

Moral Murder

By:

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EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

JAKE, a man in his 20s with messy unwashed hair that covers his eyes, stands in a dark alleyway staring at an empty bus stop. He fidgets with something in his hand nervously waiting.

He moves closer to the street to get a better view of a bus stop. The streetlight illuminates him revealing his eyes which are burning with anger, and in his hand... a knife.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Dull office lights illuminate Jake as he sits at a desk writing on his laptop. Behind Jake, others in the office can be seen unenthusiastically typing away at their computers.

Jake's eyes wander up to see JEN, a blond girl in her 20s wearing business attire. He watches as Jen sits down at her desk and begins to unpack her laptop from her purse.

Jake picks up his laptop and walks over to her with it.

JAKE

Morning Jen, I just wanted to ask you something about the new price model.

Before Jen can answer, ALEXANDER (a young man in his 20s who looks a lot older due to his beard) bursts into the office. Alexander dresses casually wearing jeans and a t-shirt.

ALEXANDER

Hey hey hey, another great day of working with you losers.

JEN

Hey Alexander!

JAKE

Hey.

ALEXANDER

Where's Katie?

JEN

Hasn't come in yet.

ALEXANDER

I wanted to ask all of you guys, what's everyone doing next weekend?

JAKE
Not sure, haven't made plans yet.
(looks to Jan)

JAN
Nothing why?

ALEXANDER
Would you guys want to go up to the lake, about 2 hours from here? They got a lake view hotel there and--

JAKE
Yeah, I don't know, what's there to even do at a lake?
(Condescending)
Do you spend all your weekends like this?

ALEXANDER
I just bought a second jet ski, a Kawasaki Ultra 310LX. Two people can fit on each so all four of us can go.

JEN
Do you need a permit to drive one?

JAKE
You definitely don't. It doesn't take much skill to drive one.

ALEXANDER
Yeah don't even worry about it, you'll get the hang of it quick.

JEN
This is so exciting, it's so cool you have jet skis.

JAKE
What are your parents rich or something?

ALEXANDER
Nah, I bought them myself.

JAKE
Well, you definitely can't afford them on our salaries.

ALEXANDER
What do you know about what I can

afford?

JAKE

I know a lot more about finance than you so either you went in debt to pay for that--

ALEXANDER

Don't even talk to me about finance Jake.

JAKE

Alright, so your parents bought it for you or you went into massive debt. You may feel good now but that debt will come back to bite you in the future.

Alexander looks at Jen with a "can you believe this guy" look.

JEN

I mean, he did do a minor in economics.

(To Jake)

You did right?

JAKE

Yeah, I did, so I know what I'm talking about.

Alexander receives a text.

ALEXANDER

(checking phone)

Hold on.

The text Alexander gets is in a different language and it catches Jake's attention. He tries to get a better look but is distracted by the sound of someone in the office dropping something. By the time Jake looks back, Alexander has already put the phone away.

ALEXANDER

Maybe if you listened to me about trying a new subscription pricing model for the company, you would have gotten a performance bonus as well. Could've bought yourself a jet ski.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Jake stares off somewhere into the distance. His face is boiling red with anger.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Jake sees KATIE walk into the office.

ALEXANDER

You're late.

KATIE

I'm aware.

ALEXANDER

You free next weekend?

JAKE

That bonus is not going to cover a jetski.

KATIE

What's going on?

JAKE

Alex bought a jetski.

ALEXANDER

I've got two and was wondering if the four of you wanted to come up to the lake for the weekend.

KATIE

(jokingly)

New jetski, have they given you a raise?

JAKE

(not jokingly)

That's what I said.

KATIE

Yeah, I'm free to go, sounds like fun.

ALEXANDER

Jake?

Jake doesn't answer right away.

JAKE

I can put it on my calendar.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Jake, still staring off into space, snaps out of it as a bus pulls up to the bus stop.

He watches as Alexander steps off the bus. Surprising Jake, Katie steps off the bus next and joins Alexander.

Jake watches Katie and Alexander walk away as the bus leaves.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

A calculation for monthly rent on an apartment is being written on paper.

KATIE

Jake!

Jake's head shoots up from the page he is writing on.

KATIE

I asked you if you finished your part of the presentation.

JAKE

Yeah, I finished, It didn't take long.

Jake puts his head back down and continues writing math formulas on his paper like some sort of genius. Katie looks at him with concern.

KATIE

Are you doing math by hand?

JAKE

There is no way Alexander could afford those jet skis.

Katie says nothing.

JAKE

I found the price of the model. I've calculated his pay, his monthly rent, and other expenses. Transportation costs because he takes the bus--

KATIE

Maybe he does something on the side

you don't know about.

JAKE

He doesn't, he spends all his time hanging out with people. His parents bought him that jet ski.

KATIE

I'm pretty sure his parents are immigrants from Ukraine or Russia, something like that.

JAKE

So?

KATIE

I don't know but I remember him telling a story about how they came here with nothing.

JAKE

He's Russian?

KATIE

No, actually I think he is Croatian.

JAKE

Doesn't look Croatian.

KATIE

How can you tell? I'm pretty sure it was Croatian.

Jake looks at her with suspicion.

EXT. DARK STREET - NIGHT

Jake follows Katie and Alexander from behind. He is careful to stay hidden from them.

He tightens his grip around the knife as he stares at Katie with suspicion.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Alexander, Jake, and Jen stand around Jen's desk talking exactly the same way as when Alex was asking them about their weekend plans.

However, this time there is no longer anyone in the background. It's just them in the office.

ALEXANDER

Don't talk to me about finance.

JAKE

Alright, so your parents bought it for you, or you went into massive debt. You may feel good now but that debt will come back to bite you in the future.

JEN

I mean Jake did a minor in economics.

JAKE

Yeah, I did.

JEN

So he knows what he's talking about.

Alexander receives a text.

ALEXANDER

(checking phone)

Hold on.

The text Alexander gets is in a different language and it catches Jake's attention. However, he is still unable to make out any details. He almost manages to get a closer look but just before he can, he is distracted by a loud bang.

Jake's head shoots up to see Katie drop some binders causing the loud noise. By the time Jake gets the chance to look at Alexander's phone again, he's already put it away.

EXT. OUTSIDE BUILDING - NIGHT

Alexander and Katie stop by a building and Jake stops as well. He watches from the shadows as Alexander and Katie bid each other goodbye.

Katie goes towards the building's entrance while Alexander continues on.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Jake uses google translate on a computer, translating English to Russian. The language looks somewhat similar to what was on Alexander's phone but it is difficult to tell since we did not get a good look at the text.

EXT. OUTSIDE BUILDING - NIGHT

Jake gets a little closer to watch Katie walk into the building.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND OFFICE - DAY

Alexander gets a text.

KATIE (V.O)

I think his parents are immigrants
from Russia or something.

Jake manages to get a look at Alexander's text which now can be seen almost clearly. It looks similar to what Jake searched up on google translate.

KATIE (V.O)

No, actually he's Croatian.

Before Jake can get a better look at Alexander's text, he is distracted by a loud bang.

Jake's head shoots up to see Katie drop some binders causing the loud noise. By the time Jake gets the chance to look at Alexander's phone again, he's already put it away.

EXT. OUTSIDE BUILDING - NIGHT

Jake watches until Katie enters the elevator and disappears from sight.

He stays a few moments longer staring at the building and then he continues on after Alexander.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

An elevator opens and Jake walks into the hotel's lobby. He sees Katie, Alexander, and Jen and walks over to them.

JAKE

(To Alex)

Those are nice shoes man.

ALEXANDER

Thanks, they're pretty old now though.

KATIE

Did we bring any water?

ALEXANDER

Shit! I had some cold bottles in my fridge but forgot them in the room.

JAKE

I could go up and grab them if you want, so you can focus on getting the jet skis down to the lake.

ALEXANDER

(Handing Jake his room card)
Could you? That would be really helpful.

JAKE

Yeah no worries, anything for you.

EXT. DARK STREET - NIGHT

Jake, filled with anger, continues to follow Alexander.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

All the office employees are standing around as management makes an announcement.

MANAGER

I would like to thank everyone who has taken a part in making this a successful launch. First off the young man responsible for--

The scene abruptly stops.

EXT. DARK STREET - NIGHT

Jake abruptly stops and puts his hand on his forehead. He clutches the handle of the knife tightly with anger.

He begins to take deep breaths to calm himself down.

JEN (V.O)

Jake took economics, he's much better than you at finance. He would know if the numbers aren't adding up.

Jake slowly relaxes and drops his hand from his forehead. He stares down the path Alexander took.

SFX: the sound of a luggage zipper opening.

Jake regains his focus and continues on after Alexander.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - DORM ROOM - DAY

Jake stands in a dorm room with a younger fellow. However, Jake looks the same age as in the previous scenes and is still wearing the same clothes.

The student pulls out a tiny device. It looks similar to a wireless earbud but is made with older technology.

STUDENT

Look at it up close, completely authentic.

JAKE

A KGB agent actually used this?

The student nods.

JAKE

For what?

STUDENT

Listening device. It can pick up sounds from even 30 meters away. And look at this.

(He points to something on the device.)

It's a room scanner. Uses sound waves to scan what's in the room.

JAKE

Does it work?

STUDENT

(jokingly)

What are you going to use it for?

JAKE

(jokingly)

Record the lectures so I don't have to take notes.

The student laughs.

STUDENT

Nah, sadly it doesn't work anymore.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Jake is kneeling over a suitcase. In his hand, he holds a device similar to the KGB listening device but more modern-looking.

He stares at it unable to believe what he's seeing.

He then slips the device back into the suitcase and gets up. He grabs four cold water bottles from off the counter and Alexander's room key and leaves the room.

EXT. OUTSIDE TOWNHOUSES - NIGHT

Alexander reaches his house and begins to unlock the door.

Jake watches him from a distance and waits.

Alexander opens his door and enters his house. As soon as he disappears out of sight, Jake takes off towards the backyard of the townhouses. He begins to quietly climb over the fence.

KATIE (V.O)

He's a what?

Jake jumps down from the fence.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Jake is talking to Katie and Jen in the office. Once again the background of the office is completely blurred.

JAKE

KGB agent. Probably here to gather classified information to attack our country and company.

KATIE

I don't think the KGB still exists.

JAKE

I'll show you the evidence.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Jake ducks under a window and waits. The light is still on in the house and the shadow of Alexander can be seen passing by through the window.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

All the office employees are standing around as management makes an announcement.

MANAGER

I would like to thank everyone who has taken a part in making this a successful launch. First off the young man responsible for--

The scene abruptly stops.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Alexander leaves his desk to go to the bathroom. The office background is still blurred out.

Jake quickly and discreetly slides over to his desk and opens up his computer that hasn't been closed.

Jake shifts through the different tabs open and lands on an Excel file.

Jake scrolls through the file and his heart begins to beat faster as he realizes the file is filled with people's names, phone numbers, social security numbers, and more personal information.

Jake looks up to check if Alexander is coming back and minimizes the Tab

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

The light from Alexander's house goes dark.

Jake slowly and quietly reaches for the window with his knife and begins to wedge it in between the windowsill and force it open.

EXT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OUTSIDE HOTEL - DAY

Jake comes out of the hotel and looks around for his friends. He hears a whistle and turns around to see Alexander, wearing a fake sailor hat that resembles a KGB officer hat, calling for him.

ALEXANDER

Over here comrade!

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jake sneaks into Alexander's house through the window. He quietly creeps through the dark house.

The house is filled with empty shipping boxes, but Jake is so focused on his mission he doesn't take notice.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Jake is staring at the KGB listening device he pulled from Alexander's luggage.

The listening device is no longer made with modern technology. This time it looks identical to the one shown to him by the student and is made with the same old technology.

STUDENT (V.O)

Listening device. It can pick up sounds from even 30 meters away and can use sound waves to scan what's in the room.

EXT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OUTSIDE HOTEL - DAY

Jake is looking at Alexander, who is alone standing outside of the hotel waving at Jake. Alexander is wearing a KGB officer hat instead of a sailor hat.

ALEXANDER

Over here comrade!

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

As Jake walks through the house he hits a table making a small noise.

He quickly runs to a hiding spot and waits. He makes no sound as he waits to see if Alexander has heard him.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Jake looks down a hallway and catches Alexander hiding behind a doorway and listening in on two managers' conversations.

Alexander turns to look in Jake's direction and Jake hides before Alexander sees him.

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jake doesn't hear any noise from Alexander and continues on

towards his room.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Jake catches a glimpse of Alexander's phone as he gets a text. He can see it clearly and it is identically in every way to the paragraph in Russian he searched up on google translate.

KATIE (V.O)

I think he's Russian or something like that.

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jake reaches for the door handle to Alexander's room, but just before he reaches it the light inside his room is turned on. Jake quickly hides.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

Jake is staring at the piece of paper where he calculated Alexander's expenses. He looks up at Katie.

JAKE

There is no way Alexander could afford those jet skis. I've worked out all his expenses there is something he not telling us.

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alexander opens the door to his room and walks through. Jake retreats into his hiding space. He watches Alexander from behind.

ALEXANDER (V.O)

Over here comrade!

EXT. IN JAKE'S MIND - STREET - NIGHT

Jake is staring at Alexander standing in the dark waving at him the same way he was outside the hotel. This time he is wearing a full KGB uniform.

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jake grips the handle of the knife and prepares to lunge at Alexander.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

All the office employees are standing around as management makes an announcement.

MANAGER

I would like to thank everyone who has taken a part in making this a successful launch. First off the young man responsible for devising our new subscription pricing model.

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jake's eyes burn with anger as he lunges at Alexander.

INT. IN JAKE'S MIND - OFFICE - DAY

All the office employees are standing around as management makes an announcement.

MANAGER

Let's all give him a round of applause.

The crowd roars with applause.

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The applause continues.

Alexander turns around just before Jake reaches him but it's too late. Jake plunges the knife into his chest. He stabs him repeatedly to the sound of his fellow coworkers applauding.

Alexander's lifeless body drops to the floor and Jake stands over him. The applause dies down.

Jake takes a moment. He looks at the knife slightly taken back by how much blood is on it.

He stares at Alexander's lifeless body with confusion.

Fear takes Jake over. He drops the knife and falls backward into Alexander's room.

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jake suddenly notices all the shipment boxes. He also notices that the desk in Alexander's room is covered in phone cases with various designs.

He walks over to the desk to inspect the phone cases. He spots a congratulations card that sits on display near a laptop.

Jake opens up the card to see multiple drawn pictures of phone cases and a message written in the middle.

"Congratulations on making 5000 sales! Everyone is so proud of you and we know that one day you'll be a great entrepreneur just like you always dreamed of! -Love, your family"

JAKE

No...

Jake looks through all the phone cases on the desk.

KATIE (V.O)

He's Russian or something... He's a KGB agent.

Jake sees a binder on the desk and opens it up. Inside is some contractual agreement with a manufacturing company.

JAKE

No.

JEN (V.O)

You know much more than him about finance, you took economics in university.

Jake throws the binder onto the desk and back away.

ALEXANDER (V.O)

Comrade.

Jake bumps into some boxes. He turns around and finds that all the empty shipment boxes are now full of various KGB weaponry, uniforms, and flags.

STUDENT (V.O)

It's a KGB listening device.

Jake turns back to the desk. The congratulations card has changed into a KGB flag postcard. The binder he threw sits on the desk open to a page of various photos of people and their information. Katie and Jen's voices can be heard from the other room.

KATIE

He was a KGB agent.

JEN

You did what you needed to do to save
us.

Jake looks to the other room to see where the voices are coming from. All that can be seen through the bedroom doorway is Alexander's lifeless body now fitted in full KGB uniform.

Jake walks towards his body.

MANAGER

Let's all give him a big round of
applause for defending this company
and country!

INT. ALEXANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jake enters the living room and sees all the office employees including Jen and Katie standing around Alexander's body. They erupt in applause as they see Jake.

Jake's face changes from confused and afraid to confident as he is encouraged by his colleagues.

Jake puts his foot on Alexander's body and pumps his fist into the sky like the victor of a great war standing over the bodies of his defeated enemies. He spits on Alexander's body as the applause continues.

JAKE

This is for my country and all those
you would have hurt, you fucking
traitor.

THE END