

Anything for Bussy

by

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INT. APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY

The room is bare apart from a desk against the back wall with a desktop computer on it. A chair sits in front of the desk. The screensaver on the computer is a photograph of JOEL 34; with his wife TANYA 31; and their daughter EMILY 8; smiling.

We stay on the screensaver for a brief moment admiring the pure happiness the photograph represents.

The screensaver flashes off as a call comes in.

ON SCREEN: "INCOMING CALL FROM TANYA"

The computer lets out a loud ringing tone.

JOEL frantically enters from another room and sits down in front of the desk. He adjusts his tie and takes a deep soothing breath before he answers the call.

JOEL

Hi Baby!

TANYA appears on the screen looking somewhat distressed. She takes a large sip from her wine glass. We get the impression this is not her first.

TANYA

When are you coming home?

JOEL

I'm not sure baby, we're on complete lockdown here. There's no flights at all, There saying it could be weeks.

Tanya stares blankly at the screen.

TANYA

Are you shitting me?

Joel stutters with his response.

JOEL

There's nothing I can do Baby, iv'e tried everything.

Tanya bursts into tears.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Don't cry baby. I know its hard but it will be ok. I promise.

TANYA

(Snaps)

No it won't. I told you not to get on that stupid flight but you knew better didn't you and look, now your stuck...

(She breaks down again)

JOEL

I had to, look I'll keep checking the flight schedule, something is bound to come up soon.

Tanya takes another large sip of wine.

Tanya seems to have lost interest in the conversation.

JOEL (CONT'D)

How's Emily?

TANYA

(Mocking)

How's Emily?

(Resumes)

You know damn well how Emily is...She's impossible.

JOEL

Do you need me to get Snowy?

TANYA

She doesn't want fucking Snowy.

A BEAT

JOEL

Can I speak to her?

Tanya reluctantly gets up from the chair and walks away leaving the empty chair which Joel stares at.

EMILY runs into the room, sits in the chair and faces the screen to speak to Joel.

JOEL

Hey Bubsy, you ok?

Emily looks emotionless.

If she misses her Dad at all then she is very good at hiding it.

JOEL

You being a good girl?

Emily doesn't respond.

JOEL (CONT'D)  
You being a good girl for Mummy?

Emily just stares at the monitor.

JOEL (CONT'D)  
(Excited)  
Do you want me to go get Snowy?

Emily shakes her head.

EMILY  
I'm bored of Snowy Daddy. I want  
something else.

Joel nervously adjusts his tie.

JOEL  
Anything for Bubsy!

Emily for the first time smiles, then runs away from the monitor screaming for her Mummy with excitement.

The screen goes black.

Joel looks somewhat shocked.

He types frantically on the computer.

A search engine appears on the screen.

Joel types into it.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

We see a door slightly ajar with steam making its way out into the hallway.

We hear a shower running and a male voice singing "Yes sir, I can boogie" coming from the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

COLIN makes his way down the stairs in a white dressing gown whistling the same tune he was singing in the shower.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Colin grabs a glass and makes his way over to the sink. He pours himself a water and begins to drink. As he drinks, something catches his eye.

He pauses.

COLIN'S POV: Joel stands outside the house across the street wearing his biological gas mask staring back at Colin.

Colin places his glass down slowly, transfixed.

COLIN'S POV: Joel calmly turns and walks away down the street.

Colin watches Joel walk away bemused by what he has just witnessed.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Colin sits in front of his dressing table. He is applying his make up to his face.

In the mirror we see his Clown face reflection full of concentration as he applies the final touches.

A noise comes from downstairs.

Colin stops and turns to the door. He listens carefully - Nothing.

Colin continues to apply the make up.

INT. HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Colin stands in front of a computer in his full clown uniform.

On the computer is a kids party of about 6 kids interacting with him. They are all excited to see COLIN THE CLOWN.

Colin finishes an act with puppets which has the kids laughing.

Behind Colin is a large box which he opens and stands in.

COLIN THE CLOWN  
Now Kids, time for a bit of magic.

Colin closes the door.

The kids clap from the computer.

There is a lengthy pause as the kids wait for something to happen.

NOTHING.

The kids begin to look at each other a little concerned.

STILL NOTHING.

EXT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

The boot pops open.

COLIN THE CLOWN is tied up with duck tape over his mouth.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT- FRONT ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Emily appears on the monitor. She stares ahead with her blank expression.

Colin the Clown stands nervously in front of the computer looking back at Emily. He turns his head slightly.

Out of shot of the monitors line - Joel stands a few feet next to Colin the Clown holding a gun at him.

Joel nods, urging Colin to start.

Colin turns to the Monitor visibly shaking.

COLIN THE CLOWN  
Hi Emily, my name is Colin the  
clown...  
(Takes a deep breath)  
Are you having a nice day?

Emily shakes her head.

COLIN THE CLOWN  
Oh really, oh, well that's not  
good. Let's see if we can change  
that.

Colin removes his hat and pulls out a bunch of flowers from it.

Emily remains unimpressed.

Colin throws the flowers to the floor.

He lowers his hands below the monitor line and then raises one of them which is a white rabbit puppet connected to his white glove. He begins operating the puppet by moving his fingers backwards and forwards. He removes his hat with his free hand and tells the rabbit to get in. The rabbit shakes his head. After a few exchanges of back and forth Colin forces the rabbit into the hat. He grabs his wand and taps the hat 3 times then looks inside. His face full of curiosity looks at Emily before showing her the inside of the hat - IT IS EMPTY!

Emily now looks bored.

Colin reaches into his pocket and pulls out 3 coloured balls.

He begins to juggle the balls with an enthusiastic smile. Unfortunately for Colin, Emily's smile is far from that.

Joel cocks the gun.

Colin drops the balls on the floor. In a panic he bends down to pick them up and all his props fall out of his top pocket.

Colin looks up at Joel who looks ready to fire.

Unbeknown to them both - on the monitor a smirk has appeared on Emily's face. Not much of one, but it is something.

Colin reaches for his pocket and retrieves a balloon. His hands are shaking and he fumbles around with it.

Emily's smirk is widening.

Joel notices Emily's reaction. This brings a smile to his face.

Colin finally gets the balloon to his mouth and begins to blow. He is panicking so much that he is hyper-ventilating and the balloon is raising at a considerable rate which causes the balloon to burst in his face.

Colin looks devastated. He fears this is the end.

On the monitor - Emily is laughing. In bizarre irony, the act going wrong was better than his intended one.

Joel watches the monitor as Emily laughs. He laughs along with her.

Colin looks bemused by all of this.

Emily is laughing so much that she is almost crying.

Joel lowers the gun.

Colin stands there still shocked by what is happening.

Joel appears in the monitors line.

JOEL  
Did you like that Bubsy?

EMILY  
Yeah, he's stupid.

JOEL  
(Looks at Colin)  
Yeah, he is isn't he.

EMILY  
Can we keep him daddy?

JOEL  
Yes darling, whatever you want.

Emily runs away from the monitor in excitement calling for Mummy.

Joel turns to Colin who wonders what the hell is happening.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Colin walks down the stairs with Joel behind him. The gun is pressed against his back.

Colin walks very carefully down the stairs.

In the basement...

We see a magician who is gagged and tied up to a beam.

A few feet away from him is a young woman dressed as "Snow White" (SNOWY) also tied and gagged.

In the middle of the room is Mime Artist who is not tied up or gagged and instead is trapped inside his own mime box.

There is a ventriloquist with his doll placed next to him tied up.

Joel leads Colin to the area where he wants him tied.

COLIN THE CLOWN  
Please, you don't have to do this.

JOEL  
It's ok. She'll call when she needs you.

Colin sits down as Joel ties him up.

Joel rips off some duck tape and places it over Colin's mouth.

Joel walks up the stairs.

Colin tries to kick and scream but it is no use. The room goes dark.



INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Joel exits the basement and locks the door behind him.

He walks up the hallway.

INT. HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The screensaver of the family is on the monitor.

Joel sits down in front of the computer and stares at the photo. He looks exhausted.

ON SCREEN: "INCOMING CALL FROM TANYA"

Emily appears on the screen with a huge smile on her face.

EMILY

Dad?

JOEL

(Drained)

Yes Bubsy?

EMILY

I was thinking, I really liked the clown but I think he needs an assistant. The good clowns always have an assistant, don't they?

JOEL

Yes, I guess so...Anything for Bubsy.

Emily runs away even more excited than before.

Joel leans forward and picks up the Biological gas mask and places it over his face.

He turns the computer off.

Slouched back in his chair, his reflection now staring back at him.

FADE OUT:

THE END.

