Ghost Written

By

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INT. ATTIC–DAY

A mysterious figure (CONNER, 24) walks across the floor with a wooden box.

He puts the box on the ground. A rope is tossed over a support beam.

The rope falls into place, revealing a noose.

The figure steps on top the box, and puts his head through the noose.

He steps off the box.

A young woman (AMY, 22) enters the room. She sees the man hanging.

    AMY
    Conner!

Conner turns his head up.

    CONNER
    Still gets you!

Conner phases through the rope, and lands on the floor.

    AMY
    Don’t do that!

    CONNER
    Come on, how long have we been dead?

    AMY
    I don’t know remember. (beat) That’s not the point!

    CONNER
    Then what is the point?

She turns around and head back for the door.

    AMY
    I’m not talking to you.

Amy opens the door. She closes it on Conner, who phases through.
INT. HALLWAY—DAY

Conner follows Amy out the door.

CONNER
Come on, who else are you going to talk to?

AMY
It's not appropriate.

CONNER
What else is have I got? Don't eat, don't sleep, all we do is hang around the house. We could move on, there is a world of potential in this afterlife thing—

Mary passes them in the hall.

AMY
Go without me. I'd like that. I can "hang around the house" with relative peace and quiet.

Conner stops. Mary turns and enters the room.

CONNER
You know I can't do that.

Loud music starts playing from Mary's room.

CONNER
I'm shorting out that damn radio.

He turns around, and walks towards the room.

AMY
Don't do that. She's going to notice something.

CONNER
I don't care, I'm shorting out that damn radio.

Conner phases through Mary's door.
INT. MARY’S ROOM—DAY

Mary is sobbing, putting pen to a piece of paper. Conner phases through the door.

INT. HALLWAY—DAY

Conner returns.

    AMY
    So?

    CONNER
    She’s writing a suicide note. You’re right, these things do tend to work themselves out.

    AMY
    Conner, she can’t—

    CONNER
    Yeah, and why not?

    AMY
    You know how she is—

    CONNER
    Irritating?

    AMY
    What happens when you die?

Mary comes out walking away in a rush. Amy follows in a hurry.

    AMY
    How long to you think you can put up with it?

    CONNER
    Yeah?
    (beat)
    Oh....

After his realization, he starts to follow.
INT. FRONT ROOM—DAY

Mary walks down the stairs, and enters the front room.

CONNER
You know, it might just be one of those things. I mean, you had one of those phases right?

AMY
Yeah. And now I’m dead.

CONNER
Not from suicide.

AMY
What if she gets lucky?

INT. KITCHEN—DAY

Mary enters the Kitchen, and goes right under the sink. She grabs a can of cleaner.

AMY
(off Screen)
She’ll be telling us about her favorite Glee character for eternity.

She opens it, tilts it to see that it is empty. She pouts.

She stands and turns around, Amy is right in front of her. She walks right through Amy, who jumps.

Mary looks back, sees nothing. Mary makes her way to a doorway that leads, presumably, to the garage. Conner and Amy follow.

CONNER
Maybe sure earned enough points to go to heaven, and we don’t even have to bother?

Amy gives Conner a strange look.

CONNER
Your right. Heaven is a happy place.

Amy grabs the handle.
CONNER
She'll notice the radio going out
but not the door opening by itself?

AMY
Well, what choice am I given?

The door opens, and the two spread wide apart to avoid being touched. Mary re enters with a rope and a folding chair. The two follow her into the front room.

INT. FRONT ROOM-DAY

Mary is standing on the folding chair, tying the rope around a Chandelier.

Conner and Amy enter. Amy starts to move for her, but Conner blocks her with his arm.

CONNER
Wait-

Mary tries to hang herself, but the chandelier comes crashing down.

INT. ATTIC-NIGHT

Conner is sitting down, listening to Mary’s parent’s yelling in the background. Amy enters, and sits down.

AMY
Looks like her parents are more upset about the Chandelier. How’d you know it wouldn’t hold?

CONNER
Are you kidding? Your father paid me fifty bucks to install the damn thing.

She forms a half smile.

AMY
I miss him.

CONNER
Yeah.... So, what now?
INT. MARY’S ROOM—NIGHT

Amy sits down by the computer, searches through a drawer to look at a diary.

CONNER
Can you be a little bit quieter with that?

AMY
She won’t notice. She’ll think it’s the cat, and go back to sleep.

CONNER
She doesn’t have a cat.

AMY
That’s right. I had the cat.

Amy pulls out the diary.

AMY
Tyler was then only thing that made my pitiful life worth living.

CONNER
So it’s about a guy?

Amy nods.

CONNER
Then how about we try to get these two kids back together?

AMY
That’s a terrible idea.

CONNER
Then perhaps we could-

Conner looks around the room, and notices Mary’s bed is now empty.

INT. BATHROOM—NIGHT

Mary is standing in the bath tub, holding a toaster. The door is open a crack.

Conner phases right through, while Amy tries to carefully maneuver around it.
AMY
Conner, stop her!

Mary drops the toaster, Conner lazily unplugs the chord.
Mary looks with equal parts confusion and disappointment.

MONTAGE-CONNER AND AMY SUICIDE PROOFING THE HOUSE

Amy make a careful inventory of the pills in the bathroom. She dumps out a jar, and replaces them with Tic-Tacs

Conner puts a letter into an envelope, and writes "Tyler" on it.

Conner paints a grey shag carpet orange while Amy loosens a ceiling fan.

Mary searches through a chest of tools, and finds several pieces of rope, that have been cut no longer than one foot each.

Mary dumping a bunch of pills onto a piece of paper. She looks at them, confused, tastes it, realizes its sugar

Mary tapes the plug into the outlet, and takes the toaster into the bathtub. Conner shoves his hand into the wall, shutting down the circuit.

The power goes out in the house.

INT./EXT GARAGE-DAY

Conner is under the car, Amy is keeping watch.

Conner rolls out from under, and hands Amy the Muffler.

AMY
You didn’t have to cut off the entire-

Conner gets up.

CONNER
Hey, if I had the mechanical knowledge you seem to think I do, we’d probably still be alive.

Mary walks out the Garage door, carrying the bright orange carpet. She lays down in the street, under the carpet.
AMY
Shouldn’t we-

CONNER
Relax. I painted it orange. People drive around orange things. Sometimes yellow. So, how long do you think we can actually keep this up?

AMY
Until we-

A car carefully drives around Mary.

CONNER
What? She’s pretty determined. The moment she finds out there is an extension cord she’ll be back in the tub with the toaster again, and I’m going to just let her.

AMY
What if she dies? Where will she go?

CONNER
Probably remain here, like us.

AMY
No. There isn’t enough room!

CONNER
Fine. She can stay here, we can move on. But it’s not about that any more, is it?

AMY
What do you mean it’s not about that anymore? (beat) If you want to move on so bad, how about you do it? Just go right now?

CONNER
No problem here. I’ve been waiting to move on for years.

Another car carefully drives around Mary.

AMY
And what’s keeping you?

Tyler pulls up on his bike, and notices the large bulge under the carpet. He kicks it gently.
Conner and Amy notice the fight, and quickly move outside.

TYLER
You wonder why I broke up with you?
Look at yourself!

MARY
You told me you loved me!

TYLER
Yes. When were dating! These things
do change, Mary!

Tyler reaches into his pocket, and pulls out the note.

TYLER
And now you are going to kill
yourself if I don’t take you back?

CONNER
That was a bad idea.

AMY
That was your idea.

CONNER
I know. It was a bad idea.

MARY
Let me see that.
(she looks at the letter)
This isn’t even my handwriting!

TYLER
Look, just leave me alone.

MARY
What the hell? I had sex with you!

TYLER
And?

AMY
Don’t do anything

CONNER
I can’t do anything...

Mary, enraged, rushes towards Tyler, who tosses her to the ground.

Amy tries to embrace her. Mary looks up at Tyler, but then
back down to her arms, and then up with wonder.
AMY
It’s okay.

She now knows that somebody is there.

INT. MARY’S ROOM-NIGHT

Mary is taking down her pictures.

Amy watches from behind. Mary turns around, catches a glimpse of Amy. The two nod to each other. Mary mouths "It’s okay now".

Mary turns back around. Amy leaves though the wall.

INT. ATTIC-DAY

Amy enters, sits down.

AMY
She knows we are here now.

CONNER
Well, that was bound to happen. Not that I mind. Well, anymore.

AMY
Yeah.

The two sit in silence.

AMY
This is her home now, isn’t it?

CONNER
Yeah.

AMY
So, I guess it’s time to go.

CONNER
No, not just yet.

EXT. SCHOOL-DAY

Tyler is riding his bike away from the school. He is hit in the head with a flying orange, and tumbles off the bike.

Conner looks at the chaos, accomplished.
AMY
You carry that with you--

CONNER
Had it in my pocket when we died.

The two of them turn around, and walk away.

AMY
So, what do you expect? I mean, think we can actually get into heaven? Or the other place?

CONNER
How about Australia? I’ve never seen a Kangaroo up close before.

The two of them disappear, together.