My Dog

By

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INT. ROOM - DAY

HARRY, 19, TONY, 22, and MARIEM, 21, all dressed in thick heavy winter coats stand in a circle around a small portable stove.

The windows are all sealed off, a single light bulb hangs down from the ceiling.

Harry looks over into corner where MAX, a small brown dog drinks from a bowl.

Harry taps a hand against his leg and Max comes over.

Mariem switches between Harry and Tony.

MARIEM
I'm so hungry.

TONY
We need to stay warm.

HARRY
Food is more important.

TONY
We'll freeze if we go out there.

HARRY
I need to eat.

MARIEM
We all do.

TONY
This is the only place with heat.

HARRY
You can't know that for sure.

TONY
I'm not leaving.

Mariem gives Tony a knowing glance.

Tony drops his head.

Mariem now turns to Harry.

MARIEM
Me and Tony have been talking.

HARRY
Yeah, I hear you two at night whispering.

MARIEM
Do you hear what we say?
HARRY
No.

MARIEM
We’ve ran out of options. We’re going to have to eat the dog.

Harry is horrified. Harry reaches down and takes Max by the collar.

Harry takes a couple of steps back away from Mariem and Tony.

HARRY
His name is Max, and that’s no happening

Mariem comes back to Tony. Mariem kicks at Tony’s leg, angry.

MARIEM
Say something.

Tony lifts his head up, turns to Harry letting out a long deep breath.

TONY
I’ve slaughtered pigs, I can do a dog.

HARRY
Are you insane, you're not eating him.

TONY
Then we die.

HARRY
No, we leave.

TONY
It’s safer if we stay here.

HARRY
You can't know that for sure.

MARIEM
Why are you being so selfish?

HARRY
You're not eating him.

MARIEM
He’s in trouble too. You don’t think he’ll eat you, if he gets hungry enough?
HARRY
No, he'd never hurt anyone.

TONY
It's him or us.

HARRY
Bullshit.

TONY
We can't survive on thin air.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT
Harry sits upright on the floor, coughing.
Harry looks over and sees Tony and Mariem spooning, asleep on the other side of the room.
Harry reaches down beside him, but Max isn't there.
Harry stands up, looks around the room, but Max is gone.

HARRY
Where's Max?!

Tony and Mariem both wake up, startled.

TONY
What's wrong?

HARRY
Where is he?

TONY
What are you talking about?

HARRY
Max!

MARIEM
You let him go?

HARRY
No.

TONY
Settle down.

HARRY
Tell me where he is?

TONY
I don't know.
HARRY
You wanted to eat him, and now he's gone.

MARIEM
Maybe you let him go?

HARRY
Fuck you.

TONY
Don't talk to her like that.

HARRY
Tell me where he is?

Tony and Mariem share a look.

TONY
I wouldn't have let it go.

MARIEM
We should have just killed it.

HARRY
Shut your mouth.

MARIEM
It's just a dumb dog.

Harry marches over to the stove, there a box filled with tools beside it.

Harry grab hold out a knife, hold it out in front of him, threatening.

TONY
Put it down.

HARRY
You've killed him haven't you?

MARIEM
How can you care more for that dog then us?

HARRY
He's everything to me.

MARIEM
How?

HARRY
He's the reason I'm still alive.

MARIEM
Why don't you just leave?
HARRY
Not without Max.

TONY
Nonsense.

HARRY
What?

TONY
You wanting to leave, the way you’ve being acting. This hasn't got anything with MAX.

HARRY
Just tell me where he is?

TONY
You're still in love with Mariem?

HARRY
What?

TONY
I'm sorry that she chose me and not you.

MARIEM
Is that it?

TONY
Just tell me the truth.

MARIEM
Are you still in love with me?

Harry has to turn away from Mariem, unable to look at her.

TONY
You see, I knew it.

HARRY
I just want Max.

MARIEM
Are you still in love with me, I want to know?

TONY
Of course he is, it's pathetic.

Harry lifts his head back up and looks across at Tony. Harry has tears in his eyes.

HARRY
Why don't you quit being a coward and just tell me what you've done with him?
TONY

Enough.

Tony marches over to Harry. Harry takes a step back.

HARRY

Stay away from me, I mean it.

TONY

Give it me.

Tony tries to take the knife from Harry. Harry and Tony struggle, a fight breaks out.

Harry and Tony fall to the floor, Harry stabs the knife into Tony, blood pouring out of him Tony is unable to speak or move.

Harry quickly gets back up to his feet.

Mariem sees the blood and screams.

MARIEM

What have you done?!

HARRY

I just wanted Max back, nothing else.

Mariem lunges at Harry with her hands out. Mariem attacks Harry, slapping and scratching at his face.

MARIEM

I hate you!

Harry slashing the knife at her, cutting her down.

INT. ROOM - DAY

Mariem and Tony, laying in a corner of the room, are both dead.

Harry kneels down at the stove in the middle of the floor.

Harry holds onto a human finger, cooking it over the flames. Harry takes a bite out of it and swallows.

Suddenly there's the sound of claws scratching at the door. Harry looks back, and the scratching continues. Harry gets up and answers the door. Max runs in, leaping up into his arms.

Harry hugs Max, kissing the top of his nose.

HARRY

I thought you were gone forever
Max licks him.

HARRY (CONT’D)
How did you get out?

Max continues licking him.

Harry glances back at the dead bodies before coming back to Max.

Harry can't help but laugh.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END