

CAKE WALK

by

John Kelmer

John Kelmer
20117 Bending Creek Place
Tampa, FL 33647
John.kelmer@gmail.com

FADE IN:

TITLE SEQUENCE

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

A middle-aged man (TED) in a business suit far sharper than him, walks out into an empty parking garage. He's awkwardly carries a box, a jug, and plastic-wrapped cake.

INT. TED'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ted exhaustively drives his sedan on the interstate. He lifts up his sunglasses to rub his eyes before staring down the cake that reads "Bon Voyage" across it in icing.

He attempts to lift the cover and cut a piece. In his distraction, he suddenly veers out of his lane and drops his jug of water and smashes the large piece in his lap.

INT. ON-LOOKING CAR - CONTINUOUS

A family inside of the car in the next lane moving away from him are confused looking at Ted screaming at no one.

EXT. SIDE STREET - CONTINUOUS

Ted stands outside of his car drenched in water and cake.

SUPER: Cake Walk

END TITLE SEQUENCE

EXT. TED'S YARD - DAY

Ted pulls into his driveway before pulling back onto the street as to not hit the large U-Haul parked in his spot.

Exiting his car- he grabs his briefcase, takes off his tie, approaches the front door and looks at his yard.

INT. TED'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Entering the door he can hear the a conversation from the kitchen. He stealthfully tries making it to the basement.

He is stopped by the family's Yorkie who is barking.

TED

No. Shhh. Run away.

The noise makes his wife (KIM) and son (Ryan, 8) appear.

KIM

(O.S)

Ted? Is that you?

Ted surrenders as he stares down the half-packed boxes.

TED

Does it have to be?

Ryan comes in fast on his skateboard as he gets to Ted. His face is then met by a large piece of cake mess.

KIM

Hey! So how was it?

RYAN

Eww!

KIM

(laughing)

What did you do?

Ted would be laughing too, if he wasn't so defeated.

KIM (CONT'D)

Did you get into a fight at your farewell party?

TED

I don't normally look like this?

RYAN

No.

Ryan tries to play with Ted by chopping at him.

KIM

Ryan, you and dad can play later... Right now we all have to pack.

TED

Oh come on.

KIM

Hey, I didn't start this. But it's happening.

TED

I know, just like tonight. I swear, I thought about it, and if I get a running start at 4:30 I'll be at full potential.

KIM

(mocking)

A deal's a deal?... How many times have you given me your mantra? But it is impressive you've made it this far.

Ted tries to comeback, but doesn't fight with his words.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

Ted, Kim and Ryan throw their belongings into boxes.

KIM

Where did you get these from?

TED

(exaggerated)

So, now I can't even have boxes.

KIM

I'm just saying, they're kind of...

TED

They're kind of like boxes. It's this side up and you throw in your shi.(trying to think of a different word) shit... Sorry couldn't think of another word.

KIM

Alright, but don't come crying to us when they all collapse on you.

Ted looks down at younger pictures of him and his family.

Ryan moves books and dusty faith artifacts to a box.

RYAN

Hey, what religion are we?

KIM

I told you. Right now we're looking at our opportunities to grow and love all people to only pick just one... But if Nana asks- we are (accentuate) Catholic.

Storming into the front door of the house, their 15 year old daughter (HAILEY) slams the door making Ted jump and throwing Hailey's toddler picture. He goes to the door.

HAILEY

Of course!

TED

What do you think you're doing!?

HAILEY

How 'bout the gross movers not to knock me over with my childhood memories.

KIM

Calm down. Sweetie, it's fine.

HAILEY

Whatever. I'm going out in a minute.

Hailey stomps up the stairs to her bedroom.

TED

Who?... Oh the St. Vincent guy.

Hailey stops on a dime, and turns to her parents.

HAILEY

Wait. They took all my stuff.

TED

Yeah. Not exactly planning to have more daughters, so it's not coming with.

HAILEY

Are you kidding me?! Mom, you can't let him do that. He doesn't get it.

TED

We don't slam doors in this house.

HAILEY

But it's okay to slam my life in my face!

TED

What in the hell does that mean?

Music begins to shake the home. Ted starts up the stairs.

KIM

Ted. Just, leave it.

TED

I need her to know how I mean business.

KIM
Just like you really know teenage girls?

TED
Maybe not, but knowing the new owners
they won't be thrilled to have it, what,
firebombed next time she has hormones?

Kim can only shake her head as Ted starts to knock hard.

KIM
I can do this mess... You do the kitchen.

TED
Hailey!

HAILEY
(O.S)
You want to donate my door hinges too?!

TED
You can't go out. You've waited just too
long and we all have to pack right now.

HAILEY
(O.S)
Then go ahead and foreclose on my room.

Ted stops knocking after a moment; heads back downstairs.

INT. KITCHEN

Ted starts to lift heavy boxes before just kicking them.

RYAN
So... Do you want to see me dance?

TED
Absolutely.

Ryan begins to flail his body around as he break dances.

INT. HAILEY'S ROOM

Kim sits on Hailey's bed as Hailey

KIM
Do you at least want to go, maybe with
your friends? It could still be fun?

HAILEY

No. It's not even worth it. I mean, why would I go to a homecoming dance when I'm not actually coming home? Right?

KIM

There's going to be plenty of chances.

HAILEY

It's infuriating... I didn't do anything wrong. I kind of let him know... No, also brought it up in the hallway. So dumb.

KIM

Boys your age can't see great things in front of them. That changes (beat) maybe.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

Ted plays with Ryan by holding his feet and dipping him up and down into a large box before Kim walks in.

KIM

Can I talk to you?

TED

Hey, I'm still packing. Unless, you think we should leave Ryan here. Sound good?

RYAN

Nooo!

KIM

... Do you have one more favor in you?

TED

Oh God. I'm accomplishing something here.

KIM

Well the child you can't shove into a box now, might not be taking it as well.

TED

Really? I find her quite subtle.

KIM

What if you could talk to that boy?

TED

What if I; what?

KIM
Hailey's old friend. Down the street...

TED
(laughing it off)
Ha, yeah why not.

Kim doesn't crack any smile.

TED (CONT'D)
You can't be serious? No. I swore I'm not
dealing with *him* ever again.

KIM
I would go ask, but Amanda isn't there.

TED
What are you saying? Bring him over here?

KIM
Just explain, or present an opportunity
he overlooked. You're in sales your good.

TED
Who are you?

KIM
We're leaving tomorrow, Ted. Why not?

Ted leaves Ryan in the box and opens the door to leave.

KIM (CONT'D)
(smiling)
You can change first?

TED
I'll feel just as dirty regardless.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Ted storms down the street muttering to himself before
finally arriving to Rick's unkempt, weed-stricken home.

EXT. RICK'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ted begrudgingly knocks on the door. As he waits, he
looks around before trying to wipe off the mess off his
pants RICK looks through the window confused.

A shirtless Rick opens the door and looks over Ted.

RICK
You wanna do this?

TED
Rick; look we haven't really...

Rick cuts off Ted by placing a finger up to show that he's only talking to someone else on his bluetooth.

RICK
(on phone)
I wouldn't even trade you my kicker for your starters this week... I gots to go.

TED
Is your kid here? I need a favor.

Rick tries to figure out what he said.

TED (CONT'D)
Drake? Is he home now?

RICK
Blake is doing his yard work. Are you seriously not here about my Divot?

TED
For *what*?

RICK
The mailbox you just had to take down.

Ted turns around to see a broken mailbox shaped like a cartoon golfer laid across the front yard.

TED
I told you weeks ago I was moved that creepy-ass thing off the road. Since you obviously can't take care of your crap.

RICK
And there was some favor you mentioned?

TED
Okay, sorry... I need to ask him if he's going with anyone to the dance tonight.

Rick stares at him again.

TED (CONT'D)
My daughter just wanted one last thing before we leave this. So, can I see him?

RICK
Like I said. He's doing work all night.

TED
Really, he can't do it tomorrow?

RICK
Not that it's your business, but since my
ex left he's here twice a month.

TED
Good for her.

Rick starts to back to the the door but Ted stops him.

TED (CONT'D)
Again, sorry. Really long day... Look,
this is weird enough as is- asking your
son out. But it would really help me out.

RICK
Then you'll just have to do it.

TED
Yeah?

RICK
Hey, my son's a commodity here... Maybe a
dozen other fathers come asking for their
kids. How do I know your serious?

TED
I'm exhausted. Let them go out tonight.

RICK
We'll see about that. When you pick my
weeds and getting my golfer's swing back.
Or... maybe your wife could convince me.

Ted becomes more irritable and gets loud and walks away.

TED
Thanks for validating my choice to leave!

RICK
I think I'll be seeing again soon.

TED
Oh yeah... When see you hell!

Ted storms off the lawn before turning around and kicks
the mailbox back to the street. He picks it up and walks.

INT. HAILEY'S ROOM - DAY

Hailey looks around her emptying room but opens a box to find a keyboard. Plugs it in and puts on a soft-pop beat.

HAILEY

Goodbye, goodbye to Carolina... Maybe I'm done calling you home. Now the car that I'm barely driving; take me far enough to get me gone. But when I'm gone, and can't stop crying... Well, the balcony looks pretty good with my state flag flying.

Outside the window behind Hailey, the golfer mailbox is shown being hurled into the street... Followed by Ted.

HAILEY (CONT'D)

So long, So long to California. The city sleeps and sees straight through me. I think my heart is somewhere in Chicago. But I'll stay right here until you call.

INTERCUT

INT. TED'S DOORWAY

Like Hailey, Ted slams the door and heads up-stairs.

INT. HAILEY'S ROOM

HAILEY

And when I'm gone, I'm never coming back. Cause in Tennessee, you and me ain't got nothing in common. And the better me is waiting here hoping that we'll grow up.

INT. HALLWAY

As Ted attempts to open the door, he listens to her sing. Before becoming exasperated on what to do.

CUT TO:

EXT. RICK'S HOUSE

CLOSE ON: Ted's hand knocking on the door. Rick answers and smugly grins at Ted who is humbled in yard-work gear.

Ted follows Rick as they get into the backyard. Blake is mowing the high grass.

RICK
And how about the driving situation?

TED
Do you think I somehow planned this?

RICK
I'm just thinking- limo.

TED
Out of the question.

RICK
Want your daughter to go out with a bang?

TED
Wow, you're not going to say that again.

RICK
Don't worry, I know I guy for your needs.

TED
(angrily to himself)
You know a guy.

RICK
Blake!

Blake walks over to them.

BLAKE
Hey... Hey Mr. Dietrich.

RICK
Do your cool-down; you're off tonight.

BLAKE
Really? Well, what about...

RICK
Ted here is taking it all over for you.

BLAKE
Why?

RICK
Go to my closet and find something old.

TED
(unwillingly)
I have it on pretty good authority my
daughter may be available tonight...
Would you want to go out?

RICK
Of course he does.

BLAKE
(slight smile)
Did Hailey ask you to come here?

TED
Not in so many word... But now that I say
it, it sounds like a violation, right?

RICK
Don't beat yourself up. They don't know
what's best. That's why you show em who's
boss and the full potential of what they
could turn into, God-willing.

Rick begins to cough loudly and spiting on the ground.

BLAKE
Yeah, no. That'd be... good.

A second of silence as Ted looks at him.

TED
I wish I dealt with you instead of your
agent. (to Rick) Fine, call your guy.

RICK
I think I just ate a lighting bug.

Ted takes out his wallet and hands Blake cash, who
doesn't know what to do before Rick reaches for it.

INT. TED'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hailey is sitting in her pyjamas on the couch and texting
when the doorbell ring. Kim, in the kitchen with Ryan,
gets up to answer, before realizing who it could be.

KIM
Hailey, can you get that?

No answer.

KIM (CONT'D)
Hailey!

HAILEY
What!? No, I'm working on something.

KIM
It's dinner!

HAILEY
And I'm not hungry.

KIM
Just, get up.

HAILEY
Fine!

Hailey gets up, but still focuses on her phone as she opens the door blindly and doesn't even look up at him before shouting back at Kim.

HAILEY (CONT'D)
Mom, I need money to give him!

BLAKE
Hi Hailey.

Blake stands in a suit awkwardly as Hailey tries to move. Stunned, Hailey can only think to slowly close the door.

She backs away from the door trying to think about it.

HAILEY
(to herself)
What the...

CUT TO:

EXT. RICK'S YARD

Ted is shown falling from a large bag of mulch he pours. His cellphone rings for a few moments and he picks up.

TED
Hey.

KIM
Good job. Wish you gave me a heads up.
But maybe she's close to letting him in.

TED
What?

KIM
Where are you?

TED
(beat) I'm just getting a few things...
Do you need me to pick up anything?

KIM

Really, you don't want to see your daughter off to her first dance?

TED

(annoyed, shaking phone)
I'll see her. I'm too delirious anyway.

KIM

Okay. I'll text you a list... Thank you.

Ted hangs up as he watches Dale do P90X on his deck.

EXT. TED'S HOME - NIGHT

Blake stands outside of the home not sure what to do next. A limo then pulls up to the street and the driver gets out putting on his tie and struts up to Blake.

DRIVER

You Blake?

BLAKE

Yeah.

DRIVER

Is she not ready yet?

BLAKE

I don't think so.

DRIVER

Alright... Where's the corsage?

BLAKE

(shrugging)

I didn't...

DRIVER

You kids are ridiculous. If I showed up like that I'd be sent right back home... I just heard about this 15 minutes ago, what's your excuse?

BLAKE

Same here... Can I go somewhere for that?

DRIVER

I'll go check my car, I think the girl from my last pick-up dropped hers.

The driver walks back to the car as Blake still stands in the middle as Kim opens the door and walks over to him.

KIM

Hi Blake. (notices the limo) Wow. Insane.

BLAKE

Hey Mrs. Dietrich.

KIM

(looking behind her)

It's nice to see you... I'm guessing my husband came over to help us out with this... We don't typically solicit her.

BLAKE

I was asked not to bring any of it up.

KIM

Oh, good. She'll love this, I'll get her.

BLAKE

Do you think I should like ask her first?

KIM

(beat)

Now that does makes more sense; do that.

INT. TED'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Kim and Blake walks into the doorway.

KIM

Hailey!?

Kim leaves looking for her. Blake then looks down at Ellie who is just staring at him.

BLAKE

Hey.

ELLIE

You shouldn't be standing there?

BLAKE

Why?

Ellie laughs and runs away. Blake looks under his shoes.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

(to himself, anxious)

Okay.

Blake can see Hailey still in pajamas in the kitchen.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Hey. Can we talk for a second?

HAILEY

(masking nerves)

Sure.

Hailey walks slowly to the doorway.

BLAKE

Hey Hailey. I just wanted to stop by and
(beat) wish you luck at your new place.

HAILEY

(unexpected)

Oh yeah, thanks. I appreciate that. I
thought you worked at your Dad's on
Fridays? (backpedaling) I think you might
of brought that up awhile ago.

BLAKE

I got someone to cover my shift... I'm
sorry, that's not why I'm really here.

Kim easesdrops from the dining room and becomes nervous.
Ryan is in the room with her and becomes interested.

RYAN

Hey, what are you doing?!

KIM

(whispering)

Shh. One second.

BLAKE

You know I only moved a few miles down
the road with my Mom most of the time?

HAILEY

Yeah, sure. Looks like I'm going further.

BLAKE

I think I distanced myself from you.

HAILEY

It's okay. Different classes; being busy.

BLAKE

Now it is really starting to suck. I
don't even know how to fit into my Dad's
suit. I'm not comfortable.

HAILEY

(smiles)

I really only have one dress, and that's from a recital like forever ago.

RYAN

Arg. This is sooo boring.

KIM

Be quiet.

BLAKE

So I feel weird. But would love it if you'd come out and be weird with me?

The driver is shown listening at the crack of the front door that's open- and rolling his eyes.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

I know you would have a ton of other people and things to do before you leave, but can I take you to homecoming first?

Hailey smiles. Behind Blake is the driver's arm being brought out slowly, revealing the corsage.

INT. RICK'S DOJO - NIGHT

A storefront with the name, "Master Rick's Dojo & Fro-Yo". Ted is draped in an ill-fitting Gi and handing out flyers to people passing with only apathy.

He then walks in to see Rick in full karate gear performing exaggerated moves and noises, as Ted tries not to get up and punch him.

RICK

Teddy... I need you to rake the mats.

TED

To what? No, I'm not raking a damn thing... No one even here!

RICK

The night's young my friend, and you promised to me mine... I got plans.

Ted makes a disgusted face before seeing Kim.

TED

(to himself)

Of course.

Ted stands up and can only stand in shame.

RICK
I'll allow you one 5'er. But we really
need you to bring it after... 'K?

Rick walks out of the room and Ted's family approaches.

TED
Is it less strange if I said I'm training
for the All Valley Karate Tournament?

KIM
(smiling)
I think the sign said Kung-Fu.

TED
Couldn't care less.

KIM
I liked your cake mess more than this.

TED
Me too. I wouldn't smell like Play-Doh..
Everything he owns smells like it.

A customer (Groupon Guy) enters as Rick comes back.

RICK
Ted!? Come on, do it.

TED
What?... Oh, here.

Ted turns off the lights and loud, weird music as Rick starts to do his own David Lynch-esque demonstration with various hand and body movement with a spot light on him.

Rick starts to cough again and then becomes distracted and turns back on the lights.

RICK
Gosh Darnit! I lost my concentration
cause of you guys' negative energy..

They all sit in silence for a moment.

TED
Yep, that about sums up my night.

In the background the customer is shown taking out a printed piece of paper and Rick becomes annoyed.

KIM

What are you still doing here? It's over.
She texted saying she had a great time.

TED

Good. I want it to stay that way. I'm
afraid the universe might collapse on me
or something if I didn't finish today.

KIM

A deal's a deal?

RICK

(to Ted across the room)
You gotta validate this guy's Groupon.

TED

(ignoring Rick)
But she bought it that he just showed up?

KIM

I think he was actually sincere.

Ted shakes his head in approval.

KIM (CONT'D)

But please, she's 15. When I was her age
I thought boys would show up outside
randomly with boomboxes over their heads.

TED

You know I'd lift a boombox for you,
right? You know, if they still made 'em
or didn't have chronic back spasms.

Rick walks over and breaks up their conversation.

RICK

Give me that liability waiver. This kid
thinks he doesn't have to pay full-price?

Rick goes back to his deal.

KIM

Last chance, we can start our move now?

Blake, followed by the Driver enter the Dojo. The Driver
bows to Rick.

TED

No... I've got to see how this ends.

KIM

Okay, see you whenever... Hey Blake, I heard you guys had a lot of fun?!

BLAKE

Yeah, definitely.

ELLIE

Where's Hailey?

BLAKE

Oh, she's just back at our hotel.

Ted and Kim stare at him.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

I'm totally kidding. Her and her friends have the limo for a little longer.

KIM

Take care of yourself, Blake.

BLAKE

Sure.

Kim and Ellie exit the Dojo.

TED

I appreciate it. Glad something worked.

Rick is shown talking to the customer as he takes to a fighting stance and the customer panics.

RICK

Okay, what you want to do is hold a position until the attack comes.

GROUPON GUY

Wait. I just wanted \$10 in yogurt, man.

RICK

Sorry bra. The fine print said you have to take my free lesson first.

He reluctantly hands the clipboard back to Rick as he throws it down.

RICK (CONT'D)

Let's now meet in the Zuo pan shi stance.

GROUPON GUY

What?... Like this?

RICK

Yeah, why not.

Rick runs at Groupon Guy and sidekicks him in the face.

BLAKE

(to Ted about his belt)

Here, give me that.

RICK

Hey! No he has to finish this.

BLAKE

He shouldn't spend his last hours here.

RICK

Then he'll give me his new address to
invoice for my invaluable mailbox.

BLAKE

Dad I ran that god-awful thing over.

RICK

What?!

BLAKE

I didn't think we had to advertise we
were a family of huge tools.

RICK

Oh, you'll see some real tools every
weekend in fixing what should be the real
father and son relationship!

TED

Calm down. We both have better kids than
we should. Trust me, stop freaking out.

RICK

No, you got it mad my friend. It guides
the truth and it keep me whip the floor
with you. Right here, right now.

TED

Really? You want to do this?

RICK

Oh yeah, brother! I'm going to...

Rick winces in pain as Ted walks back.

RICK (CONT'D)

Blake-son. Get my sashell and ulcer meds.

TED

Okay, sit down.

RICK

No! I do not forfeit. There is no side-effect stopping me from pummeling ass.

TED

Alright, you won big guy.

RICK

We'll say a draw till the rematch.

TED

Sure.

Ted finishes handing Blake his belt. Leaves in the Gi.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The driver opens the door for Ted to get into the limo.

Ted rolls down the window to look over his town as he listen's to the driver's music and leans back.

Stopped at a light, Ted notices his broken cake from earlier in the day and he grins. Then casually checks the car fridge to find nothing.

EXT. TED'S HOME - NIGHT

The limo pulls up to the front of his home where Ted pauses for a moment before speaking up to the driver.

TED

I'll give you fifty more for another hour... Just wait a minute.

Ted leaves the car door open as he approaches the porch.

Nearing the door and deliriously tired, he can see Hailey, still beautifully made up in her dress, sitting on a chair. She is also holding a large piece of cake.

TED (CONT'D)

(speechless)

Wow. I, can't believe this.

HAILEY

Yeah, I know. Mom said you wanted cake.

TED
 (smiling)
 Well that too. My God, you are something.

HAILEY
 She also told me what you did with this.

TED
 I didn't want you to think that I was trying to control you. I just thought...

HAILEY
 Of course not. Thanks.

TED
 Anytime. Except tomorrow; I'm finished.

Ted groans as he picks up a large, filled box.

HAILEY
 Alright. But real quick... We can still make it back pretty soon, right?

TED
 No question.

HAILEY
 Or even Blake could make it to us.

TED
 Not a chance in hell.

Ted grins at Hailey as he still stands of awe of her.

TED (CONT'D)
 We'll see. But tonight still go have fun. Not too much... Seriously.

HAILEY
 (Getting somewhat annoyed)
 I know.

TED
 (grins)
 I know.

Hailey hands out the plate of cake to Ted. He places the box onto the chair before Hailey turns to walk away and softly reaches for her hand and begins to dance with her.

Hailey tries to take in the moment but is still holding the plate before Ted takes it. Finally twirling her back to her friends he picks up the box and puts the plate on.

Ted turns towards the door as Hailey makes it about halfway down the path before running back at Ted and hugs him from the back. He is too willed up to look at her.

He lets her down her hand and she retreats back. Holding the box, he looks at her walk away... Yet, not without having the bottom fall out- making him drop everything.

Instead of freaking out, he just leaves it and walks in.

FADE OUT