

The Big Stiff

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FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

The sun shines in a pure blue sky.

A group of PEOPLE, all dressed in black, are gathered outside the church.

Among them is DAVID, he is in his late twenties, average build with short spiky hair. He stands with his hands deep in his trouser pockets and bounces on his toes.

David catches a glimpse of BARBARA looking at him.

Barbara is a middle aged lady and slightly over weight. She gives David a stare of disgust.

David stops bouncing. He blows out his cheeks with boredom.

TREVOR, in his fifties with grey hair, stands next to David and gives him a nudge.

 DAVID
 (loudly)
 What?

Trevor glances round. A few people look over.

 TREVOR
 (whispers)
 Shut up!

David removes some tiny earphones.

 DAVID
 What is it?

 TREVOR
 Do you have to listen to that
 now, son?

 DAVID
 He wont mind.

 TREVOR
 No, but other people do.

David sighs.

 DAVID
 Fine.

He removes a small music player from his inside pocket and turns it off. He slips back in his pocket.

TREVOR

Oh, look after these for me will you?

Trevor removes a large glasses case from his trouser pocket and hands it to David.

DAVID

What, why can't you keep hold of them?

TREVOR

Because they weigh my trousers down. You know I've lost a few pounds.

Trevor tugs on his waistband.

David frowns and mimics weighing the glasses case in his hands.

Trevor looks round the church grounds.

TREVOR

It's a bit of poor show isn't it? I can't see Ted's kids or cousin Archie's.

DAVID

And?

David slides the glasses case in his trouser pocket.

TREVOR

I just thought they'd have the decency to be here. I mean you're here.

DAVID

(whispering)

Yeah, they obviously thought of a good excuse.

Trevor surveys the crowd. He looks behind him.

TREVOR

Oh Christ, your aunty Judith's here.

David looks round. He leans left and right to see past the crowd of mourners.

TREVOR

I bet she comes over.

DAVID

Dad, why do you hate her so much?

TREVOR
I don't hate her, son. I
just...don't like her.

David frowns.

DAVID
Why don't you like her?

TREVOR
It happened a long time ago, so
let's just drop it.

DAVID
Alright.

David looks at his watch and sighs. He looks round the church; not much happening.

He looks at his dad.

DAVID
What did you do?

TREVOR
Let's not get started son, not
here.

DAVID
Oh, touched a nerve there I
think. Come on spill the beans.

TREVOR
I told you, not here.

David looks round.

DAVID
Why, who's listening?

Trevor looks away from his son.

DAVID
Right, well I guess I'll just
have to ask aunty Judith then.

David sets off to walk but is pulled back by his dad.

TREVOR
Alright. Keep this under your
hat.

DAVID
I'm not wearing one.

David chuckles.

Trevor sighs.

DAVID
Sorry dad, go on.

Trevor looks round. No one in ear shot.

TREVOR
Well, erm...I'd had a few.

DAVID
There's a surprise.

TREVOR
What do you mean?

DAVID
Everything stupid you've done
starts with, well I'd had a few.

Trevor looks shocked.

DAVID
Like the time you pissed on the
Christmas tree.

TREVOR
When was that?

DAVID
Christmas nineteen eighty six.

Trevor looks surprised.

DAVID
It's hard to forget the sight of
Father Christmas urinating on
your Millennium Falcon.

Trevor's concentration wanders as he searches his memory.
His shoulders drop.

TREVOR
Oh, yeah. Sorry about that, son.
Anyway, this happened when your
mother and me were...going
through a bit of a rough patch.
Your aunty Judith, who I always
suspected fancied me, suggested
something to enhance our
relationship.

Behind Trevor and David, the other mourners attention is
drawn as a hearse pulls up outside the church gates.

TREVOR
 And the 'our' didn't include your
 mother.

Four MEN slide a large coffin out of the vehicle. Their legs buckle as they take the weight and it thuds onto the ground.

David looks over, then back at his dad.

DAVID
 What?

Trevor looks round at the hearse.

An OVERWEIGHT WOMAN in her fifties barges into the back of him. She holds a handkerchief to her face.

TREVOR
 (under his breath)
 What the f...

She stands with her back to David and Trevor.

DAVID
 Hello, aunty Judith.

Judith turns.

JUDITH
 (sniffing)
 Hello, love.

She quickly turns back.

DAVID
 (quietly)
 No idea who I am.

JUDITH
 Oh, it's such a shame, cut down
 in his prime he was.

David leans in to his dad.

DAVID
 He was eighty four wasn't he?

Trevor eyes Judith and shivers.

DAVID
 Dad?

Trevor nods.

TREVOR

Aye, he was son. Three strokes
and two heart attacks and he made
it to eighty four.

Another black car pulls up behind the first. The doors
open and the OCCUPANTS exit.

DAVID

So was it old age then?

TREVOR

No, it was a heart attack. He
was...shall we say, big boned.

He nods toward Judith.

TREVOR

Not unlike some other members of
the family

The four men attempt to lift up the coffin. Two MEN in the
gathering see them struggling and go over to help. The six
men struggle but are able to lift the coffin. They slowly
carry it toward the church.

TREVOR

He was bed ridden for years.

DAVID

Why, because he was...well, fat.

TREVOR

Yeah. Shall we go and get a good
seat.

David's eyes focus on a young woman, SARAH. She walks in
the group behind the coffin. Tall, slender with long dark
hair and wears a tight black blouse with the top few
buttons open, almost exposing her large breasts.

DAVID

Er, yeah alright.

They turn and gently push their way through the group
toward the church entrance.

FRANK, an elderly gentleman, stands by the entrance. He
wears a new suit and gleaming new shoes. His hair slicked
back with grease and a set of bright white false teeth
gleam in his mouth.

David and Trevor pass by Frank, both stare with intrigue.

DAVID

Who was that?

TREVOR
I don't recognise him? Probably
lives in the home.

DAVID
What's with his teeth?

Trevor shakes his head.

TREVOR
I never noticed them, son.

DAVID
How did you not notice them, they
were whiter than a polar bears
white bits.

INT. CHURCH

The large coffin sits on a stand at the front of the church. The stand creaks under the weight.

The mourners are gathered and seated.

A PRIEST stands at the front and begins a reading.

David scratches his head and turns to look over at the seating opposite. He sees Sarah and nudges his dad.

DAVID
Who's that over there?

Trevor ignores him and continues to look to the front.

DAVID
The foxy girl. Is it er...Donna,
Tracy's daughter. Are we related
to them?

TREVOR
Son, this is neither the time nor
the place.

David quietly chuckles.

DAVID
Er, forgive me if I'm wrong but
did you or did you not meet mum
at her Grandfathers funeral?

Trevor spins his stare at David.

TREVOR
That's completely different.

DAVID
 (smugly)
 How? In fact...

David wags his finger.

DAVID
 ... you were only there in the
 first place cos you woke up in
 the cemetery, hung over and
 curious.

TREVOR
 Look son...

Everyone stands, their hymn books open.

Trevor and David quickly follow suit.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY - FLASHBACK

Dark clouds rumble and spits of rain begin to fall.

A small church is surrounded by numerous graves, one plot
 lays open.

Muffled singing emanates from inside the church.

Trevor, in his twenties, wears a pale blue suit and white
 shoes. He lays face down in a ditch near the cemetery
 wall.

He stirs, lifts his head and spits dirt from his mouth. He
 struggles to feet and looks over to the church.

His clothes are damp and dirty. He brushes himself down
 and notices a yellow stain over his crotch.

TREVOR
 Oh bugger, think I've had a bit
 of an accident.

He sways his way toward the church, trips and stumbles over
 the slightest tuft of grass.

The singing inside fades out.

Trevor reaches for the church door. It opens from the
 inside startling him.

He is confronted by a teary eyed ELDERLY LADY.

TREVOR
 Lovely day for it.

The elderly lady bursts into tears and barges past him.

A MIDDLE AGED COUPLE stare at Trevor as they pass, followed by a fresh faced YOUNG GIRL.

The girl stops, sniffs back a tear and looks at Trevor.

Trevor smiles back with an open grin. Confidently he leans back against a nearby gravestone but misses and thuds into the moist turf.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CHURCH

Everyone is seated again. The priest continues the reading.

David looks over at Sarah. He pouts his lips to mimic a kiss.

Barbara, who is seated in the row behind Sarah, sees David pouting and winks back.

David quickly turns and faces the front. He slowly looks up at the sculpted ceiling.

DAVID
(whispers)
How long's this last?

Trevor shushes him.

David turns and looks at Sarah again. He eyes her up and down. His eyes pause on her large chest.

Trevor nudges him out of his trance.

DAVID
What?

TREVOR
That's it.

DAVID
What, we're done?

Everyone stands and begin to filter out of the church.

David stands on his tiptoes and tries to see Sarah over the exiting crowd.

Trevor nudges David in the back.

TREVOR
Come on, what's the hold up?

DAVID
I'm going, I'm going.

David walks into the aisle and is confronted by aunty Judith. He looks past her and tries to see the movements of Sarah.

JUDITH
It was a lovely service don't you think?

David catches a glimpse of Sarah as she nears the exit.

DAVID
Sorry?

JUDITH
Very moving.

He loses sight of Sarah as she leaves the church. Disappointment descends over his face and he looks back at Judith.

DAVID
Yeah, it was lovely, aunty.

JUDITH
Oh, come here my love.

She grabs him and gives him a tight squeeze.

David's eye bulge with surprise, Judith's bulge with shock. She holds the embrace for a few moment, then releases.

She winks.

JUDITH
You must be Trevor's boy?

Judith and David both look down.

There's a large bulge in the front of David's trousers.

David looks up with an embarrassed smile.

Judith walks away.

DAVID
No, it's not....oh, Jesus.

The Priest overhears and glares at David.

DAVID
Our Lord in heaven.

He turns round but his dad has gone.

INT. BUFFET ROOM / TABLE

A few PEOPLE hover round tables topped with buffet food. They carry paper plates.

The other mourners are seated on sofas and chairs.

Trevor gulps down a glass of wine and bangs it down. He picks up a plate in one hand and dives into a bowl of salted nuts with the other.

Judith enters the room, closely followed by David.

David immediately walks up to the table, snatches a plate and stands behind Trevor.

DAVID
Thanks for that, dad!

Trevor drops a hand full of sausage rolls onto his plate.

TREVOR
What's that, son?

David puts a number of sandwiches on his empty plate.

DAVID
Thanks for leaving me at the church.

TREVOR
I didn't leave you, you weren't there when I left.

David grabs a handful of nuts.

DAVID
You left before me!

Trevor holds up a sandwich and sniffs. He repels and drops it back on the table. He picks up another glass of wine and knocks it back.

TREVOR
Well you're here now, stop moaning.

DAVID
Stop moaning. I had to share a car with aunty Judith, and after I made a complete tit of myself as well.

TREVOR
How?

Trevor picks up a different sandwich and puts it on his plate.

David picks up the one just dropped by his dad.

DAVID
Because of this.

David takes the glasses case out of his trouser pocket and hands it back to his dad.

TREVOR
Why are you giving me this back?

DAVID
Look, just put it in your pocket.

Trevor sighs, slips it in his pocket and picks up another glass.

TREVOR
My trousers will sag now.

DAVID
Then tighten your belt, and how many of them have you had?

He points to empty glasses.

TREVOR
A couple, son. Don't worry, I know my limit.

David shakes his head.

Barbara moves over to the buffet table and glances at David. She catches his attention, smiles and winks at him.

David smiles and turns away.

DAVID
Oh, I don't need this either.
What's with everyone?

TREVOR
How do you mean?

DAVID
Horny old women winking at me and
aunty Judith hugging me and
thinking...I was...you know,
excited.

David sniffs the sandwich.

TREVOR
Excited?

DAVID

And she picked that moment to remember me. She's a bit weird though isn't she, especially around you.

He takes a bite.

DAVID

(mouth full)

What's it all about again?

TREVOR

(whispers)

We slept together.

David chokes and coughs up a piece of half digested bread. It lands on the buffet table.

Trevor walks away and loiters around a large pot plant in the corner of the room.

David rushes after him.

Sarah enters and walks over to a group of relatives.

CORNER OF ROOM

David and Trevor both stare at Sarah. Her slender figure and ample breasts hypnotise them.

DAVID

You slept with her?

TREVOR

I wish.

David notices his dad's eye's on Sarah.

DAVID

Not her, aunty Judith. You slept with aunty Judith. Isn't that incest or something?

Trevor stuffs a whole sausage roll into his mouth.

TREVOR

(chewing)

I'm not proud of it, son. And no, it's not incest.

DAVID

I bet you're not proud of it.

A YOUNG BOY runs into the room screaming.

The whole room's attention is drawn to him and watches as he crashes into the buffet table. Food jumps from plates and settles again.

The room falls silent.

The boy is quiet for a few seconds and then bursts into tears.

The conversations start up again.

DAVID
I can't believe you cheated on
mum, and with her sister!

Trevor stops eating.

TREVOR
Like I said, I'm not proud of it
and we were going through a rough
patch.

DAVID
Yeah, then you went through one.

David chuckles to himself.

A WOMAN enters the room, grabs the boy by the arm and lifts him to his feet.

TREVOR
What do you mean?

DAVID
You know...rough patch.

Trevor looks blankly.

DAVID
Oh, forget it.

David cringes.

DAVID
It doesn't bare thinking about
anyway.

The woman slaps the crying boy across the buttocks.

The room falls silent.

The woman sniffs and repels.

WOMAN
Oh, you dirty little boy!

Nearby people back away.

The woman drags the boy toward the exit.

WOMAN
You did it, you can stay in it.

They exit.

The conversations begin again.

Sarah moves to the buffet table and picks up a plate.

DAVID
Right, who is that?

TREVOR
That's er...

Trevor notices Judith as she approaches, but she is stopped in her tracks by teary eyed RELATIVE.

Trevor sighs with relief.

TREVOR
She was slimmer at the time.

David looks over Sarah.

DAVID
There's not much of her now.

TREVOR
What?

DAVID
What?

David takes a bite of his sandwich.

DAVID
It's a bit of a minefield though isn't it. I mean we could be related. Mind you, that didn't stop you did it.

Trevor looks at his son and shrugs his shoulders.

David shakes his head.

DAVID
I'm gonna mingle.

TREVOR
At a funeral?

DAVID
Yes, at a funeral.

David walks to the buffet table.

FRANK enters and is immediately surrounded by a group of younger WOMEN. Trevor watches with questionable eyes.

BUFFET TABLE

Sarah places a handful of salad on her plate.

RACHEL stands beside her. She is mid twenties, slender and wears a red dress. She fills her plate with pork pies, sausage rolls and anything with meat.

The two friends whisper to one another.

Rachel walks away.

David stands beside Sarah and casually places a sausage roll on his plate.

DAVID
Lovely spread isn't it.

SARAH
Sorry?

DAVID
The food, there's a nice selection.

SARAH
Oh, er...yes, very nice.

CORNER OF ROOM

Trevor surveys his plate and stuffs another sausage roll into his mouth.

He looks up and is startled by Judith, who stands in front of him.

JUDITH
You not talking to me then?

Trevor motions to his full mouth.

JUDITH
Still a pig I see.

Trevor quickly munches and swallows.

TREVOR
It's so good to see you, Judith.

JUDITH

There's no need to over do it.

Trevor smiles.

TREVOR

How are the kids?

JUDITH

They're fine. Debbie's off to university next month and...

Trevor, uninterested, picks salad from his sandwich.

Judith stares into the top of his head.

JUDITH

...I see your manners have not improved.

TREVOR

Why do they always put salad in sandwiches?

Judith takes a sausage roll from Trevor's plate and pops in her mouth.

TREVOR

Help yourself.

JUDITH

(chewing)

Not the first time I've had your sausage.

Their eyes meet and both look uneasy. They both slowly look away.

Trevor looks over at Frank.

TREVOR

Who is that?

Judith looks round.

JUDITH

I'm not really sure of his name but he lived next door and, God rest his soul, found him on the floor.

TREVOR

Found who...oh sorry. On the floor, I thought he was bed ridden for the final years?

Judith nods.

JUDITH

Yeah, he must have struggled for help. Always a fighter.

INT. BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

A very large ELDERLY GENTLEMAN stands in front of a television. He wears only a pair of white briefs and matching vest. His wrinkled skin hangs loose from his legs and torso.

In his hand he clutches a small piece of paper.

ELDERLY MAN

Come on, come on you bastard.

The television shows a lottery programme. The final numbered ball rolls out of the machine.

The elderly man gasps. He quickly studies his ticket.

ELDERLY MAN

Oh my God, oh my God!

His flesh ripples as he bounces his ample frame with joy.

ELDERLY MAN

Oh my God, oh my...

He clutches his chest and crashes to the floor. He falls on a nearby table and smashes to pieces.

A moment of silence.

A knock on the door. (O.S.)

FRANK (O.S.)

Hello, you alright buddy?

The bedroom door opens and Frank enters. He is wearing a shabby old suit.

FRANK

Jesus.

He looks down at the elderly man and then up at the television.

He looks down at his hand that still clutches the ticket, and then back to the television.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CORNER OF ROOM

Trevor stares at Frank.

TREVOR

I can't imagine finding a body.

JUDITH

It must have been awful for him. Some struggle to get over such a shock, but he's putting a brave face on, which is nice.

Trevor and Judith watch as Frank laughs and jokes with the young women.

INT. BUFFET TABLE - FLASHBACK

Sarah stands by the table, she looks over the food.

Rachel enters and quickly moves over to Sarah.

RACHEL

Hiya.

Sarah smiles.

RACHEL

Sorry I couldn't make it this morning.

SARAH

That's alright, I'm just glad you made it here.

Rachel wraps her arm around Sarah's waist.

RACHEL

Why honey, was it upsetting?

SARAH

No, that guy over there keeps staring at me. It's making me feel weird.

RACHEL

He probably fancies you, I mean who wouldn't.

SARAH

Stop it...until later.

Rachel collects a plate and covers it with food.

Sarah places some salad on her plate.

SARAH
(whispers)
Oh God, he's only coming over.

RACHEL
Well I'll leave you two to get
acquainted.

SARAH
Don't you dare.

Rachel walks away.

David walks up to the table and picks up a sausage roll.

DAVID
Lovely spread isn't it.

END FLASHBACK

INT. BUFFET ROOM / CORNER OF ROOM

Trevor and Judith stand in silence.

Trevor stares at Frank.

Judith stares at David.

JUDITH
He takes after you. Well in one
respect anyway.

Trevor ignores her.

INT. HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Trevor, in his thirties, slouches on the sofa. He clutches
a can of beer and watches the television.

David, six years old, drives a toy car round the carpet
with his hand.

A door bell (O.S.)

TREVOR
Will you answer the door, son?
I'm busy here.

David drives his car out of the room.

JUDITH (O.S.)
Where is he, the useless git!

Trevor rolls his eyes.

Aunty Judith enters the room. She is in her thirties and of average weight.

JUDITH

Oh what a surprise, you're on the sofa drinking.

TREVOR

Judith, what can I do for you?

JUDITH

You know what. My sister, your wife, is round our mums in tears.

Trevor shakes his head.

TREVOR

All because I forgot to Hoover up.

Judith walks over to the television and turns it off.

TREVOR

Oh, what?!

JUDITH

It's not all because you forgot to Hoover. Jesus Trevor open your eyes cos this marriage is falling apart.

TREVOR

Don't be so over dramatic. So we had a row, it's nothing that won't be forgotten tomorrow.

JUDITH

Really. Well I beg to differ.

David drives his toy car back into the room.

TREVOR

It's not all one way traffic you know. She gets on my goat too. Like she's always got a headache.

JUDITH

And there it is, it's always to do with sex isn't it!

TREVOR

Hey, my arms been doing over time lately.

David drives his car into the foot of Judith.

Trevor and Judith look at David.

JUDITH
 You go play in your bedroom,
 David. Your dad and me have some
 things we need to talk about.

David drives his car out of the room.

TREVOR
 You gonna start shouting again
 now?

JUDITH
 No. I'm gonna offer you some
 advice.

Trevor looks with sceptical eyes.

JUDITH
 If your not happy, you should
 spice things up.

TREVOR
 Spice things up? What you want
 me to start cooking? Look, I'll
 do the hoovering but that's as
 far as I go.

JUDITH
 You're a moron. I'm talking
 about the bedroom.

Trevor swings down his beer and stands.

TREVOR
 Well I need another one if your
 gonna rabbit on.

Trevor walks past Judith, who rubs his bottom as he passes.

Trevor turns and Judith winks at him.

He looks confused.

TREVOR
 I'll never understand women.

JUDITH
 Shall I write it down for you?

END FLASHBACK

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Sarah stands by a wall that overlooks a beautiful garden.

David emerges from the house behind her.

DAVID
I wondered where you'd got to?
It's nice and quiet out here.

Sarah rolls her eyes.

David stands beside her and takes a bite from a sandwich.

Sarah stares out into the garden.

David glances at Sarah's breasts.

DAVID
Beautiful view.

Sarah nods.

DAVID
Are you on Susan's side of the
family?

Sarah is unmoved.

SARAH
Sorry, what?

DAVID
Nothing. You baring up okay?

She shakes her head.

SARAH
It was just such a shock.

DAVID
It was for us all.

Sarah turns to David.

SARAH
I only saw him a few weeks ago
and he was full of beans.

DAVID
Yeah, I heard he liked his food.

SARAH
No, I mean he was healthy, or as
healthy as he ever was.

David looks embarrassed.

DAVID
Right.

SARAH

When did you last see him?

David crams a hand full of nuts into his mouth and loudly crunches them.

DAVID

I er...think it was a couple of weeks ago.

SARAH

It's just so unbelievable.

DAVID

I know what you mean.

Sarah looks over as Rachel exits the house behind David.

Rachel winks at Sarah, who smiles back.

David smiles back at Sarah.

DAVID

Yeah, it's good to put a brave face on it. A nice hug always helps the pain too.

David puts his plate on the wall and opens his arms invitingly.

SARAH

Sorry, what?

David beckons Sarah with his hands.

Sarah tentatively accepts, and hugs David.

SARAH

I'm sorry but this feels a bit weird, I don't even know you.

DAVID

There's time for that.

They break the embrace.

Sarah looks at David strangely.

DAVID

Not in a funny way.

She looks down at the bulge in David's trousers.

DAVID

Oh, that's not what you think. It's my dad's bloody glasses case.

She smiles with relief.

DAVID
Well that's lightened the mood.

Sarah laughs.

SARAH
Yeah, I thought you had a...you know. And that would have been a bit inappropriate as we're probably related, and also I'm...

DAVID
(interrupting)
Yeah, that would be weird.

David puts his hand in his pocket and tries to conceal the bulge. He picks up his sandwich and takes a bite.

Trevor approaches David from behind and taps him on the shoulder.

TREVOR
Son, will you please look after this. I almost lost my trousers in there.

He hands David his glasses case.

Trevor looks to Sarah.

TREVOR
Hello love, you okay?

Sarah looks at David and then at his crotch.

SARAH
No, not really.

She walks away in disgust.

David stares at his dad.

Sarah walks over to Rachel, who talks to Barbara.

DAVID
Thanks again, dad.

TREVOR
For what?

David watches as Sarah points him out. Rachel looks over in disgust, Barbara looks over and winks.

DAVID

Well times cracking on, dad.
Shall we make a move?

TREVOR

If you want, son, but we'll have
to wait for a lift. I think
Barbara said she was going our
way?

DAVID

(sarcastically)
Brilliant.

FADE OUT.