

QUANDARY

by

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INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

EVAN WICK, early 30's, a hopeless frat guy who never outgrew immaturity, opens his eyes. Squints.

There seems to be multiple, distorted images as he looks around the huge, dim, smoke-filled room.

He stares at the large furniture that hangs upside down from the ceiling high above. Daylight peeks in through a window out of reach.

BRIDGETTE HAINSWORTH, late 20s, magnetic, round eyes, charges towards him.

BRIDGETTE

Where is she, What did you do with my daughter?

EVAN

Your daughter?

Bridgette swings on him.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Whoa, lady! Look, I'm sure I had an awesome night and we should totally do it again, but I really should be...

He looks up at the large door that is suspended above him, upside down. No way he's getting up there.

EVAN (CONT'D)

What's going on here, how did you do that?

BRIDGETTE

Please, don't hurt me.

EVAN

Why would I hurt you?

BRIDGETTE

Why else would you bring me here?

EVAN

You brought *me* here!

A shadow creeps over them. TIM "TINY" BECKER, late 30's, a huge, spray-tanned bodybuilder, comes towards them.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Oh God.

(to Tiny)

Listen buddy, I didn't know she was married, I swear.

(to Bridgette)

Go on, please tell your very muscly husband I didn't know.

BRIDGETTE

(whispers)

I don't have a husband.

TINY

(southern drawl)

I guess ya'll woke up the same as me, not knowing where you were? I'm "Tiny" Becker. I've already investigated downstairs. Can't seem to find a way out and that smoke just keeps getting lower and lower.

BRIDGETTE

What about the door up there? We can get on each other's shoulders.

EVAN

There's only three of us, we can't reach all the way up there.

TINY

Don't see much choice, buddy, unless you want to sleep here tonight.

Tiny crosses his fingers together. Lowers them to the ground. Evan puts his foot on them. Steadies himself.

Bridgette crawls up Tiny and then Evan. She reaches her fingers out. Not even close.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER

Evan, Bridgette and Tiny crawl up a set of stairs before coming to a door that is cracked open. They look into the...

SKELETON ROOM

They look inside. Skeletons hang from strips of sticky attached to the ceiling.

BRIDGETTE

Ahhh!

Bridgette reels back, falling on top of Evan. Tiny hides.

Evan spots ROCSI STRIPLING, 15, the epitome of lost youth with her emo attire and pregnant belly, sitting in a corner.

EVAN

Hey, are you okay? Are you hurt?

He comes closer. Suddenly LUCINDA MENDEZ, 55, defiant, motherly, charges Evan, knocking him down.

LUCINDA

Dejenos salir maníaco!

(translated)

Let us out, maniac!

BRIDGETTE

(pulls her off him)

He's okay, he's not the one doing this.

ROSCI

And then there were five.

TINY (O.S.)

Hey, I found an open window!

INT. HOUSE - WINDOW ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They rush in as smoke smolders over the furniture stuck to the ceiling.

Tiny moves to show a large, open window with a thick, prison like, steel screen.

TINY

Looks like we're dealing with a pro.

INT. HOUSE - WINDOW ROOM - DAY

Evan stares at the rest of the group.

EVAN

I feel like I'm in a fucking meeting.

BRIDGETTE

Name and last thing you remember.

EVAN

Evan Wick. I was throwing a few
back at the bar--

ROCSI

And you blacked out.

EVAN

It wasn't a black out.

ROCSI

It never is.

EVAN

Okay, what about you, preppers?

ROCSI

Fuck you for being the first to say
that... today.

(looks around)

My name's Rocsi. I took off after
my bitch mother chose her boyfriend
over me. Woke up here. Yay for me.

BRIDGETTE

Bridgette. Bridgette Hainsworth. I
know I dropped my daughter off at
the sitter's, after that it's just
a blank.

TINY

My wife's been cheating on me.

The room goes silent as they stare at him.

TINY (CONT'D)

Another body builder at the club.

(small voice)

She don't love me anymore.

EVAN

This is ridiculous, I don't see how
this is going to help anything.

BRIDGETTE

Maybe there's a reason we're here--

ROCSI

Well obviously we pissed somebody
off.

EVAN

I know my list is long and deep,
what about everyone else?

BRIDGETTE

Maybe it's the Long Island Napper. You've heard of him? He knocks his victims out and traps them--

ROCSI

Yeah, I saw it on TV! Only one person ever escaped.

TINY

It's not the Long Island Napper, he only goes after women. What would he want with us? It doesn't fit.

BRIDGETTE

Are you saying that serial killers have to follow some kind of protocol?

TINY

Whoever it is, I'm going to bash their brains out when I get a hold of them.

EVAN

What if it's some kind of controlled experiment. Like a government cover up or--

BRIDGETTE

Yeah, they did hide Area Fifty Four.

ROSCI

Maybe we're all dead.

LUCINDA

Y esto es un infierno.

The group grows silent.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

They stand on each other's shoulders trying to reach a huge refrigerator in the fog that hangs above them.

BRIDGETTE

I can't, it's just too high.

ROCSI

I'm so hungry.

INT. HOUSE - WINDOW ROOM - DAY

They sit, weak and defeated as the smoke hovers just above.

Lucinda scratches herself. Evan spots something on her shoulder.

EVAN

Didn't see you as the type to get a tattoo.

LUCINDA

I don't have a tattoo.

EVAN

Then that's a damn good gumball press on.

Evan runs his finger over her skin.

BEGIN FLASH

Lucinda takes a can out of the cabinet marked "arsenic". She dumps a spoonful into a cup of coffee.

Her HUSBAND pecks her on the cheek. Takes the cup.

END FLASH

Evan backs away from her.

EVAN

You killed your husband.

She yanks her shirt up over her shoulder.

LUCINDA

No!

EVAN

You dumped poison in his drink!

BRIDGETTE

Evan, what a terrible thing to say.

EVAN

I saw it when I touched her. What are you some kind of witch?

LUCINDA

(looks around)
It's not true!

TINY
Hey, I'm itching, too.

Tiny pulls his pants up, exposing a large tattoo.

TINY (CONT'D)
I've never seen that in my life.

Rocsi scratches her pregnant belly.

Lucinda falls to the ground, writhing in pain. Goes into a seizure.

ROCSI
Lucinda!

BRIDGETTE
What's wrong with her?

EVAN
Step back, it could be contagious.

Evan grabs Bridgette and Rocsi. Pulls them through the door.

ROCSI
No, I won't leave her!

BRIDGETTE
Evan, she still could--

Lucinda's eyes close.

EVAN
She's gone.

Rosci weeps.

EVAN (CONT'D)
Hey, where's Tiny?

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Evan creeps down the hall as he scratches skin over his heart.

EVAN
(whispers)
Tiny? Tiny, you big motherfucker,
where are you?

He spots a GIANT MAN in a space suit, holding a machine gun. He hangs effortlessly from the ceiling.

GIANT MAN

Come out, come out, where ever you
are. I'm going to enjoy getting
every last one of you.

Evan gets to the side of the wall as the Giant Man passes.

INT. HOUSE - SKELETON ROOM - DAY

Evan spots Tiny. Rushes over to him.

EVAN

Come on, we have to go!

He grabs his leg. Tries to pull him back, touching Tiny's
tattoo.

BEGIN FLASH

Tiny inhales pills from a bottle. He picks up a dumbbell
imbedded in his WIFE's crushed, bloody skull. Flexes in the
mirror.

END FLASH

Evan comes back from the vision to see that Tiny is gnawing
on a very dead Lucinda. He backs away as he scratches.

The giant man enters. Pulls the trigger. Evan jumps out of
the way as a thick, liquid substance spews out, drenching
Tiny. Tiny twitches, snarls and falls to the ground.

GIANT MAN

Got ya.

INT. HOUSE - WINDOW ROOM - DAY

Evan rushes in to find Bridgette and Rosci scared and still
looking for an escape.

EVAN

I told you, it's some government
shit. They've got NASA involved
and... and--

ROCSI

Just shut up with the government
talk, you were supposed to find a
way out!

BRIDGETTE
What is it, what did you see?

EVAN
A spaceman.

ROCSI
He's lying. He probably didn't even
look--

EVAN
What about you, what's your secret?

BRIDGETTE
Stop it! We can't turn against each
other.

EVAN
No, I want to know what she did.

Evan lifts Rosci's shirt, exposing her belly.

ROCSI
Get off me!

He places his hand on top of her stomach.

BRIDGETTE
Evan, stop!

BEGIN FLASH

Rosci watches out her bedroom window, phone to her ear, as a
MIDDLE AGED MAN is hand cuffed and escorted out of the house.
A WOMAN screams in the b.g.

ROCSI
(into phone)
No, he didn't rape me... what did
you want me to tell her, that my
boyfriend got me pregnant?

END FLASH

Evan shakes it off. He turns to Bridgette. She backs away.

BRIDGETTE
Don't you dare! You think you're
any better? Why? You're trapped
here just like the rest of us!

Evan stops. Pulls down his shirt, exposing the tattoo.

EVAN

Go on. Do it.

Bridgette comes forward. Places her hand over his heart.

BEGIN FLASH

Evan barrels down the street in a truck, music blaring. He chugs back a bottle of whiskey.

A CHILD, 5, plays on the sidewalk. Evan's car jumps the curb. He panics. Pumps the breaks. The car slams into the child.

The child's eyes flutter shut as he peels off.

END FLASH

Bridgette wrinkles her brow, trying to comprehend.

BRIDGETTE

You didn't even stop?

He hangs his head in shame.

ROSCI

Someone is trying to teach us a lesson, that's why we're here.

The color drifts from the room as the sun completely disappears.

BRIDGETTE

I don't want to die.

ROCSI

I want my mom.

A glimmer of light peeks out from the bottom of the wall. The light grows larger, illuminating them.

EVAN

Look at that!

BRIDGETTE

There it is, a way out!

A loud buzzing consumes the room.

Evan and Bridgette look at each other. Then at Rocsi, who is wide eyed. She rubs her hands together.

Something drops out from underneath her dress.

EVAN

The baby...

Hundreds of maggots squirm out of the amniotic sac. Evan and Bridgette back away, rising into the air.

BRIDGETTE

(sobs)

Oh God.

They stick to the ceiling, trapped. The Giant Man in the space suit walks across the ceiling.

Bridgette turns to Evan. Holds out her arm. A tattoo is scorched across the flesh. Evan touches it.

BEGIN FLASH

Bridgette puts heroin into a spoon. Lights it. She takes a syringe. Sucks up the contents. Plunges it into her arm.

A SCRUFFY GIRL, 8, comes through the door.

SCRUFFY GIRL

I'm hungry.

The scruffy girl's voice fades as euphoria takes over.

END FLASH

The Giant Man looks down at them, his lips curled in disgust. He raises his gun. Hits Rosci with the liquid goo. She slides down the wall. Bridgette grabs Evan's hand.

BRIDGETTE

I want to do better for her.

He stares into her eyes. Looks at the slightly open door.

Evan helps her get unstuck. He distracts the giant man.

EVAN

(to Bridgette)

Go!

He pulls the trigger on Evan as Bridgette escapes. The Giant Man goes through the front door, leaving Evan sliding down the wall.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Giant Man zips a bug tent over the house. Bridgette, who we now see is a fly, zips past him as he gets into a truck marked "Louie's Pest Control".

INT. HOUSE - DAY

A fly lies on the ground where Evan fell, covered in bug killer.

THE END