WINNER TAKES ALL

by Greg Baldwin

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INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

It's quiet. An intensely lit lamp perched above an operating table is the only source of light. DOCTORS AND NURSES huddle around the table.

A stream of blood squirts up from the PATIENT and splashes onto DR. KEVIN ARKANSAS(30s), a guy who looks eternally ticked off.

He stops his work and stands in his misery.

KEVIN Son of a bitch!

One of the nurses hands him a towel and he cleans himself.

On the other side of the table is DR. WAYNE MORRIS(30s), a beady eyed guy with a mullet that creeps out of his scrub cap.

Kevin grunts a few times and then digs into the patient's chest. Wayne notices that something is afoot.

WAYNE Kevin, let's talk.

KEVIN

Busy here.

WAYNE Come on. You've been moaning and groaning all morning.

Kevin tries to stay focused on his work.

KEVIN

Oh, have I?

WAYNE I think I know why you're angry.

KEVIN What gives you the idea that I'm angry?

WAYNE Well, you just punctured that guy's lung for one.

Kevin looks to the lungs and grunts.

KEVIN

Son of a-

WAYNE It's about Tuesday night isn't it?

Kevin shrugs.

KEVIN

Maybe.

WAYNE Kev, come on. You need to let it go.

Kevin looks to him, dispirited.

KEVIN

I can't just forget. That was one of the most degrading nights of my life...and you were there...watching...laughing! You didn't even care! You didn't do anything to stop it, you just kept going on and on! But most of all...you betrayed me.

Wayne regretfully looks down.

WAYNE Kevin, it was the heat of the moment. You know that.

Kevin stares ahead, deeply focused.

QUICK FLASH

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne greedily laughs like a maniac.

QUICK FLASH

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Kevin fidgets. The memory kills him.

QUICK FLASH

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne leans into Kevin's ear and wiggles his tongue around. QUICK FLASH

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Kevin fidgets to the other side. This is hard.

QUICK FLASH

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

An upper-middle class home as evidenced by expensive paintings and luxurious furniture.

A Monopoly board is set up on a table. Wayne has a pile of cash and a majority of the property cards on his side of the board.

Kevin is almost broke and most of his properties are mortgaged.

Wayne gloatingly dances around in his chair.

WAYNE Oooooh! How much is St. Charles?

KEVIN

\$750.

Wayne waves his arms around in a fake panic.

WAYNE Oooooh! I wonder if I can afford that!

Wayne picks through his numerous \$500 bills and hands two to Kevin.

WAYNE Here ya go, slugger. Keep the change!

Wayne picks up the dice.

WAYNE And I got doubles! How convenient!

Wayne rolls again. It's a six. He moves his token to Community Chest and takes a card.

"Bank error in your favor! Collect \$200!" Oooooh! Mo' money!

Wayne takes his \$200 from the bank and does a little cheer.

QUICK FLASH

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Kevin fumes.

KEVIN You're a real schmuck, you know that?

WAYNE

Kev, come on-

Kevin loses it. His voice escalates with each passing statement.

KEVIN

No! You lied to me! Early on you couldn't afford to pay me the twohouse rent on Oriental because you had just mortgaged everything to buy Boardwalk. The game should have ended there! But it didn't. You know why? Because I didn't want it to end with only four houses on the board, so what did I do? I made you a deal that if I landed on one of your hotels, I'd get a free pass the first time! And you accepted!

WAYNE

Oh, come on, man! Oriental with two houses? That's 30 bucks! You really think I'd just let you walk away from a hotel on Boardwalk for 30 frickin' dollars?

Kevin glares at him.

QUICK FLASH

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne holds his pile of cash up to his nose and takes a big sniff.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Kevin snaps out of it.

KEVIN

Up yours!

WAYNE

Well, up yours and your stupid light blue properties! I don't know why you always go for them! The real money is in the greens and dark blues.

KEVIN

No, that's an idiot's strategy. Everyone knows that the money properties are the light blues.

WAYNE

Then why didn't you win? Huh? Huh? Huh?

KEVIN Because you're a dirty little liar!

Wayne shakes his head.

WAYNE That's the poorest attitude I've ever seen.

QUICK FLASH

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne dances on the table and throws money everywhere.

QUICK FLASH

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Kevin continues to work. Wayne sighs.

WAYNE I'm sorry if I made you mad, Kevin.

KEVIN Oh, yeah. I'm sure you are.

Seriously.

KEVIN Seriously? Do you have any idea of how you single-handedly made me look bad in front of my family?

WAYNE What are you talkin' about?

QUICK FLASH

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne shouts at JOEY(10), a typical kid in a t-shirt and baseball cap.

WAYNE

That's right, little kid, that's right! I'm your new daddy! Yeah! You're to respect me at all times and be my servant on command! You know what happened to your old daddy? Daddy's goooone! Daddy couldn't handle his finances! Daddy was too cheap to provide a life for you!

QUICK FLASH

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

on...

Wayne looks at Kevin, dumbfounded.

QUICK FLASH

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne gloats and shouts as he circles around DEBORAH, an attractive 30-something woman. She looks miserable.

WAYNE Ooooh! You like that, don't you? You like it when I take your husband's money, huh? That turns you on, doesn't it? Ooooh, baby, I can take his money all night long!

Why don't you come home with ole Wayner? I got a nice big hotel

(MORE)

WAYNE (CONT'D) (looks to Kevin) Boardwalk!

QUICK FLASH

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Kevin continues to slice and dice. Wayne actually looks remorseful.

WAYNE

Look, I'm sorry. I guess I got a little out of hand.

KEVIN A little out of hand?! A little-

Kevin stops himself and calms down.

KEVIN My wife wants to take Joey away because now, for some reason, she doesn't trust me with the family finances!

WAYNE Look, do you want to play again? Winner takes all?

KEVIN No! No, I don't want to play again! You're the most annoying Monopoly player I've ever had the misfortune of playing with!

The patient, a middle aged man, perks his head up.

PATIENT I think you should play him again. Do it for your family.

KEVIN No! I'm not playing that stupid game ever again!

PATIENT Well, then maybe you should just accept his apology.

KEVIN Oh, pfft. His apologies are a load of bull.

No they're not. I'm seriously sorry.

PATIENT He sounds sincere.

Kevin does a double take and then looks down to the patient.

KEVIN No, he's not sincere and, you know, I don't even think you're supposed to be awake, so...

WAYNE Come on, Kevin. One more.

Kevin takes a deep breath and thinks.

WAYNE If you win...you'll take all the glory. Tuesday's game will be forgotten.

KEVIN And if you win?

WAYNE I get your wife.

Kevin angrily glares. The patient perks up once more.

PATIENT Come on, doctor. I think you can take him. Those light blues are the money properties, you just have

The patient looks down his body.

PATIENT I can't feel my legs.

to be patient with them.

Kevin pauses for a second and then nods his head.

KEVIN

One more.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

The board is set up. Money is distributed.

VROOM! Wayne places the car token on Go.

BARK! Kevin places the dog token on Go.

Wayne wildly wiggles his tongue beside Deborah's ear. Joey stands off to the side, terrified.

Wayne and Kevin sit opposite each other.

WAYNE

Losers out.

Kevin takes the dice and rolls a four. He moves his dog to the Income Tax square and grunts.

WAYNE Weeeeeell. Good start. Need a little help paying for that?

KEVIN Eat me. Free Parking?

WAYNE

Naturally.

Kevin puts \$150 in the center of the board. Wayne rolls a double three and slides his piece to Oriental. Kevin grunts.

WAYNE Oooooh! The money properties! How convenient! Well, how much is Oriental here? 100 dollars? I think...why, yes, I think I'll buy that!

Wayne pays the fee and takes the Oriental deed card.

WAYNE Oh! And I got doubles! Double the pleasure, double the fun!

He winks at Deborah and rolls a three. He moves his car to Connecticut Avenue.

WAYNE Oooooh! Well, look-e what we got here! Hey, Kev-o, how come some people pronounce it Connet-icut when it's actually Connect-icut?

Kevin stares blankly at him.

WAYNE I don't know either! But I'll buy it! Wayne forks over \$120 and it's Kevin's turn again. He rolls a three and moves his dog to Chance. He takes a card and reluctantly reads it.

> KEVIN "You have been elected chairman of the board. Pay each player fifty dollars."

WAYNE

Ococoh! How nice! But you know what? I'll be fair. You had to pay that income tax on the first move and that just kind of sucks, so you don't have to give me the fifty.

KEVIN

Thank you.

Wayne holds up his finger.

WAYNE

Buuuut...chairman of the board is a pretty important job and I wouldn't want to start your new career off with a blotch, so it's probably better that you give me the fifty.

Kevin slides the fifty over and Wayne puts it into his pile.

WAYNE

My turn!

Wayne takes the dice and rolls.

LATER

Kevin turns some cash into the bank and claims the deed to Baltic Avenue. A light pile of deed cards sits by the bank, with Mediterranean among them.

> KEVIN Baltic! You like that, don't you, Wayne?

Wayne's token is in jail. He rolls a double six and jumps for joy.

WAYNE Ooooh! A double six! You know what that means, Kevy? KEVIN Yeah, yeah. I know.

WAYNE I'm a free man!

Wayne advances his token to Chance and takes a card. He excitedly reads it.

WAYNE Advance token to...Boardwalk! This must be my lucky day!

Wayne pushes his token over to Boardwalk and forks over \$400.

WAYNE

Nice!

Kevin rolls a five. He advances his token to Vermont Avenue, the last of the light blues, and blows a sigh of relief.

KEVIN I'll take it.

Kevin pays the fee and takes the deed. Wayne looks slightly irked, but shrugs it off.

WAYNE Big whoop. How much will I owe you? Four bucks? Oooooh! So expensive!

KEVIN Yeah, we'll see.

MONTAGE

A) Wayne purchases B&O and Reading Railroads.

- B) Kevin purchases Kentucky Avenue.
- C) Wayne purchases Pennsylvania Avenue.
- D) Deborah and Joey eagerly bite their nails.

E) Kevin purchases Mediterranean Avenue, completing his first monopoly.

F) Wayne lands on Park Place.

END MONTAGE

Wayne greedily rubs his hands together.

WAYNE Park Place, huh? Why, I don't mind if I do!

Wayne hands over \$350 and takes the deed.

WAYNE

Kevy, do you know what this means?

Wayne holds up the deeds for Park Place and Boardwalk.

WAYNE

Monopoly!

Wayne does a dorky jig in his seat.

WAYNE I'm in the money! I'm in the money! Debbie's gonna be my honey!

Deborah shivers. Joey puts his head in his hands.

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LAWN - NIGHT

A JOGGER passes by and hears loud voices from inside.

WAYNE (O.S.) (orgasmic) Ooooh yes! Two thousand! Yeeeees!

JOGGER What the heck?

The Jogger walks onto the lawn and peeks into the window.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne rubs the deed cards all over his chest.

Kevin smacks his palms to his face. He turns to Joey.

KEVIN Joey, I think you might want to step out of the room for a while.

The father-son duo look into each other's eyes for a moment until Joey sadly stands up and walks out of the room.

Kevin looks crushed. Wayne simply crosses his arms and smiles.

Your move, Kevy.

Kevin nervously grabs the dice and rolls them in his hand.

Suddenly there's a light tap on the window. Tap, tap, tap...

Kevin looks to the window where Joey peers back in and gives his father a heartfelt thumbs up.

Kevin looks reenergized. He places the dice down and puts \$500 in the bank.

KEVIN

If you're planning on landing on Baltic, you may want to do it now.

Kevin places hotels on Baltic and Mediterranean.

KEVIN

For a limited time we have suites available for a romantic get away or for a one night stay on that hecktic business trip.

WAYNE

Bold move, Kevy. You look a little light on the cash now.

KEVIN

For now.

Kevin rolls a seven and moves his token to Vermont Avenue.

KEVIN Own it. Go.

Wayne rolls a double three.

WAYNE

Two, three...

He passes around Go and takes his \$200.

WAYNE

Four, five, six...

He lands on Baltic and suddenly his smile fades.

WAYNE

Hmmm.

KEVIN Oh! Coming for a visit are we? Kevin checks the deed.

KEVIN That would be \$450 please!

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LAWN - NIGHT

Joey fist pumps and high fives the Jogger. A NEIGHBOR strolls over and peers inside to the game.

NEIGHBOR At it again are they?

JOEY

Winner takes all.

JOGGER

Boy, I hope your dad finishes the job. That knucklehead Dr. Morris was supposed to give me a new kidney last July. Instead he mixed the patients up, took my failing kidneys out, and replaced them with another failing kidney that stopped working after a month.

JOEY So you don't have any working kidneys?

JOGGER

I guess not.

JOEY Then how are you alive?

The Jogger does a double take.

JOGGER I'm not sure...

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne hands over the \$450. Now he's down to a few ones and fives but keeps his cool.

WAYNE Big deal. I'll be getting that back in no time.

KEVIN

Your move.

Wayne rolls a seven and advances to Vermont Avenue.

KEVIN Oh! That will be six dollars please!

Wayne rolls his eyes.

WAYNE You kidding me?

KEVIN

Six bucks. I got a family to feed.

Wayne passes Kevin the six dollars.

MONTAGE

A) Wayne lands on Free Parking and collects several hundred dollars.

B) Kevin lands on Indiana Avenue and completes a monopoly.

C) Wayne builds two houses each on Boardwalk and Park Place.

- D) Kevin builds one house on Illinois Avenue.
- E) Wayne purchases North Carolina Avenue.

END MONTAGE

Kevin puts his token on Boardwalk and groans.

WAYNE Oooooh! Boardwalk with, wait...how many houses is that?

KEVIN

Wayne!

WAYNE What?! I can't see! Is that one? No, wait...that's two! Two houses! Hmmm. Two houses will be \$600, Kevy!

Kevin is short on the cash.

WAYNE Might wanna sell those hotels, man. Those properties are good for about, what, two dollars each? Wayne bobs his head back and evilly laughs.

Instead, Kevin sells the lone house on Illinois and then mortgages his two railroads. He comes up with the money and hands it over to Wayne.

> WAYNE Spank ya much!

EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LAWN - NIGHT

A couple more NEIGHBORS have gathered around the window. A COP pulls up in his car and approaches the group.

COP Is this a damn peeping tom convention or somethin'? The hell is goin' on here?

JOEY No! My dad is playing Dr. Morris again in Monopoly. Winner takes all!

COP Dr. Morris?

The cop curiously peeks in.

COP Oh yeah. Good ole Dr. Mullet. How's your dad holding up?

JOEY He's got the west and north sides, but Dr. Morris has the entire east side. It's too close to call.

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Kevin places a couple houses on Marvin Gardens. Wayne mockingly nods.

WAYNE You know, Kevy, I commend you on playing such a valiant game. You've really put forth a sincerely competitive effort. That's why it's going to moderately sting me even more when I have to crush you back into the ground.

KEVIN

We'll see.

Kevin rolls the dice.

MONTAGE

A) Kevin rounds up the deeds to New York, Tennessee, and St. James Place.

B) Wayne builds houses on North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Pacific Avenue.

C) Kevin builds houses on Virginia and New York Avenue.

D) Wayne builds hotels on Boardwalk and Park Place and continues to build houses on North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Pacific Avenue.

E) The pile of cash in the middle of the board grows. There's several \$500 bills in there.

END MONTAGE

Kevin reaches into the bag with the hotels but finds it empty.

KEVIN Uh oh. We're out of hotels.

Wayne looks around perplexed.

WAYNE What do we do?

KEVIN

Honey!

LATER

Cherry tomatoes are placed on St. Charles Place and States Avenue.

Every property on the board now has hotels in some form with the exception of the light blue properties.

Kevin and Wayne are both loaded with cash and the pile in the center of the board is massive.

KEVIN Well...you ready, Wayner? EXT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - LAWN - NIGHT

The crowd has grown to about a dozen people with Joey at the front.

JOGGER Look at all that money! This could take all night!

INT. KEVIN'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

MONTAGE

A) Kevin lands on Pacific Avenue and hands a wad of cash to Wayne.

B) Wayne lands on Marvin Gardens and returns a wad of cash to Kevin.

C) Kevin lands on the Electric Company and hands a couple dollars to Wayne.

D) Wayne lands on Illinois Avenue and hands a wad of cash to Kevin.

E) Kevin's cash grows; Wayne's shrinks.

END MONTAGE

Wayne's cash stash has shrunk considerably; he's only got a few hundreds left. Kevin, on the other hand, is loaded with \$500 bills.

Kevin's token is on St. Charles. He rolls a nine and excitedly advances it to Free Parking, where he raises his fists to the sky.

KEVIN

Yes!

Wayne smacks his head onto the table as Kevin collects the pile of cash.

The outside crowd wildly cheers. Kevin oddly looks out the window.

KEVIN Who the hell...? He shrugs and counts up his money.

KEVIN Mmmm. Three thousand, four thousand, forty-five hundred!

Wayne raises his head; a gushed tomato slides down his face.

WAYNE Okay. Nice move. I'll give you that. Still won't change the outcome.

Kevin angrily slides the dice over to Wayne.

KEVIN

Go.

MONTAGE

A) Wayne lands on St. James Place.

- B) Wayne sells houses on his remaining properties.
- C) Wayne mortgages Boardwalk and Park Place.
- D) Wayne hands the proceeds over to Kevin.

END MONTAGE

It's almost a wrap. Wayne's hotels/houses are gone and his properties are mortgaged. He hands over the rest of his cash to Kevin, who controls over half the board and possesses thousands of dollars.

KEVIN You got doubles, Wayne.

Wayne looks at the board. His token is on Baltic.

WAYNE This is all part of the plan, Kev. Prepare for the most amazing comeback you've ever seen!

Wayne rolls a five and advances his token to Vermont Avenue.

WAYNE Ah ha! See! Safe here to rebuild my empire! Yeah!

Wayne searches his mortgaged deeds, but Vermont doesn't come up.

WAYNE Where is it?...

Kevin holds up the deed.

KEVIN

That will be six dollars, please.

Wayne goes pale. He is SHOCKED. He looks down to the board then up at Kevin.

WAYNE

Um...

Kevin smiles.

KEVIN

Six dollars.

Wayne searches around his side of the board. He lifts the board up and comes up with two dollars that he offers to Kevin, who shakes his head.

Through the window, Joey and the neighbors celebrate with fist pumps.

Wayne puts the board back down and quietly sits in disbelief. He utters under his breath.

WAYNE

Gooame.

KEVIN What was that?

WAYNE I said...good game.

Wayne runs his hands through his hair and blows a defeated sigh. Kevin smugly grins.

WAYNE

Okay. Alright. I know what you wanna do so just get it over with. Gloat all you want, Kevy! Go on. Just do it! Yell at me, spit at me, Chinese water torture, do whatever! Come on! Lay it on me!

Wayne crosses his arms. He looks like he's ready for a fight.

Kevin extends his hand across the board.

KEVIN

Good game.

Wayne curiously looks at it and then slowly shakes it.

WAYNE

Good game.

Their awkward shake turns into a strong one as both men smile.

WAYNE

You really played good, man.

KEVIN You gave me all I could handle.

Deborah enters the room and rubs Kevin's shoulder. Joey and the crowd enter from outside.

JOEY Good game, dad.

KEVIN It sure was, son. It sure was.

Wayne perks up.

WAYNE Well, you know, technically this game is asterisked anyway.

KEVIN The heck you talkin' about?

WAYNE Well, if you recall, you landed on the Luxury Tax spot early in the game and that move charges \$75.

KEVIN

Yeah. So?

WAYNE

Well, we're playing Free Parking and you put it in the bank. That's a direct violation of the rules that we were playing by so, in reality, that one move could have easily changed the outcome of the game.

KEVIN You have got to be kidding me.

No kidding. I got that first Free Parking jackpot and that \$75 could have made a whole world of difference.

Kevin's ticked.

KEVIN So why didn't you say anything?!

Wayne crosses his arms and evilly smiles.

WAYNE So I could see the look on your face in case this happened.

Kevin shoots out of his seat. Wayne does the same. They both shout at each other at the top of their lungs.

Joey holds Wayne back and Deborah holds Kevin back.

KEVIN I won that game fair and square, mophead!

WAYNE If fair and square means cheating then yes, you did!

KEVIN You callin' me a cheater?

WAYNE I'm callin' you one if you are one!

KEVIN

Oh yeah?!

WAYNE

Yeah!

KEVIN

Oh yeah?!

WAYNE

Yeah!

They both yell incoherent garble at each other. Wayne pounds his fist on the board and squashes a tomato. Kevin holds up his pile of cash and tosses it in the air. Wayne picks up the board and throws it aside, then picks up the bank money and throws it as well. The crowd watches in awe.

When tensions simmer down a few seconds later, everyone looks around at the mess.

KEVIN Okay. Two out of three. Let's go.

They both sit back down and proceed to set up the board.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END