

THE REUNION

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. DOCTOR OFFICE - DAY

MARION (60's) European, looks weathered, sits on the examining table of a small crowded doctor's exam room. Magazines a decade old are in the rack on the wall.

The DOCTOR (70's) Caucasian, stands beside The table with an open folder in hand.

DOCTOR

It's worse than we expected.

Marion's head drops into his hands. The doctor reaches out toward Marion's shoulder.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Do you have any family that I can call to pick you up?

Marion begins to cry.

MARION

I have no one here, my wife left this world years ago.

DOCTOR

You can't go through this alone. Do you have children?

MARION

Our children all went back to Europe. I was to follow them later this year.

The Doctor still holding onto Marion's shoulder. Marion looks up from his hands, his face red and wet with tears.

DOCTOR

This is terminal cancer. I will reach out to your children to explain the situation if you want.

MARION

No. I have one last trip to make, then I will return home to them.

DOCTOR

Take all the time you need. I will let the nurse know you to give you some time.

The Doctor exits the room. Marion looks up to the ceiling, his eyes full of tears again.

Marion pulls out his cellphone and scrolls the contacts to his daughter's number and pushes call.

MARION

Hello Dear. It appears my health has taken a drastic turn for the worse. Yes, if you could get my ticket for this week that would be great. I just need to say goodbye to your mother.

Marion stands up and rubs his eyes. He wipes his wet hands on his pants and opens the door to exit the room.

EXT. SIDEWALK - BANK ATM - DAY

Marion walks down a busy sidewalk, other pedestrians dodge him as he doesn't pay attention to where he walks. His eyes are locked on the ATM.

He reaches into his back pocket and pulls out his wallet.

A GIRL (20s) African American stands at the ATM. She is attractive, dressed in a short dress. She takes out cash.

Marion stands behind her as he waits for his turn at the ATM.

The Girl turns from the ATM as she stuffs money into her purse. She nearly runs into Marion as her focus is on her purse.

GIRL

I'm so sorry sir. Apparently I have to many things on my mind to pay attention to what I am doing.

MARION

No worries. I totally understand about having many things on the mind. Have a good evening, be safe.

The girl walks away as Marion steps up to the ATM and inserts his card.

POV: ATM SCREEN

The screen shows an account balance of \$22.48

Marion pushes the withdrawal button and the ATM spits out a twenty dollar bill.

MARION (CONT'D)

All those years of work and this is what I have to show for it. It will have to be enough.

He folds the money neatly in half and slips it into his pants pocket. He returns his card to his wallet and turns away from the ATM.

INT. MINI MARKET - DAY

Marion stands in front of a cooler of pre-made sandwiches. He picks them up one at a time as he searches for the oldest expiration date.

He opens the cooler door and looks at the price of the biggest bottled water in there.

He looks up as he calculates the cost of this meal in his head. He walks towards the checkout counter with the sandwich and water.

Marion places his items on the conveyor belt and browses the rag magazines as he waits his turn.

The CASHIER, (20s) Caucasian, wearing a Buffy the Vampire slayer shirt beneath her store smock, smiles as she rings up Marion's items.

CASHIER

Light lunch today sir?

MARION

It looks that way huh? When you reach my age the body doesn't require as much fuel.

CASHIER

Have a great day and be careful out there, I heard rain is coming.

MARION

Thank you, I will. Goodbye.

Marion collects his bag and walks towards the exit.

EXT. BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

Marion walks towards the covered bus stop outside of the Mini Market. There is an enclosed map of all the bus routes on the wall of the bus stop. A SENIOR COUPLE (60s) Asian sit on the bench as they wait for the next bus.

Marion scours the map with a puzzled look on his face. He raises his finger to trace the bus routes on the map.

SENIOR LADY

First time?

MARION

On a bus? No.

The Senior Lady smiles and goes back to her game of who will spot the bus first with her partner.

Marion stares at the top of the map.

MARION (CONT'D)

(mumbling to himself)

I will have to walk from there.

The bus pulls up and opens its door. The Senior Couple stand and walk to open door. Marion fishes in his pocket for change for the bus.

He walks behind the couple and climbs the steps into the bus.

The BUS DRIVER (30s) African American, smiles as the new passengers board. The couple pass him and immediately sit in the first seat available.

Marion pulls two quarters from his pocket and holds them out to the driver.

BUS DRIVER

Seniors ride for free sir.

MARION

Thank you, who knows how many rides we have left.

Marion drops the change back into his pocket and walks towards the back of the bus. He looks at all the passengers as he moves towards an empty seat in the back.

He sits down and closes his eyes. His hands hold his bag in his lap. A small smile crosses his face as a single tear streams down his cheek.

BUS DRIVER

Last stop.

Marion opens his eyes, the bus is empty. It is parked at a rest area along the highway.

He stands up and leans into the rail as his leg has fallen asleep. He limps towards the front exit of the bus.

BUS DRIVER (CONT'D)

Didn't sleep through your stop I hope.

MARION

No, No. This is my stop. Thank you.

Rain begins to sprinkle down as Marion exits the bus.

EXT. HIGHWAY REST STOP - EVENING

Marion looks up at the rain as he exits the bus. He walks towards the restrooms.

INT. RESTROOM - EVEING

Marion enters the bathroom and walks towards the toilets. MIKE (20s) Caucasian with long curly hair, homemade tattoos, and a Black Sabbath shirt stands at the urinal. As Marion passes, Mike turns his head while still peeing.

MIKE

Looks like that rain finally caught up to us.

Marion nods and enters the toilet, he locks the door behind him. He hangs his bag of food on the hook at the back of the door. He moves his wallet from his back to front pocket. He turns toward the toilet and unzips his pants. The sound of urine as it hits the toilet water fills the bathroom.

Marion zips his pants, grabs his bag and opens the stall door. The bathroom is now empty. He walks to the sink and washes his hands, fixes his hair, and looks at himself in the mirror. His eyes are sunken in and he looks physically exhausted.

As he exits the restroom he looks around for a place to eat. He spots an empty covered table and walks towards it.

EXT. HIGHWAY REST STOP TABLE - NIGHT

Marion sits and opens his bag of food. He pulls out the water, removes the top and drinks half the bottle before he realizes it.

MARION

I have to make this last.

Marion reaches in the bag and pulls out his sandwich. As he sets it on the table Mike slides onto the bench across from him.

MIKE

I noticed there are two of us but only my car is in the lot.

MARION

I don't have a car, I don't have much anymore.

Mike leans in towards Marion.

MIKE

No car huh?

MARION

No.

MIKE

Any money?

MARION

Are you robbing me?

MIKE

Not yet.

Marion brings his leg over the bench so that he straddles it sideways. Mike slides over beside him.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Where ya going? You don't have a ride and the bus is long gone.

MARION

What are you hoping for? I am an old man dying of cancer. I have twelve dollars to my name. I need to say goodbye to my wife so I can die in peace.

MIKE

That is quite the story. Not saying I believe it, but it's a good one. Do you know why I am here?

Marion looks at Mike and shakes his head no.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Security and Police don't come to this rest area. But it's the last stop for another 80 miles.

Marion starts to stand and Mike puts his hand on his shoulder.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I'm not finished yet. It's rude to leave before the conversation is over.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Anyway, I usually wear a mask when I rob people. But it was too easy with you. No car, no family with you.

MARION

I said I will give you what I have.

MIKE

You have seen me, I can't have you running to the police.

MARION

Listen to me! I am dying! You can have my money but I need to be on my way.

Marion reaches into his pocket and throws his cash onto the table. He reaches back and pulls his wallet out and drops it on the table.

MARION (CONT'D)

Take the money.

MIKE

Yeah, I will.

Mike opens the wallet and shakes it, nothing falls out. He tosses it back on the table. The wallet is bare except for Marion's license and a photo of his late wife.

Mike scoops the cash from the table as he keeps his eyes on Marion.

Headlights stream across the table as a car pulls up and parks. Its doors open and a FAMILY exits.

Marion stands up, and pulls his shoulder out of Mike's grip. Mike stands with him a sly grin on his face.

The family splits as the FATHER (40s) Caucasian and SON(12) walk towards the Men's room and the MOTHER enters the Women's room.

Marion makes eye contact with the Father.

MARION
Good evening.

The Father stops as his child continues into the bathroom.

FATHER
Good evening.

MARION
I was hoping to catch a ride with you to the next town. I rode the bus here and my friend here seems to be going in the opposite direction.

Mike walks towards his car, parked next to the family's car.

FATHER
Normally I don't pick up strangers. Seeing that a storm is coming in and you are hardly prepared for it, I will make an exception. What's your name.

MARION
Marion.

FATHER
Nice to meet you Marion, I'm Jesse. We will be leaving momentarily.

Mike enters his car and starts it. He sits and waits for the others.

Jesse and his son exit the bathroom and Marion is introduced to the wife.

They all enter the car as Mike sits and watches.

The family pull out of the rest stop and onto the highway. Mike follows.

INT. JESSE'S CAR - NIGHT

JESSE
Looks like your friend is headed this way after all.

MARION
Hmmm, he must not have wanted to help an old man in his time of need.

WIFE

I'm sorry but your friend sounds like a jerk.

MARION

Yes, I suppose he is.

The family continues on the highway, Mike speeds past them. The rain has turned into a down pour.

MARION (CONT'D)

(Under his breath) Good riddance.

Marion leans his head into the window. He struggles to stay awake.

The car passes a highway sign that says Palin is 2 miles ahead.

MARION (CONT'D)

Can you please drop me in Palin, near the cemetery?

WIFE

Of course, do you have family there?

MARION

My wife is there, four years now.

JESSE

There isn't much in that town, you sure you will be ok?

MARION

Yes, thank you.

EXT. PALIN CEMETERY ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jesse pulls up to the entrance of the cemetery.

WIFE

Please take an umbrella from us. It's pouring and you don't have a coat.

MARION

Thank you but no. You have helped me more than you could imagine.

Marion exits the car into the pouring rain. He closes the door and the car pulls away.

EXT. PALIN CEMETERY - NIGHT

Marion moves towards the cover of some trees in the cemetery. He looks out into the cemetery for his wife's headstone.

MIKE

(off screen behind the tree) So
your wife you need to say goodbye
to is dead?

Mike walks out from the tree, he is wearing a dark rain poncho.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Did you really think I could just
let you get away that easily?

MARION

You have my money, I have nothing
else.

MIKE

Yes, I have your twelve dollars.
The problem is the trouble you have
caused me is going to cost more
than that.

MARION

I have nothing else!

MIKE

I think you do.

Mike raises his hand that holds a baseball bat. He swings it into Marion's knee. Marion collapses to the ground holding his leg. Marion screams.

Mike walks behind Marion and lands a blow to Marion's back. He takes one last swing and connects with Marion's ribs. He walks to his car and tosses the bat in. He slides in to the driver's seat and slams the door closed. As he pulls out his headlights slide over Marion's immobile body.

With the headlights gone Marion raises his hand and puts it to the ground. He follows with his other hand and positions himself on his hands and knees.

He slowly crawls along the tombstones.

POV:

Headstone that reads EVA KLAJBON.

Marion falls flat on the ground at the headstone.

MARION

I'm so sorry my dearest. My body
has failed me. I needed to talk to
you before this Cancer consumed my
body. Now it looks like the hatred
of another will be my cause of
death.

Marion curls up in the fetal position and closes his eyes as
the rain pours over him.

FADE OUT:

END