

Joey and Baljeet

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INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

A yellow tinted bathroom. We look at a tub which covers three quarters of the wall. To the left is a small closet. On the right we can make out a towel bar with a single brown towel. The bathtub is a white porcelain although the bathroom lighting gives a yellowish tinge. We hear water running faintly behind Elton Johns "I Want Love". The tub is covered by a white shower curtain with a large yellow rubber duck print. We creep closer to the shower.

When Elton sings "other men feel liberated" he is harmonized by a slightly off tune voice amplified by the bathrooms acoustics.

INT. TUB - CONTINUOUS

Now inside the tub. We see our shower singer. JOEY (25) lays on his back. We look at him from his belly. His head rests at the crest of the tub. The removable shower head rests on his chest pouring out a consistent stream.

Joey, now quite passionately is singing along with the tune. We slowly close in on his face. He breaths in deep. Prepares for the second chorus and begins to belt "I want love" when the song is replaced by the ringing of a phone. Joe hits the note regardless. The awkwardness and lack of talented is emphasized without Elton's harmonization.

JOEY

Son of a..

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Back outside the tub. The phone continues to ring as we hear the shower stop. A hand reaches out from the right of the curtain. It clumsily reaches for the towel. Grasps it and disappears.

The curtain flings open revealing Joey wearing the towel wrapped tightly just above his nipple line. The ringing stops. Elton once again fills the room but is shortly interrupted by a text tone before he returns completely.

Joey walks up to the sink. The mirror is fogged but can make out his outline.

He picks up the phone. We jump behind him and read over his shoulder. The message is from "Skylar". On the phone we can read "SOS I need you at Keiths ASAP".

Joey sighs. His eyes go back up to the mirror. He wipes a quick hand over the surface revealing his face more clearly. Joey looks unsatisfied with what he sees. He eyes himself. Exhales deeply. His breath hitches and he coughs an array of mucus and spit onto the mirror. Joey nods at himself sarcastically. Nice.

INT. KEITH'S DINER - LATER

A rundown diner. It was probably pretty decent in the 80s. The furniture and wallpaper are too tacky to be hipster and too dirty to be classy. Sitting directly in the middle at a round table is SKYLAR (25). Shes the kind of cute that takes two looks to really see. She sits alone. Bored and looking at her phone.

Behind Skylar a bar booth visible. Leaning on the bar looking equally as bored, taping his fingers on the bars surface is KEITH (30).

The door chimes. Joey walks up to the seat across from Skylar. She pays no mind. Joey stands there for a beat. Expecting an emergency. He looks around. Another beat.

JOEY

Skylar...

Skylar types something on her phone. Then looks sweetly at Joey.

SKYLAR

Hey Joey!

JOEY

What's up...

SKYLAR

Nothin. What's up with you?

JOEY

No. No. You said there was an emergency..

SKYLAR

Oh. Right. There is an emergency. I am so damn bored.

(beat)

Sit down!

Joey does not sit.

JOEY
You said SOS. That's our serious
code Skylar.

SKYLAR
I know I'm SO bad. Sit down!

Skylar smiles sweetly at Joey. He does not reciprocate the
sweetness. After a beat Joey sits.

JOEY
Does our code mean nothing to you?

Skylar only continues to smile.

JOEY (CONT'D)
You suck.

Joey sits. He leans and looks past Skylar to Keith at the
bar.

JOEY (CONT'D)
Heya Keith

Keith stops his tapping, but not his boredom and slowly looks
up.

KEITH
Heya Joe

JOEY
Can I grab a milkshake?

KEITH
Machines unplugged.

JOEY
Why?

KEITH
Unplugged it

Joey hold this for a beat waiting for further explanation.
None comes.

JOEY
How about some coffee?

KEITH
The pot is empty...

JOEY
Yeah.

Beat.

KEITH

Like.. there's no more coffee in
the pot..

JOEY

Make more?

Keith exhales for what seems like four full minutes.

JOEY (CONT'D)

You know what pal, just a glass of
water would be tops.

KEITH

A cold glass of water?

JOEY

Preferably yes.

KEITH

The ice is like..in the back..

JOEY

You know what Keith, I'll just take
it lukewarm.

Keith exerts the minimal effort possible and quite literally
drags himself off the bar and into the kitchen door.

Joey turns back to Skylar.

JOEY (CONT'D)

They must love Keith on yelp.

SKYLAR

I mean... We don't always have to
come here..

JOEY

I wasn't even going to in the first
place, I was mislead by a dark
forest wench.

SKYLAR

Ugh you. You know what I mean. But
we should enjoy it while we can.
They're shutting Keith down.

JOEY

What the hell? Are you serious?
Who's shutting Keith down?

SKYLAR
I don't know.. the proverbial
"they" I guess..

Joey still processing this shoots Skylar a look of distaste.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)
Like.. you know "they"the you know
what "they" say people who like..
run the world.

Joey looks at Skylar as if there is not enough time in the world to unpack everything she just said. He leans again and looks towards the bar.

As the following interchange occurs. We can see a PRETTY GIRL (23) in a corner booth discretely listening. She looks enthralled by Joey. Absolutely hanging on his every word.

JOEY
Keith!

A head pops in out from the kitchen.

KEITH
Your water is coming..

JOEY
No no.. why didn't you tell me that
they're shutting you down?

KEITH
You didn't ask..

JOEY
(To Skylar)
I mean I didn't ask...
(Back to Keith)
What are they doing with the diner?

KEITH
Not really sure.

JOEY
Where are you going to go?

KEITH
I don't know, might open a brothel.

Joey laughs at a joke Keith doesn't seem to get. They both sit in the seriousness on Keith's face. Beat. Keith slowly slides his head back into the kitchen.

Joey turns his full attention towards Skylar.

JOEY

Hear that? Keith's opening a
brothel, pretty awesome right?

Skylar smiles and goes to respond when the pretty girl gets up and approaches their table. She makes no acknowledgment of Skylar's existence. Skylar gives Joey a sly look.

PRETTY GIRL

Hey..

Joey looks at Skylar then back to the girl. He sighs heavily.

JOEY

Hi.

PRETTY GIRL

Sorry.. but I feel like I've seen
you before..

Joey seems like he would rather rub a cheese grater on his forehead than have this conversation.

JOEY

Yeah..maybe..I'm..you know..around

SKYLAR

Didn't you recently do a billboard
Joe?

Joey shoot Skylar a quick look.

PRETTY GIRL

Oh my God! That's it!! The
dentistry one right? "MY smile is
MY style"

JOEY

I needed the money.. it was just a
one time thing..

PRETTY GIRL

OH don't be silly, it's SO cute.

Joey nods slowly.

An awkward beat.

PRETTY GIRL (CONT'D)

Are you in anything else??

JOEY

I don't do a ton of advertisements
no..

SKYLAR

Yeah our guy Joe here is more of an actor.

Joey rewards this with another dirty look.

PRETTY GIRL

OH my GOD really?? I must have seen you in something else then..

JOEY

I do more voice stuff actually..

SKYLAR

Oh come on Joe. She clearly wants to know what "voice stuff" you're in.

The pretty girl gives Skylar a half glance. Then nods too enthusiastically at Joey.

JOEY

You ever heard of... Peanut Street?

Joey winces in anticipation to the reaction.

PRETTY GIRL

OH MY GOD! I LOVED that show growing up! What character are you?

Joey shoot Skylar a death glare that could wither a plant and make a baby cry. This is her fault.

JOEY

(Hesitantly)

Mayor Peanut.

PRETTY GIRL

NO WAY!!! You totally made my childhood.

JOEY

I mean.. I've only had the job for a few months.. it was probably someone else who made your childhood.

PRETTY GIRL

Oh..yeah..I guess..

JOEY

Yeah.

PRETTY GIRL
Okay..well..maybe I'll see you
around??

Joey is visibly, and rudely exasperated at this point.

JOEY
Okay.

PRETTY GIRL
Do you like..want my number?

JOEY
Oh..um actually my contacts are
full so..I'm good.

The Pretty Girl surprised. Looks at Joey is disbelief. She turns to Skylar who is looking surprised herself. The Pretty Girl shakes her head and exits.

Skylar stares at Joey for a beat.

SKYLAR
What in the hell was that?

JOEY
Right? Some people just have zero
filter.

SKYLAR
What..? No. What in the hell were
YOU doing? She was clearly into
you.. She was your type..

JOEY
And what exactly is my type?

SKYLAR
Easy.

JOEY
Oh come on, you know what I'm not
just looking for cheap sex Skylar,
I'll have you know I.. Want love.

SKYLAR
Since when?

JOEY
Since always.. what do you mean?

SKYLAR
Let me see your phone.

JOEY

What does that have to do with anything?

SKYLAR

Just let me see your phone.
Let me see you phone! Just
let me see it!

JOEY (CONT'D)

I don't see what the has to do..Look this doesn't even make sense..What is this going to accomplish?

SKYLAR (CONT'D)

Give me you phone.

JOEY

Fine! Fine.

Joey begrudgingly removes his phone from his pocket and slides it across the table. Skylar puts in his password and begins to snoop.

JOEY (CONT'D)

What are you even looking for?

SKYLAR

I'm looking at your internet history.

Joey nervous laughs.

JOEY

Why? You're not going to find anything..

SKYLAR

Last night you searched hookups in my area, local horny girls, best dating apps for casual hookups, and then porn.

Skylar looks up from the phone.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)

The hunter got bored and ordered takeout huh?

Joey looks disgusted at himself.

JOEY

I thought I was in incognito..

SKYLAR

And Tinder is clearly the best dating app for hookups. Everyone knows that.

JOEY

Well you know what? I don't want casual hookups..anymore. I'm serious. I want..I want love.

Skylar clearly doesn't believe a word of this.

SKYLAR

Whatever you say dude. When does your new roommate get in?

JOEY

The fifth, at noon or something? I am so unprepared..

SKYLAR

Today is the fifth Joey.

JOEY

No it's not.

Skylar nods at him. Joey's eyes go wide with realization. He gets up quickly.

JOEY (CONT'D)

This is your fault. Stupid sos. God dammit.

Skylar smiles sweetly.

SKYLAR

I love you.

Joey scowls and shakes his head. Then leans over the table and kisses her on the forehead.

JOEY

You suck.

Joey moves towards the door. Keith pokes his head out again from the kitchen.

KEITH

What about your water?

Joey looks around the room as if to say "get a load o' this guy huh?"

JOEY

Put it on my tab Keith.

Keith hits Joey with finger guns. Joey exits.

INT. APARTMENT LOBBY - LATER

A rather basic apartment complex lobby. Two elevator doors are at the back. There is a small reception desk. Leaning on this desk, is a strange looking bald man ALAN (39). Joey enters and Alan immediately jumps. Stands up straight and approaches. This is what he's been waiting for. Joey keeps his eyes deadlocked on the elevator. He's had enough unwanted interactions for one day.

ALAN
What's up Joe?

JOEY
Alan.

Joey only acknowledges Alan verbally. He continues to the elevator and hits the up button. No response. A beat. He presses again. Still nothing. He begins to press wildly. His back is still turned to Alan.

Alan, like a lion stalking his prey, slowly approaches Joey.

ALAN
So how's it goin' Joe?

Joey exhales deeply. Of course this is happening. He puts his head against the wall. Going against every fibre of his being. Joey turns around.

JOEY
Good.

ALAN
Oh yeah? Right on right on. Works good?

JOEY
Yup.

ALAN
Cool cool cool cool, right on right on. And your family?

With his hands behind his back. Joey continues to frantically press the up button.

JOEY
They're good.

ALAN
Awesome. Awesome. And how's your mom?

JOEY
She's good Alan.

ALAN
Oh yeah? Yeah? She's good huh?

A beat.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Reason I ask is because I paid her
a visit the other night,

A beat.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I'm sayin' I went to visit you mom.

JOEY
Yeah.

Alan begins to gyrate his hips back and forth, tenderly humping the air.

ALAN
Y'know... a visit? Your mom?

JOEY
Yeah Alan.

Alan stops moving.

ALAN
Dude I'm sayin I nailed your mom.

The elevator finally dings.

JOEY
Yeah.

Joey turns and hurries himself into the elevator. Presses his floor button. A beat. The door isn't closing.

ALAN
Alright man. Good chattin.

Joey gives Alan a little eyebrow nod. Reaches for the close door button and presses it far to many times. The door slides closed painfully slow.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Hey.. we should hangout soon.

As the door slides closed we see Joey shake his head.

JOEY

Nope.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Joey rubs his face in disbelief. He looks as if he would give his right arm for this day to just end.

INT. APARTMENT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Alan stands nodding and smiling at the elevator. He's proud of himself. He did good.

INT. KEITH'S DINER - LATER

Skylar sits in the same spot at the table and is now joined by three other characters. DEREK (25) clean cut and well dressed. He's skinny, but handsome in a boyish nerdy way. AUDREY (24) a cute hipster looking girl. And COSMO (26) a short intelligent Urkel looking guy. All of them sit, staring at their phones.

The door chimes and a tall handsome Indian man enters. BALJEET (26). He surveys the diner with fresh eyes. He almost looks lost. He looks to the bar and sees that it's empty. He moves towards it and leans over the counter

BALJEET

Mr. Miller?

No response. Baljeet turns and surveys the rest of the diner looking for someone who may work there. Not seeing any signs of intelligent life, he approaches Skylar and friends.

BALJEET (CONT'D)

Hey..

Skylar perks up, like a puppy excited for the attention.

SKYLAR

Hi!

BALJEET

Do you guys know where I could find Keith Miller? He runs this place.

SKYLAR

Oh yeah! He should just be somewhere behind the bar.

She turns to face the bar.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)
Keith! Hey Keith!

A beat. No response.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)
I'm sure he'll be out in a minute.
I'm Skylar!

The sudden warmth of Skylars personality makes Baljeet feel at home.

BALJEET
I'm Baljeet. Good to meet you
Skylar.

SKYLAR
Sit down while you wait! This is
everyone, we literally live here.

She looks at her group, still engrossed by their technology.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)
Hey! Dumbasses, stop frying your
brains and meet this new human. His
name is Baljeet.

Baljeet sits by Skylar. As the group awakes from their technological coma. Derek is the first to respond and reaches over the table to shake Baljeets hand.

DEREK
I'm Derek.

AUDREY
Konichiwa! I.. am.. Yoko

COSMO
Excuse her English, she's
originally from Japan. I'm Ringo.
Nice to meet you Aladdin.

BALJEET
It's uh.. Baljeet.

COSMO
Literally what I just said.

BALJEET
Well it's comforting to know racism
is alive and well.

SKYLAR

God you guys are the worst, can't you just be normal?

DEREK

I was normal..

SKYLAR

Shut up Derek. I'm sorry about them Baljeet. That's Audrey, she does speak English, she's just lashing out because her dad won't talk to her until she doctor. The other pricks name is even more ridiculous than Ringo, it's Cosmo, and they are charmed to meet you.

Audrey and Cosmo share a look, and smile and wave as they are introduced.

BALJEET

You guys are weird huh?

AUDREY

Oh super weird.

COSMO

One time I filled my bath with milk and just..marinated in it.

AUDREY

Are you serious?

COSMO

Dead. I smelled like an udder tastes.

SKYLAR

Oh my god stop. Baljeet. What brings you to this trash hole of a diner?

Baljeet is thoroughly enjoying this exchange. The banter makes him feel comfortable.

BALJEET

I'm actually taking over this trash hole once Keith leaves. Why do you come here so much if you think it's trash?

DEREK

We've all been coming here since freshman year of college. It's like home away from home.

COSMO

That's such a stupid thing to say.

AUDREY

Yeah God Derek. This isn't home. This is a toilet.

COSMO

Yeah, our toilet. You know how you can take the best poops in your own toilet? It's like that.

BALJEET

Gross. Well I hope you guys like Indian food.

SKYLAR

This is going to be an Indian place?!

DEREK

Joe is going to hate that..

BALJEET

Who's Joe?

SKYLAR

Joey is our other friend who is always around. He's just out meeting up with his new roommate. I'm sure you'll meet him very soon.

BALJEET

What's his last name?

DEREK

Johnson.

BALJEET

No way! Small world. I'm his new roommate! He wasn't at the apartment when I was there so I couldn't get in. Some guy named Alan said he could watch my stuff until Joey got back.

SKYLAR

You left your stuff with Alan?! Does Joe know?

BALJEET

He'll probably find out soon
enough. I left a note on the door.

SKYLAR

Yikers.

INT. APARTMENT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Staring at the elevator in the same spot we left him is Alan. He eyes the down arrow as it lights up. We can hear the elevator move and his eyes follow. They drip with anticipation.

The elevator opens slowly. Joey stands motionless. A note in his hand. His lips are tighter than a prom dress. He looks like he may explode.

ALAN

Heya Joe.

INT. KEITH'S DINER - CONTINUOUS

BALJEET

Is Alan that bad? Is my stuff going
to be okay?

The group shares awkward glances.

SKYLAR

I'm sure it'll be fine. Keith still
isn't out, let me take you back to
the kitchen. He's got to be back
there somewhere.

Skylar stands and without waiting walks towards the kitchen. Baljeet seeing through this clear avoidance of the question. He waits for a beat, searching the members remaining for an answer. He is only met by shrugs and dodged glances. He stands and follows Skylar.

INT. APARTMENT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Joey is where we left him standing in the elevator. He slowly exits and approaches Alan.

JOEY

Why.. did you not just tell me you
had Baljeets stuff?

ALAN

Intrigue is the essence of life
Joseph. Create a little mystery,
create a little fun.

JOEY

Where is it? Please, I can't handle
all..this.

ALAN

His things are in my apartment Joe.
They can be unlocked only after, a
pleasant meal with me. I've been
planing this night in my dreams for
years.

JOEY

You've only known me for like six
months.

ALAN

I knew you'd come along. Now..
Follow me friend.

Alan moves to the elevator, presses the up button and slides
inside.

Joey contemplates how badly he needs Baljeets things. He
feels guilt for not being there to welcome him. It's his job
to fix this. He steps inside. As the door slides shut. He
regrets everything.

INT. KEITH'S DINER KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Skylar enters through double doors. A regular diner kitchen.
There are stainless steel counter tops, a fryer, fridge, the
essentials. Most of the appliances are unplugged. It's a lot
cleaner than an open functioning kitchen should be. From
behind the fryer two feet can barely be seen.

SKYLAR

Yo Keith!

No response. Skylar begins to walk around the kitchen. She
notices the feet.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)

Keith! Are you seriously taking a
nap right now? You're unbelievable.

We watch as she approaches the feet. As she rounds the corner
she freezes.

SKYLAR (CONT'D)

Oh god..

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

A beautiful loft. The space itself is quite average. But the interior decor indicate lavish living. There are wide windows that give a wonderful view of the Hollywood Hills. A baby grand piano sits by one of the panes. Expensive modern paintings cover the walls. Alan enters the shot and beckons Joey to a black leather couch adjacent from a flat screen TV.

ALAN

Make yourself at home.

JOEY

Are you going to kill me?

ALAN

Only with my wit. Come on Joe. I just want to be friends. You want a drink? I have wine?

Alan without waiting for an answer disappears into the kitchen. Joey left alone surveys the place in disbelief.

JOEY

(To himself)

There is no way he's not going to kill me.

INT. KEITH'S DINER - CONTINUOUS

Baljeet leans on the bar. Skylar walks out face pale. Eyes wide. Clearly in shock. Baljeet watches her for a beat. Not sure how to react.

BALJEET

Are you okay?

A beat.

BALJEET (CONT'D)

Skylar?

SKYLAR

Umm.. Keith's d-dead.

BALJEET

What?

Skylar begins to shake and freak out. The reality of the situation hitting her.

SKYLAR

His body is just lying in the kitchen.. I.. Oh my god Keith's dead!

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Joey sits uneasy on the couch. His eyes periodically dart to the kitchen where Alan disappeared. He looks like he's half expecting Alan to bust out with an ax American Psycho style.

ALAN

(O.S)

Dammit!

Joey jumps. Alan re-enters holding nothing. He speaks and moves like a defeated man.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Duty calls. I've got to go to work. Baljeets stuff is just in the other room. I'll go get it.

Alan exits. Joey looks around in shocked silence. He is so confused but much to frightened to say anything. Alan reenters with a few suitcases. Joey looks at them for a beat. Then leaps up and grabs them. He hightails for the door.

ALAN (CONT'D)

To be continued?

Joey is already halfway out the door with Baljeets luggage. He chooses not to respond. Alan stands alone watching the door. He sighs.

ALAN (CONT'D)

To be continued.

INT. KEITH'S DINER - CONTINUOUS

Ambulance lights bounce of the walls. The diner has been cleared except for Skylar, Baljeet, and the group of friends. Derek, Cosmo, and Audrey sit closely discussing what the hell is going on. Baljeet stands with an arm around Skylar who is being asked questions by an EMT. The kitchen doors open and two EMT's roll out a stretcher with a closed body bag. Skylar and Baljeet follow it's path with their eyes. The EMT gives Skylar a nod and follows his comrades.

Baljeet and Skylar return to their table and sit down with the rest of the gang. They sit in silence for a moment.

The door chimes. Joey enters. As he does he eyes the ambulance lights with confusion. He sits with his pals. They make no effort to acknowledge him.

JOEY

What the hell is going on in here?

DEREK

Keith died.

JOEY

Oh. Right on. Who's Aladdin?

BALJEET

Baljeet. You're Joey?

JOEY

Baljeet? Like my roommate?

BALJEET

Yeah.

JOEY

Why are you..like..here right now?

BALJEET

I'm taking over the diner..turning it into an Indian place.

JOEY

That's ridiculous.

BALJEET

Yeah...

JOEY

This is like a.. pretty big moment huh.. Joey and Baljeet. The adventure.. begins.

An awkward beat.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Cool.

The group sits in silent shock for another beat. No one really knowing what to say. No one is really sad about Keith, but no one really knows how to react.

We see the kitchen doors open and Keith steps out. He see's the ambulance lights through the front. He gives them a look of confusion. Then approaches the table of friends.

KEITH
What happened?

This is met to an array of jumps and screams from the group. To which Keith reciprocates with a scream of his own.

KEITH (CONT'D)
Really what happened though?

SKYLAR
KEITH. OH MY GOD. You were dead!!

KEITH
Umm.. nope.

SKYLAR
I saw your body in the kitchen!

KEITH
Oh no that was just my cadaver.

SKYLAR
It looked just like you!

KEITH
Yeah that's why I bought it.

The group looks at Keith with enough confusion to feed a village.

KEITH (CONT'D)
So they all think I'm dead?

BALJEET
I guess.

KEITH
Nice... And you're Baljeet?

Baljeet nods.

KEITH (CONT'D)
Nice.

Keith takes some keys out of his pocket and gives them to Baljeet.

KEITH (CONT'D)
Well. See ya.

Keith exits through the back.

DEREK

Should we.. like tell someone?

JOEY

Let him go Derek.. I don't want to know anymore than I already do.

Nods and murmurs from the group. Then the familiar confused silence. They all sit staring at nothing. Processing the events of today. Baljeet quietly breaks it.

BALJEET

You guys like naan?

Quiet nods and murmurs of agreement.

BALJEET (CONT'D)

I'll go make us some naan.

Baljeet stands and exits into the kitchen. The rest of our heroes continue to sit and stare. "I Want Love" fills the air as we slowly pan out. Joey sits in the centre of his group of friends. Wondering what in the actual hell his life has become.

END