

A WOMAN SCORNED

For the One Week Writing Exercise

7/2006

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

A fenced in back yard is empty, but shows signs of recent life. A grill lies on the ground, tilted over spilling its cooked and uncooked hamburger patties and ribs all over the ground. It still smokes a little.

Plates of food including a range of brisket, hamburgers, hot dogs, and a variety of chips and salads rest on several large folding tables. A small array of condiments sit amidst the half-eaten plates.

Scattered all over the ground are other plates, some food, several cups and glasses, and even a trace of vomit. But the yard is completely silent.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

An older woman, MARGE, sits on a couch with a younger man, DAN, and a younger woman, KIM. They all look like they're in shock, staring off distantly, and even a bit sick. A man in his thirties, JACK, paces in the room. He appears very agitated.

JACK

Unbelievable. Just unbelievable.

DAN

I know.

JACK

I have an announcement, she says.
Oh, that's one hell of an announcement all right. Marge, has John said anything yet?

MARGE

He's still throwing up in the bathroom.

JACK

I know the feeling.

KIM

I just don't get...why. I mean, it's...

JACK

It's sick, that's what it is.

The three on the couch nod. The doorbell rings.

JACK

She may be my sister, but I can't stand behind her on this one. I don't care what he did to her.

Jack opens the front door. Two police officers stand there.

OFFICER MAX

You folks call the police?

JACK

Yes, we did. My sister is off her nut and needs to be taken down town.

OFFICER KEVIN

The dispatcher told us something really strange. She said-

JACK

If it's strange, it's probably true.

OFFICER MAX

Where is she?

JACK

In here.

Jack leads the police through the living room to another part of the house. The three on the couch sit quietly, not talking to each other or anything. Dan looks at Kim.

DAN

So, this is interesting.

KIM

Not now, Dan. I'm really not in the mood.

DAN

I'm wishing we stayed home.

KIM

So for once, you were right. I hardly think this is the time to gloat.

DAN

I wasn't gloating. I was just saying.

KIM

You were gloating, and you know it.

DAN

I promise I wasn't gloating, I was just saying.

KIM

Dan, I swear. Why are you choosing right now to argue with me?

DAN

I'm not arguing.

KIM

Yes, you are!

MARGE

Young man, shut up, and stop arguing and gloating with your wife. Do you have no concept of what's going on?

DAN

I know what happened, but-

MARGE

Then show some respect. My son is...

She stops, unable to continue.

The three sit in silence again. Jack walks through with the cops. This time they have a woman in her forties, HELEN, in cuffs. Another older man, JOHN, walks out looking incredibly pale.

JACK

(to Helen)

What a freakin' announcement, Helen! We're separating, and the crowd gasps, but that wasn't enough, was it? Is this why you called the family together for a cook out. So you could have your last laugh?

John goes deathly pale again. He covers his mouth and disappears into the house again. A door slams.

HELEN

You know how he was, Jack. I've even called you before telling you, and you didn't do anything. You sat there and said I could go to a shelter or call the police. Sure, they respond now, but as soon as a battered woman calls, they blow them off. He deserved it. He deserved it!

Marge breaks down in tears.

JACK

Then why did you punish us?

Jack turns to see Marge.

JACK

Look at your mother-in-law. She didn't hurt you. Kim? Dan? You think they deserved this?

HELEN

I'm glad I did it.

Jack looks at her, a disgusted look across his face.

JACK

My God, you're not even my sister anymore.

HELEN

No, Jack. I'm not. I have memories, sure, but they're not me anymore. I remember us playing in the driveway in the summertime. Paddle-boating at the lake. Helping each other sneak out...

Helen smiles.

JACK

Helping you go see Harry, as I recall.

HELEN

He was different then, too.

JACK

Everything changes. Maybe not for the better sometimes, but you should have reached out.

HELEN

I thought I did.

JACK

You told me you were having problems, and I wanted to help you work it out. I didn't know he was abusing you. I would never have let it continue.

HELEN

But you did.

JACK

I guess I didn't see it. I'm sorry I wasn't there for you more.

Kim gets up and walks to Helen.

KIM

Mom, you didn't tell me about any of this.

HELEN

I didn't want you to know.

KIM

But we always talked. Always.
When did he start-

HELEN

Beating me? Raping me? Well,
your honeymoon night wasn't any
fun for me.

There is a knock at the door, which is still open. TWO
DETECTIVES stand at the door.

JACK

(to detectives)
He's in the garage.

Dan jumps up.

DAN

I'll get the door.

HELEN

He was so normal until then. It
just came out of no where. Just
no where.

JACK

But what you did was still
inexcusable. I can't forgive
you for that.

HELEN

I'm sorry, Jack.

OFFICER MAX

Come on.

They urge Helen out the door. Jack follows.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Dan opens the garage door. The Detectives walk in and look
around. Dan points to a large floor freezer.

DAN

He's in there.

The detectives walk over to the freezer and open it. Inside, mostly naked, is a man in his thirties; quite dead. Large chunks of his flesh are removed, down to the bone in places.

The detectives look disgusted. Dan did not follow them. He stands next to the door, looking away.

DAN

If you want the rest of him, it's
out back...around the grill.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

The backyard still in its former state of disarray.

JACK (V.O.)

so at least tell me why you did
it.

HELEN (V.O.)

He treated me like a piece of
meat. I did the same to him.

The two detectives put on gloves and pick the meat up off the ground and place it into baggies.

THE END