

To Hell and Back

By

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OVER BLACK:

Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.

-HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

FADE IN:

INT. MEAT FACTORY, FREEZER - NIGHT

A petite young woman slowly wakes up to the humming and flickering of fluorescent lights. cold and confused, the woman glances around the unfamiliar environment.

WOMAN
Where the hell am I?

After taking a few minutes to survey the spacious freezer, the woman realizes that her dog is missing. she whistles and calls out to him.

WOMAN
Kano! come here boy, where are ya?

As she frantically looks around, the woman spots several distinctly wrapped packages of meat lying on a counter off to her left. she quickly gets to her feet and walks toward the counter.

As she approaches, the woman notices a piece of paper tapped to one of the packages of meat. she tears the paper from the package and reads: "DOG MEAT DOESN'T TASTE LIKE CHICKEN AT ALL!"

The confused woman becomes enraged at the implications of this statement. she yells with all her might.

WOMAN
Let me outta here!

With a determined look in her eyes, the woman looks to the freezer door about ten yards away...and charges it. SMACK! the woman's shoulder drives into the door, bouncing her off her feet, and onto her back.

Undeterred, the woman stubbornly gets to her feet and starts yanking wildly on the door handle. after a few desperate attempts, she realizes she is trapped. the woman falls to her knees and begins to weep.

FADE OUT:

INT. MEAT FACTORY, FREEZER - NIGHT

As we fade in, we find the same woman crouched in a corner, vigorously rubbing her shoulders in an attempt to counteract the coldness. realizing this isn't working, the woman looks up at the flickering lights and yells out in frustration. she stares at her own breath as it evaporates up into the air.

After a few seconds of silence, the freezer door unlocks and a masked man enters the freezer. as he approaches the woman, the masked man grabs one of the packages of meat off the counter and tosses it around in his hands. the woman is noticeably frightened, and begins to cry.

WOMAN

Are you going to kill me?

The masked man doesn't reply, he just stares down at the distraught woman. the woman's crying has now turned to desperate sobbing.

WOMAN

Why are you doing this to me? I
haven't done anything wrong!
please! ...please just let me go
and I promise I wont call the
authorities! I'll...I'll just act
like this never happened!

MASKED MAN

I'm afraid its to late for that
now, Stacy.

Stacy's sobbing stops. she stares curiously at the masked man.

STACY

How do you know my name?

The masked man drops the package of meat at Stacy's feet, then crouches down and casually takes off his mask. Stacy stares at the unmasked man in disbelief.

UNMASKED MAN

(re: package of meat)

I figured you'd be hungry when you
woke up, so I left you a little
something to snack on.

STACY

Ellis?

(CONTINUED)

ELLIS

That's right. still remember me,
huh?

STACY

Ellis, what the hell is going on
here?

ELLIS

nothing really.

STACY

Ellis, did you fucking kidnap me?

ELLIS

More like "commandeer."

STACY

That's the same thing, you fucking
retard!

ELLIS

"Kidnapping" is to take by unlawful
force, and "commandeer" is to take
by force as though with
justification. so in that regard,
its not the same thing is it then?
...you fucking retard.

STACY

Oh yeah? so whats your
justification then? whats your
reason for doing this?

ELLIS

Were celebrating our seven year
anniversary of course!

STACY

You delusional piece of shit!
that's your justification? we were
only together for two years! ...and
its been like five years since
then!

ELLIS

Hence, seven years!

STACY

Ellis, we have not been together
for seven years! you need to just
let me go. and after you do that,
you need to take your crazy up to
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STACY (cont'd)

Belmont Pines and get yourself some professional help! because you have CLEARLY lost your fucking marbles!

ELLIS

Well, I can see that your CLEARLY upset by my surprise party. but don't worry, I think I have just the thing to brighten your mood.

Ellis rises to his feet and walks over to the nearby counter. he picks up a cake tray that's covered with a black lid, then walks back over to where Stacy is still crouching.

Ellis sets the cake tray down in front of Stacy.

ELLIS

What better way to celebrate an anniversary than with a cake!

STACY

You really have lost your mind, haven't you? why cant you get it through your thick head that we are not together anymore? ...its been five years for Christ sake!

Ellis suddenly becomes enraged.

ELLIS

You're goddamn right its been five years! five years since you decided to break my heart and run off into the arms of another man!

STACY

Ellis...

ELLIS

...NO! don't try and explain yourself now! I don't want to hear it!

Ellis looses it. he rushes over to the nearby counter and begins to violently thrash everything lying on it. meat, trays, and various utensils go flying everywhere. Stacy stares, terrified.

After his brief outburst, Ellis regains his composure and calmly walks back over to Stacy, he crouches down in front of her.

ELLIS

Listen, obviously you know I put a lot of work into this surprise party. all I'm asking you to do is just indulge me for a little while by hanging out with me and eating some of this wonderful steak. ...I mean cake.

Ellis smiles wickedly.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

(re: cake tray)

Go on. try it.

Stacy stares at the cake tray for a few moments, then decides to remove the lid. she reveals a white layered cake that has drops of blood speckled all over it, and, resting on top of the cake, is what appears to be the head of a decomposing dog.

Stacy cries out, horrified.

STACY

Kano! ...

ELLIS

...apparently couldn't hold his Drano! I'm telling ya Stacy, I've never seen a dog vomit that much in my life!

Ellis starts laughing. in the blink of an eye, Stacy picks up the cake and smashes it right into Ellis's face, knocking him off balance, and onto his back. Stacy quickly gets to her feet and makes a run for the freezer door.

As Stacy scrambles for the door, a blinded Ellis gets to his feet and tries to give chase. but, because he cannot see, rolls his ankle on the decomposing dog head, immediately sending him crashing back down to the ground. Ellis grabs his ankle and howls in agony.

ELLIS

You son of a bitch! I'm gonna fucking kill you!

As Stacy reaches the freezer door, she begins to frantically push and pull on the doors handle. she takes a quick second to look back at Ellis, who has finally risen to his feet. Stacy's urgency intensifies as she watches Ellis pull a hunting knife from his boot.

(CONTINUED)

STACY

Come on, open up! please god,
please help me open up this...

ELLIS (O.S.)

...god cant help you now, Stacy!

STACY

Come on...OPEN!

Suddenly Stacy is grabbed from behind. she is violently swung around and pinned to the freezer door by her throat. Ellis places the knife in the corner of her mouth. he leans in, face to face. he smiles wickedly.

ELLIS

You might get better results next time if you slide the lever over to "UNLOCK" first.

Ellis points out the lever and laughs. Stacy spits in his face.

STACY

Fuck you, you bastard! people are gonna come looking for me!

Ellis uses his blade hand to wipe away the spit.

ELLIS

Yeah? like who, your parents? they died off years ago. ... you have no contact with your family, and since you don't have any friends at work, that can leave only one other person...

Stacy stares intently.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

...yeah, I know what "people" your referring to. I wouldn't worry too much about your Richie Rich boyfriend though, he wont be bothering us tonight. ...or at all for that matter.

STACY

What are you saying? what have you done to Richard?

ELLIS

Well, lets just say it would be hard for anyone to swim up to the surface of lake Stockton with their hands and feet bound tightly behind their back.

Stacy starts to tear up.

STACY

NO! ...NO, YOUR LYING!

ELLIS

That's not even the best part though! before I dropped him in, I had him stand in concrete first. you should have seen him! ...sank right to the bottom like he was the goddamn Titanic or something!

Ellis lets loose a laugh that abruptly turns into a groan of pain as Stacy brings her knee up into Ellis's groin...HARD. Ellis doubles over and drops the hunting knife. Stacy reaches for the knife, but is tackled to the floor. a desperate wrestling match ensues for possession of the knife. over and over they roll with Ellis finally coming to a rest on top of Stacy's body with the hunting knife in hand.

ELLIS

Valiant effort Stacy, but now its time for the third act and its climax. it certainly has been a long time coming, wouldn't you agree?

Stacy just stares as Ellis's fist smashes into her face. her whole world goes black instantaneously.

CUT TO BLACK:

INT. MEAT FACTORY, COUNTER - NIGHT

We slowly fade back in to see Stacy seated at a counter, her right hand lodged in some type of metal contraption that's bolted down to the counter. as she slowly awakens, she notices her hand, and tries to remove it from the device.

ELLIS (O.S.)

I wouldn't do that if I were you...

Ellis walks out from a dark corner and approaches the counter.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIS (CONT'D)

...I've been waiting forever for you to wake up. I didn't think I hit you that hard.

STACY

(re: metal device)

What the hell is this thing, Ellis?

ELLIS

Oh that, that's nothing really. its just a "state of the art" meat grinder...

Ellis stares proudly at the shiny new meat grinder.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

...This thing can cut through bone like it was butter. it worked wonderfully on what was left of that precious little mutt of yours.

STACY

Your an unbelievably sick son of a bitch Ellis, and your gonna rot in hell for the things that you've done.

ELLIS

Maybe, but I'll cross that bridge when I come to it. isn't my rage justified though? I mean after all, wasn't it you who gave up on our relationship, fucked another man, and caused the predicament were in right now?

STACY

ME? how is this my fault? how did I give up on our relationship? your the one who gave up! who was always depressed, huh? who was always abusing me verbally and mentally? you were never happy, and that shit rubbed off on me! ...

Stacy starts crying.

STACY (CONT'D)

...It made me feel worthless, like you didn't love me anymore. it made me feel like there was nothing I could do to make you feel happy!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STACY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
you were mean to me on my birthday
for Christ sake! that's why I left
you Ellis! that's why I sought the
love of another man! it was
you...all along! your the one
responsible for this! your the one
who gave up when you stopped caring
about us!

Ellis's anger intensifies.

ELLIS
You still shouldn't have left me,
Stacy!

STACY
Oh, grow up Ellis! this is the real
world, things don't go your way all
the time! you just gotta suck it up
and let things go!

ELLIS
Don't worry, I'm about to.

Ellis turns on the meat grinder. crunching sounds and screams fill the room. Stacy eventually pulls her hand free as blood shoots out in different directions. Ellis laughs hysterically as Stacy ceases her screaming. shock has kicked in now and she drops to the floor, completely passed out.

ELLIS
I don't think so my dear, I'm not
done with you yet.

Ellis ties a tourniquet around Stacy's wrist. when he has the tourniquet tied securely around her wrist, he produces a small leather case from his back pocket. he opens the case and pulls out a needle. he stabs the needle into Stacy's chest and she instantaneously comes to, gasping for air and full of life.

STACY
What the hell just happened to
me?...

She looks at her mangled hand, surprised.

STACY (CONT'D)
...Why cant I feel this?

Stacy moves to get up, but Ellis puts the tip of the hunting knife to her throat.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIS

I don't think so. you'll be fine
for now. I just gave you a mixture
of morphine and adrenaline, I want
you to be awake and alert when I
finally kill you.

Stacy looses it.

STACY

THEN JUST KILL ME ALREADY! WHAT THE
FUCK ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Stacy's anger boils over, she gets up to attack Ellis, but
Ellis stabs her in the stomach. she falls back down to the
floor.

ELLIS

You crazy ass bitch! your gonna try
and attack me when I got a knife in
my hand? real smart Stacy! ...

Ellis stabs her again.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

...It didn't have to come to this,
ya know! maybe if you weren't such
a fucking whore things could have
been a lot different! but NO, you
just had to run off and open up
your fucking legs for some other
guy, huh? you know you were
everything to me? ...

Ellis stabs her for the third time.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

...I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU TO MARRY
ME! ... TO HAVE MY CHILD! DO YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH PAIN YOU
CAUSED ME?

STACY

Ellis...

ELLIS

...OH, BUT DON'T WORRY, BECAUSE
YOUR ABOUT TO FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!

Ellis drops the hunting knife and uses both his fists to
repeatedly beat Stacy senseless. Stacy, dazed and bloodied,
just stares up at Ellis.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIS

Looks like its about the end of the road for you now, Stacy.

Stacy coughs up blood.

STACY

I pity you, Ellis. I can understand your anger, I really can. and maybe I could have done some things differently, but its over now, and we cant turn back the clock. what your doing is wrong Ellis, and even though you still harbor this hatred for me doesn't give you the right to do what you've done to me, Kano, or Richard. ... there's no hope for you Ellis, you've become mad...completely mad.

ELLIS

A person needs a little madness, or else they never dare to cut the rope and be free. Nikos Kazantzakis said that. and I'm about to be free...by cutting the rope. your that rope Stacy. so if you have any last words speak them now because all you know is about to come to an abrupt end.

Stacy incoherently whispers something. Ellis bends down and puts his ear to Stacy's mouth.

ELLIS

speak up sweetheart, I wanna make sure I hear this.

STACY

I said: I'm giving up on you, Ellis.

And with all the courage and might she could ever hope to muster, Stacy grabs the hunting knife and brings it up into ellis's throat, repeatably stabbing and twisting the blade.

blood showers Stacy's face as Ellis falls backwards onto his back, the knife still lodged in his throat. Ellis laughs as he slowly chokes on his own life force, eventually passing away.

Stacy crawls over to ellis's dead body and begins rummaging through his pockets. she finds a cell phone. Stacy uses her one good hand to dial for help. as she does this, blood loss and exhaustion consumes her and she blacks out. on the other end of the phone, we can hear a voice.

911 OPERATOR
911, what is your emergency?

FADE OUT:

INT. BACK OF AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Dazed and confused, Stacy wakes up in the back of an ambulance. a paramedic in her mid thirties is replacing a much needed IV BAG. Stacy sits up in her gurney.

STACY
Where am I?

PARAMEDIC
Your safe now, honey. just relax
and get some rest.

STACY
Ellis...is he...

PARAMEDIC
...Dead? he sure is, honey. he wont
be tormenting you any longer now.

The paramedic looks at Stacy and laughs.

PARAMEDIC
You sure got a lot of spunk in you
girl, you know that? your in pretty
bad shape, and you've lost a lot of
blood, but your going to survive.
how you got through that ordeal
I'll never quite understand. ...I
guess no matter what life throws at
you, you can always get through it
by never giving up, huh?

The paramedic and Stacy share a smile as Stacy leans back and gets some well deserved rest.

FADE THE FUCK OUT: