

CAPTAIN TITANIUM

Written by

Xavier Gonzalez

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Xgonzalez93@yahoo.com

INT. BEDROOM -- DAWN

Comfy, clean, boyish. This is the room of nine year old TOMMY. He is sleeping. Cradled in his arms is an action figure, CAPTAIN TITANIUM.

The bedroom door opens letting in a ray of light. Tommy's mother, SARAH, enters. She's obviously in a hurry.

SARAH
Alright, it's time to wake up.
Come on, Tommy, up!

She CLAPS her hands in his face to get a reaction. He stirs.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Tommy! Get up. Mommy needs to be
at work in less than an hour.

Tommy sits up. He smiles at his mother.

TOMMY
Good morning.

SARAH
Come on! Let's go! I'm running
late.

She starts pulling clothes out of the dresser and setting them on Tommy's bed.

TOMMY
Good morning, Captain Titanium.

Sarah sees Tommy talking to his toy. She YANKS it from him.

SARAH
Come on, Tommy, stop goofing
around. Today is a big day for me,
so I need you to hurry and get
dressed, okay. Okay?!

Tommy nods at her, yes.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Okay, good. And don't forget to
brush your teeth.

She gets up and leaves, setting Captain Titanium on the dresser.

Tommy jumps out of bed. He goes over and grabs Captain Titanium before heading into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Tommy has set Captain Titanium down next to the sink. He opens the faucet, grabs his tooth brush and spreads toothpaste on it. He starts brushing his teeth. After a moment he stops and starts brushing Captain Titanium's "teeth."

INT. BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Tommy finishes getting dressed.

SARAH (O.S.)
Tommy, are you done yet?!

TOMMY
Yes.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAWN

Tommy enters the kitchen. Sarah is frantically buttering toast. Her husband and Tommy's stepfather, PHILLIP, sits at the table. He's talking on his Bluetooth.

PHILLIP
Listen, Hank, I don't care how important does mergers seem, we've got bigger fish to fry!

TOMMY
(to Phillip)
Good morning.

Phillip complete ignores Tommy. Sarah comes over and drops toast on a plate in front of Tommy.

SARAH
Eat up. I want you in the car in three minutes, got it?

Tommy nods. Sarah runs off. Tommy looks down at the toast, then to Captain Titanium.

TOMMY
(to his toy)
I think mom's a lousy cook, too.

INT. SARAH'S CAR -- DAWN

It's still a little dark outside. Sarah drives just a frantically as she was buttering toast. Tommy is in back playing with Captain Titanium.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAWN

Sarah's car pulls up in front of the school. It's deserted. It's still too early for people to actually start showing up.

INT. SARAH'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Sarah turns to Tommy.

SARAH
Okay, baby, we're here.
(notice the toy, sighs)
Hun, why'd you bring that?

TOMMY
He keeps me company.

SARAH
Do they let you have that at school?

Tommy shrugs.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Just, don't take it out of your backpack, okay? I'm not coming here to pick it up if it gets taken away.

TOMMY
Okay.

SARAH
Alright, well, give mommy a kiss. Hurry 'cause I need to get to work.

Tommy pecks his mother's cheek.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Have a good day!

TOMMY
Okay.

Tommy climbs out of the car. Sarah watches him walk down the empty court yard. She knows it's wrong to leave him this early but she has no choice. She drives off.

EXT. SCHOOL, COURT YARD -- MORNING

Tommy is still all alone. He plays with Captain Titanium, pretending that the toy is soaring through the air.

He suddenly hears a CRASH.

He looks in the distance to find a group of four TEENAGERS. They're KICKING over trash can, SMOKING and DRINKING. These teens are BILLY (17), CHRIS (15), JOSH (17) and Billy's girl friend ZOEI (17).

Tommy, frozen, just stands there and watches as the teens induce havoc.

Then, as Billy JUMPS off a bench and KICKS over another trash can he pauses. He sees Tommy staring at them.

BILLY
(to others)
Check this out.

They all look over at Tommy, who has now hidden Captain Titanium out of sight. They approach him.

BILLY (CONT'D)
What're you looking at?

JOSH
Who the fuck is this kid?

BILLY
I don't know, let's ask him.
(to Tommy)
Hey, kid, what's your name?

Tommy doesn't answer.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Hey, I asked you a question, you little shit. What's your name?

TOMMY
(hardly audible)
Tommy.

BILLY
What? I didn't hear you.

TOMMY
 (less audible)
 Tommy.

Billy SMACKS Tommy on the back, somewhat playfully, in a brutish kind of way.

BILLY
 Come on, kid, speak up! We're all friends here.

TOMMY
 Tommy!

BILLY
 Tommy, huh? Well, Tommy, let me ask you something, were you watching us? You know, kicking shit around?

TOMMY
 Uh--

BILLY
 Ah, it doesn't fucking matter--
 (extends cigarette)
 Wanna smoke?

Tommy shakes his head.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 What, you don't smoke?

TOMMY
 I'm only nine.

CHRIS
 What're queer? I'm fifteen and I smoke and drink. Who gives a fuck.

BILLY
 You sure?
 (takes a drag)
 It's pretty good. Soothes the throat.

Tommy shakes his head again.

BILLY (CONT'D)
 You don't know what you're missing out on. What about a beer? You want a beer?

TOMMY

No.

BILLY

Jeez, Tommy, you're a real buzz kill, you know that?

TOMMY

Sorry.

Billy and his friends start LAUGHING.

BILLY

You're sorry. Well, that's good. That's real good... Now let me ask you one more thing, Tommy. Are you gonna tell anybody about us being here, smoking and drinking and breaking shit?

No answer from Tommy. Billy SMACKS him over the head, not a hint of playfulness in it.

ZOEI

Hey, take it easy, Billy! He's just a fucking kid.

BILLY

Hey, why don't you shut up, slut?!

ZOEI

Who the hell are you calling a slut?!

BILLY

You, bitch! So shut your trap!

Zoei, completely frustrated, turns her back to Billy. She gives him the finger, eff you.

Billy turns back to Tommy who has TEARS swarming from his eyes now.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I swear that if you tell anyone about this, I will kill you, do you understand?

Tommy slowly nods.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Good.
(to others)
Come on, guys.

They head off, leaving Tommy behind.

Tommy takes out Captain Titanium. He hugs his toy tight. And he looks up to see ANOTHER BOY, his age, across the court yard watching him.

INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

Tommy sits at his desk, staring at the wood. He can care less about the teacher who is trying to explain multiplication.

He looks up for a second to see the BOY from earlier, sitting a few feet away, looking at him. Tommy quickly looks away.

INT. CAFETERIA -- DAY

Tommy eats lunch by himself. Captain Titanium sits on his lap, under the table.

The boy that's been staring at Tommy all day takes a seat next to him. Tommy JUMPS. He looks at the boy who smiles at him.

BOY

Hi, I'm Damien.

TOMMY

Um, hi.

DAMIEN

I saw what happened to you this morning. Billy is a real douchebag.

TOMMY

What's that?

DAMIEN

Billy Johnson? He's a bully from the high school a few blocks away.

TOMMY

I meant, what's a douchebag?

DAMIEN

Oh, I don't know. That's just what my dad calls people who can't drive right.

TOMMY

Oh.

DAMIEN

But like I was saying, Billy and his friends are just a bunch of jerks. You shouldn't take them seriously. And I'm sorry he hit you.

TOMMY

Thanks.

Damien spots Captain Titanium under the table.

DAMIEN

Is that a Captain Titanium?

TOMMY

Yeah.

DAMIEN

Cool. Do you mind if I see him?

Damien reaches for the toy but Tommy quickly pulls away.

TOMMY

No!

DAMIEN

Oh... okay. Sorry.

Tommy turns away from Damien. Damien can take the hint, Tommy doesn't want to talk anymore.

EXT. SCHOOL -- AFTERNOON

School has ended. Students are rushing towards the buses or their rides.

Tommy makes his way through the crowd, Captain Titanium in hand. He suddenly stops dead. Across the street he spots Billy and his crew. They notice him too. They smile and wave.

Tommy quickly turns his back on them and SHOVES Captain Titanium into his backpack.

He quickly turns back around and starts making his way through the crowd again. He tries hard to blend in to avoid Billy's eyes. He looks through the crowd for his ride, it's not there.

As the last bus and car pull away from the school, Billy and his friends make their way towards Tommy. Tommy doesn't know what to do, he's frozen.

BILLY
Hey, there, Tommy! How's it going.

Billy wraps his arm around Tommy.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Come on, kid, you can answer me.
(Tommy doesn't)
Okay, let's cut straight to it
then. You didn't tell anybody
about what you saw this morning,
did ya?

TOMMY
No.

BILLY
You sure, 'cause I could've sworn
that the spic janitor look like he
knew very well who had made the
mess he was cleaning up.

TOMMY
I didn't tell anyone.

BILLY
Good, good. Let's make sure we
keep it that way.

CHRIS
Hey, ask him about the toy, man.

BILLY
Oh, yeah. Thanks for reminding me,
Chris.
(to Tommy)
We couldn't help but notice that
you've been carrying around a toy--

Billy forcefully reaches into Tommy's backpack and pulls out
Captain Titanium. He THROWS it to Chris. Tommy tries to
stop him but can't.

CHRIS
(laughing)
Look at this, guys, it's a Captain
Titanium.

Tommy RUSHES Chris.

TOMMY
Give me!

Chris THROWS the toy to Josh before PUSHING Tommy to the ground.

Then out of nowhere DAMIEN JUMPS Chris and PUNCHES him in the eye. Chris reacts by THROWING Damien to the ground before REPEATEDLY PUNCHING him in the face.

ZOEI

Chris! What the fuck?! Get off him.

Zoei tries to pull Chris off of Damien but Chris PUSHES her. Billy reacts by pulling Chris off of Damien and PUNCHING him.

CHRIS

Ah, what the fuck?!

BILLY

What the hell are you pushing my girl for?!

Billy helps Zoei up. She yanks her arm away from him.

ZOEI

You guys are fucking psychos.

She storms off.

BILLY

Come on, guys.

Billy follows Zoei.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Come on, baby. It wasn't me. Chris is the asshole who pushed ya.

Chris hovers over Damien for a second. He looks over at Tommy who looks horrified.

CHRIS

You want your stupid toy back? Well you can fucking come and get it.

Chris follows the others.

Tommy is still frozen with fear. He just looks over at Damien who slowly gets up. He looks over at Tommy, his face is bloody and swollen.

DAMIEN

Are you alright?

Tommy doesn't answer, his shock at Damien's condition has left him speechless.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Sorry about your toy.

Damien approaches Tommy but Tommy takes a few steps back. Damien notices and stops.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Do you have a ride?

TOMMY
Uh, yes. My stepdad is picking me up.

DAMIEN
Okay.

A car horn HONKS. The two boys turn to see PHILLIP waving Tommy over.

TOMMY
I've gotta go.

Tommy runs off. But he stops, turns to Damien, and:

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Sorry.

Tommy runs to Phillip's car and hops in.

INT. BEDROOM -- DAWN

Sarah barges into the room. She's in just the same hurry as yesterday. She wakes Tommy up. He looks depressed.

As Sarah goes through the routine of getting Tommy ready Tommy just looks down at his empty hands, sadness in his eyes.

INT. BATHROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Tommy just stares at the running water.

INT. SARAH'S CAR -- DAWN

Sarah, frantically driving. Tommy simply stares out the window.

EXT. SCHOOL -- DAWN

Tommy stands in front of the school as Sarah drives off.

DAMIEN (O.S.)

Psst!

Tommy turns to see Damien hiding behind a bush. His face is a wreck. He waves Tommy over. Tommy cautiously approaches him.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Hey.

(no reply from Tommy)

Say, do you want to get your toy back?

Tommy just stares at him, he can't tell if Damien is being serious or not.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

I know how we can get it back.

Tommy still says nothing.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Are you listening to me? I said I know how we can get your Captain Titanium back.

TOMMY

(beat, then)

How?

Damien smiles at him.

DAMIEN

I've found out where Billy and his friends hang out. They go to Mr. Parkenson's field every night to drink and smoke and stuff. I bet we go there tonight and we can find your toy and steel it back.

TOMMY

But, I-- I can't do that.

DAMIEN

What?

TOMMY

My mom would never let me go out at night.

Damien smiles.

DAMIEN
That's why you sneak out... with
this.

He reaches into his back pack and pulls out a CB RADIO. He hands it to Tommy.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
When the time comes I'll chirp
you...

Damien CHIRPS the CB.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
That'll be your signal to sneak
out. Then we'll head to the field
and get your Captain Titanium back.

TOMMY
I don't--

DAMIEN
Come on, Tommy. Don't you want
your toy back?

Tommy pauses, of course he does. He nods, yes.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Then after school. Wait for the
signal.

INT. BEDROOM -- DUSK

Tommy sits in bed. He stares at the CB in his hands. There's a KNOCK at the door. Tommy quickly hides the CB under the covers.

Sarah enters.

SARAH
Tommy?

TOMMY
Yeah, mom?

SARAH
Hun, are you okay?

TOMMY
Mhmm.

SARAH
Are you sure? 'Cause you've seemed
a little down today.

TOMMY
Mhm.

Sarah walks over and sits on the bed.

SARAH
Listen, hun. I know with work and
everything that it seems like Me,
or Phillip, or your father for that
matter, don't care but I want you
to always know that that's not
true. We care very much. Okay?

Tommy nods.

TOMMY
Okay.

Sarah stares at him. She gives him a slight smile.

SARAH
Okay. I love you.

TOMMY
I love you.

She kisses his forehead.

SARAH
G'night.

TOMMY
G'night, mom.

Sarah gets up and exits, shutting the door behind her.

A beat. There's suddenly a LOUD CHIRP. Tommy quickly raises
the CB to his lips, and whispers:

TOMMY (CONT'D)
I'm coming.

EXT. TOMMY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Damien waits behind a neighboring bush. Tommy climbs out of
his bedroom window. He rushes over to Damien.

DAMIEN
You ready?

Tommy nods.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

Okay, come on.

They rush off.

EXT. PARKENSON'S FIELD -- NIGHT

Not really a field but a clearing in the trees. Billy, Chris, Josh, and Zoi stand around a fire they've built, smoking and drinking as usual.

Billy and Zoi are making out against a tree. Billy slips his hand into the back of Zoi's pants. She JUMPS and quickly pulls his hand away.

ZOEI

Don't.

BILLY

Come on.

ZOEI

No, I'm still pissed at you for yesterday.

Billy chuckles, frustration in his face. He pulls out a SWITCHBLADE KNIFE. Zoi, startled, jumps a little.

BILLY

Does this turn you on?

He slides the knife down her cheek.

ZOEI

No, get that thing away from me.

She pushes Billy away and storms off.

BILLY

Come on, Zoi, I was joking. Don't wonder off too far! You know Mr. Parkenson's a trigger happy nut with that shotgun!

She's gone. Billy turns to the other two.

BILLY (CONT'D)

What a cunt.

Chris and Josh laugh.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Toss me a cold one.

Josh reaches into a backpack filled with ice and beer. He grabs a beer and tosses it to Billy.

NEARBY

Damien and Tommy idle in the bushes nearby.

DAMIEN
Alright, your Captain Titanium should be somewhere around here.

Damien scopes the grounds. He spots the Captain Titanium on the ground near the iced backpack.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
There it is.

Tommy looks over Damien's shoulder. He spots the toy too.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Alright, we're gonna need to be careful getting it. We don't want them to spot us... I'll go. I don't want to put you in any danger.

TOMMY
But it's my toy.

DAMIEN
Yeah, but I can handle myself. Just standby okay. I'll be right back with your Captain Titanium.

Tommy doesn't know what to say.

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

Damien moves out. Tommy watches him move along the trees.

The teens don't seem to notice the movement in the trees, they're too busy getting drunk.

Finally Damien gets within a few feet of the toy. He looks out across the opening at Tommy. Damien smiles at him. He then begins to slowly crawl towards the toy.

JOSH (O.S.)
Hey!

Damien freezes. He's been spotted by the teens. Damien SPRINTS for the toy. The teens RUSH him and TACKLE him to the ground. Josh and Chris hold him down.

BILLY

What do we got here? A little shit trying to steal our beer?

JOSH

Telling by his face I'd say this is that kid that Chris whaled on.

BILLY

Holy shit, I think you're right.

CHRIS

I think this little turd's trying to take back his friend's little toy.

BILLY

You don't say.

Billy grabs the toy off the ground.

BILLY (CONT'D)

This? Is this what you came for?

Damien doesn't answer. Billy KICKS him. Damien screams in pain.

Tommy can't stand it. He RUSHES forward and JUMPS Billy. He BITES Billy's ear. Billy SCREAMS and THROWS Tommy to the ground.

Tommy gets back up and rushes for his toy but before anyone knows it, Billy has WHIPPED OUT HIS SWITCHBLADE AND STABBED TOMMY IN THE GUT.

Tommy falls to his knees. Billy looks at the BLOODY KNIFE in his hand.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Fuck! Goddamn it, you little shit! Look what you've done! And for what?! This?!

Billy holds out the Captain Titanium before BREAKING IT IN TWO and tossing it to the ground and STOMPING ON IT.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Fuck!

CHRIS
Shit, Billy.

JOSH
We've gotta get out of here.

The teens run.

Damien gets up and runs to Tommy. Tommy is in SHOCK. He can't even move.

DAMIEN
Oh, man, Tommy. Don't worry, I'll get you help.

Damien gets up and runs off in a different direction.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

Billy, Chris and Josh continue to run. They suddenly hear BARKING in the distance.

JOSH
Oh, shit! That's Mr. Parkenson!

They pick up the pace. And before they know it there's a GUNSHOT and pellets SHRED through Billy's face. He goes down.

CHRIS
Oh, fuck!

JOSH
Shit.

Chris and Josh run in different directions. DOGS BURST through the trees and chase after them.

MR. PARKENSON emerges from the tree line. He comes across Billy lying motionless on the ground.

PARKENSON
(sighs)
Damn kids.

EXT. MINI-MART -- NIGHT

Damien emerges from the woods. Across the street is a mini-mart. He runs to it and heads straight for the PAY PHONE on the side of the building. He DIALS 911.

DISPATCHER

(over phone)

911, what's the nature of your emergency?

DAMIEN

I need help, my friends been hurt, he's bleeding. We're in Mr. Parkenson's field off of 35.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Tommy lies on the hospital bed. Sarah and Phillip are by his side.

Tommy awakens. He sees his mother.

SARAH

Oh, honey. Why? What were you doing out in the woods?

Tommy shakes his head.

PHILLIP

Let the boy rest, Sarah.

SARAH

Okay.

(to Tommy)

Your father'll be stopping by later okay?

Tommy nods.

Sarah and Phillip exits. They pass Damien on the way out. He watches them go before entering the room.

DAMIEN

Hey, Tommy.

TOMMY

(soft)

Hi.

DAMIEN

I brought you something.

He reaches into his backpack and pulls out the destroy Captain Titanium.

DAMIEN (CONT'D)
Sorry, I couldn't fix it.

Tommy stares at the ruined toy.

TOMMY
He was my best friend.

DAMIEN
Well, maybe we can still save it,
my uncle's pretty good at welding
and...

TOMMY
No, that's okay. I don't think I
need him anymore.

Tommy extends his hand, asking for the toy. Damien gives it
to him. Tommy stares at the broken pieces.

DAMIEN
Maybe we can give him a funeral.
We could bury him or cremate, you
know light him on fire, or
something.

TOMMY
I guess so.

A beat. The two look at each other.

DAMIEN
You ever been fishing before?

TOMMY
No.

DAMIEN
I should take you fishing when you
get out of here.

TOMMY
Yeah, that'd be cool.

Tommy smiles softly.

FADE TO BLACK.