

QUANDARY

by

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INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

EVAN WICK, early 30's, a hopeless frat guy who never outgrew immaturity, opens his eyes. Squints.

There seems to be multiple, distorted images as he looks around the huge, dim, smoke filled room.

He stares at the large furniture that hangs upsidedown from the ceiling high above. Daylight peeks in through a window out of reach.

BRIDGETTE HAINSWORTH, late 20s, magnetic, round eyes, charges towards him.

BRIDGETTE

Where is she? What did you do with my daughter?

EVAN

Your daughter?

Bridgette swings on him.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Whoa, lady! Look, I'm sure I had an awesome night and we should totally do it again, but I really should be...

He looks up at the large door that is suspended above him, upsidedown. No way he's getting up there.

EVAN (CONT'D)

What's going on here? How did you do that?

Bridgette breaks down.

BRIDGETTE

Please, don't hurt me.

EVAN

Why would I hurt you?

BRIDGETTE

Why else would you bring me here?

EVAN

You brought *me* here!

A shadow creeps over them. TIM "TINY" BECKER, late 30's, a huge, spray tanned bodybuilder, comes towards them. Evan shrinks.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Oh God.

(to Tiny)

Listen buddy, I didn't know she was married, I swear. She didn't tell me...

(to Bridgette)

Go on, please tell your... very muscly husband I didn't know.

BRIDGETTE

(whispers)

I don't have a husband.

TINY

(southern drawl)

I guess ya'll woke up the same as me, not knowing where you were?

(extends his hand)

I'm "Tiny" Becker.

EVAN

So many jokes right now.

Evan hesitatingly takes it.

TINY

I've already investigated downstairs.

Tiny stares up at the smoke filled ceiling.

TINY (CONT'D)

Can't seem to find a way out and that smoke just keeps getting lower and lower.

BRIDGETTE

What about the door up there? We can get on each other's shoulders.

EVAN

There's only three of us. We can't reach all the way up there.

TINY

Don't see much choice, buddy, unless you want to sleep here tonight.

Tiny crosses his fingers together. Lowers them to the ground. Evan puts his foot on them. Steadies himself.

Bridgette crawls up Tiny and then Evan. She reaches her fingers out. Not even close.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Evan, Bridgette and Tiny crawl up a set of stairs before coming to a door that is cracked open.

INT. HOUSE - SKELETON BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

They look inside. Skeletons hang from strips of sticky attached to the ceiling.

BRIDGETTE

Jesus!

Bridgette reels back, falling on top of Evan. Tiny hides behind them.

Evan spots ROCSI STRIPLING, 15, the epitome of lost youth with her emo attire and pregnant belly, sitting in a corner.

EVAN

Hey, are you okay? Are you hurt?

He comes closer. Suddenly LUCINDA MENDEZ, 55, defiant, motherly charges Evan, knocking him down.

LUCINDA

Dejenos salir maníaco!

(translated)

Let us out, maniac!

Bridgette struggles to pull her off.

BRIDGETTE

He's okay. He's not the one doing this!

Lucinda pulls back. Spits on the ground. He dusts himself off.

EVAN

What the hell is wrong with you?

ROSCI

And then there were five.

TINY (O.S.)

Hey, I found an open window!

INT. HOUSE - WINDOW ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Smoke smolders over the furniture that is stuck to the ceiling.

Tiny moves to show a large, open window with a thick, prison like, steel screen.

TINY
Looks like we're dealing with a pro.

INT. HOUSE - WINDOW ROOM - LATER

Evan looks around at the rest of the group.

EVAN
Jesus, I feel like I'm in a fucking meeting.

LUCINDA
(accent)
Name and last thing you remember.

EVAN
Evan Wick. I was throwing a few back at the bar--

ROCSI
And you blacked out.

EVAN
It wasn't a black out.

ROCSI
It never is.

EVAN
Okay, what about you, preggers?

ROCSI
Fuck you for being the first to say that... today.

Rocsi looks around.

ROCSI (CONT'D)
My name's Rocsi. I took off after my bitch mother chose her boyfriend over me. Woke up here.
(sarcastically)
Yay for me.

BRIDGETTE

Bridgette... Bridgette Hainsworth.
I know I dropped my daughter off at
the sitter's, after that it's just
a blank.

EVAN

This is ridiculous, I don't see how
this is going to help anything.

BRIDGETTE

Maybe there's a reason we're here.
Maybe if we listen to each other's
stories--

TINY

(quietly)

My wife's been cheating on me.

The room goes silent as they stare at him.

TINY (CONT'D)

Another body builder at the club.
(small voice)
She don't love me anymore.

BRIDGETTE

Why us? I just don't understand.

ROCSI

Well obviously we pissed somebody
off.

EVAN

I know my list is long and deep,
what about everyone else?

BRIDGETTE

Maybe it's the Long Island Napper.
You've heard of him? He knocks his
victims out and traps them--

ROCSI

Yeah, I saw it on TV! Only one
person ever escaped.

TINY

It's not the Long Island Napper; he
only goes after women. What would
he want with us? It doesn't fit.

BRIDGETTE

Are you saying that serial killers
have to follow some kind of
protocol?

TINY

Whoever it is, I'm going to bash
their brains out when I get a hold
of them.

EVAN

What if it's some kind of
controlled experiment... Like a
government cover up or--

BRIDGETTE

Yeah, they did hide Area Fifty
Four.

ROSCI

Maybe we're all dead.

LUCINDA

El Infierno.

The group grows silent.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They stand on each other's shoulders trying to reach a huge
refrigerator in the fog that hangs above them.

BRIDGETTE

I can't. It's just too high.

ROCSI

I'm so hungry.

INT. HOUSE - WINDOW ROOM - LATER

They sit, weak and defeated as the smoke hovers just above
their heads.

Lucinda scratches herself. Evan spots something on her
shoulder.

EVAN

Didn't see you as the type to get a
tattoo.

LUCINDA

I don't have tattoo.

EVAN
Then that's a damn good gumball
press on.

Evan runs his finger over her skin.

FLASH

Lucinda takes a can out of the cabinet marked "arsenic". She
dumps a spoonful into a cup of coffee.

Her HUSBAND pecks her on the cheek. Takes the cup.

END FLASH

Evan backs away from her.

EVAN
You killed your husband.

She yanks her shirt up over her shoulder.

LUCINDA
No!

EVAN
You dumped poison in his drink!

BRIDGETTE
Evan, what a terrible thing to say.

EVAN
This is some evil shit right here.
What are you some kind of witch?

Lucinda looks around the room.

LUCINDA
It's not true!

TINY
I'm itching, too.

Tiny pulls his pants up, exposing a large tattoo.

TINY (CONT'D)
I've never seen that in my life.

Rocsi scratches her pregnant belly.

Lucinda falls to the ground, writhing in pain. She goes into
a seizure.

ROCSI

Lucinda!

BRIDGETTE

What's wrong with her?

EVAN

Step back, it could be contagious.

Evan grabs Bridgette and Rocsi. Pulls them through the door.

ROCSI

No, I won't leave her!

BRIDGETTE

Evan, she still could--

Lucinda's eyes close.

EVAN

She's gone.

Rosci weeps.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Hey, where's Tiny?

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Evan creeps down the hall as he scratches the skin over his heart.

EVAN

(whispers)

Tiny? Tiny, you big motherfucker,
where are you?

He spots a GIANT MAN in a space suit, holding a machine gun. He hangs effortlessly from the ceiling.

GIANT MAN

You sons a bitches! I'm going to
get every last one of you.

Evan gets to the side of the wall as the Giant Man passes.

INT. SKELETON ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Evan sees Tiny. He hurries towards him.

EVAN

Come on. We have to go!

He grabs his leg. Tries to pull him back, touching Tiny's tattoo.

FLASH

Tiny inhales pills from a bottle. He picks up a dumbbell imbedded in his WIFE's crushed, bloody skull. He flexes in the mirror.

END FLASH

Evan comes back from the vision to see that Tiny is gnawing on a very dead Lucinda. He backs away.

Evan scratches again.

The giant man enters. Pulls the trigger. Evan jumps out of the way as a thick, liquid substance spews out, drenching Tiny.

Tiny twitches, snarls and falls to the ground.

GIANT MAN

Got ya.

INT. HOUSE - WINDOW ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Evan rushes in as the sun sinks into the caged horizon, cutting through the dense smoke with an eerie red.

EVAN

I told you, it's some government shit. They've got NASA involved and... and--

ROCSI

Just shut up with the government talk, you were supposed to find a way out!

BRIDGETTE

What is it? What did you see?

EVAN

A spaceman.

ROCSI

He's lying. He probably didn't even look--

EVAN

What about you? What's your secret?

BRIDGETTE

Stop it! We can't turn against each other.

EVAN

No, I want to know what she did.

Evan comes towards Rocsi. Lifts her shirt, exposing her belly.

ROCSI

Get off me!

He places his hand on top of her stomach.

BRIDGETTE

Evan, stop!

FLASH

Rocsi watches out her bedroom window, phone to her ear, as a MIDDLE AGED MAN is hand cuffed and escorted out of the house. A WOMAN screams in the b.g.

ROCSI

(into phone)

No, he didn't rape me... what did you want me to tell her, that my boyfriend got me pregnant?

END FLASH

Evan shakes it off. He turns to Bridgette. She backs away.

BRIDGETTE

Don't you dare! You think you're any better? Why? You're trapped here just like the rest of us!

Evan stops. Pulls down his shirt, exposing the tattoo.

EVAN

Go on... Do it.

Bridgette comes forward. Places her hand over his heart.

FLASH

Evan barrels down the street in a truck, music blaring. He chugs back a bottle of whiskey.

A CHILD, 5, plays on the sidewalk. Evan's car jumps the curb. He panics. Pumps the breaks. The car slams into the child.

The child's eyes flutter shut as he peels off.

END FLASH

Bridgette wrinkles her brow, trying to comprehend.

BRIDGETTE
You didn't even stop?

He hangs his head in shame.

ROSCI
Someone is trying to teach us a
lesson. That's why we're here.

The color drifts from the room as the sun completely disappears.

BRIDGETTE
I don't want to die.

ROCSI
I want my mom.

A glimmer of light peeks out from the bottom of the wall. The light grows larger, illuminating them.

EVAN
Look at that!

BRIDGETTE
There it is, a way out!

A loud buzzing consumes the room.

Evan and Bridgette look at each other. Then at Rocsi, who is wide eyed. She rubs her hands together.

Something drops out from underneath her dress.

EVAN
The baby...

Hundreds of maggots squirm out of the amniotic sac.

Evan and Bridgette back away, rising into the air.

BRIDGETTE

(sobs)

Oh God.

They stick to the ceiling, trapped.

The Giant Man in the space suit walks across the ceiling.

Bridgette turns to Evan. Holds out her arm. A tattoo is scorched across the flesh. Evan touches it.

FLASH

Bridgette puts heroin into a spoon. Lights it. She takes a syringe. Sucks up the contents. Plunges it into her arm.

A SCRUFFY GIRL, 8, comes through the door.

SCRUFFY GIRL

I'm hungry.

The scruffy girl's voice fades as euphoria takes over.

END FLASH

The Giant Man looks down at them, his lips curled in disgust. He raises his gun. Hits Rosci with the liquid goo. She slides down the wall.

Bridgette grabs Evan's hand.

BRIDGETTE

My daughter, I want to do better...

He stares into her eyes. Looks at the door that is slightly open.

Evan helps her get unstuck. He distracts the giant man.

EVAN

(to Bridgette)

Go!

He pulls the trigger on Evan as Bridgette escapes. The Giant Man goes through the front door, leaving Evan sliding down the wall.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Giant Man zips a bug tent over the house. Bridgette, who we now see is a fly, zips past him as he gets into a truck marked "Louie's Pest Control".

FADE OUT.

THE END