

Five Days for Redemption

By

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Fade In:

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX HALLWAY - DAY

SUPER: TODAY

FRANK (30s), five day old beard, tired, blue jeans and T-shirt slowly approaches Apt. 402.

We look over his shoulder. He pauses before he wraps on the door with the pistol in his hand.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

Apt. 201 door swings open to reveal MARIE (30s), pretty and in a dress, excited to see Frank. A clean shaven Frank, sport coat and slacks, enters the doorway.

He is met with a hug and kiss. They enter the apartment and close the door.

INT. MARIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SUPER: 5 DAYS AGO

A small one bedroom apartment. It is tastefully decorated. The living room opens to the kitchen.

KITCHEN

Frank is in the kitchen fixing two plates of food. Marie leans across the bar to observe.

MARIE

You cook. You bring flowers.

She leans over a vase full of flowers and takes a whiff.

FRANK

I clean too. I just don't dance.

Frank slides a plate to Marie. He grabs a bottle of wine, and pours some in a glass that is in front of her.

MARIE

Too good to be true.

Marie sighs.

FRANK
Just wait 'til dessert!

Marie tilts her head.

MARIE
Thought I was dessert!

Frank doesn't look up from fixing his plate, but lends a smile.

FRANK
You're the cherry on top!

They eat. Drink wine. Cuddle on the couch. Frank takes the plates to the sink in the kitchen.

Marie gets up from the couch.

MARIE
Gotta pee!

She quickly heads toward the bedroom.

Frank waits until the coast is clear and retrieves a ring from his pocket. He stares at it until he hears a flush, and pops it back in his pocket.

He turns to the cabinet and pulls out two bowls.

MARIE (O.S.)
Come here!

Frank opens the freezer. He realizes something is wrong.

FRANK
I forgot the ice cream.

MARIE (O.S.)
That can wait! Get in here!

FRANK
Everything's not perfect until we have cake and Rocky Road ice cream.

Frank removes the cake from the box.

MARIE (O.S.)
If you don't get in here, I won't tell you where the cherries are!

Frank pauses, smiles, and heads for the bedroom.

BEDROOM - LATER

Frank gets out of the bed and starts to dress. Marie watches with a smile.

FRANK
You want to go with me?

MARIE
Where are we going?

FRANK
Gotta get Rocky Road.

MARIE
Why? Cake is good enough.

FRANK
Not tonight. Good enough isn't good enough. I want it to be perfect.

Marie reluctantly slides to the edge of the bed and begins to put her dress on.

MARIE
Will I need panties?

Frank doesn't stop but looks at her with a grin.

FRANK
Up to you?

She flashes him a wicked grin.

MARIE
Commando it is!

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Clothed Frank and Marie exit the apartment building. As they do, three PUNKS (teens to 20s), pants worn below the waist, all have jackets - are about to enter the building.

PUNK#1
Watch it!

Frank and Marie step to the side. The punks size up Frank. Frank's confidence oozes to throw them off.

Punk#1 eyeballs Marie.

PUNK#1
No, excuse me little lady!

Marie chuckles.

MARIE
In your dreams little boy!

The other two punks laugh. Punk#1 glares at them and they quickly quiet down.

Frank passes by slowly. He makes sure his eyes connect with all of them.

PUNK#1
Later dudes!

Frank returns his focus on Marie. The punks laugh and enter the apartment building.

INT. FRANK'S CAR - NIGHT

Frank and Marie drive from one store to another. Each time Frank exits and then returns empty handed.

They drive on. Frank looks at the car dashboard.

FRANK
Gotta get gas.

MARIE
We don't HAVE TO HAVE rocky road.

FRANK
No. I'll put some gas. And if the next store is out , you win.

MARIE
Good.

Frank whips the car into a convenience store.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Frank grabs the nozzle of the gas pump and inserts it into the waiting gas tank. Marie gets out of the car.

MARIE
I'm getting lottery tickets.

FRANK
O.k. Make it quick.

MARIE
Before the ice cream melts!

She flashes him a smile and jogs into the store. Frank smiles and shakes his head.

SCREECH

Tires yell as an older model car rips into the parking lot and takes a space in front of the store.

Frank watches as three punks exit the vehicle, look around and enter the store.

CLICK

The nozzle reminds Frank that it is done. He returns back to finishing putting the cap on the gas tank and puts the nozzle back into place.

BANG. BANG. Frank looks at the storefront. BANG.

The three punks blow out of the door and leap into the car. They throw it in reverse and barrel out of the lot.

Frank is frozen. No Marie. He bolts to the store and through the door.

FRANK
(POV from the car)
NOOOOOO!

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

SUPER: 4 DAYS AGO

Frank sits in chair, face in his hands. A doctor enters. Frank stands. The doctor puts his hand on Frank's shoulder. Frank sits back down.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

SUPER: 3 DAYS AGO

Frank, unshaven and in a suit, stands alone next to a closed casket. He puts his hand on top of it and hangs his head.

EXT. GRAVESIDE - DAY

SUPER: 2 DAYS AGO

Frank, unshaven and same suit, stands alone in front of a tombstone. Life drained from his face.

SERGEANT HARRIS slowly approaches from behind. Frank stands motionless.

SERGEANT HARRIS
Frank. I am truly sorry. I liked
the two of you together.

Frank just stares into the gravestone.

SERGEANT HARRIS (CONT'D)
Just wanted you to know that we
should have them in custody soon.

Frank whips around with fury in his eyes.

FRANK
Where?

SERGEANT HARRIS
Now Frank. Let us do our job.

FRANK
Where?

SERGEANT HARRIS
You know I can't tell you.

Frank stares at him without flinching. Sergeant Harris stands firm.

SERGEANT HARRIS (CONT'D)
I know what you're thinking. I
would feel that way too.

FRANK
Where?

SERGEANT HARRIS
Dammit Frank! Don't put me in this
position.

FRANK
You know what will happen if you
get them.

SERGEANT HARRIS

Yeah, I do. Lawyers. Deals. Slap
on the wrist.

Frank returns his stare back to the gravestone.

FRANK

You were going to be my best man.

Sergeant Harris looks up, trying to compose himself. They
both stand in silence for a moment.

Sergeant Harris steps in front of Frank facing the
gravestone. He puts his hand on it.

SERGEANT HARRIS

Don't show back up here ever again.

He removes his hand from the stone to reveal a small piece
of paper. He immediately leaves without looking back at
Frank.

Frank grabs the paper. Continues to stare at the marker.

INT. FRANK'S APARTMENT - DAY

SUPER: YESTERDAY

Frank stands in the shower. Still. The water beating down
on him. He leans with both hands against the shower wall.

INT. FRANK'S CAR - DAY

SUPER: TODAY

Frank drives by the convenience store. Emotionless he rolls
by slowly, then speeds off.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Frank pulls into an empty slot in the parking lot. Stares
straight ahead. Closes his eyes. Breathes. Gets out.

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Frank, five day old beard, tired, blue jeans and T-shirt
slowly approaches Apt. 402.

We look over his shoulder. He pauses before he wraps on the
door with the pistol in his hand.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

The door swings open to reveal Punk#1. He quickly runs into the apartment leaving the door open. Punk#1 screams out.

Looking down the hallway at Frank, he slowly steps inside.

Hallway POV.

BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG. Light flashes from door with each sound.

Punk#1 comes out of the door limping toward our view. Just reaches camera when...

BANG. He drops to reveal Frank. Pistol up pointing at the camera. Smoke eases from the freshly fired weapon.

From behind Frank we see Punk#1 face down in the hallway. Frank lowers his arm. Sighs. Turns profile to the camera. A single tear drops from his eye.

FRANK

All I wanted was some fucking ice cream.

He walks down the hallway away from Punk#1.

Fade Out: