

Brother's Birthday

Written by

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BLACKNESS

Opening Credits.

TITLE CARD: BROTHER'S BIRTHDAY

JACKSON (V.O.)
The statement *that's what friends
are for* has had many meanings over
the years.

SLOWLY OPEN TO:

INT. JACKSON'S CAR - DAY

Four friends are laughing in a car. The driver is a young man, fresh face, good complexion, (22).

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The person, who happens to be
extremely handsome, is me Jackson.

This is JACKSON.

The person in the passenger seat is a girl, slightly younger than Jackson, (21), hair is pulled back in a ponytail.

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The person next to me is my best
friend Maddie. Besides John, she's
pretty much my closest friend.

This is MADDIE.

The person behind Maddie is another girl, about the same age as Jackson, (22), hair is loose near her shoulders.

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Now the girl behind Maddie is my
friend Sarah. She's a great pal to
have along with on road trips like
these.

This is SARAH.

The boy behind Jackson looks the youngest. (20). He wears glasses and a beanie. He is looking at a map in his lap. Then out the window.

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Now that sucker right there is
Benny. Even though he's the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D) (cont'd)
youngest of the bunch, he still has
a better sense of humor than any of
us.

This is BENNY. He says something that cannot be heard.

They are all geared up for winter, wearing long clothing
such as coats, hats, and pants. It seems that they are all
having a great time.

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Now at the time we were on a
surprise road trip to follow our
friend John Davis. He said he was
going to his brother's birthday
party, but we wanted to surprise
him.

At first, it seems like Jackson, Maddie, Sarah, and Benny
are having a fantastic time. But suddenly, their faces turn
sour and depressed in a matter of seconds.

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Now it was right here that we
realized we made a very bad
mistake. But I'll get to that
later. You see all of this started
out about a day ago. At the
cafeteria at Northern Arizona
University.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - DUSK

Outside the windows snow falls from the heavens and pile up
outside. Benny is staring blankly out the window. Then he is
nudged. He turns to Sarah.

Sarah, Benny, Maddie, and Jackson are all sitting at a table
together.

SARAH
Will you stop staring into the
distance Benny. You don't look any
cooler doing so.

BENNY
Well excuse me for appreciating
snow so much. I never really grew
up around it.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

He has a point Sarah, Californians don't get to see much snow, let alone this much.

SARAH

He's been here two years, I thought he would've been over it by now.

Benny smiles.

BENNY

Far from it Sarah, I love it.

Sarah groans and rolls her eyes.

SARAH

You see, where I come from-

BENNY

You mean Jersey?

SARAH

Yes, Jersey. We get snow WAY to often. During the winter season, the snow is almost unbearable to handle.

MADDIE

That's weird.

SARAH

What is?

MADDIE

I thought Polar BEARS are found in the North Pole. Not in Jersey.

SARAH

Oh ha ha. Very funny.

MADDIE

Just trying to lighten up the mood.

Maddie takes a sip from her drink. From the looks of it, it is hot cocoa. Maddie makes a face of enjoyment.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Man this is some good cocoa.

JACKSON

That's like your ninth cup. You should probably take it easy on that stuff.

(CONTINUED)

MADDIE

One, this is my seventh cup...

Jackson rolls his eyes.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

...and two, you try some.

JACKSON

I'm fine.

MADDIE

Drink it.

JACKSON

No.

MADDIE

Drink it.

JACKSON

No.

MADDIE

DRINK IT.

JACKSON

Fine.

Jackson takes the cup of cocoa and begins drinking it. His eyes widen and continues drinking the cocoa. Basically downing the whole entire thing.

Benny and Sarah stare in disbelief as Jackson drinks a whole cup of hot cocoa. Maddie is smiling the whole time.

Finally Jackson finishes the entire cup.

BENNY

Jesus man. That was intense.

SARAH

Is it that good?

JACKSON

Better than good. It's-

MADDIE

Fantastic.

JACKSON

I was gonna go with orgasmic, but fantastic works just as well.

(CONTINUED)

Jackson looks at a drink dispenser from across the room. He looks at the empty cup, then to his friends.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

Jackson gets up from his seat and quickly walks over to the drink dispenser. Maddie rolls her eyes.

MADDIE
Typical.

Jackson reaches the drink dispenser and begins filling up the entire cup with cocoa.

Suddenly a hand slaps Jackson's back. Jackson looks over to find a man about his age with a scruffy beard staring at him.

This is JOHN.

JOHN
Better take it easy on the cocoa
Jack. You might burn all your taste
buds off.

JACKSON
Yeah, well Maddie let me try it and
now I can't stop.

John does a small chuckle. Jackson smiles along with John.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
So how was your exam?

JOHN
Oh you know...long.

Jackson takes a sip of the cocoa.

JACKSON
So what're you doing this weekend?

John seems to take a little bit to answer the question, but he shakes himself out of it.

JOHN
I'm going down to my mom's place.

JACKSON
Why?

JOHN
It's my little brother's birthday.

JACKSON
Sweet. How old is he going to be?

JOHN
He's turning twelve.

JACKSON
Can we come.

John raises an eyebrow.

JOHN
You guys want to come to my little
brother's birthday party?

JACKSON
Hold on a sec.

Jackson turns to Benny, Sarah, and Maddie.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
HEY BENNY, SARAH, MADDIE!?!?!?

Benny, Sarah, and Maddie all turn to Jackson.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
YOU WANT TO GO TO JOHN'S LITTLE
BROTHER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?!?!?!

BENNY
HELL YEAH!!!

MADDIE
OF COURSE!!!

SARAH
WOULDN'T MISS IT!!!

John makes a nervous laugh.

JOHN
Look Jackson, there's nothing I
would like more than to have you
guys come along, but this is kind
of a small party. If you know what
I mean?

Jackson takes a sip of the cocoa while staring John down.

JACKSON
You don't want us along?

JOHN
No offense, but no.

Jackson does a slow nod.

JACKSON
Okay then. Fine with me.

Jackson turns to Benny, Maddie, and Sarah.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
NEVERMIND!!!

Benny, Maddie, and Sarah all groan in disappointment.
Jackson turns back to John.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
When do you leave?

JOHN
Tomorrow at about seven.

JACKSON
Okay then.

JOHN
So I hope you understand if I'm
gonna cut out of here a bit early.

JACKSON
Oh it's no problem man. Pack and
get some sleep.

John smiles.

JOHN
Thanks man.

JACKSON
Bring it in.

Jackson and John give each other a great big bear hug. Then
a slurping sound is heard.

JOHN
Are you seriously drinking cocoa
while we bro hug?

JACKSON

Mhm.

John rolls his eyes.

Then they back away from each other.

JOHN

See ya later man.

JACKSON

See ya.

John walks away from Jackson and out of the cafeteria. As soon as John leaves, Jackson runs over to Maddie, Sarah, and Benny.

Jackson sits down in his seat.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Guys, I have an idea.

BENNY

What is it?

JACKSON

I say we go over to John's mom's house and surprise his brother with an awesome birthday present.

Maddie raises a brow.

MADDIE

You want to crash John's brother's birthday?

JACKSON

Not so much crashing, rather...spicing up.

BENNY

That sounds horrifically sexual somehow.

JACKSON

Don't think that way Benny, think of it as an awesome surprise for John and his brother.

SARAH

I don't know Jackson, I'm all for surprises and all, but I just have the feeling that maybe we're not wanted.

(CONTINUED)

BENNY
That's a good point Sarah.

Benny turns to Jackson.

BENNY (CONT'D)
What happens if they ask us to
leave?

JACKSON
Then we drop the gift off and
leave. Simple as that.

There is a small silence for a moment. Then Benny, Sarah,
and Maddie all nod together.

BENNY
Okay. I'm in.

MADDIE
Same here.

SARAH
Me too.

JACKSON
Great. Now all we have to do is buy
him a present. What do twelve year
old's love as gifts?

They all sit in silence and think.

BENNY
Legos?

Everyone looks at each other.

CUT TO:

INT. STORE - DUSK

Jackson has a huge Lego set in hand. He and Benny, Maddie,
and Sarah stand in a line at the cash register.

JACKSON
Do you guys have money for the
gift?

Benny, Sarah, and Maddie all mutter in agreement. They pull
out their share of the money and hand it to Jackson.

Jackson smiles.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Perfect.

Jackson hands the money to the lady at the cash register.
Sarah leans over to Benny.

SARAH

Did Lego sets always cost this
much?

Benny shakes his head.

BENNY

Nah, they were way less when I was
younger.

SARAH

That's a shame.

BENNY

Indeed.

CUT TO:

EXT. STORE - DUSK

Jackson, Benny, Maddie, and Sarah all walk along side each
other. In the snow by the way.

MADDIE

Okay, we got the gift, now how do
we get to John's mom's house.

They all stop. From the silence it is clear none of them
thought of that.

BENNY

We don't have a plan for that do
we?

JACKSON

No we do not.

SARAH

Should we ask John in a casual way?

BENNY

No, he'll figure it out.

There is silence for the moment.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON

Guys...

They all stare at Jackson.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

I think we might have to go full stalker on this one.

They all groan.

BENNY

This is gonna suck.

MADDIE

What time do we need to wake up?

JACKSON

Seven.

They all groan some more.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Aw, come on guys, it can't be that bad.

CUT TO:

INT. JACKSON'S CAR - DAY

Everyone is in the car and looks incredibly tired. The car is driving along the highway.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

It is that bad.

SARAH

Yep.

MADDIE

Yeah.

BENNY

No doubt.

JACKSON

Well at least we found John's car. That's a plus. Right?

There is a small amount of groaning. Probably in agreement.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Well let's just try and keep our distance from his car. We don't want him to know we're following him.

SARAH

No shit Sherlock.

JACKSON

Don't be a bitch Watson.

Everyone breaks out into laughter.

JACKSON (V.O.)

And that was how the trip started.

CUT TO:

INT. JACKSON'S CAR - LATER

Everyone is laughing and having a good time.

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We thought we were doing the right thing by visiting John. We knew we were crashing his brother's birthday party, but we didn't care. We were having so much fun.

Out the window, trees and hills pass by quickly.

MADDIE

So then I said that what they did was ill-eagle. Get it? Ill-eagle.

Everyone begins laughing some more, except for Benny, who is looking at a map. He looks out the window with curiosity.

BENNY

Are we still following John?

JACKSON

Don't worry man, I still see his car.

BENNY

Well there's something you should know?

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON
And that is?

BENNY
According to the map and Google
Earth, we just passed all the
residential housing in the area.

Maddie looks over to Benny.

MADDIE
I thought he lived in this area.

BENNY
Thought so too. I mean the only
other place near here for miles is-

Everyone gasps.

JACKSON
Oh no. Oh please don't go there.

It can be seen that John's car is going into some sort of
cemetery. Jackson pulls the car over near the sidewalk and
turns it off.

SARAH
What the hell is this?

BENNY
It's a cemetery.

SARAH
What's he doing here?

JACKSON
I think we can all answer that.

There is a small moment of silence.

From outside the window, John can be seen walking over to a
tombstone. He touches it softly and then collapses to the
ground in tears.

Jackson, Benny, Maddie, and Sarah all look dumbfounded.

MADDIE
Oh God.

SARAH
Jesus.

John is still crying.

(CONTINUED)

Jackson slowly shakes his head.

JACKSON
This isn't right?

BENNY
What isn't right?

JACKSON
He shouldn't be doing this all by himself.

BENNY
If he wants to do this by himself, let him do it.

Jackson shakes his head.

JACKSON
I'm not gonna stand for this. I'm going over there.

Maddie looks unsure and nervous.

MADDIE
Are you sure that's a good idea?

Jackson looks over to Maddie.

JACKSON
He's my best friend Maddie, I'm not gonna leave him like this.

Jackson opens the car door and leaves. He closes the door and walks over to John.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

John is crying with his head in his hands. Jackson slowly walks over to John. He has a sympathetic look on his face.

Jackson takes a deep breath.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Hey John.

John looks up from crying and directly at Jackson. His expression turns from sad to anger.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN
(Slight anger)
What are you doing here Jackson?

Jackson takes a deep breath and gives a faint smile.

JACKSON
Well it's kind of a funny story.
You see we followed you hoping to
crash your brother's birthday
party.

JOHN
We?

JACKSON
Yeah. We.

Jackson points at his car near the side of the street.

Inside the car Benny, Maddie, and Sarah give a nervous wave to John. Benny slumps back in his seat just so he can't be seen by John.

John looks over to Jackson.

JOHN
You shouldn't be here.

JACKSON
What is this John? I thought you
were going to your brother's
birthday party? Who's this?

John sighs.

JOHN
This is my brother.

John wipes away the snow from the tombstone and reveals a name.

Nathan Davis.

Jackson seems absolutely shocked.

JACKSON
This...he...what? What happened?

JOHN
It happened twelve years ago, I was
about ten at the time. My brother
Nathan just turned twelve and was
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (cont'd)
having a small birthday party. It was snowing like usual and we were having a snowball fight outside. We did this every year since I was four or five, so it was nothing new. After about ten or eleven snowball throws, I was running out of snow. So, I went into the street hoping to find some more. Little did I know, there was a car speeding down the street heading right for me. The driver was drunk so he barely even noticed me. I didn't notice it either. Nathan saw the car though, and yelled at me to get out of the way. I couldn't hear him due to the ear muffs I was wearing, so he did the only thing he thought he could do, he ran towards me and pushed me out of the way of the car.

Jackson stands motionless, staring at John with disbelief. John cracks a depressed smile.

JOHN (CONT'D)
The coroner said he died on impact so he didn't feel a thing...but that doesn't take away the pain. It should've been me in his place but instead, Nathan felt obligated, as my older brother, to sacrifice his life to ensure I had mine. And all that from a FUCKING twelve year-old man. TWELVE!!!!

Jackson backs away from John slightly. Only slightly.

JOHN (CONT'D)
I come here every year on his birthday, give him a set of baseball cards, and tell him all the cool stuff that's happened to me. I just...just...

John breaks down into tears. Jackson walks over to John and kneels down beside him. He gives John a great big hug and John hugs back.

They sit in the snow and hug for a bit.

Maddie, Benny, and Sarah slowly walk toward them. Maddie has some tears running down her face while Sarah is holding back tears. Benny is holding the giant Lego set in bot of his hands.

John looks up and sees Benny, Maddie, and Sarah. He wipes his nose and stands up. Jackson stands up with him.

John looks over at the Lego set. His facial expression turns into a curious one.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What is that?

BENNY

It's a Lego set. We bought it for your brother thinking it would be a great gift. But now looking at this I don't know if it's a great idea.

John looks at the gift in disbelief.

JOHN

You guys bought my brother a gift?

They all nod simultaneously.

John smiles.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Benny hands the gift to John. John takes it and walks over to Nathan's tombstone. He places the Lego set near Nathan's tombstone and backs away.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Happy birthday Nathan.

John puts his hand into his pocket and pulls out a small deck of baseball cards. He places them on Nathan's tombstone.

Then John turns to all of his friends. He gives a trembling smile. A tear runs down his cheek.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Thank you. For everything.

Maddie, Sarah, Jackson, and Benny walk over to John and give him a group hug.

(CONTINUED)

JACKSON (V.O.)

As a friend, it is our duty to
watch out for, and protect those
closest to us. John's brother knew
this better than any of us.

They all stop hugging and begin heading back to the cars.

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In the end, when all is said and
done, the people you'll love
forever...are the ones that made
the biggest impact on you.

The Lego set sits next to the tombstone, along with a small
deck of baseball cards.

JACKSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And that's what friends are for.

FADE TO BLACK.

Roll credits.

End.