

Payback

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - EARLY EVENING

A young DRUG DEALER (20's) Ed Hardy jeans, Adidas sneakers, Yankees jacket leans against the wall of an alleyway. He looks around furtively. Danny Cole (18) ragged Levis, hoodie, worn sneakers shuffles up.

DRUG DEALER
Whassup?

DANNY
Got any blow?

The dealer looks Danny up and down.

DRUG DEALER
Got cash?

Danny stares at the ground.

DANNY
C'mon man. It's me Danny. You know
I'm good for it...gimme 'til the
end of the week.

The dealer spits dangerously close to Danny.

DRUG DEALER
Fuck off bitch. I got bi'ness to
do!

DANNY
Aw, shit man....

Danny stops talking and runs as the dealer lunges aggressively at him.

DRUG DEALER
And don't fuckin' come back, less'n
you got money, you hear me? I'll
shoot your fuckin' arse!

INT. ED AND ANITA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

ED MARTIN (40's) tall, handsome, athletic is dressing for dinner. He ties his bow tie, watching T.V.

T.V. PRESENTER (O.S.)
 ...and now here's everyone's
 favorite couple on the red carpet.
 The queen of the silver screen,
 Anita Martin and her suave husband
 Ed.

Ed stops tying and calls out.

ED
 Hey darling. Quick, come see. We're
 on!

Anita Martin (30's) enters. A stunning Oriental beauty,
 dressed in a flowing jade green evening gown, glides to Ed's
 side.

ANITA
 Oh hon. I saw this earlier...you
 look great huh?

Anita straightens Ed's tie.

ED
 Well now you come to mention....

Anita quickly grabs the remote and switches the T.V. off.

ANITA
 O.K. No more preening. We're gonna
 be late. You know Mummy's a
 stickler for time.

She grabs Ed's tux from the bed and throws it at him.

ANITA (CONT'D)
 Get the lead out pal. We're
 leaving!

She laughs playfully as she leaves. Ed slips into his tux
 and picks up his cell phone.

ED
 (calling out)
 I'll call Mr. Tan then, shall I?

ANITA (O.S.)
 Good idea.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - SAME TIME

Danny runs past a beat up Chevy parked on a driveway. He hammers on the door of a delapidated house.

DANNY

Let me in! For chrissakes, it's
me...Danny!

The door opens slightly. Joe wheeler (20's), skinny, tattered jogging pants, soiled sweatshirt, peers through the gap.

JOE

That you Dan?

Danny pushes hard against the door and enters the house.

DANNY

Prick!

INT. HOUSE - LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS

The room is dimly lit and dingy. Windows covered with makeshift curtains, sacking, old tarps.

Cans and bottles lay strewn on the floor. Drug paraphenalia litters the one table. TREY SPILLARD (20's) and ZAK MALEK (teens) both in shorts and tees, lounge on two filthy sofas, smoking and swilling beer.

TREY

Where the fuck you been man?

Danny pushes Zak's feet off the sofa and sits.

DANNY

Trying to score.

Trey props himself up on one elbow.

TREY

You got some right?

Danny takes the cigarette from Zak, draws on it heavily.

DANNY

No cash man. Nearly got my fuckin'
head blown off s'all.

Trey throws his bottle at the wall. The other three jump as it smashes.

TREY

What is it with you fuckheads? I
let you stay here free and you
can't even get me some shit!

He jumps to his feet.

TREY (CONT'D)

Right! We're gonna get us some
money and I mean *real* money...
We'ere gonna hit some rich bastard.
(beat)
Zak, blades!

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MINUTES LATER

Trey sits in the driver's seat of the old Chevvy, gunning
the engine. Danny sits in the passanger seat, Joe in back.

Zak is struggling to place a bundle in the trunk. He drops
it revealing three machettes and one cleaver.

INT. ED AND ANITA'S CAR - SAME TIME

Ed and Anita are cozied up in the back seat. Mr. Tan (50's)
small, Chinese, immaculate, drives.

ANITA

How long before we reach Mummy's
Mr. Tan?

Mr. Tan checks his watch.

MR. TAN

Friday evening ma'am. Traffic's
pretty heavy. Maybe twenty, twenty
five minutes.

ANITA

O.K. As fast as you can please. Our
dinner's across town and we can't
afford to be late.

Mr. Tan nods and picks up speed.

INT/EXT. TREY'S CHEVY - SIDE STREET - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

Trey has parked in an upper-class area. He, Danny and Joe still in the car are smoking, listening to the radio.

Zak stands at the corner, watching, waiting. He spots Ed and Anita's car approaching with the left indicator flashing. He whistles.

Trey turns the radio off and adjusts his rearview mirror to watch Zak.

INT/EXT. ED AND ANITA'S CAR - SIDE STREET - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Tan pulls up smoothly outside an apartment building. Ed checks his watch and speaks to Anita.

ED

We're not going in right?

ANITA

No. No time...Mr. Tan please let Mummy know we're here. We'll wait in the car.

Mr. Tan jumps from his seat, leaving the engine running.

ANITA

Darling, thank you for inviting Mummy tonite. It was very sweet of you.

ED

No problem. Poor old girl doesn't get out much and she loves this sort of thing.

Mr. Tan is at the apartment building. He presses the intercom button.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Yes. May I help you?

MR. TAN

Miss Anita and Mr. Ed are here.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Thank you. Ma'am will be down shortly.

Mr. Tan steps back. Trey slowly reverses the Chevy up behind Ed's car. Zak quietly opens the trunk as the other three exit the vehicle. They take their weapons from him.

Ed and Anita are still talking unaware of what is happening outside. Ed takes Anita's hand and kisses it.

ED

Have I told you how beautiful you look tonite?

Before Anita can answer, their attention is grabbed by the sound of their trunk being popped and raised voices.

Ed peers through the back window and sees Danny with a machette at Mr. Tan's throat, ripping off his cell phone headset.

ED

What the fuck?

Ed springs from the car.

Mr. Tan appears terrified as the attackers scream obscenities at him. Zak is inside the trunk, rummaging for something to steal, cleaver in hand.

Joe and Trey stand further back, keeping watch. Ed spins Danny around and slams him in the face. Danny drops like a stone. Mr. Tan seizes his opportunity and runs.

JOE

Trey! Trey! Fuck! He's got Danny!

Joe runs at Ed swinging his machette wildly. Ed blocks the blow and grabs Joe by the throat.

Trey comes from behind and chops Ed in the head. Ed releases Joe and turns. Trey strikes again. This time Ed skips back. The blade misses.

ED

Come on you motherfucker! Come on!

Anita has watched the attack and exits the car screaming.

ANITA

(to Zak)

For God's sake stop them! They're killing my husband!

Trey shouts to Zak.

TREY

Get the bitch!

Zak responds immediately, raising his cleaver, approaching Anita.

Suddenly a look of recognition crosses his face. He pauses momentarily which allows Anita to slip back into the car and lock the doors.

Zak now attacks the car in a frenzy. Ed slams the trunk shut and moves menacingly toward Trey and Joe, blood streaming from his wound.

TREY
Gimme your watch man.

ED
Fuck you. You're getting nothing.

Ed lunges at Trey who turns and runs to the Chevvy, shouting.

TREY
Let's go. Get Danny!

Zak grabs Danny. He and Joe fend off Ed by swinging their weapons at him, until they reach the Chevvy

Zak pushes Danny in the back seat. Joe and he follow trying to close the door as Trey fishtails the car out of the street.

Ed chases after them, shouting.

ED
Bastards! I'll find you, you bastards!

Anita appears at his side.

ANITA
Darling, Ed. Please calm down.
They've gone.

She looks at his wound.

ANITA (CONT'D)
Oh my God!
(shouting)
Help me! Somebody help me!

INT/EXT. TREY'S CHEVVY - CONTINUOUS

Zak is rifling through a bag he took from Ed's trunk.

ZAK
Shit! Nothin'. Fuckin' nothing!

TREY
What the fuck went down back there?

JOE
That dude's a lunatic. You chopped him good and he's still comin' forward.

ZAK
I know who they are. I saw the woman. Anita Martin.

JOE
Fuck Trey. You coulda killed Ed Martin man. Ed fuckin' Martin. He's connected man...

TREY
Shut the fuck up! We got nothin' and now I've gotta dump this shit-heap and skip town...all because of you fuckin' idiots.

Trey smashes his hands down hard on the steering wheel.

TREY (CONT'D)
I don't fuckin' believe this!

The three in the back seat look at each other then drop their heads as Trey continues to rant.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - LATER

A doctor (30's) approaches Anita who is pacing up and down with Mr. Tan.

DOCTOR
Hi Anita. We've scanned Ed's skull. The blade chipped the bone but thankfully there's no fracture. He's being stitched up right now.

ANITA
May I see him?

DOCTOR
Sure. This way.

INT. HOSPITAL - SUTURE ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Ed dressed in a hospital gown is seated on a bed. A NURSE (20's) has just finished as Anita and Mr. Tan enter. Anita takes Ed's hand.

ANITA

Oh, darling. I thought I'd lost you.

ED

Not ready to go just yet sweetheart. Can I get a hug?

Anita falls into his arms. They hug tightly.

ANITA

(softly)

Ed. Mr. Tan is here. I think he's in shock.

Ed gently releases Anita.

ED

Mr. Tan. You O.K.?

Mr. Tan rushes to Ed buries his head in his shoulder and sobs uncontrollably.

MR. TAN

I'm so sorry. So, so sorry.

Anita places a comforting hand on Mr. Tan's arm and throws Ed a concerned look. Ed smiles reassuringly but as he turns slightly, his demeanour is one of dark aggression.

ANITA

Darling, if you're up to it, the police are outside. They'd like to ask some questions.

Ed snaps out of his stupor.

ED

Yeah, sure. Let's get it over with.

INT. HOSPITAL - OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

TWO POLICE OFFICERS (20's) are leaving. Ed and Anita are seated at a desk. Mr. Tan stands in a corner.

ED
 So sorry officers. Not much help
 I'm afraid. It all happened so
 fast.

OFFICER
 If anything comes back to you, give
 us a call. Take it easy, sir,
 ma'am.

As they leave Ed Rises.

ED
 Just gonna use the restroom
 darling.

ANITA
 Want me to take you?

ED
 It's O.K. You wait here. Won't be
 long.

INT. HOSPITAL - RESTROOM - MINUTES LATER

Ed checks all the stalls are empty. He pulls out his cell
 phone, looks around cautiously and taps in a number.

ED
 Chuck?

INT. ED'S CAR - DAY

Mr. Tan drives. Ed sits in back reading a newspaper. A
 newscaster's voice comes on the radio.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)
 Reports are coming in of a
 burned-out Chevrolet being found in
 a wooded area of the northwest part
 of town. Police have confirmed that
 four bodies were discovered in the
 vehicle. They have requested that
 anyone with information should
 contact them immediately.

Ed pulls out his cell phone, hits the recall button.

ED
 Mr. Tan. Please turn that off.

Mr. Tan complies.

ED (CONT'D)

Chuck? Just heard. Thanks man. I owe you one...later man.

Ed ends the call and smiles to himself. Mr. Tan looks at Ed in his rearview mirror and nods knowingly.

INT. ED AND ANITA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Anita is sitting on a sofa talking on the telephone. Ed enters.

ANITA

Thanks so much for the invite. I wish you had called earlier. So sorry babe, but we're already booked....I'm sure it'll be great...catch you next time? Bye.

Anita hangs up. Ed stands watching, listening. Concerned.

ED

You know we're gonna have to go out sometime. We can't let these people win.

ANITA

Please, give me some time. I'm still not ready.

She drops her head as Ed sits beside her, putting his arms around her as she weeps.

INT. ED AND ANITA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ed and Anita are sleeping. Suddenly, Anita screams.

ANITA

No! Don't! Please God, don't!

Ed is instantly awake, comforting his wife.

ED

It's O.K. darling. Just a bad dream. Calm down. I'm here.

Anita wakes, sobbing.

ANITA

Oh Ed. I still see them...they don't know the damage they've done.

Ed holds Anita tightly.

ED

I know sweetheart, I know...they
won't come back, I promise...no one
will ever get near us again...
...believe me.

As Anita continues to cry Ed looks across to his bedside
table, where a Magnum .375 lies.

ED (CONT'D)

I swear...no one!

FADE OUT:

THE END