

Abscess

ANOTHER FLUSH STUDIOS MOVING PICTURE



written by

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"Pain arrives, BANG, and there it is, it sits on you.
It's real.
And to anybody watching, you look foolish."
-Bukowski

THE GENTLE MOAN OF SLOW AGONY.

FADE IN ON:

01A. INT. MOUTH.

PENNY's mouth. A slow push in centers up one tooth. The sound of a low moan pulsates from the back to the front of the room. A low, ominous moan.

Slowly, a massive toothbrush enters and taps the tooth before we hear the shrill sound of:

BUZZZZ... the horrifying sound from the Operation game when you touch the sides.

The tooth brush pulls away from the tooth and JUMP CUT TO.

01B. INT. BATHROOM. MORNING.

PENNY

FUCK!

PENNY, an average woman who has obviously just woken up, stares deep into her reflection in the mirror, analyzing the inside of her mouth. Her hair is a mess and the bags under her eyes hang like she hasn't slept all night. She brings the toothbrush back up to her mouth and tries once again to scrub inside her mouth.

She's extremely cautious.

Tap.

PENNY (CONT'D)

FUUUCK!

She jerks the toothbrush out of her mouth again.

Hanging her head in defeat, she somberly and softly starts to cry.

PENNY (TO HERSELF) (CONT'D)

Life is not. This. Hard.

She looks back up at the mirror. Picking up her phone, she scrolls through a playlist of music and finally lands on a song. It starts playing.

"Dead in the water. It's not a paid vacation..." - MGMT.

PENNY walks out of the room.

TITLE: ABSCESS**02. INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT.**

Through out the montage of PENNY getting ready for the day. She is in pain, constantly rubbing her jaw or touching the her cheek where the tooth is and then pulling her hand away from how much it hurts.

She goes into the closet and gets clothes. A nice dress. Something best described as "cute" but with a hint of "plain Jane" to it. She puts it on and looks in the mirror.

She grabs a necklace off of her dresser and puts it on. But while putting it around her neck, it bumps her face and reels back in agony.

She makes coffee - similar to Dante making coffee at the beginning of Clerks. She grabs the tin. Pours in a few scoops. Pours in the water and waits. She tongues her tooth while she waits, looking out the window at the snowfall. It's a Minnesota winter.

Finally the coffee is done and she pours a cup. As soon as the hot coffee hits her tooth, she drop the glass and squeals.

P.O.V. Inside the freezer. The door opens and PENNY grabs a bag of peas. She puts them up against her face and feels a moment of relief. She shuts the freezer door.

BLACK.

SFX: A CELLPHONE RINGS

PENNY (V.O.)

Yeah.

THERESA (V.O.)

So? Are you coming to the Christmas thing or what?

PENNY (V.O.)

Shit.

03. I/E. DRIVING - MORNING -

PENNY is in her car on the phone. She talks into the speaker phone attached to the dashboard of her very hip.... minivan.

THERESA

C'mon, PENNY! You can't flake on this one too.

PENNY

My tooth is just really bugg...

THERESA interrupts her.

THERESA

PENNNNNN!!!! CMMOONNNNNN!!!!

PENNY

THERRESSAAAA... seriously. This tooth is so bad I can't brush my damn teeth. I'm sure my breath wrecks.

THERESA

So nothing unusual?

PENNY

Fuck off. Plus, you know I'm working today right?

THERESA

What kind of shit job makes you work on Christmas Eve? That's nuggin' futz.

PENNY looks sad. She knows her job is shit.

PENNY

Anyways, I dunno about said party. I'm going to see if I can find an emergency dentist or at least get something off my guy for the pain.

THERESA

Ooo... can you get me something special too? Maybe one of those lollipops he has that gets me all floaty?

PENNY

Why can't you just smoke weed like an adult?

THERESA

It ain't my thing, sugar! Anyways,
I can't wait to see you at the
party since I know you won't cop
out and ditch my ass like some kind
of backstabbing bitch, right? Hugs
n' kisses. Peace out. Bye.

She hangs up the phone without waiting for a response.

PENNY sighs with annoyance, while simultaneously cringing at her tooth pain again. She pulls over to the side of the road, the car tires rolling through piled up snow, and starts messing with her phone.

PENNY (TO HERSELF)

There's gotta' be a god damn
dentist open.

Beat.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Here's that bingo.

ANGLE ON PHONE. Emergency dental. 24/7. Walk-ins welcome.

She puts on speaker and starts driving again while it rings.

RECEPTIONIST

Good morning and thank you for
calling Crystal 24 Hour Dental
Clinic. How can I help you today?

Her voice rings with a sort of over friendliness that would annoy anyone.

PENNY

Yeah, hey! I need to get in ASAP.
My tooth is seriously killing me.

RECEPTIONIST

Alrighty, it looks like I have a 2
o'clock on Friday.

PENNY

This is like REALLY bad. Can I come
in today?

RECEPTIONIST

Oh, I'm sorry. We're closed today.

PENNY

But it's 24 hours isn't it?

RECEPTIONIST

Yes, but our dentists aren't on duty the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, every other Tuesday, and Fridays.

PENNY

Well, what I do? This is seriously painful.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sooo sorry to hear that. Would you like me to schedule you for Tuesday?

BEAT.

PENNY

....fine.

PENNY's eyes glaze over as she grabs the peas and holds them up to her face again.

RECEPTIONIST

Okay. We have a six a.m., a 8 a.m., a 3 p.m., a 4:21 pm, a

04. I/E. DRIVING - STILL DRIVING - DAY

PENNY continues to drive to work. She is obviously very uncomfortable and decides to put the peas against her face again. She reaches down to the passenger seat and the car swerves. She overcompensates getting back in the lane and swerves more.

Sirens blair and blue and red lights twirl behind her. She's being pulled over.

PENNY

C'mon god dammit.

Her car pulls over to the side of the road and the police officer drives up behind her.

He gets out of the car confidently. DOLLY UP from his boots, to his coat with the fur hood and prominently placed badge, to his sunglass covered face. He looks out in the opposite direction of the car and says to himself -

POLICEMAN BOB

Time to start the day right.

Penny rolls down the window, the pain of the cold outside makes her mouth instantly sting.

POLICEMAN BOB (CONT'D)
Mornin', miss. You haven't by chance been drinkin' have you?

PENNY
No...
(shocked)
No! What time is it? I'm just on my way to work.

POLICEMAN STAN
Well, I've pulled over football fans after a Vikes game doin' less swervin' then you - so I just assumed.

PENNY
That I was drunk?

POLICEMAN BOB
Ma'am - Howsbout you show me the license and registration you've got.

Penny reaches for the license and registration.

PENNY
Officer, I can explain. I've got a real bad tooth ache and I was just trying to grab for my peas.

POLICEMAN BOB
Piece!? You got a license for that piece?

PENNY
PEAS. A bag of frozen peas to put against my jaw... for the pain.

She hands the license and registration over and points to the bag of peas on her lap. Policeman Stan looks over the window and sees the peas in her crotch.

Beat.

POLICEMAN BOB
Ah. Peas. Welp, I gotta' say it's gonna' be pretty hard to keep those hands at 10 and 2 if you're holdin' them peas up against your face.

PENNY

Ah. Yeah. It just... it really hurts.

Policeman Stan sympathizes a bit.

POLICEMAN BOB

I tell you what. I'm gonna' let you go with a warning on account of the ...peas. But you're gonna' have a heck of a time finding a dentist today. My brother had dead tooth that went REAL south real fast over the 4th and we had to rip that sonamabitch out ourselves! And it did NOT want to come out.

Penny's disgusted.

POLICEMAN BOB (CONT'D)

Alright. Well - I'm lettin' you go with a citation which is a rarity for Officer Stan to do.

PENNY

Officer Stan?

POLICEMAN BOB

Pleasure to meet ya'. Officer Stephen Bob. Now just do me a favor and keep your peas off your face til you get to work. Have a nice day.

He walks away while Penny rolls up the window, looking back awkwardly and a bit unsure about what just happened.

Penny drives off

05. EXT. MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Penny is driving down the road and pulls over on the side of the road. We see her sit for second lean forward slamming her head against the steering when - but the pain obviously reverberates through her jaw and she screams louder.

She pulls out a cellphone and makes a call.

Beat.

PENNY

DJ!? Hey, DJ. It's Penny. I need something bad. No - no.

(MORE)

PENNY (CONT'D)
 Something for pain. I have a
 terrible tooth ache.

DJ (V.O.)
 YO YO YO. What can I do ya for.

PENNY
 Do you have anything for it?

DJ (V.O.)
 I mean, I ain't no dentist. You
 call dat dentist yet? Oh shit, son.
 That'll be tough right because it's
 X-mas Eve.

PENNY
 Yes. I know it's Christmas Eve.

Beat of annoyance.

CUT TO.

06. INT. A DANK APARTMENT. - MORNING-

SFX: Knock. Knock.

Someone is pounding at a door.

BEAT.

They pound again. A voice (DJ) hollers from off screen.

DJ
 YO! Have some chill. I'm rollin'
 dat way right mizzow.

A tall man in a bathrobe pulls the door open fast to reveal
 it's PENNY pounding at the door. She looks up at the man
 holding the peas against her face for a moment before we
 reveal:

D.J. KITTY LITTER (Early 30's). He's a tall man sporting a
 beard filled with hair ties. Under his left eye he has a
 heart tattoo and under his right he has a bullet tattoo. On
 his neck is a tat of a cat that says "R.I.P." underneath it.
 He has false gold teeth in that are obviously too big and
 don't stay on very well. He's wearing a pink bathrobe that's
 open in the front revealing some gold chains.

DJ (CONT'D)
 Yo. PENNY. Nice peas, babe.

PENNY

I'm hurtin, DJ. I need something
for the pain.

DJ

Oh I feel ya. I once stepped on the
wrong side of a dollar bill
necklace. Fuckin' thing was buried
half deep in the sole. You shoulda'
heard da' scream I made. YEEEEEEEEEE

He mimics the sound for a bit too long. Then there's a beat
of silence.

PENNY

...SO...

DJ

Oh shit. Yeah, I got ya, shiela.

He starts walking in the other room. Then pauses and looks
back at her.

DJ (CONT'D)

Shiela is Australian for baby. I'm
tryin' to get cultured and shit.
Saw that on the Bachelor.

He digs throw a dirty duffle bag.

DJ (CONT'D)

So, this shit...

He shakes a bottle at her.

DJ (CONT'D)

is potent. And judging by your face
you need something potent. BUT - in
my love machine I have something
even better.

PENNY

Love machine?

DJ

That's what I call my Nissan.

PENNY

Oh.

DJ

So how much pain we talkin'?

Penny's face looks like a ten on one of those doctors charts.
His reaction says she needs more.

DJ (CONT'D)
We got this. Let's hit up my ride.

They start to walk out the door and DJ stop Penny

DJ (CONT'D)
Woah! Watch out for that box.

He points to a box that they aren't anywhere near.

DJ (CONT'D)
Guess what's in there -

PENNY
What?

DJ
Guess

PENNY
Drugs?

DJ
GRENADES! IT'S FUCKIN' GRENADES!

PENNY
Jesus, why do you have grenades?

DJ
Oh shiela, DJ Kitty Litter is into
all sorts of gnarly shit. I'm DEEP
in the game.

PENNY
The game?

DJ
Wheelin', dealin' stealin' and
grenade... buyin'.
(beat)
Yeah. That's good. Alright - let's
kick it.

Penny's expression says - I need to find a new dealer.