

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 (25) 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.

Jerk grabs his Smartphone and writes a Whatsapp message.

Jerk then brings the phone to his right ear.

JERK (CONT'D)  
(thinking aloud)  
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.

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 imagines that.

JERK  
(thinking aloud)  
Enough is enough!

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Jerk jumps into the Pontiac and starts the engine.

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 - DAY

Jerk comes out of the washroom.

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 the 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 (CONT'D)  
 (thinking aloud)  
 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

Car runs on the road.

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

INT. CAR - DAY

Jerk drives.

JERK  
(thinking aloud)  
The pricks don't return any of my  
calls!

He scratches his chin.

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

Jerk is meditative.

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

Jerk slaps the steering wheel violently.

JERK (CONT'D)  
(thinking aloud)  
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.

Jerk bites his lips.

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 speedometer shows the car speed increasing.

JERK (CONT'D)  
 (thinking aloud)  
 It can't be.

Jerk lifts an eyebrow.

JERK (V.O.)  
 Or can it?

The 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?

The hotel grows bigger as he drives towards it.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - DAY

The car enters the hotel parking lot.

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

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

Jerk stops.

JERK  
(thinking aloud)  
Probably...

He opens his eyes very much.

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 in a blink of an eye.

EXT. HOTEL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Jerk walks to hotel entrance.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Jerk enters the hotel and finds his four friends, two GUYS and two GIRLS, all in their mid-twenties.

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.

The four friends 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 (25) can't resist anymore and explodes 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

Jerk is back to the park center square.

JERK  
AHHHHHHHHH!!!

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Jerk wakes from his daydream. He 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 walks to the elevators with his head down.

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. A BEEP sounds.

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

INT. EERIE, DARK, UNDEFINED PLACE - CONTINUOUS

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.

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

Jerk 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 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 and covers the entire place.

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.

ANDY

You gave us quite a scare. You were sleeping so deep we thought you were dead, man.

Jerk sits up on the couch. His friends help him.

JERK

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

Jerk turns to face the camera.

JERK (CONT'D)

That's why I'm the Jerk.