A Second Chance

by
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INT. - KITCHEN - MORNING

SAM (V.O.)
I guess this is my second chance.

Sitting at an empty table, SAM, 20, slowly eats a dry bowl of cereal.

The room he is in looks unfit to be lived in as it is rotting everywhere. The table he is at is maimed and broken, supported by books at one end. His chair is missing a leg and has an out of place piece of WOOD holding it up instead.

SAM looks just as bad as the room. His face is cut up and bandaged and it looks as if he hasn’t slept in days. His hair is ragged and his clothes are dirty and torn. A light turns on in the connecting bathroom of the kitchen. SAM notices it and drops his rusty spoon.

SAM
Who’s there?

There is no response so SAM gets up and grabs the WOOD holding up his chair. It BANGS into the floor. Sam nears the bathroom cautiously. Suddenly, SAM hears running bath water coming from the other room. He pauses momentarily.

SAM
Whoever you are I’m armed. Okay?
I’m coming in.

SAM opens the door and rushes into the bathroom, weapon ready to swing.

INT. - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

SAM stands poised in the bathroom ready to strike.

The bathroom is empty except for a toilet and bathtub. There is a sink but it is not connected to anything. The toilet seat is broken and placed next to the bowl. The shower is green and disgusting.

Bath water is running from the faucet in the bathtub. The water is surprisingly very clean. It pours emptily down the drain. SAM turns the water off, bewildered. He exits the bathroom back to the kitchen looking at the floor. The kitchen is completely cleaned up and looks great.

INT. - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

SAM stands in the bathroom doorway as CINDY, 24, stands at the kitchen table cleaning up the bowl of cereal that SAM ate.
CINDY
Hey there honey. That was a quick bath. Whoops, looks like you forgot to leave your towel.

She giggles at this. SAM stands stupefied in the doorway.

He is nicely dressed now, wearing a shirt and tie. His hair is nicely combed and the cuts on his face are gone. The only thing that remains are the dark circles under his eyes and the look of not being able to sleep in days. He is holding a towel like a weapon ready to strike something.

SAM finally realizes everything at once and lowers his arm holding the towel. He still looks very confused.

CINDY
Now what exactly were you planning to do with that towel anyway.

SAM
I-I-I don’t really know...

He laughs stupidly. She smiles momentarily, but then gets serious.

CINDY
What were you doing in there?

SAM
Like you said I was taking a shower.

CINDY
That was too short for a shower and I know that look on your face. Let me see your arm.

SAM
What?!

CINDY
Let me see it.

She walks over briskly and grabs his arm. SAM is too slow to react and pulls it away after CINDY gets a good look at the hole in it. He has been using HEROINE.

CINDY
I knew it! You bastard!

CINDY slaps SAM as hard as she can and he is knocked loosely aside.

SAM
...but, but wait no.
CINDY
Get the hell out of my house!

SAM
But...

CINDY
And take your god damn drugs too!

She runs into the bathroom only to come out moments later holding a small TIN. SAM picks himself up from the floor and moves towards her.

CINDY
Take these and get out!

SAM
Please don’t. I can explain.

She pushes SAM easily due to his drugged state of mind and moves him to the door.

SAM
C’mon, I promise to quit.

She continues to push.

CINDY
I’ve heard it all before.

They reach the door and CINDY opens it. SAM, defeated, walks out holding the TIN. He turns to say something, but CINDY slams the door in his face. He makes his way down the stairs to the exit of the apartment building.

EXT. - STREET - MORNING

SAM exits the apartment building and walks down the street on the sidewalk.

He begins to sway and eventually trips on a small jutting piece of concrete. He drops the TIN and the contents spill outward. A hand reaches down in front of SAM and picks up a bag of drugs and a needle.

COP
Well, this isn’t something we want on the streets now, is it?

SAM looks up and notices that the hand in connected to the body of a COP.

SAM
Shit!
SAM is picked up by the officer and placed against the wall. The COP searches him.

COP
You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say or...

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

SAM runs alongside a fence as he sweats and breathes frantically. He hears voices and sees lights behind him. He rounds the corner and continues to run. The sounds get a little more distant. He spots what looks like an abandoned building and tries the door. Luckily, it is unlocked and SAM runs inside.

INT. - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

This is the same room that SAM ate his bowl of cereal in. SAM searches for a good hiding spot in it and spots the bathroom in the back. He goes inside it.

INT. - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Inside the bathroom, SAM sees the bath tub and decides to climb inside and lie down. He hears noises from outside the house, but none actually enter it. As it all becomes more distant, SAM closes his eyes and falls asleep.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. - REHAB FACILITY - AFTERNOON

SAM and a DOCTOR stand behind the gate of the rehab facility. SAM is wearing the same clothes as when he the COP arrested him, but now they are more mangled and ripped.

DOCTOR
Well Sam, this is it. You’ve passed all the tests and now you can return to the world. My best wishes to you. But you wish you hadn’t tried to hop the fence now with those clothes?

SAM simply looks to the ground at this remark. The DOCTOR continues talking.
DOCTOR
If you need a place to stay this is the address of the homeless shelter.

He puts a small business card shaped paper into a wallet. He then hands the wallet over to SAM.

DOCTOR
Are you ready?

SAM still doesn’t respond, but looks up this time.

DOCTOR
I’ll take that as a yes. Remember this is your second chance. Guard.

A guard by the gate swipes an ID card and the gate begins to open. SAM walks out onto the road and a cab is waiting for him. The DOCTOR calls out behind him.

DOCTOR
By the way, the cab’s on us as long as it’s in the city.

SAM continues walking and enters the cab.

INT. - CAB - MOMENTS LATER

The CAB DRIVER sits in the front seat and turns to face SAM.

CAB DRIVER
Where will it be, pal?

SAM looks up.

SAM
22 Whitewood Road.

CAB DRIVER
Okay.

The cab drives off.

EXT. - STREET - EVENING

SAM exits the cab and it drives off. He is at the place where CINDY kicked him out and walks up to the apartment building. He enters it.
INT. - KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

A knock is heard on the door and CINDY gets up to answer it. She opens it and is surprised to see SAM. The surprise turns serious.

CINDY
What do you want?

SAM
I’m clean now.

CINDY
So what? You expect me to take you back? You’re wrong. I’ve moved on.

A shower can be heard turning on in the background.

SAM
Who’s back there?

CINDY
My husband.

SAM stands there shocked and speechless.

CINDY
Don’t come back here again.

CINDY once again slams the door in SAM’s face.

FADE TO.

EXT. - STREET - MINUTES LATER

SAM exits onto the street from the apartment building. He walks away solemnly.

FADE OUT.

EXT. - ALLEY - NIGHT

SAM enters the alley as two sketchy looking characters stand there. They recognize SAM vaguely.

DEALER 1
Is that you Sam?

DEALER 2
Shit! That is Sam. Where you been?
SAM
Rehab.

DEALER 2
Ha! Lotta good that did you.

SAM
Just give me however much this will get me.

He hands the dealers two twenty dollar bills from his wallet. DEALER 1 takes it and DEALER 2 goes around the back of a dumpster. A moment later he returns and hands SAM a small bag.

SAM
Got any extra needles?

DEALER 1
Here you can have mine.

He reaches in his jacket and gives a needle to SAM.

DEALER 1
Free of charge. Consider it a getting out present.

Both dealers laugh and SAM uneasily joins in with a slight giggle.

At the end of his sentence, sirens blare. The dealers turn to SAM.

DEALER 1
You brought the fuckin’ cops.

DEALER 2
I’ll kill you, you rat!

SAM
I didn’t bring ‘em. I swear.

DEALER 2
Swear on this.

DEALER 2 reaches to grab a gun from his waist. He points it at a SAM, but before he fires the cops appear in the alley. DEALER 2 turns his gun to the cops, who also draw their guns.

COP
Drop it now!

DEALER 2
Hells no.
During this stand off, SAM turns and sprints down the alley.

COP
Freeze!

SAM continues to run and reaches the other end of the alley. The COP speaks into his radio.

COP
Unit 3 we have a suspect coming your way, over.

EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

SAM runs alongside a fence as he sweats and breathes frantically. He hears voices and sees lights behind him.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. - BATHROOM - MORNING

SAM wakes up from inside the bath tub. He sits up groggily and rubs his back. He stands up and exits the bathroom.

INT. - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

SAM steps out of the bathroom and observes his rough surroundings. His stomach gurgles and he puts his hand there.

SAM
I wonder if there’s any food ‘round here.

He begins to check the dilapidated cabinets and surprisingly finds an old box of cereal in the third cabinet. The shelf above it has a bowl and spoon like someone has been living there recently. SAM takes these things and places them on the maimed table. He picks up a chair from the ground and tries to balance it up with no avail. He notices a piece of wood on the floor and uses that to prop up the chair. He sits down and begins to eat.

SAM
I guess this is my second chance.

FADE TO BLACK.