

A Fountain of Regret

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1 INT. HOME - AFTERNOON**1**

Wednesday

AARON opens door, sets down backpack and work badge. He trudges over to the couch and flops down. He turns on fireplace. He turns on the TV. Sees cat. Gets up to feed cat.

KNOCK ON DOOR

Aaron rolls his eyes but walks over and opens door. DYLAN is on the other side.

DYLAN

Hey, what you up to?

Aaron lets Dylan in the door.

AARON

(begrudgingly)

Just got home. What do you want?

DYLAN

Just wanted to see how you were doing, considering what day it is.

AARON

What day is it?

DYLAN

Well, today's the anniversary of the accident.

AARON

Oh, I didn't even realize.

Dylan looks over, sees an empty medicine bottle.

DYLAN

Sure you're alright?

Aaron notices what Dylan is looking at

AARON

(a little irritated)

Ya, I'm fine. Hey, I know you just got here but I'm pretty tired. I had to go to school and work today. I think I'm going to do a couple of chores and go to bed.

DYLAN

(moving towards door)

Alright. I was gonna run by my parents' place anyway. Sure you don't need anything?

AARON

I'm sure. Thanks for dropping by. See ya later.

DYLAN

Later.

Dylan closes the door. Aaron turns around, and we follow him as he walks through his room and then his bathroom. Aaron pauses at the mirror. In the background, we can see someone standing through the partially pulled back shower curtain. Aaron turns, pulls back shower curtain, and no one is there. He turns on shower.

CUT TO:

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

2

Aaron is playing a video game. He is visibly frustrated. After a little bit, he throws the remote down.

AARON

Shit!

He gets up, and goes over to the movie shelf. He pulls out *The Shining*, stares at it a moment, and then puts it in the Xbox.

CUT TO:

3 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

3

Aaron walks up to his bathroom mirror. He opens it up, and we see three different orange bottles. He pulls out one of them and puts a couple of pills in his hand. He closes the cabinet and swallows the pills. He starts to brush his teeth. He pauses, leans in, and looks at his receding hairline. He brushes his teeth for a couple more seconds, and then he spits on the mirror.

LATER - BEDROOM

Aaron is lying in bed. He is starrng at his lamp. After a few seconds, he reaches over and turns it off.

CUT TO:

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

4

Thursday

Aaron is eating a bowl of cereal and watching *Get Up* on ESPN. He gets dressed, grabs his backpack and badge. He looks back at his cat.

AARON

Another day in paradise.

He walks out the door.

TIME LAPSE:

5 INT. HOME - AFTERNOON

5

Aaron walks in the door. Again sets down his backpack and badge. He sees movies scattered on the floor. He looks over at cat, who is in the kitchen area.

AARON

Really? This is shit that dogs do.

He sighs, and moves to start picking up the mess.

CUT TO:

6 INT. KITCHEN - DUSK

6

Aaron is cooking himself an egg. He finishes it, puts it on a plate, walks over to the bar, sets down, and eats it. He

looks down to see his cat setting next to his chair. He sneers.

AARON

Your're not getting any of this.

Aaron continues to eat the egg.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

7

Aaron walks out the door with a trash bag. He walks around to the trash barrels and throws the bag into the barrel on his left. In an overhead shot, we can see Andrew hunkered down in the barrel on the right.

CUT TO:

8 INT. BEDROOM - MORNING (STILL DARK)

8

Friday

ALARM SCREECHING

Aaron reaches over and turns off his alarm. He gets up, stumbling in the dark. He reaches the living room, grabs the remote to the fireplace, and turns it on. A humanoid shadow is partially blocking the flames.

AARON

What the?

He reaches over and switches on the light. The figure is gone. He looks around confused for a moment. He walks out of frame for a second. He then walks back into frame and switches of the light again. The figure is still gone. He switches the light back on and shrugs.

9 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

9

Saturday

Aaron and Dylan are in Aaron's living room. Aaron is flipping through pictures of him and Andrew on his phone. Dylan is looking out the window into Aaron's yard.

DYLAN

When are you going to haul that fountain off?

AARON

I don't know. I'll probably wait till spring. I'll probably need help. It's a heavy SOB.

DYLAN

Hmm.

Dylan takes a couple of steps back and looks around. He notices a Christmas decoration on the wall.

DYLAN

You know Christmas was last week right?

Aaron looks up and sees what Dylan is looking at.

AARON

I know. Andrew made that one when he was in the first or second grade. I just haven't felt like taking it down yet.

Dylan nods and looks towards the kitchen.

DYLAN

You got any ibuprofen? My head is *killing* me.

AARON

Ya, up in the medicine cabinet. let me get it.

Aaron starts to get up, but Dylan walks past him.

DYLAN

Nah I can get it.

Dylan opens the medicine cabinet to find two orange medicine bottles. He pulls one down. He sits and ponders for a moment.

DYLAN

(still looking at the
bottle)

Were you high when it happened?

AARON

What?

DYLAN

(looking up)

I said, were you high when it
happened?

AARON

When what happened?

DYLAN

When you wrecked the damn car!

AARON

I wasn't high! I didn't wreck the
damn car! That old bitch pulled out
in front of me!

DYLAN

Maybe you'd been able to stop if you
hadn't been baked!

AARON

I said I wasn't fucking high!

Both of them pause for a moment.

AARON

I think you need to leave.

DYLAN

Fine. I was going anyway.

Dylan walks over and opens the door. He pauses.

AARON

You got something say or are you
just gonna let all the warm air out?

DYLAN

See ya around I guess.

AARON

I guess.

Dylan slams the door shut. Aaron is visibly upset. The camera remains focused on the door as Aaron walks off screen. We hear him open a bottle and rattle some pills around. We hear him slam the cabinet shut.

CUT TO:

10 INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

10

Aaron is setting on his couch with a piece of paper in his hand. Camera zooms in. It is a police report of the accident. Camera focuses on line that reads:

"At 2:05 p.m., Mrs. Garcia pulled out of the parking lot of the strip mall with the intention of turning left into the westbound lane. She claims that she was forced to stop in the middle of the eastbound lane because another vehicle turned right out of the opposing parking lot at the same moment. While stopped in the east bound lane, Mrs. Garcia's vehicle was struck by Mr. Capes's vehicle on the driver's side."

Camera cuts briefly back to Aaron, who is visibly upset. The Camera returns to the report, focusing on a couple of lines down that reads:

"Mrs. Garcia claims that Mr. Capes had plenty of time to see her and stop. I was not able to substantiate these claims."

Aaron looks up, with tears in his eyes.

CUT TO:

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

11

Wednesday

Aaron is on the phone with Dylan. We are looking down on him from directly above.

AARON

Hey, I'm sorry for the other day. I was being a total douche.

Camera rotates around the room once. No one but Aaron is there.

AARON

Are you still coming over Saturday?

(pauses)

How about Adam?

Camera spins around a second time. Aaron is still alone.

AARON

Ya 3 sounds good. I should be home
by then.

Camera spins a third time. Andrew is on the opposite side of the room. Aaron has his back to him.

AARON

Alright sounds good. See ya then.

Camera spins a fourth time. Andrew is gone again. The camera settles back on Aaron. He is hanging up the phone.

CUT TO:

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

12

Friday

Aaron is vacuuming his living room rug. Behind him is a movie shelf where he has set a book. The book begins sliding by itself to the right. As soon as he shuts off the vacuum, it falls off. Aaron jerks around and notices the book on the floor. He walks over and picks it up. We linger on the cover, *I Am Legend*, for a moment. He sets the book on top of the fireplace.

AARON

Stupid cat.

He looks over and sees the cat wondering around on top of the kitchen counter. He gets a concerned look on his face.

LATER - NIGHT (LIGHT ON)

Aaron, with a broom in his right hand, flops down on the couch. He tosses the broom to the floor. A shot of his left side establishes there is no one on the other side of the couch. We cut back to a forward facing shot. He turns on the TV. We cut back to his left side, where Andrew is seen in the background between the wall and couch. Blood is running down his right arm. Aaron jerks his head that way, but Andrew is gone. He looks forward again, with a concerned look on his face.

CUT TO:

13 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

13

Saturday

Aaron, Adam, and Dylan are sitting around Aaron's living room.

ADAM

(through laughter)

And she fell right on her face! She got up and said "I'm never f-ing ice skating again!"

AARON

(obviously not amused)

The youth pastor's girlfriend said the f word?

ADAM

She didn't actually say it.

DYLAN

(attempting to break the tension)

Did you go to her house for Christmas?

ADAM

Ya.

DYLAN

How was that?

ADAM

Not gonna lie, her dad is kind of intimidating. At one point when we were alone in the room he started like interrogating me.

DYLAN

Are y'all going to take the church kids ice skating?

ADAM

Nah. Sarah and me decided that there's too many kids to keep up with at an ice skating rink. Someone would probably get hurt. We'll probably just take them to a movie instead.

AARON

(rolling his eyes at another mention of Adam's girlfriend)

Sarah and I.

ADAM

What?

AARON

Sarah and I, dumb ass.

Everyone pauses for a moment.

ADAM

What did you do last night for New Years?

AARON

I went and drove around the lake to see the Christmas decorations before they took them down.

ADAM

I bet they're prettier when your stoned.

AARON

I wasn't stoned!

ADAM

Really, I didn't know you drove sober.

AARON

Ya well at least I'm not embezzling money from a church!

ADAM

What?! What do you mean embezzling? I work there and they pay me! You know what, I'm not putting up with this. I'm leaving.

Adam starts to get up.

AARON

(sarcastically)

Did I hurt your feelings?

ADAM

(opening the door)

I hope you drop dead.

AARON

What a christian thing to say!

Adam slams the door shut. We can hear him start his car and leave.

DYLAN

That went well.

AARON

Uh huh.

DYLAN

Did you really have to start in with him like that?

Aaron ignores him.

DYLAN

I mean he was just---

AARON

I think this house is haunted.

DYLAN

What?

AARON

I know this sounds crazy, but I've
being seeing and hearing things. The
other day---

Dylan jumps up out of his chair and marches over to Aaron's
medicine cabinet. He pulls down two orange medicine bottles.

DYLAN

(angrily)

How many of these had you taken when
you 'seen' and 'heard' these things?

AARON

None! You know what, forget it.

DYLAN

Ya, I think that's best. I'm gonna
go.

AARON

Fine.

DYLAN

I think you really need some help.

AARON

I'm not the only one.

DYLAN

Whatever. See ya later I guess.

AARON

I guess.

Dylan leaves. We linger on Aaron for a moment.

LATER - BEDROOM

Aaron is lying in bed, staring at his lamp. A hand reaches out from the darkness behind the lamp. Aaron raises up, startled. The shot lingers as Aaron catches his breath.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. YARD - DAY

14

Sunday

Aaron is picking up pecans in his front yard. He walks past the fountain in his yard. He pauses, noticing something, and walks back to it. Setting in the fountain is a red liquid (blood). Aaron dabs his fingers into it, and stares at them.

LATER - KITCHEN

Aaron is standing at his kitchen sink. He is staring at the blood on his hands. Eventually he turns on the faucet and washes it off.

CUT TO:

15 INT. KITCHEN - DUSK

15

Aaron is setting at his kitchen bar with his laptop open. We can see on his screen he is getting ready to pay for his next semester of college. He has a dejected look on his face. He pays the bill and walks over to the couch. He sets down and grabs the remote. When he turns on the TV, Andrew is in front of it, with obvious wounds on his body. And quickly snaps off the TV. The camera lingers as Aaron sits there, breathing elevated.

LATER

Aaron is on the phone with his mom. He is pacing around the room as they talk.

AARON

Mom, I know it sounds crazy, but---

(pause)

What? I haven't taken anything!

(pause)

Okay, maybe one or two but that doesn't have anything---

(pause)

Can I just come stay over---

(pause)

I haven't taken any of Dad's meds!
I've never stolen any---

(pause)

It doesn't matter where I got them!
Listen, I just need some---

(pause)

Mom just wai---

Aaron's mom hangs up. He looks down at his phone for a moment. Finally he throws it to the ground. He quickly walks over to his medicine cabinet. He pulls out three orange bottles. From a low angle, we see him drop three empty bottles on the cabinet one at a time as he downs them.

NOW IN BEDROOM

We see Aaron shuffle into the bedroom with an expressionless face. He turns off his living room light as he walks by the switch. He lays down in bed and closes his eyes.

KITCHEN

A drawer is slowly pulled open by an invisible force.

BEDROOM

We see Andrew come up to the side of the bed opposite the direction Aaron is facing. He raises up the knife.

CUT TO BLACK

THE END