

Xmas

By

Michael Telford

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MTVDIEO

PH: 040080721
Email: nolteford93@gmail.com

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

It's Christmas day. Two cars are pulling into a driveway of a small one story house.

The outside of the house is filled with Christmas decorations. On the front lawn we see plastic reindeer's and two large Snowman's.

Two lots of families get out of both cars. One family includes a man, a woman, and two girls. The other family includes a man, a woman, and one girl. Both families are caring with them bags of presents along with wrapped-up cold food.

CUT TO

INT. SHED - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

We see a WOMAN painting inside a large shed. Her back is facing towards us as she's painting a portrait whilst singing a Christmas tune.

The shed is big and open, loads of paint tins are on the shelves and white sheets are covering the floor.

The WOMAN puts the paint brush down and walks over to the window. She looks at bot families outside socializing and then proceeding walking to the front door of the house.

The WOMAN is still singing to herself...

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - DAY.

There's a big knock at the door. A man, late 40's and dressed very neatly opens the door.

The two families enter, greeting him hugs, kisses, handshakes, and "merry Christmas's". He helps by taking the bags off of their hands. The man and his brother (big, little overweight, wearing glasses) start talking...

JIM

Decorations look good out there
don't they. Never thought you would
be the type..

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

Oh it wasn't my doing trust me. Janean felt like she wanted to do something in more of the spirit this year I suppose.

JIM

Oh right. Where is my sister anyway? She's not passed out on the couch already is she?

Ryan is amused.

RYAN

Well, no she promised that she'd be good this year but it's only 10 am so time will tell.

Janean enters. She's late 40's, wearing a reindeer sweater, her hair is un-neat. As she's walking towards the family she's cleaning her hands with a white rag.

JANEAN

Now boys it's Christmas, we can't be mean to one another now can we.

JIM

Well I guess not but you are my sister after all. How are you munchkin?

Janean and Jim both hug. The other members of the family are greeted too.

KAREN

Now Janean you're not doing work on Christmas day surely?

JANEAN

Oh well you know I get idle hands when I'm bored.

STACEY

Well I hope you're at least working on something a little more merry then.

JANEAN

You know I don't spill until it's finished Karen.

Karen looks at Janean with a cheeky expression.

(CONTINUED)

TODD

Goodness are we missing a few children? I could of sworn I had a niece and nephew..

JANEAN

Well we never know where those two disappear to. Rachael I think is just in the shower and well Martin is a little sour at the moment. We didn't give him the concert tickets he wanted. Uh what band was it? The Living Panic or The Panic Of living?...

MARTIN (O.S)

It's The Painful Living.

We see Martin standing across from them (late teens, dressed in black). His arms are folded and his stance is very stiff. He looks at everyone with a blank expression written across his face.

TODD

Martin! looking good as always my main man.

Martin's blank expression remains the same. He doesn't acknowledge Todd.

MARTIN

My parents don't understand music. Only the music from the past decades are all that matters. Basically, If they've never heard of it, it must be shit.

All of the family stands awkwardly in silent for a few seconds...

JIM

Well I've certainly heard of The Painful Living.

Jim raises his arm with his hand in a fist like a salute.

JIM

Power to the penniless!

Martin expresses a tiny smirk towards Jim.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

Well how about we get into the presents then?

The children cheer and the adults start to chit-chat again as they all proceed to exit the hallway.

Martin keeps his eyes on his uncle Jim...

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

All of the family members are sitting down, opening their presents.

The room is filled with Christmas decorations. Ryan is in charge of handing out the presents from under the Christmas tree.

RYAN

And here we have one from Todd and Karen...

He takes a big present wrapped in green wrapping paper from under the tree.

RYAN

And it's to young Maddy.

The young girl (Maddy) gets up and takes the present from Ryan. She sits back down next to her dad (Jim) and starts to quickly tear off the wrapping paper.

Maddy is completely over the moon of the gift she has received.

MADDY

Daddy look!

JIM

Yeah that's what you wanted isn't it. What do you say to Uncle Ryan and Auntie Karen?

Maddy gets up and runs to her Aunt and Uncle, giving them a big hug.

Ryan checks under the tree for any last gifts...

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

Well looks like we're down to the last one.

He picks up a black envelope that reads (in white text) "To Uncle Jim"...

RYAN

And it's to Uncle Jim from... It doesn't say actually.

MARTIN (O.S)

It's from me.

Martin is sitting by himself on a sofa chair.

MARTIN

It's from me.

RYAN

From Martin Uncle Jim. Here you go.

Ryan hands the black envelope to Uncle Jim. Uncle Jim is a little taken back.

JIM

Oh, well, thank you Martin.

Uncle Jim opens the black envelope. We see various Polaroid photos, only the back of the photos are visible. Uncle Jim then turns the photos around revealing pictures of him making love to woman. The woman though is not his wife...

Uncle Jim is frozen in shock horror. His hands start to shake as he turns over each photo. Maddy then tries to grab the envelope. Uncle Jim quickly snatches the envelope away from Maddy's hand.

MADDY

What is it daddy?

Uncle Jim catches his breath and looks at Maddy.

JIM

What?

STACEY

Jim. Don't leave us in suspense. What's in there?

Jim looks at his wife (Stacey). He then looks around at the family all staring at him. He takes another look inside the envelope. He quickly flicks through all of the photos to find some lottery tickets in the middle. He takes them out of the envelope.

JIM

It's lottery tickets.

The family laughs.

JANEAN

Well that's it for presents for another year. How about we get lunch ready?

All of the family members get up from the sofas and proceed to walk out of the room.

Jim is still sitting. He takes another look inside the envelope and finds a small piece of folded up paper. He unfolds it. It reads in black text... "The Painful Living. 2nd of February. Two tickets. Front row seats."

Jim slowly looks up at Martin who is still sitting across from him. Martin starts to smirk.

JANEAN (O.S)

Martin! Can I grab you for a minute?

MARTIN

Coming!

Martin gets up slowly and leaves the room.

Jim remains sitting on the sofa. He looks back down at the photos and then looks back up at his Maddy playing with her new toy...

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

The children are running around as the adults help place the plates and cutlery on the table.

Janean enters from the kitchen holding a platter with a big cooked chicken on it.

(CONTINUED)

JANEAN

Alright everyone, find a seat and
lets get started.

The kids and the adults sit down at the table.

TODD

Whoa that's a mighty chicken.
Reckon we can get through it kids?

Both the kids nod and smile at Todd

RYAN

Janean always knows how to cook a
good meal that's for sure.

Ryan reaches for the leg of the chicken. Janean slaps his
hand away.

Karen starts pouring herself a glass of wine.

KAREN

A good chicken or not. If it gives
me an excuse to drink this early
I'm happy.

Everybody chuckles.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM.

Jim is splashing water on his face repeatedly. He stops and
looks at himself in the mirror. He starts to breathe heavily
as he clutches his chest.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY. CONTINUOUS

Jim enters to find his seat at the table.

STACEY

You feeling alright darling?

Jim doesn't respond. He stares at the empty plate in front
of him.

STACEY (O.S)

Jim?

Jim snaps out of it and looks at Stacey

(CONTINUED)

STACEY

You're sweating. Are you alright?

Jim takes his time in responding...

JIM

Yeah... Yeah I'm fine... Just a little hot I guess.

We hear a small bang (O.S). Jim gets a huge fright...

We see that the bang came from a Christmas cracker that the two girls are tugging over.

Jim catches his breath in relief. He then looks up and sees the end of a Christmas cracker being handed to him. The other end of the Christmas cracker is being held by Martin...

Jim hesitates for a moment as Martin exchanges a 'do as I say" look towards him. Jim gives in and grabs the end of the Christmas cracker.

They both pull on it until it splits in two. Martin ends up with the larger portion of the cracker, Jim has the measly remains of it. Martin then pulls out a paper black crown from the cracker. His eyes are focused on Jim as he places the crown onto his head...

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY. MOMENTS LATER

Jim is picking the scraps from his chicken with his fork. He's quiet, staring down at his plate in a daze. The rest of the adults are chattering away. The young kids are now absent from the table

RYAN (O.S)

It was nice while it lasted but I'm glad they decided to get rid of the Christmas parties at the office. I was never fond of them myself.

TODD

The Grinch of Christmas. I knew my sister shouldn't of married you.

Most of the adults chuckle.

(CONTINUED)

JANEAN

He's a huge Grinch yes but he's my Grinch.

Janean leans in and gives Ryan a kiss on the lips.

STACEY (O.S)

So why are they pulling the plug on the Christmas parties anyway?

RYAN

Well, the usual reasons I suppose. Financial issues.

Janean takes a hold of Ryan's hand.

STACEY

Well I hope they're not considering cutbacks.

there's a silence. Janean and Ryan exchange looks.

RYAN

It's something we didn't want to bring up today, but yeah, they are.

Everyone around the table remains silent. Ryan lets go of Janean's hand.

RYAN

It wouldn't be so bad I suppose. Change is good after all. Who knows. I might even retire.

Ryan raises his wine glass.

STACEY

It's tough out there for you guys I'll give you that. Even our business hasn't exactly raked in much of an income this past year.

JANEAN

Really?

STACEY

Nope. This year has been dry as a bone...

Stacey quickly looks to see if there aren't any kids around and then leans in further and whispers...

STACEY

We couldn't even get some of the presents the kids wanted this year.

The family is taken back by this news.

TODD

I had no idea. I'm sorry.

Todd looks at Jim

TODD

Jim seriously I had no idea. What does this mean for the business?

Jim doesn't look at Todd. He tries to answer but can't get any words to come out.

STACEY (O.S)

We just can't continue to run it.

There's an awkwardness at the table.

Martin looks at Jim. He smiles and gives him an "oh really?" look.

RYAN (O.S)

This can't be an appropriate lunch conversation. How about we do something in a little more in the spirit?

TODD

How about we play some games or take the kids to look at Christmas lights?

Everyone at the table lightens up except Martin who is still looking and smiling at Jim.

MARTIN

How about we do a slide show?

Jim looks at Martin in a state of panic.

JANEAN (O.S)

It has been a long time since we've done a slide show

RYAN (O.S)

I'm down for that. Do we have photos still?

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

We have photos... Plenty of photos.

Jim looks back down at his plate. He wipes the sweat off his forehead and starts to hyperventilate a little.

Martin is amused by this. He knows he has him right where he wants him.

STACEY (O.S)

You know, there's so many photos that we haven't shown the kids yet.

RYAN

Well it's refreshing for us too don't forget. As we get old we just forget about the good times and well.. the really good times of our youth.

Martin struggles not to laugh to what he's about to say.

MARTIN

I don't think we're going to be forgetting about this slide night. In fact I think it will be very memorable.

Jim starts to sob.

MARTIN

Feeling alright uncle Jim?

Jim starts to really cry now. He's loud, banging his fist on the table.

The whole table looks at him in shock except Martin who just takes a drink.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE (FRONT DOOR) DAY.

Stacey and Janean are standing at the front door. In the background, we see in the kids playing in the front yard.

STACEY

I'm so sorry about that. It's just been a bad year for him.

(CONTINUED)

JANEAN

Don't worry about, really it's fine. We've all been there.

Stacey and Janean both look out at Jim who's sitting in the car. He's sitting very still, looking down.

STACEY (O.S)

I've just never seen him like that. I'm worried about him.

Stacey turns and looks at Janean.

STACEY

How about Ryan, will he be okay?

JANEAN

We'll see. He still hasn't figured out that I know about him fucking that office slut.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY.

One by one, Jim is looking at the photos Martin had given him.

He looks up and notices Maddy standing in front of the shed that's down the driveway, she's very still.

He gets out of the car and walks down the driveway towards Maddy.

EXT. DRIVEWAY. DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Jim approaches Maddy.

JIM

You okay honey?

Maddy looks up at him and points at the shed.

MADDY

Dad a woman walked in there.

JIM

A woman? Well I'll go check, how does that sound?

Maddy nods her head. Jim walks in the shed.

INT. SHED - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Jim walks in and sees a woman painting in the corner whilst singing to herself.

The woman turns around, we don't see her face at first. She stops singing and drops the paint brush, it lands next to her large high heels she's wearing.

Jim opens his mouth in awe as it reveals that the woman turns out to be Martin dressed up in drag. Martin starts to hyperventilate.

Jim folds his arms and smiles...