping tap for a moment, then turns it on full. She lets the water warm up.

STACEY

I think there is something under the bed. I heard scratching.

13 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

13

Ben is holding the mouse by it's tail. It wriggles, trying to gain its freedom.

BEN

Don't worry. He's harmless. I'll put it out on the window ledge.

STACEY (OOV)

What was it?

BEN

A little mouse. Come on, boy.

Ben goes over the window and opens it. He places the mouse on the ledge.

STACEY(OOV)  
At least it wasn't a rat. I hate them.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Go on. Run little guy.

14 INT. EN-SUITE - DAY 14

Stacey is washing her face.

STACEY  
Where is everyone?

15 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY 15

Ben is standing by the window, looking out.

BEN  
What do you mean?

16 INT. EN-SUITE - DAY 16

Still mid wash.

STACEY  
I tried three other rooms. Trying to find you. There was no one there. Where did everyone go?

17 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY 17

BEN  
I wouldn't be in someone else's room, would I?

18 INT. EN-SUITE - DAY 18

Drying her face.

STACEY  
I don't know. Wouldn't you?

19 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY 19

BEN  
Of course not. There's only a few of us from the wedding staying here. Plus, they're all your side. I don't know them.

Ben then moves from the window into the en-suite.

INT. EN-SUITE - DAY

Stacey opens the mirrored bathroom cabinet above the sink. She has a look and pulls out a small complementary tube of tooth paste.

STACEY

You'll get to know them. That's for sure.

BEN

Where have they gone then? Left already?

SHOT changes to rear view of Stacey with her face reflected in bathroom mirror.

STACEY

Oh I wouldn't worry about them. They don't like the day.

Stacey bends down out of shot to spit out the toothpaste.

STACEY (OOV)

They're night creatures.

CLOSE SHOT - Ben's face as he struggles to register Stacey's last comment.

Return to same REAR VIEW of Stacey facing the Mirror as she returns into shot after spitting out the toothpaste. Only this time her face is not reflected in the mirror.

STACEY

And normally...

Cut to:

MEDIUM SHOT - Ben's face turns to confusion.

Cut to:

MEDIUM SHOT - Stacey turns round quickly. She has the face of a DEMON.

STACEY (CONT'D)

...So am I.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE OUT.