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A TORTURED SOUL

BY NEIL STARR

INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The CAMERA opens with a medium close up on JIMMY'S face, from the other side of the bed, as he opens his eyes and wakes up in bed. Jimmy strokes the pillow and leaves his hand there for a few seconds as if something is missing. Jimmy sits up in bed and lets out a thunderous chorus of coughs followed up by a snorting of phlegm, which he extracts from his throat and then proceeds to spit into a nearby mug. Jimmy is an overweight man in his late thirties, he looks dishevelled and unwashed. He is unshaven and his face is riddled with wrinkles from years of stress and pain, he has clearly had better days. He immediately grabs his packet of Red Marlborough's from the night stand and continues to light a cigarette, again coughing whilst smoking, he leans forward and rests his elbows on his knees, contemplating, as he continues to smoke. His bedroom is a complete mess there is rubbish of all sorts everywhere. Newspapers, empty whisky bottles, discarded cartons, numerous pill bottles, and scattered amongst this are some children's toys. After some time adjusting himself to the new day he gets out of bed and walks out of the bedroom.

INT. CORRIDOR - AFTERNOON

Jimmy staggers through the corridor walking towards the bathroom. As he approaches he stops at a room with a sign cello-taped to the door, it is written on pink paper and says "princess Lisa's room knock before entering". He stands there looking at this sign for a moment then lowers his head and walks to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Jimmy immediately opens the cupboard above the sink and rummages through it for a minute trying to find something. He empties the contents of the cupboard throwing things into the bathtub. He empties numerous pill bottles but there is nothing inside. Jimmy then trashes the bathroom in frustration. He walks out and goes down stairs to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The living room is in as bad a state as the bedroom, if not worse. Jimmy searches around for a while and then finds the phone, he then enters a number and waits for the person to answer.

JIMMY

(Jimmy looks around him
anxiously)

Naz it's me....Jimmy. Listen I need to pick up off you mate....I've run out....All right, all right, I know, I fucking know mate. I know all right....Listen, listen, listen to me, all right listen. All I need is this last one on tick mate....I know I owe you a lot but...Don't worry I got this nice little earner coming up, I'll be able to pay you back with a little interest.

Jimmy has the phone rested between his shoulder and chin. He has been anxiously looking around the room throughout the conversation sifting through all the rubbish looking for clothes to wear. He finally finds a pair of jogging bottoms and puts them on whilst talking to NAZ. He continues to search for more clothes whilst talking to Naz.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Whats it about? Come on mate don't take me for a mug, you know I gotta keep it quiet....Listen, straight up mate I swear....Yeah, I swear on my daughter's life.

As Jimmy says this he rises from below the television as he picks up a pair of socks and see's a picture on top of the television of his wife, his daughter and himself all huddled together looking happy. He looks at the picture for a few seconds.

(Long beat)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(Muffled sounds coming
from the phone *Jimmy,*
Jimmy....hello....Jimmy
you still there.)

Yeah, yeah I'm still here....Na,
Na, na....Listen I can't wait mate
I need 'em today. No not fucking
next week, now, today.

Jimmy sits on the sofa and puts his socks on.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

What about all those times I've done you one eh, all those times I helped you out, I stuck my fucking neck out for you....Yeah, I know that was a long time ago, but now I need you to do me one, help me out mate....Who's it with? For fuck sake Naz, you turned ave ya, you a grass now, you working for the old bill are ya. Why you so fucking interested in my business.

Jimmy pulls the phone away from his ear as there is loud, muffled, incoherent shouting coming from the other end. Jimmy finds a dirty hoody dusts it off and puts it on. He continues to sift through the rubbish looking for trainers.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

All right, all right Naz calm down mate, fucking hell. It's with Ray all right, fucking Ray....I know no one's heard from 'im but he's got in touch....Yeah He's stuck his neck out and put a little business my way all right....Listen stop fucking me about Naz, are you gonna sort me out or not, yes or no all right, yes or no.

Jimmy finds a pair of trainers and sits down on the sofa again and puts them on.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

That is great mate, that is fucking spot on. Listen I'm getting me coat on and leaving now mate....Yep, yep that's sweet mate. That's lovely. You know I'm good for it Naz, you know I am....All Right I'm shooting now mate I'll be there in about 20 all right....Sweet mate sweet, I'll see you on the other side.

Jimmy puts on his coat throws the phone down on to the sofa and leaves the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

The Camera opens on a mid shot of Jimmy walking down the street. Jimmy then crosses the road to the other side and walks into a cafe called "ABI's".

INT. ABI'S CAFE - AFTERNOON

Jimmy walks into the cafe, which is your typical greasy spoon working man's cafe. He heads straight to the counter to talk to ABI. Abi is an old Turkish immigrant in his seventies, he is wearing a long white apron over an old T-shirt and jeans. His hair is grey and white in colour, as is the stubble on his face. He is a proud man, but too old to be working.

JIMMY

You all right Abi?

ABI

Yeah not too bad Jimmy, how's it going with you?

JIMMY

Yeah I'm not too bad Abi. I can't grumble.

ABI

We were all sorry to hear about Helen son. I tried to ring you but you weren't picking up, and then you never come round anymore Jimmy. Even Naz said he only speaks to you when you ring him.

JIMMY

Just keeping my head down Abi. Just keeping my head down.

(Beat)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Is Naz about Abi?

ABI

(Indicating with a nod of his head)

Yeah he's in the back.

JIMMY

Nice one, cheers Abi. I need to ave
a word with him. I'll speak to you
later all right Abi.

Jimmy walks around the counter and into the back room. Abi
turns around to look at him.

ABI

Yeah, good to see you Jimmy. Look
after yourself all right, and don't
be a stranger.

Jimmy nods and gives Abi a little hand wave in recognition of
his advice. Jimmy then proceeds to walk down the dingy, dark
corridor which is painted a dirty yellow colour and covered
in filth and grease. Jimmy then approaches some PVC strip
curtains and walks through them into the back room.

INT. BACK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jimmy enters the back room which is again painted a dirty
yellow colour and stained with filth. It is a medium sized
room with boxes everywhere filling the space. They are
stacked up fairly high against each wall. NAZ is sitting in
the middle of the room by a small table with his legs up,
watching a television which is mounted high in one corner of
the room. Naz is a tall dark mountain of a man. He is dressed
casually in a jumper, jogging bottoms and trainers, but looks
rather well turned out and confident. Naz is chuckling at the
television, when he see's Jimmy he stops chuckling, drops the
smile, switches the television off, and turns around to face
Jimmy.

JIMMY

(Anxious and fidgety)
You alright Naz, you err, you got
the pills.

NAZ

Jimmy I told you not to use the
front, always come round the back.
You never know who's watching.

JIMMY

Oh yeah, sorry mate, I didn't even
think.

NAZ

Sit down first Jimmy, lets 'ave a little chat first.

JIMMY

Na, I would do Naz but I gotta get off mate. I gotta go and get some, err, you know get some....

Naz gives him a discerning look knowing he has nowhere to go and nothing to do. Jimmy realises this.

NAZ

(Waving at him to sit down)

Jimmy mate, come on, sit down, lets have a little chat.

Jimmy looks at him for a moment, he is restless and twitchy, he can't stop moving.

NAZ (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I don't wanna talk about business, or the money you owe me. I trust ya, I believe, as you say, you got a nice little earner coming up with Ray. Even though no one has seen or heard from him, not even his brother. But I know you wouldn't take me for a total cunt, and mug me off to my face, would you Jim....

Naz looks Jimmy square in the eye.

NAZ (CONT'D)

Na, come on sit, we'll 'ave a friendly chat, as mates, like we used to.

(Beat)

Jimmy finally sits down and puts his hands in the front pocket of his hoody to imprison them, and stop himself moving them.

JIMMY

All right then Naz, I gotta couple of minutes. How you been mate. Looks like business is doing good

NAZ

Yeah it's not too bad mate
everything is ticking over. Still
trying to get the old man to hang
up his boots though. He's one proud
old fucking bastard I'm telling
you.

Jimmy nods and smiles.

NAZ (CONT'D)

How you doing though Jim, how you
been keeping. You know I can never
get in contact with you unless
you're fucking ringing me, wanting
to pick up, and then you're in and
out in a flash. I never get to talk
to you mate. You're fucking living
your life underground.

JIMMY

Yeah I'm all right Naz, good as
gold mate. You know me Naz, I'm the
fucking come back kid 'in I.

NAZ

Come on Jimmy. It's me you're
talking to now all right. So how
you been coping after what happened
to Helen, especially after what
happened to your little Lis.....

JIMMY

(Interrupting Naz)

Na I'm all right mate, I'm fine you
know. I told you, the fucking come
back kid.

NAZ

Yeah I know. But still Jim, that's
a lot of fucking pain in one year
mate, a lot. Don't fucking harbour
that pain and hate inside you all
right. You need to fucking let it
go, otherwise it'll twist you
inside out mate. All that pain and
hate 'aint good for the soul mate,
it just 'aint. You need to let your
soul breathe. You know what I mean.

(Beat)

JIMMY

Not really mate, not really.

(Beat)

NAZ

Do you still go to see that father
Stevens of yours Jim?

JIMMY

Here and there Naz. Here and there.

NAZ

You used to go every Wednesday and
Sunday to confess all your sins
didn't you. Huh, you'd fucking need
two visits as well with some of the
stuff we used to get up to in a
week.

JIMMY

I had to try and cleanse my soul
somehow Naz of all the shit we did.
What about you Naz, are you
righteous enough to enter the
promise land?

NAZ

(Holding out both of his
hands, palms facing the
sky, looking up and
smiling ironically)
Ha, you know me Jim, praise be to
Allah and all that.

JIMMY

(Sarcastically)
Yeah exactly mate, exactly.

NAZ

You did always say though Jim, he
was your only chance of forgiveness
and redemption for all the things
you've done.

JIMMY

Well maybe it's all unforgiveable
Naz, maybe I'm not worthy of
fucking salvation, maybe I'm just
damned like the lot of us.

NAZ

Listen Jim, you gotta believe in something mate, even if it's just life. We all need something to pull us back from the brink. But, I'm not convinced whether you do still believe though Jim.

JIMMY

Me neither Naz. Me neither.

(Long beat)

NAZ

Anyway, you should come round for dinner one day Jim, when all this is sorted. You know my Jenny makes an absolutely shit kofte don't you. My mum's been teaching her, but she couldn't cook eggs on toast that one. Let alone a fucking Kofte. But we'll get her sister round, you know, Annie...Yeah, you'll wanna nosh on that I'm telling you. You'll definitely wanna eat her for desert after you've tasted the main.

They both laugh. Jimmy's is more of a nervous, anxious laugh, he is not really listening to what Naz is saying.

JIMMY

Listen mate, seriously I gotta get off. So you gonna sort me out.

(Long beat)

Naz looks at Jimmy for a few seconds, then ushers someone in from the room adjoining and he hands Naz the bottle of pills.

NAZ

All right Jim, I'll sort you out. But you know this is the last time don't you. Once you finish this, that's it. You're gonna have to go to Delroy and them boys on the estate, and that aint no place to be Jim. You know those yardie fucks don't have any respect. You fuck with them and they'll cut your fucking face off.

JIMMY

Don't be stupid Naz, you know I
wouldn't go to those cunts.

NAZ

Wouldn't you Jim, wouldn't you.

JIMMY

Na, 'cause not Naz 'cause not.

Naz hands over the pills to Jimmy, but when Jimmy goes to take them Naz holds them tight and they are both left holding the pills together.

NAZ

Now Listen Jim. Dont' fuck me on
this, I want the money in full, by
next week all right. Don't fucking
force my hand on this Jim, this is
business and it wont be
pleasurable.

Naz lets go of the bottle and Jimmy walks away. Just before he leaves out of the back door into the alley Naz quickly interjects.

NAZ (CONT'D)

(Leaning back in his chair
with his head turned
towards Jimmy behind him)
Oh yeah, Delroy's boys came in here
earlier on asking for you Jim. You
'aint fucked them 'ave you.

JIMMY

Na, just a bit of business Naz,
just a bit of business.

NAZ

I thought you'd say that Jim, I
thought you'd say that.

Jimmy gives Naz one last look and then he leaves.

EXT. ESTATE - LATE AFTERNOON

The camera opens on a mid shot behind Jimmy walking through his estate to his house. When he gets to his house he fumbles for the keys, then just as he puts the keys into the keyhole he is hit on the back with baseball bats by two MASKED MEN. Jimmy collapses to the floor and one MASKED MAN leans over him.

MASKED MAN

Delroy says money tomorrow or
you're gonna be seeing you're
fucking daughter and wife earlier
than you think.

They both hit him again on the back. Then the masked man
rifles through his pockets and finds the bottle of pills.

MASKED MAN (CONT'D)

You won't be fucking needing these
either will you. Feel the fucking
pain bitch, feel the pain.

The masked man empties the bottle of pills all over Jimmy and
throws the empty bottle at him. He then stamps on the pills
ruining the contents. The masked men then proceed in beating
Jimmy senseless. They hit him all over his body with the
baseball bats leaving him battered and bloodied. They then
run off.

CUT TO:

EXT. ESTATE - AN HOUR LATER

Jimmy wakes up bloodied, battered and bruised. There is blood
all over his face, accompanied by cuts and gashes. His right
eye has also swollen up since the attack. He also feels an
unbearable pain all over his body. He tries to swallow one or
two pills he finds undamaged but most have been destroyed. He
struggles to get to his feet, but he manages to open the door
and walks into his house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jimmy walks into the living room and collapses onto the sofa.
He sits there for a while holding his mid rift and then
begins to weep. Jimmy then goes into a maddened rage
screaming and crying, and with the strength he has left in
him, trashes the room. His gaze fixes upon the picture of his
family, and in his rage he smashes it against the wall. On
the wall is a crucifix and Jimmy stops and stares at it
wildly for a few moments.

JIMMY

(Pointing at the crucifix)
You're an evil fucking cunt d'you
know that. A fucking cunt. You
listening to me are ya, you fucking
listening to me.

Jimmy beats his chest.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
(Shouting in hysterics)
You're an evil fucking bastard. Who are you to take my family away from me, eh, MY FUCKING FAMILY!!! They were my only rays of sunshine in this place. This shit fucking creation of yours. MINE!!!

Jimmy falls to his knees crying in desperation.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Who the fuck are you to take them away from me, eh, first my little princess Lisa and then Helen. Why did you have to take them, why them? Is this how you chose to punish me, by punishing them. Are you that much of an evil cunt that you'd hurt them to get to me. How dare you. HOW FUCKING DARE YOU!!!

Jimmy drops his head and sobs inconsolably for a few moments. Then he stops, looks up at the crucifix again and gives a quick ironic smile.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Well fuck you and your fucking punishment. I won't let you decide when I go, I'm gonna do it myself. If you haven't got the balls to kill me, then I will, I'll do what you should have done.

Jimmy gets up, goes to the kitchen and searches through the drawers, and gets a huge butchers knife out. Jimmy then comes back into the living room and stands in front of the crucifix. He grips the knife tightly in both hands, with his arms outstretched and the knife pointing towards his chest.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
I'm coming for you you cunt, I'm coming for you.

Jimmy then stabs himself in the chest with great force and furious anger. Jimmy immediately pulls the knife out from his chest and drops it to the floor. Blood instantaneously begins to seep from his chest and soaks his jumper. Jimmy collapses to the floor in a heap and manages to lean his back against the wall, below the crucifix.

He then see's the picture of his wife and daughter and he brushes away the broken glass and struggles to release it from the broken picture frame. He looks at the picture, cries and smiles joyfully as if some distant cheerful memory passed through his mind. The blood is really pumping out from his chest now and it is all over him and the floor. A few moments later Jimmy closes his eyes, slumps to one side with his head just above the ground whilst still holding the picture, and dies.

CUT TO:BLACK

THE END.