

THE FINAL TRIP

FADE IN:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

A trail of ants lead to an empty can of baked beans that sits on a stained wooden table.

Hundreds of ants are inside and around the can.

The wind wails outside.

The door slams open.

A MAN enters, falls over as wind rushes in the room.

ACE (21, long, scraggly hair, wild eyes, skinny) stands.

ACE

Fuck!

Ace looks around the room.

Tattered curtains, a bed with a bare mattress, stained floorboards, dirty windows.

He rests his eye on the baked bean can on the table in the middle of the room.

ACE (CONT'D)

Oh, come the fuck on! Seriously?

(beat)

"It's our last room. Not the best in terms of quality and cleanliness, but will suit you just fine, sir..."

(beat)

Fuckin' bullshit.

Ace turns to the door.

He slams it shut.

It opens immediately.

TED (20, normal build, clean, respectable clothes) stands at the door.

He holds three large bags.

ACE (CONT'D)

Well, get in then! It's crazy out there.

Ted fumbles into the room.

He drops the bags on the ground, looks around.

TED  
Fuckin' bullshit.

ACE  
I know, I know! But what can you do? Nothing. We must use what resources we have available at our disposal to do what we need to do.

Ace moves around the room.

He straightens the dirty mattress, closes the curtains.

TED  
I don't really feel comfortable -

ACE  
Yeah, bullshit, it's all good. Come on, buddy, move that can. It looks rank.

Ted sighs.

He picks up two sticks from the ground, grabs the can with them and throws it in the sink.

TED  
One bed? My beach house has, like, six. If you count the couch, seven.

Ace picks up two wooden boxes from one side of the room.

ACE  
Well, we're not at your beach house, are we? The weather was too shit to drive any further so we had to come here. Now, can you please help me move these?

Ace looks at the boxes in his hands.

Ted walks over to Ace, grabs one roughly.

Ace grabs it back.

ACE (CONT'D)  
You don't have a clue what you're doing, do you? Forget it. Just unpack the shit.

Ted raises an eyebrow.

TED  
It's a box, not a baby.

ACE  
Um, the shit?

Ace motions to the bags.

Ted moves over to the bags.

He brings out a gas stove, kettle, cups, small gas bottle and a small zip lock bag full of green leaves.

He places all the gear on the table.

TED  
To be honest, Ace, I would rather do this for the first time somewhere where I know where everything is, you know? Like, at my beach house I know where the bathroom is if I need to piss, I know where the kitchen is if I get hungry, I know where -

Ace sighs as he puts the two boxes down next to the table.

ACE  
Shut the fuck up for once in your life. Piss in the corner, eat the biscuits we bought and stop complaining. We promised ourselves we would do this and we are, regardless of the setting. Okay?

TED  
Okay. Sorry, man.

ACE  
That's okay. Now, fire that shit up.

EXT. CAR PARK

Trees bend against the strong wind.

INT. MOTEL ROOM

Steamy liquid pours from a kettle into two cups that sit on the table.

Ace picks up one, Ted the other.

ACE  
Are you ready for this?

Ted takes a deep breath. Nods.

ACE (CONT'D)  
Once we drink this, there is no  
going back. They say 4 to 8 hours.  
Not a short trip, my friend.

Ted nods again.

ACE (CONT'D)  
Okay, at the same time.

Ted and Ace bring the cups up to their lips, sip and -

ACE (CONT'D)  
Fuck's sake.

TED  
That's hot as.

They both put their cups down.

ACE  
Give it 10 minutes.

Ace drops to the ground, begins doing push-ups.

EXT. CAR PARK

The trees continue to bend in the strong wind.

INT. MOTEL ROOM

Two empty cups sit on the table.

Ace and Ted stare at each other.

ACE  
Did I ever tell you that I  
sometimes see my mum?

TED  
No.

ACE  
Always in the bathroom. I would  
smoke pot, lots of pot, like, get  
fucked up and lie in the bath and  
she would sometimes turn up.

TED  
Were you naked?

ACE  
I was having a bath, of course I  
was naked.

TED  
That's weird.

ACE  
Weird that I was naked or weird  
that I saw my dead mum?

TED  
The naked bit.

Pause.

TED (CONT'D)  
Can you feel it yet?

Ace shakes his head. Negative.

ACE  
You?

TED  
Na. We might have got some dud  
shit, I dunno. Apparently it's  
better than angel dust, so see how  
we go.

Pause.

ACE  
You still into that angel crap?

TED  
Angel crap?

ACE  
You know, the whole, "Everyone has  
a guardian angel watching over you"  
crap?

TED

I said angel dust, the drug angel dust. Nothing about guardian angels.

ACE

I know, dickhead, but you do believe everyone has a guardian angel, right?

TED

Yes.

Ace stifles a laugh.

ACE

So where's your guardian angel now?

Ted shrugs.

TED

Dunno. You can't see your guardian angel, no-one can. Yours is there though, looking out for you.

ACE

Sure, sure. How does one obtain a guardian angel then?

TED

When someone dies close to you, they become your angel. You can only have one.

ACE

Whose is yours then?

TED

I don't know, I don't think I have one.

ACE

And mine?

TED

I don't know. You need to be in danger to find that out.

Ace laughs.

ACE

Danger?

TED  
So they can come and protect you.

Pause.

ACE  
Those drugs sound like they are  
working for you, you're crazy.

Ted shrugs.

TED  
It's true.

Pause.

ACE  
I call bullshit.

Ted turns away, leans against the wall.

TED  
Suit yourself, buddy.

Pause.

Ace grabs a bag.

He fumbles around, brings out a long, thin, very sharp knife.

ACE  
Put me in danger then.

Ted stands up.

TED  
Sure?

ACE  
Yeah, man, bring this shit on.

TED  
No worries.

Ted grabs the knife.

Ace lies on his back on the ground.

Ted puts the knife up to Ace's throat.

TED (CONT'D)  
Are you ready for this?

Ace takes a deep breath. Nods.

Ted presses the knife into Ace's throat.

ACE  
(raspy)  
I can't see any angel ...

Ted presses the knife harder into Ace's throat.

The knife breaks the skin and a small amount of blood trickles down his throat.

Ace's POV:

Suddenly, Ace's MUM (40, white robe) appears behind Ted.

She raises a sword above her head. It is aimed at Ted.

Normal POV:

Ace splutters.

ACE (CONT'D)  
Stop! Mum!

Ace pushes Ted's wrist away. The knife leaves a mark and some blood on his neck.

ACE (CONT'D)  
Mum!

Ace's mum is gone.

ACE (CONT'D)  
Dude, that was fucked. I just saw her. I just saw my mum behind you, like I used to when I was in the bath!

TED  
She must be your guardian angel then. Do you believe me now?

Ace nods, wide-eyed.

ACE  
Do it again! The thing with the knife. I want to see her.

TED  
I don't want to seriously hurt you, though -

ACE  
You won't. She won't let you. Trust  
me.

Ted shrugs.

He places the knife on Ace's neck again.

TED  
Are you ready for this?

Ace quickly nods.

Ted pushes the knife down.

ACE  
More.

Ted pushes the knife down further.

Ace's POV:

Ace's mum appears behind Ted.

She raises a sword above her head. It is aimed at Ted.

Normal POV:

Ace splutters.

ACE (CONT'D)  
There! Can you see her?! Behind  
you!

Ted twists his head around. He sees nothing.

TED  
I don't see anyone.

Ace gargles, blood spills from his neck.

Ted turns back to Ace. He removes the knife once he sees the  
blood pooling around Ace's head.

TED (CONT'D)  
Holy fuck. Dude, you okay?!

Ace doesn't move.

He stares blankly into space.

Ted jumps up, drops the knife.

TED (CONT'D)  
Fuck, fuck, fuck!

Ted moves next to Ace.

He feels for a pulse. Nothing.

Ted begins to cry.

TED (CONT'D)  
No, no, no! Fuck!

Ted slowly gets up.

Sits back on his wooden box.

He continues to cry. He suddenly stops.

Stands up.

Ted takes deep breaths.

He picks up the knife.

He puts the knife to his throat.

He presses the knife down, hard.

Ace suddenly appears behind him. He wears a white robe. He holds a sword.

Ace moves into the view of Ted.

TED (CONT'D)  
Ace! I'm coming, buddy! I'm sorry!

Ace shakes his head. He lunges at the knife in Ted's hand.

INT. HOTEL ROOM, SINK - CONTINUOUS

Ants continue to mill around and in the can.

FX: A bang as a body collapses to the wooden floor.

FADE OUT.