

Pointed

By

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FADE IN:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Nicely furnished, with soft carpet and neat desk. Small abstracts on three walls, a dartboard on the fourth, next to a framed certificate of psychiatry.

SUPER - TORRANCE LOS ANGELES 2019

DR ROBERT HAYES(40)sits at the desk, working on a laptop. A KNOCK at the door. The doctor walks to the door, opens it.

DR HAYES

Ah, Ben...come in.

A young man, BEN ASH(20)shakes the offered hand. He's nervous, quiet. Walks in, looks around the room.

DR HAYES

Take a seat. Get comfortable.

BEN

Thank you. I'm...glad to be back.

He frowns as he notices the dartboard. Hayes is behind his desk. He smiles, opens a drawer, takes out two plastic boxes. Opens one and takes out a dart. Ben peers at it.

DR HAYES

A new therapy method I've been reading about. It's produced some good results overseas.

Ben reaches out a hand.

BEN

May I?

DR HAYES

Certainly. In fact, you and I are going to have a game of darts soon.

Ben takes the dart, studies it.

BEN

I haven't played darts since I was a kid. But then I...don't do much of anything these days.

Dr. Hayes taps his keyboard. Brings up a file.

DR HAYES

Yes, you said last week your
parents are very strict.

BEN

Sometimes I feel like a prisoner. I
want to move out, get my own place.
But its so expensive out there. And
on my wage...its impossible.

DR HAYES

How is your work going? Are you
still feeling the same about the
customers you deal with?

Ben is still examining the dart. He nods. Dr Hayes types.

BEN

I can't help it. They come into the
store, buy their groceries. Some
are friendly, they chat, smile.

(beat)

But I still want to...hurt them in
my mind. Cause them pain.

DR HAYES

But you haven't done that.

BEN

Not yet.

He looks up into the doctor's eyes. Holds the dart, pretends
to throw it at him. Dr Hayes stares back, doesn't flinch.

INSERT of the laptop screen - several tabs are open. Some
display images of dead bodies, horribly mutilated. Others
contain hard core porn images.

The doctor's eyes flit back to the screen. He smiles, closes
the laptop. Takes out a notepad. Hands Ben a ballpoint.

BEN

What's this?

DR HAYES

Part of the therapy. You write down
three things in your life that you
want to happen - a better job
perhaps, freedom from your parents,
a love interest...anything that you
feel will enrich yourself and make
you feel more secure.

BEN

I...I like that idea.

He takes a pen and the notepad. Starts writing.

DR HAYES

Now, don't show me your list. I'm going to write three things I want as well. When you're done, take a look at the dartboard. Assign your third objective as the bullseye. That may sound odd, but it makes the goal all the more special. The other two assign any area you like.

Ben nods keenly. Walks over to the dartboard. Studies the setup then writes on the paper. He tears the sheet off, folds it. Brings the notepad back to the doctor.

DR HAYES

Good. I'll jot mine down. If you want, you can have a few practice throws. Get your eye in. I've marked the throw line.

Ben nods. He takes three darts. Stands at the line, which is a phone charger cord on the carpet.

DR HAYES

Go ahead.

Ben toes the line, looks at the board. Aims the dart. Tosses it. It goes nowhere near the board, sticks in the wall.

BEN

Oh, sorry.

DR HAYES

It's fine. I can move the paintings to cover that.

He LAUGHS. Ben gives him a glance that seethes but its gone quickly. He concentrates. The dart hits the board. Eleven.

BEN

Much better.

He aims the last dart. Lands it in the double twenty.

DR HAYES

Nice shot. I've done my list.

BEN

A question? What if we don't hit
the ones we've picked?

DR HAYES

We try again in your next
appointment. The whole idea is to
give you goals. And it teaches you
that it can take time to achieve
what you want in life.

BEN

That's cool.

DR HAYES

And it also shows how the
environment around you can be an
influence. Now, are you ready or do
you want more practice?

BEN

I'm ready.
(beat)
Let's play.

LATER

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

The doctor's RECEPTIONIST(30) works at her computer. No one
else is in the waiting room. She HUMS to herself as she
types. She pauses, reaches down to a low drawer. Opens it,
takes out an energy bar.

The door opens.

POV - the receptionist sits up, turns. Smile turns to shock.

INSERT - blood sprays across the computer screen...

A THUD as a body falls, footsteps, moving towards the door.
Two bloody darts drop to the floor. The main door is opened
to the glare of sunlight and commuter traffic.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Blood on the carpet and walls. The dartboard has four darts
in it. Two are in the bullseye. The other two in randomly.

A bloodied hand is visible on the floor at the edge of the
desk. Unidentifiable at this stage.

Two sheets of paper streaked with gore, one on the desk, the other on the carpet under the dartboard:

Help my parents - triple 20 Buy a new car - double 6

Smile more - double 4 Run a marathon - triple 10

Kill everyone - bullseye Kill everyone - bullseye

FADE OUT