

THE CURMUDGEON

First Ten Pages

Written by

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1

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

1

The streets of the city seem abandoned except for one man, STEVEN HARDING, 45, wearing a suit, running as fast as he can.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Harding runs down a city street and takes a right down an alley.

A person, in shadows, chases after him.

The cat and mouse game takes Harding through many streets and alleys in the city.

2

EXT. DEAD END ALLEY - NIGHT

2

Harding turns down an alley and realizes that there is no exit except back the way he came. He turns to run out of the alley when he sees SHAY WILLET, 27, blocking his way.

Shay is tall and lean wearing tight black clothes. He is wearing heavy glamour make up and his hair is short and spiked. He slowly walks towards Harding.

SHAY

You run very well for an older man.

HARDING

Please leave me alone.

SHAY

You know I can't do that, Steven.  
You've been a very, very bad boy.

Steven backs up as Shay moves closer to him. Steven backs into a wall. Shay closes in on him.

SHAY (CONT'D)

And you know what happens to bad boys.

HARDING

You have no idea what's at stake here.

SHAY

No. No, I don't. Unfortunately for you.

Shay pulls a stabbing weapon from his sleeve and plunges it into Harding's rib cage. Harding's eyes go wide as he softly grunts in pain. Blood begins to seep from his mouth as Shay pulls his weapon and begins to slash Harding repeatedly. Harding slumps to the ground.

Shay wipes off Harding's blood on his victim's clothes and replaces his weapon back into its sheath. He searches Harding's pockets from his jacket to his pants.

Not finding anything, he pulls out his mobile phone and makes a call.

SHAY (CONT'D)

It's me. No. I don't know. I don't think so. I chased him for five blocks. I'm not going to retrace anything. It's fucking dark. Fine. You're paying me extra for this shit.

Shay ends the call and looks down at the dead Harding.

SHAY (CONT'D)

Maybe I should have asked you about it *before* I killed you.

Shay continues to look at him for a beat before turning away and walking back out of the alley. He takes out a small flashlight and shines it around.

3 EXT. PICKERING SQUARE - BANGOR - MAINE - DAY 3

A bus pulls away. Left standing in the square is AVA HARRISON, 22. She is dressed in ordinary fall clothing and has a backpack hanging off her left shoulder. She looks around the square and begins heading west.

4 EXT. HOME OF GRADY SPENCER - DAY 4

The house is set back at the end of a long driveway surrounded by trees with a modest lawn that could use a mow. The house looks in need of some repair and a fresh coat of paint. A tangled garden hose is lumped by the side of the house.

5 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

5

GRADY SPENCER, 60, enters and walks over to the coffee machine on the counter. He pulls out a mug from the cabinets above the coffee machine and pours himself a cup. He adds some Sweet & Low into the mug.

He opens the refrigerator and pulls out a carton of milk. He makes an annoyed face as he shakes the carton and then watches as only a trickle of milk gets poured into his mug.

GRADY  
(to himself)  
That's just perfect.

Grady grabs his mug, walks over to a small kitchen table and sits down in one of two chairs. There are numerous bottles of pills on the table. He grabs a small plastic dish and one by one takes a pill out of each of the bottles and places it in the dish.

Grady begins to take his pills chasing each one down with a sip of coffee. He picks up a large fish oil pill.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
(to himself)  
Look at the size of these fuckers.  
How many fish are in this pill?  
Moby Dick couldn't swallow this  
fucking thing. Grady, I think you  
swear too much. Not that anyone is  
around to get offended. Fuck them.

He struggles to swallow it down coughing a little and massaging his throat to move the pill down his esophagus. His phone rings.

He looks at the number with unrecognized confusion before answering it.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
What. Warranty? My car is older  
than the Flintstone mobile. How do  
you know what kind of car I drive?  
I can't hear you! Where are you  
calling me from? I didn't know  
Detroit had sandstorms. Lemme ask  
you a question, Sinbad. Is the  
warranty on your flying carpet  
still good? Hello? Hello?

He looks at his phone and sees that the call has ended.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
 (to himself)  
 Was it something I said? Maybe I  
 need to work on my people skills.

Grady continues taking his pills.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
 I hope I can contain my excitement.

6 EXT. CITY STREET 2 - DAY 6

Ava is walking along the sidewalk past various store fronts.  
 Forty yards behind her, a grey Jaguar follows.  
 Ava is unaware of the vehicle following her.

7 INT. GRADY'S LIVING-ROOM - DAY 7

Grady is sitting in a chair at his desk working on his  
 laptop. In a chair next to him sits a stuffed bear named  
 Barclay.

GRADY  
 What do you want, Barclay?

Grady glances at Barclay.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
 Don't give me that nothing shit. I  
 can feel your eyes burning a hole  
 into my skin.

Grady saves his work, pulls out a flash drive and shuts down  
 his computer. He leans over to Barclay.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
 You want pizza don't you? It'll  
 have to be frozen. I can't afford  
 take out this week. Is that okay?

Barclay nods his head.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
 Thanks for understanding. You're  
 the only friend I've got on this  
 stupid planet. You know that?

Barclay's paw strokes Grady's face.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
 Alright. I'll be back in a minute.  
 No booze and no strippers.

Barclay just sits there.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
 Fine. One stripper and get a  
 receipt this time.

Barclay watches Grady leave the room.

8 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY 8

Grady pulls his vehicle into the parking lot. He gets out of his car and enters the store.

9 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY 9

Grady, wearing a mask, enters. THE STORE OWNER greets him.

STORE OWNER  
 Hey Grady. How's it going?

Grady responds with a grumbling growl.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)  
 That good? Son of a bitch never changes.

10 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY 10

Ava walks into the parking lot area. She stands just outside the door, reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small amount of money.

She starts to count it when a male hand grabs her wrist. Ava looks up and sees BRODIE GILLMAN, 32, with a menacing smile of satisfaction.

11 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY 11

Grady grabs his bag of purchases off the counter and heads for the door.

STORE OWNER  
Have a good day, Grady.

GRADY  
We'll see what happens.

12 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY 12

Grady exits the store and walks over to his car. He opens the door, places his groceries on the passenger seat, sits down behind the wheel and closes the door.

13 INT. GRADY'S CAR - DAY 13

He puts his keys in the ignition and is about to start the car when he sees Gillman roughly grab Ava's arm and pull her behind the store. Ava yells in protest as she disappears around the corner.

Grady looks mildly confused but ultimately uninterested.

GRADY  
(To himself)  
Those two need a marriage counselor.

Grady starts the engine, shifts the car into reverse and turns around to back up.

14 EXT. REAR OF CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY 14

Gillman slaps Ava to the ground then dominantly stands over her.

GILLMAN  
Come on, kid, the more you fight back the longer this is going to take and the more it's going to hurt you.

AVA

I don't know what you're talking about.

Gillman reaches down and grabs Ava. He pulls her up and slams her against the wall of the store.

GILLMAN

Don't give me that! You think I'm some sort of fucking idiot?

GRADY (O.C.)

That depends on who you ask.

Gillman looks at Grady with stunned angry amazement. Grady slowly walks towards them. Gillman releases Ava.

GRADY (CONT'D)

If I asked 100 people who know you, I'm sure your mother would give you a glowing review. Out of the remaining 99, there's some one out there that thinks you're a fucking idiot.

Grady looks at the blood trickling from the corner of Ava's mouth.

GRADY (CONT'D)

Maybe more.  
(Turns his attention to Ava)  
Are you okay?

Ava doesn't look at him.

GILLMAN

Why don't you go take a hike, old man.

GRADY

What are you, 35?

Gillman looks confused.

GILLMAN

32.

GRADY

I figured you to be one of those Millennial assholes. I'm 60. I gave up hiking. I walk now.

GILLMAN

Then walk away.



GRADY

Let the girl go and we'll walk out together. I'm sure you can find another hooker to rough up.

GILLMAN

This has nothing to do with you. Now leave before this gets ugly.

GRADY

I'm already ugly so you ain't offering me anything new.

Gillman moves towards Grady who hits Gillman in the throat with an open right hand. Gillman begins to choke.

GRADY (CONT'D)

You're probably pretty pissed off right about now.

Grady punches him across the jaw. Gillman recovers and grabs Grady forcing him against the building. Grady places his thumbs on either side of Gillman's neck and starts to press inward. Gillman starts to lose consciousness but before completely blacking out, swings Grady around and throws him to the ground.

Gillman advances at Grady and tries to kick him but Grady avoids his foot and quickly gets to his feet. Gillman throws a right which Grady effortlessly avoids. A left from Gillman misses its mark as well. Gillman's next right catches Grady across the jaw sending him to one knee. Blood starts to seep through Grady's mask. He gets to his feet trying to refocus.

Gillman throws another wide right fist. Grady blocks Gillman's wild punch with both hands and then strikes Gillman with a left elbow strike to Gillman's jaw then doubles up his attack with a reverse elbow strike.

Gillman grabs Grady's throat with his right hand and starts to squeeze his windpipe. Grady pulls down his mask and spits a blood covered tooth into Gillman's eye. Grady kicks Gillman in the abdomen, twists Gillman's right arm causing Gillman to double over. Grady kicks Gillman in the face twice.

Another punch hits Gillman in the stomach doubling him over again. Grady drives a hard karate chop on the back of Gillman's neck. Gillman falls to the ground, unconscious. Grady takes a beat to catch his breath while spitting more blood from his mouth.

GRADY (CONT'D)

Who is this guy? Your pimp?

AVA

No. I've never seen him before in my life. And I'm not a hooker!

Grady starts to search through his pockets. He finds a gun on him.

GRADY

Nice piece. Expensive.

He tucks the gun behind him under the waistline of his pants.

AVA

Is he a cop?

GRADY

I don't think so. Could be undercover. You said you didn't know him, but he seemed to know you. From what I overheard, he was definitely looking for you.

Grady takes off his mask.

GRADY (CONT'D)

These fucking things. First they protect you then they don't protect you. Then you have to wear ten of them. You think the fucking quack that helped fund the research to this bio-weapon would know, right?

Grady finds his wallet and opens it up. Gillman starts to stir. Grady punches him in the face and knocks him out again.

GRADY (CONT'D)

That was a rhetorical question.

Grady continues the investigation of Gillman's wallet.

GRADY (CONT'D)

Brodie Gillman. Sounds like a skateboarder.

Grady finds some money and takes it out. He starts to remove Gillman's credit cards.

AVA

Are you robbing him?

GRADY  
Yeah. Just his cash. I'm taking  
these to complicate his life a  
little bit.

Grady finishes and stands up.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
You got a place to go?

Ava nervously shakes her head.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
God damn it. Come on.

AVA  
Where are we going?

GRADY  
Would you rather stay here until he  
wakes up?

AVA  
No.

GRADY  
I didn't think so.

15 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

15

Grady and Ava walk over to Grady's vehicle.

GRADY  
Get in.

INT. GRADY'S CAR - DAY

Grady backs out of the parking lot and heads off down the  
road. Grady sniffs the air and detects a foul aroma.

GRADY  
Jesus Christ. What the hell's that  
smell? Is that you?

Ava, embarrassed, just stares out the window.

GRADY (CONT'D)  
It's not that bad.