It smells like death

Ву

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Draft 2

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A car pulls into the driveway. It shuts off and MIKE gets out, covered in mud and looking tired. He walks to the house.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CONNOR, BEN, and SAM are hanging out in the living room. Connor and Ben play a video game while Sam clips his nails.

> BEN Isn't Mike supposed to be here?

CONNOR Yeah, he's coming after work.

Mike walks in covered in mud and looking tired. He looks at everyone there not too impressed.

SAM

Whaddup.

MIKE

Hey.

CONNOR It's about time you showed up.

MIKE Yeah I had a lot to do tonight. I'm gonna go take a shower, I'll be right back.

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Right-o.

Mike heads out of the living room into the bathroom. In the hall he looks back to Connor.

MIKE

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Connor.

CONNOR

Yeah?

Connor looks up and Mike beckons him over.

CONNOR (cont'd) Hold on, Ben.

Connor pauses the game and goes to Mike.

INT. HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CONNOR

Yes?

MIKE Why are they here?

CONNOR

What? Who?

MIKE Ben and Sam, they're so annoying.

CONNOR

How?

MIKE Just look at them.

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

> MIKE (sigh)

Whatever.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

BEN Where do you think Connor goes at night? Like, where he really goes.

SAM I don't know probably working for the mob.

BEN You think?

SAM I don't know, prolly not.

Sam clips a toe nail onto Ben.

BEN Are you fucking serious? INT. HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CONNOR Why are you so filthy?

MIKE It was for a job, planting. I've gotta wash this shit off, I'll be right out.

INT. HOUSE/BATHROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS
Mike gets in the shower.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Connor and Ben continue to play. Sam just watches.

SAM Hey, do you guys remember Sarah?

CONNOR

Who?

SAM Kinda dirty blond, big rack.

CONNOR

Uh...

SAM Really young sounding voice, short-ish.

BEN Sarah Laron?!

SAM Yeah, her. Okay so-

CONNOR Oh wait, I know her! That girl who's obsessed with you?

SAM What? No, she's not obsessed with me.

BEN Uh, Sam, I beg to differ. Remember the time you found all those photos of you sleeping in her purse? CONNOR Yeah, I bet she still has your hair from the time she cut it.

SAM Okay, guys you are blowing this out of proportion, Maybe she had a crush on me once, but she is NOT obsessed with me.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike, in the middle of shampooing, opens his eyes at a thought he has, but dismisses it and continues what he's doing.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SAM Okay guys! Listen, her parents just kicked her out of their house and she asked to live with me.

CONNOR No! No, I can't let you do that.

SAM Why not?

CONNOR

I'm not letting you get that close to a dangerous, possible rape, situation.

BEN Yeah, Sam, this isn't a good idea.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike watches the muddy water drain, slowly, inquisitively, and thinking.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SAM No, just listen. She'd only be staying with me for like a week or two until she finds somewhere else to go and it'll all be over. CONNOR A week?! A day is enough to rape you!

SAM Why do you think she's going to rape me? I'm pretty positive it's impossible for a girl to rape a guy.

BEN Yeah, I'm with Connor on this one. With the right mix of rohypnol and viagra a successful forced sex is very likely, epecially with Sarah.

SAM Just...just shut up.

BEN Hey, you have any drinks?

CONNOR Yeah, what do you want?

BEN Surprise me.

SAM

Me too.

Connor leaves to get a drink. Mike walks in through the other entrance.

MIKE Where'd Connor go?

BEN He's getting us drinks.

Mike walks through the living room and out the way Connor left.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Connor is pouring drinks. Mike walks in. Mike is kind of awkwardly making conversation.

CONNOR Hey, what do you want? MIKE Water's fine.

CONNOR

Alright, I'm giving them pepsi mixed with orange soda because they told me to "surprise them".

MIKE

Yeah...

A few seconds of silence.

MIKE (cont'd) Can I talk to you about something?

CONNOR Uh, sure. What?

MIKE

It's about these jobs I've been doing.

CONNOR Yeah, they seem really sketch.

MIKE What? I don't tell you anything about them how can make that observation?

CONNOR

Exactly, you don't tell me anything, automatically a sketchy situation.

MIKE

You still have no evidence-Whatever, I was thinking in the shower and...I think- now this is only a possibility- but I think I might...maybe...be an accessory to a murder.

CONNOR

What?!

MIKE Sh! Be quiet, I don't want them thinking anything.

CONNOR

How the fuck did this happen?

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Well I didn't really think anything of them at first, they were mostly house repair type things. But then these guys got my sharpening knives and shit and cleaning guns but I was like whatever, you know, don't bite the hand that pays you. Well tonight it seemed like I was back to regular stuff in the garden. He put what he said was the new tomato trees wrapped in a blanket in my trunk and told me to just plant the thing and not unwrap it, something about how it helps it soak up the moisture from the soil better. I decided not to ask questions and just did it. Well the thing was big and really heavy and smelled really weird, and I can't get the damn smell out of my trunk.

CONNOR What's it smell like?

MIKE

You know that smell when there's an animal rotting in your attic you just started to notice because I just got bad enough?

CONNOR

Death?

MIKE

Yeah.

CONNOR

Jesus Christ!

MIKE

Yeah, right? Okay, so I need your help getting that smell out of my trunk.

CONNOR Fuck, dude, when?! MIKE

Are you kidding? As soon as fucking possible.

CONNOR

Okay, there are people out there we have to entertain and keep this from. Can we do this when they leave or fall asleep?

MIKE

Yeah, I guess. As long as it's not long enough for any trail to be caught on for me.

CONNOR Oh, fuck me. Fuck me.

MIKE

Are you kidding? You have nothing to do with this.

CONNOR

You just made me part of it! Okay, listen, we'll be good. These guys you work for seem organized. There's no way they would let a trail be left.

MIKE

You think?

CONNOR It'll be fine, just don't make it obvious something's wrong.

Mike takes a sip of the water Connor poured him.

MIKE Ugh, this is awful. What's in your water, gasoline?

CONNOR You asked for it, it's your own fault.

They pick up the drinks and leave.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mike and Connor bring the drinks into the living room where Ben and Sam are watching t.v.

> BEN It's about time.

Mike and Connor hand Ben and Sam their drinks and sit down.

CONNOR What are you watching?

BEN We couldn't find your remote so we're watching the news.

CONNOR Did you look for it?

BEN Well...kind of...we scanned the room for like, a whole minute.

CONNOR Alright well let's <u>actually</u> look for it.

Connor, Ben, and Sam get up and search for the remote. Mike just watches the news, part anxiety, part wanting absolutely nothing to do with Ben and Sam. The ones looking talk amongst themselves which just annoys Mike more.

Something the news caster says sparks Mike's interest.

MIKE Guys, shut up. shut the fuck up!

They all stop in their place and look at the t.v.

NEWS ANCHOR(O.S.) ...Police are searching for a [describes Mike's car] to help them with this search, if you can help or have seen this vehicle, please contact the police or your neighborhood watch...

BEN Hey, Mike, isn't that your car? SAM What'd you do? Murder somebody on the way home?

BEN I bet that's why he was so filthy when he got here, he had to bury the body.

Ben and Sam laugh at themselves. Mike laughs trying to cover up how anxious he is.

Mike looks to Connor and mouths "we need to clean my car NOW". Connor nods back.

CONNOR Hey, Mike, is your guitar still in my basement.

MIKE

Uh...

Connor nods subtely but frantically.

MIKE (cont'd) I don't know, I think it might be.

CONNOR Let's go look for it, maybe we'll have some more entertainment.

MIKE Yeah! good idea.

They get up and head for the door.

SAM What do we do?

CONNOR Keep looking for the remote.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT - MINUTES LATER

Mike and Connor are in the midst of cleaning out Mike's trunk.

CONNOR ...You know I really don't think you can get in trouble for this because you didn't know what was going on. You were just a pawn. (MORE) CONNOR (cont'd) think the Nuremburg trials or the Stanley Milgrim experiment.

MIKE

The point is I still did it and these guys are very good liars and can convince people of anything. Besides, my name's on so much paper work they can link me.

CONNOR

I think that's just you being gullible.

MIKE Whatever, I'm just gonna feel alot safer if this is cleaned out.

CONNOR What about your license plate?

MIKE

What?

CONNOR

Well if what you say is right and your name's on all that paperwork then somewhere it's likely they have your license plate number. You might want to get that changed. Get a personalized one or something.

MIKE

Oh god! I didn't even think about that! What do I get it changed to?!

CONNOR I don't care, it doesn't matter, it just needs to be different that this one.

A man walks by them, this is NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH. He approaches them.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Good evening, gentlemen.

CONNOR

Hey.

MIKE

What's up.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH I'm with the neighborhood watch and just happened to notice that this is the exact model of car the police are searching for.

Mike gets tense and anxious.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (cont'd) Can I ask what you're doing?

2 We're just cleaning out the trunk, it kinda stinks.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Yeah I noticed that, it kinda smells like something died in there. What happened?

MIKE Oh- um, well I had to bring a dead deer home and- well- as you can see it really stunk up my trunk.

Mike laughs nervously.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Yeah...okay, well. You guys have a good night then.

MIKE Alright, you too.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH leaves. Mike almost collapses he's so relieved.

MIKE (cont'd) Jesus christ!

CONNOR Great cover up, holy shit.

MIKE I was so fucking scared!

CONNOR Well we're in the clear now. MIKE God I fucking hope so. Let's finish this anyway.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Mike and Connor walk in. Ben and Sam are just laying there still watching the news.

CONNOR I see we gave up on finding the remote.

BEN Yeah that thing is nowhere. I thought you were getting a guitar. what were you doing?

CONNOR Looking for it. But it's definitely at Mike's house.

SAM Damn, I was looking forward to doing something.

CONNOR We could easily watch a movie.

BEN Yeah but what?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Everybody but Mike and Connor are asleep. Connor is half awake, but Mike is sitting straight up anxiously watching the news.

> NEWS ANCHOR(O.S.) ...Police report to have at least one lead in the stolen deer carcasses from Anthony's Butcher shop earlier today, it was reported a neighborhood watch patrolman came upon the lead earlier tonight and reported the suspect to authorities.

All sound fades out as Mike stares at the screen frightened. After a while of staring he gets up. Connor sees him leave but doesn't get up right away. INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mike paces, looking at the phone. He finally reaches the phone and goes to dial a number but doesn't know what to dial.

He gets a phone book, looks up a number and begins to dial.

Connor is now in the kitchen.

CONNOR What are you doing?

MIKE I'm turning myself in, I can't take this.

CONNOR Turn yourself in for what? No knowing you were part of a crime?

MIKE

That my car was used, that I buried the body, that I lied to an officer of the law-

CONNOR That guy was not an officer of the law and the lie can be covered up! You have nothing to confess to!

Mike finishes dialing the number and holds the phone to his ear.

MIKE SH! Hi, I'd like to turn somebody in...uh...well, myself. I was an accessory to a murder...I just buried the body a few hours ago.

Mike's cell phone rings. He looks at it. The caller I.D. says Jim (Boss).

MIKE (cont'd) Can you hold?

Mike covers the phone reciever and answers his cell.

MIKE (cont'd)

Hello?

BOSS(V.O.)

Hey, listen, I'm sorry for calling you so late but you need to know something. What I had you put in the garden earlier wasn't tomato plants, it was a carcass, a deer carcass. We stole it from Anthony's Butcher Shop to settle something and long story short somebody reported your car in connection to it. So just...if anybody asks you anything you don't know a damn thing, okay?

Mike drops his cell phone and goes back to the house phone which is now silent.

MIKE Hey, I'm back I- Hello? Hello?! Shit! Do you think they traced the call here?!

CONNOR

What?

MIKE To arrest me! Do you think they could have traced the call and sent someone to arrest me?!

CONNOR No! I don't think so.

There is a knock at the door.