

THE ABANDONED JERK

Written by

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EXT. WIDE PARK - DAY

JERK (V.O.)

It's been almost seven hours since I was abandoned. Considering that I'm exactly where I was supposed to be, it's funny to think that instead of being me who got lost from four people, it's actually the four of them who got lost from me.

Jerk is standing in a big, public park, with playgrounds, food kiosks, pet zoo, and museums. He looks around, nervously.

He goes into the parking lot and strides to a car, a Pontiac Sunfire. It's possible to hear the car keys jingling in his hand.

JERK (V.O.)

Oh yeah. I'm the one with the keys. I got no choice but to hit the road and look for my friends back at the hotel.

Jerk looks around. Parking lot is nearly empty.

JERK (V.O.)

Or should I wait a while more and see if somebody shows?

He checks his wristwatch. His face changes to one of despair.

JERK (V.O.)

But it's being so long already!

Jerk is now on the square, next to the main entrance gates, standing by a small pond with an imposing fountain in the center of it. He sees some park rangers and employees walking around the big gates.

JERK (V.O.)

The park is about to close...

He scratches the back of his head. His face is anguished.

JERK (V.O.)

Even if it wasn't, how can I stay here any longer? I can't stand this place anymore!

Jerk takes a deep breath.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD)

There goes nothing... again.

He grabs his Smartphone and fingers its screen.

CLOSEUP of phone screen. He's writing a Whatsapp message.

Jerk keeps fingering the phone screen and, this time, brings the phone to his right ear.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD) (CONT'D)  
I won't hide my anger under false amenities anymore. No, siree! I'll give them an earful, oh yeah!

He waits. Call goes straight to voicemail. He puffs and leaves no voice messages.

Jerk keeps sending Whatsapp messages and making phone calls. No message comes back, all calls go to voicemail.

He takes another deep breath.

WIDE SHOT

Jerk is shown from above. He's alone in a vast field, with shops, fountains, museums, pet zoo, but no people.

JERK (V.O.)  
I'm fresh out of friends.

He compresses the Smartphone with his hand, to the point of smashing it to bits.

He didn't smash it to bits. He just imagined that.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD)  
Enough is enough!

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Jerk jumps into the Pontiac.

CLOSE ON his hand starting the car.

The car speeds away.

START FLASHBACK

EXT. WIDE PARK - DAY

Jerk goes into the washroom.

INT. WASHROOM - DAY

He pees, washes hand.

EXT. WIDE PARK - CONTINUOUS

Jerk comes out of the washroom.

WIDE SHOT

Jerk is shown from above. He's alone in the vast park.

JERK (V.O.)  
It's amazing how something as  
trivial as a body function can turn  
into such a headache.

He checks his wristwatch.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD)  
Damn it! Only two minutes in there.  
How come four people can vanish so  
fast?

He waits by washroom door.

DISSOLVES TO

Nobody comes.

JERK (V.O.)  
We were a group of five before  
becoming four plus one.

Jerk walks around, looking for his friends.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD)  
One for all and nobody for me.

Jerk talks to park rangers (inaudible dialogue). Their response is not a positive one. He talks to young couples (inaudible dialogue). They shake heads negatively.

JERK (V.O.)  
Thank you very much for your  
loyalty, dear friends, I'll  
remember that!

Jerk keeps on walking and searching. He looks under benches and on top of trees. He finds four chipmunks on a tree branch.

JERK  
Nope. You're not them.

He combs all shops and kiosks. All museums are already close. Jerk stands by the entrance of a closed museum.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD) (CONT'D)  
If they are in there, they'll have  
a heck of a sleep-over.

He goes into the pet zoo and stops by a big cage with monkeys inside.

JERK (CONT'D)  
Have any of you guys seen four disloyal folks who walk out on friends?

The monkeys walk out on him.

JERK (CONT'D)  
Nice.

END FLASHBACK

EXT - ROAD SURROUNDED BY PINE TREES - DAY

WIDE SHOT

Car runs on the road.

JERK (V.O.)  
My feelings are all mixed up.

INT. CAR - DAY

He drives.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD)  
The pricks don't return any of my calls!

He scratches his chin.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD) (CONT'D)  
I hope I didn't leave them at the park.

Jerk is meditative.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD) (CONT'D)  
Who fucking cares? They totally had it coming!

Jerk slaps the steering wheel violently.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD) (CONT'D)  
It's about twenty miles from the park to the hotel, it takes forever to get a cab, and they are awfully expensive. Buses are practically nonexistent. How could they possibly get to the hotel, then? By hitchhiking?

Jerk breathes heavily.

JERK (V.O.)  
Alright, calm down, you idiot.  
There must be a good reason for  
this, something that will totally  
make me feel bad about the terrible  
and childish things I'm thinking of  
them now.

CLOSEUP of Jerk.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD)  
Or did they do that out of  
meanness, only to spite me?

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

The car veers off dangerously, almost leaving the road.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD)  
Nah, come on! Those are my best  
friends in the world!

The car goes faster.

CLOSE ON speedometer, car speed increases.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD) (CONT'D)  
It can't be.

CLOSEUP of Jerk.

JERK (V.O.)  
Or can it?

Car veers off again. This time, it overturns and explodes in flames.

Jerk is driving. The car overturning was his imagination.

JERK (V.O.)  
What in blazes happened after all?  
Why did they do that? How could  
they just disappear like that?

WIDE SHOT

Hotel grows bigger as he drives towards it.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - DAY

Car enters the hotel parking lot.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jerk looks relaxed.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Jerk parks the car, leaves, and walks to the hotel entrance.

JERK (V.O.)  
They're here.

He stops.

JERK (THINKING ALOUD)  
Probably...

He opens his eyes too much.

CLOSE ON his eyes.

JERK (V.O.)  
But, what the heck am I going to  
say when I finally meet them again?

Clouds appear in the sky, and day becomes night, dark and depressing.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Jerk walks to hotel entrance.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

He enters the hotel and finds his four friends, two guys and two girls.

GUY 1  
Hello!

GIRL 1  
Oh hi!

GUY 2  
There he is!

GIRL 2  
Gorgeous as ever!

JERK  
I know.

The friends walk to him. Guy 1 is about to talk.

Jerk looks at him in great anticipation.

GUY 1  
You know... Sorry about all that  
leaving you behind thing.

GUY 2  
That's right. We're really sorry.

GIRL 1  
Yeah, I feel awful about it.

GIRL 2  
Me too.

They all come near him with sympathetic hands on his  
shoulders.

JERK (WITH TEARFUL EYES)  
I knew that. I'm so glad I gave you  
the benefit of the doubt.

Suddenly, Guy 1 brings a hand to his own mouth.

JERK (CONT'D)  
Are you alright, Andy?

Andy can't resist anymore and explode in laughter. The others  
don't resist either, and they laugh as well.

JERK (CONT'D)  
What...?

ANDY  
Told you he was gonna fall for that  
one!

GUY 2  
Yeah, mister gullible!

ANDY  
Such an idiot!

GIRL 2  
Don't be so hard on him. It's not  
his fault he's a loser!

JERK  
I... I don't understand... I...

ANDY  
It was a prank, you imbecile!

GUY 2  
And not the all-in-good-fun kind!



ANDY

That's right! We know you don't like this sort of thing, and how badly it hurts your feelings, which, by the way, we totally neglect!

GIRL 2

Yes! Your misery is our pleasure!

Jerk looks at them aghast.

JERK

But... How did you even get here in the first place?

GIRL 2

We didn't, you moron! Neither did you!

Jerk looks at them in confusion and despair.

ANDY

You're still in the park, asshole!

EXT. WIDE PARK - DAY

WIDE SHOT

Camera zooms out very fast to reveal that Jerk is still in the park center square.

JERK

AHHHHHHHH!!!

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

That was just another daydream. Jerk is in the hotel.

He finds his four friends in the lobby, by the reception desk.

When they see him, they stride to him.

ANDY

Hello!

GIRL 1

Oh hi!

GUY 2

There he is!

GIRL 2

Gorgeous as ever!

JERK

I know.

Andy is about to say something, but Jerk brings a forefinger to his mouth, to shush him.

JERK (CONT'D)

Don't bother, Andy.

Andy faces him with a dumb face.

JERK (CONT'D)

Whatever you have to say, it can wait. I've got something for you.

ANDY

You do?

JERK

Oh yes!

The four friends look at Jerk in great anticipation.

Jerk draws a big chef's knife from his jeans pocket and stabs his four friends, one at a time. They scream in panic, horror, and pain. Blood spills everywhere.

Jerk laughs maniacally while stabbing.

JERK (CONT'D)

Benefit of the doubt, my ass!

He keeps stabbing them.

JERK (CONT'D)

Take that, traitors!

Another daydream comes to an end, and Jerk is in the hotel. He does not find his four friends in there.

Jerk walks around the main lobby.

People's faces are fixed like stones. The receptionists don't greet him. Some guests give him the evil look. He ignores them and keeps on walking to the elevators, very slowly and with his head down, submissive.

Jerk calls the elevator. After a BEEP sound, the elevator doors open.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Jerk is in the elevator. The doors close. He pushes the button for his floor. The elevator goes up and stops. A BEEP sound indicates he arrived at his floor.

The elevator doors open. But there is no floor in front of him, only darkness.

INT. EERIE, DARK, UNDEFINED PLACE - NIGHT

Jerk looks horrified at the scene before him.

In fear, he tries to find the button for the ground floor, but realizes he's no longer in the elevator.

He turns back and finds out the elevator is not even there anymore. There's only darkness around him.

Jerks turns around like mad and sees nothing. He freezes. His face shows he is petrified in fear.

Very carefully, he risks taking one step ahead.

An ominous shadow looms in the opposite side of the vast nothingness. It's visible despite the darkness.

Jerk freezes in horror.

The figure runs to him. It becomes more defined and perfidious.

Jerk screams, but no sound comes up.

He looks all around him and runs away from the shadowy creature.

Jerk looks over his shoulder.

The ominous figure gains on him faster, as if he's not actually going anywhere. There's nothing under his feet.

Jerk stops running, sweaty and tired.

The shadow creature approaches him. It covers the whole wide world.

Two satanic eyes open before Jerk, and a dismal voice yells a terrible shriek.

CREATURE

Wake up, you paranoid fool!

INT. LIVING ROOM OF A CABIN - DAY

On a couch, Jerk wakes up from the nightmare, under the concerned and caring eyes of his four friends.

ANDY

Are you alright?

JERK

Yes. Not quite rested, but okay.

JENNY

We worried about you.

CLAIRE

You gave us quite a scare!

JERK

Really? How so?

JOCK

You were sleeping so deep we  
thought you were dead, man!

Jerk sits up on the couch. Her friends help him. Jerk takes a  
deep breath.

JERK

Thanks for all your care and  
concern, you're the best. But,  
believe me, I don't deserve.

He turns to face the camera.

JERK (CONT'D)

That's why I'm the Jerk.