

The Birthday Club

By

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DISSOLVE TO

1

INT.KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

1

A new years party is in full swing. We see a banner that says Hello 2000. We also see by the half eaten birthday cake it is KATLYN'S birthday. Party paraphernalia is everywhere. The crowd consists of many age groups and varying levels of sobriety. One MAN is sitting on the couch looking at the cake he attempts to cut it but he is so drunk he falls face first into it and doesn't get up.

A group of five are gathered in the adjoining room surrounded by others standing in their own little cliques.

STEPHEN

To Katlyn.

ALL

To Katlyn. Happy Birthday.

Everyone raises their glasses.

KATLYN.

Thank you so much.

There are the usual round of hugs and kisses and ad-libs. Shaun breaks from the group as he spots a gorgeous YOUNG WOMAN by herself. He smiles and prepares to pour on the charm.

SHAUN

Hell, of a party, huh ?

YOUNG WOMAN

Yeah. How do you know Katlyn ?

SHAUN

Friend's from way back. I'm Shaun.

YOUNG WOMAN

Brian.

She offers her hand.

In another part of the party A NERDY LOOKING GUY is doing bird impressions for a small gathering.

ROBYN breaks from the group when she spots a YOUNG MAN.

(CONTINUED)

ROBYN

Excuse me.

She walks over to the man grabs him away from the woman he was talking to and forces him down the corridor.

CUT TO

2

INT. CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

2

Robyn slams the man against the wall.

ROBYN

What do you think you're doing ?

MAN

Wha...nothing..I..

ROBYN

Do you know who that slut is ?

MAN

Well no. I didn't actually get her name.

ROBYN

She doesn't care about your name. She is a vicious sexual predator who will chain you to the floor cover you in honey and walk all over you with spiked leather boots.

MAN

Sounds like fun.

ROBYN

It isn't fun. Trust me I know.

MAN

You mean she did it to you ?

ROBYN

The point is, I don't want you anywhere near her.

MAN

Why ? You're not my girlfriend.

Robyn opens the door and pushes the man into the room.

CUT TO

3 INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 3

A party goer grabs a cracker and dips it. He doesn't notice the guy snoring in the cake. Stephen is showing off.

STEPHEN

It's all in the stance. If you've got your body centered, everything else just falls into place.

WOMAN

Do you teach as well ?

STEPHEN

Not yet. I've only just got my black belt, but I'm working towards teaching.

CUT TO

4 INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER 4

Brian and Shaun are getting beers from the fridge.

BRIAN

You write poetry. That wonderful.

SHAUN

Yeah, well..

BRIAN

Have you had anything published ?

SHAUN

Sure. A few. You know you've got really pretty eyes.

BRIAN

I wear contacts.

CUT TO

5 INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 5

A young Woman, KIRA, is sitting on the couch opposite the man who is snoring in the cake. She is just watching him. MELISSA sits next to her snuggles up to her and kisses her on the cheek.

MELISSA

Hey, honey. What's up ?

(CONTINUED)

KIRA

Nothing.

MELISSA

(joking) Well cheer up the world ends tomorrow.

KIRA

Good.

MELISSA

All the computers are going to stop because some idiot forgot to program the dates into the computer software properly. So everything in the world run by computers is going to freak out and we are all going to die.

KIRA

That's nice.

MELISSA

You've taken your medication with champagne haven't you ?

KIRA

Yes.

MELISSA

Jesus, Kira.

KIRA

Did you know there is someone snoring in Katlyn's cake.

Melissa finally notices the man face down in the cake.

CUT TO.

6 INT. KATLYN'S BEDROOM -- LATER

6

Katlyn walks in and puts some presents on her bed. She is about to walk out when she hears a thumping noise coming from the closet. She goes to the closet to check it out.

She hears moaning noises as well as the rhythmic thumping.

KATLYN.

Robyn, is that you ?

ROBYN

I'll be out in a minute.

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN.

Damn it. Why do you have to use
my closet.

ROBYN

(hardly breathing) I'm
nearly done.

KATLYN.

That's not the point. This thing
with closets, you can't keep
doing this.

ROBYN

(gasping)

OH GOD !

KATLYN.

We have to talk. I mean it, last
time I had to get my dress dry
cleaned. Do you know how much it
cost to get those sort of stains
out.

ROBYN OH MY GOD !

KATLYN.

I mean it Robyn. If it happens
again I'm sending you the bill.

Katlyn leaves.

ROBYN

Oh God. Don't stop now.

YOUNG MAN

Ohhh...Sorry.

CUT TO

7

INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

7

Melissa is dragging the drunken man around as best she
can. She sees Stephen still showing off.

MELISSA

A little help here.

Stephen goes to her aid. They take the drunken guy to the
bathroom.

STEPHEN

Why is there cake on his face ?

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA
We were out of whipped cream.

STEPHEN
Funny.

CUT TO

8 INT. BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

8

Stephen puts the drunk face first into a sink full of water.

STEPHEN
So.

MELISSA
So.

STEPHEN
You haven't returned my calls.

MELISSA
I said I wouldn't.

STEPHEN
I know.

MELISSA
You seeing anybody.

STEPHEN
No.

MELISSA
Why not ?

STEPHEN
We only broke up last week.

The drunk is still face first in the sink of water.

STEPHEN (cont'd)
You should have told me about Kira.

MELISSA
I didn't know how.

STEPHEN
Just finding you both like that...

MELISSA
I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

On top of the kitchen table, for
god's sake.

MELISSA

We cleaned it down when we were
done.

STEPHEN

I couldn't eat off that table
anymore. I had to sell it.

MELISSA

You should have told me. I would
have bought it.

The drunk is still in the water.

STEPHEN

I thought of that. You weren't
returning my calls, remember.

MELISSA

Oh. My bad.

STEPHEN

The point is..... You should've
told me that's all.

MELISSA

What would you have done if I
had?

STEPHEN

I don't know. Buy you K D Lang
CD's for your birthday.

She laughs.

MELISSA

I really am sorry.

STEPHEN

So am I.

They embrace and kiss. Friendly, not passionate. The drunk
is still face down in the sink.

CUT TO.

Robyn and the young man are walking back to the living
room.

YOUNG MAN
I said I was sorry.

ROBYN
Whatever.

Robyn just walks away from him she goes to the kitchen.

CUT TO

10 INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

10

Robyn grabs a beer from the fridge, flips the top and drinks half the bottle without pausing for breath. She sees Shaun talking to Brian. Brian steps away for a moment. Robyn walks over to Shaun.

ROBYN
You do realize she's a man, don't you ?

SHAUN
She's had the operation.

ROBYN
Do you really want to go there?

SHAUN
We're just talking.

ROBYN
I know a few guy's I'd like to operate on.

SHAUN
Bad date again ?

ROBYN
Do you want to hear about it ?

SHAUN
Not really.

ROBYN
We were in Katlyn's closet....

Brian returns.

BRIAN
Robyn. There you are. I've been looking for you.

ROBYN
Hey, Brian. How's it hanging ?

Shaun gives her a foul look.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO.

11 INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

11

Brian sees Kira sitting Staring. Opposite her is the nerdy guy doing Bird impressions. Brian is concerned for Kira.

BRIAN.

Kira.

NERDY GUY

That was the swallow. Do you want to hear the red tail swallow ?, it's totally different, you know.

BRIAN

Peter, can you excuse us for a moment.

NERDY GUY

Oh. Okay. I was only trying to cheer her up.

BRIAN

I know. Thank you.

Awkwardly the Nerdy guy leaves.

BRIAN.

Kira. What's the matter ?

KIRA

It isn't fair.

BRIAN.

What isn't fair ?

KIRA

Life. Everything.

BRIAN.

Are you and Melissa having problems?

KIRA

No.

BRIAN.

Then what's the matter ?

KIRA

That funny man was making strange noises.

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN.

If he was bothering you, I'll
tell him to leave you alone.

KIRA

I had a vision again.

BRIAN.

We've talked about that.

KIRA

I'm really sorry to spoil the
party.

KATLYN.

It's all right. What did you see
?

KIRA

Something bad.

At that moment Melissa rushes in.

MELISSA

Katlyn. The guy in the bathroom.
He's stopped breathing.

KATLYN.

What !

She rushes off with Stephen. Kira still stares off. She
looks at the Nerdy Guy. A Tear wells in her eye.

CUT TO

12 INT. KATLYNS BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 12

Katlyn has the man on the floor giving him CPR.

CUT TO

13 INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 13

The clock is seconds away from striking twelve.

ALL

Twenty. Nineteen, eighteen.
Seventeen sixteen...

Kira continues to stare.

CUT TO.

- 14 INT. BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS 14
Katlyn continues to give the guy CPR.
CUT TO
- 15 INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 15
ALL
Twelve, eleven, Ten, Nine...
Kira still motionless.
CUT TO.
- 16 INT. BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS 16
KATLYN.
Breathe. Damn you. Breathe.
CUT TO.
- 17 INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 17
ALL
Three. Two. One.
As the clock strikes midnight, everyone cheers as they
welcome in the new Millennium. But the Nerdy Guy clutches
his chest in pain.
CUT TO
- 18 INT. BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS 18
The Man suddenly gasps for air. Katlyn and everyone
breathes a sigh of relief.
CUT TO
- 19 INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 19
The cheering and celebrating continues. Kira just
continues to stare. The Nerdy guy moves to the couch to
sit down but falls instead. He hits the floor and doesn't
move. No one else notices except Kira. She sits there as a
tear runs down her eye.
CUT TO

20

INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- LATER

20

Katlyn watches from the window. We hear the ambulance pull away. There are only four people left. Katlyn, Stephen, Shaun. And Robyn.

ROBYN

Did You know him really well ?

KATLYN.

No. Hardly at all. But that's not the point.

STEPHEN

Did he have any family ? Should we contact someone.

KATLYN.

I'm not sure. He works upstairs at the theater. He always seemed so quiet . I felt sorry for him so I invited him.

ROBYN

Who knew he had a dodgy pacemaker ?

KATLYN.

I should have.

STEPHEN

How ? You said you hardly knew the guy.

Melissa enters from the other room.

SHAUN

How is she ?

MELISSA

Asleep. She's not going to be any fun tonight.

SHAUN

I know that feeling.

MELISSA

What ? The tranny left you in the lurch did he ?

SHAUN

She ! And no, She didn't. I got her number.

STEPHEN

How could you do that, man ?

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN

What ?

STEPHEN

You know...It's a guy.

SHAUN

Not any more.

ROBYN

I always thought you had strange taste in woman. But I didn't know you had stranger taste in men.

SHAUN

How many times do I have to tell you ? She's not a guy.

MELISSA

Say it to yourself often enough and you'll start believing it.

KATLYN.

Everyone. This has been fun but it's time to go.

ROBYN

We can't go yet.

SHAUN

We haven't done the thing.

KATLYN.

The what ?

STEPHEN

The Birthday book.

KATLYN.

You've gotta be kidding.

ROBYN

We made a promise. No matter what happened we were going to do this.

KATLYN.

A man I hardly knew had a heart attack on my best rug.

MELISSA

Could've been worse.

KATLYN.

How ?

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

His brain could've hemorrhaged
and he would've bled all over
your rug.

KATLYN.

I worry about you sometimes.

SHAUN

Come on. You barely knew the guy.

STEPHEN

And we all brought photos.

KATLYN.

You really want to do this now ?

MELISSA

Why do you think we're hanging
out here ?

SHAUN

C'mon. Get the book.

KATLYN.

I don't believe this. I really
don't.

Katlyn goes to her bedroom.

STEPHEN

Maybe she's right. We can do this
another day.

SHAUN

No.

ROBYN

It's a tradition. We've gotta do
it now.

STEPHEN

Why ?

MELISSA

Aren't you listening. It's a
tradition. If you change the day
it's not a tradition any more.

Katlyn returns with a large photo album. She places it on
the coffee table in the middle of the room.

KATLYN.

Okay. Who wants to go first ?

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

I will.

Melissa takes out a photo of herself in a sexy outfit and places it on the open page.

SHAUN

Whoa !

MELISSA

My latest outfit.

ROBYN

And why this one ?

MELISSA

Because I look hot in it.

ROBYN

It's okay.

MELISSA

Says you miss perfect body.

Shaun puts down a photo of himself holding some kind of certificate.

SHAUN

My diploma. I am now an accredited photo-journalist.

Robyn puts down a photo.

ROBYN

Me at my latest modeling gig.

Stephen puts down a photo.

STEPHEN

Getting my black belt.

Katlyn takes out a photo.

KATLYN.

Me, the day after I came out of hospital.

Stephen presents her with a present. She looks at the card. It says from the birthday club. She unwraps it. It's a laptop.

KATLYN. (cont'd)

This is fantastic.

ROBYN

You're always saying you never have enough time to write.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN
Now you can do it on the way to
work and back.

KATLYN.
Thankyou all so much.

MELISSA
Happy Birthday.

The rest of them wish Katlyn a happy birthday.

FADE TO

Super title September 13 2001

21 INT. ROBYNS LIVING ROOM -- AFTERNOON 21

As before there are several people around. Drinking and
Being in a celebratory mood. Shaun on the other hand is
anything but cheerful. He is on his mobile phone he goes
into the corridor.

22 INT. ROBYNS CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS 22

Stephen bumps into Shaun.

STEPHEN
Hey, haven't seen you much
tonight.

SHAUN
Sorry. Not good company tonight.

STEPHEN
Anything I can do?

SHAUN
Not really.

STEPHEN
So what's up ?

SHAUN
Those planes that went down in
New York. I think Brian was on
one of them.

STEPHEN
No way. Are you sure ?

SHAUN
Not really. She said that was the
flight she could be taking back
to L.A. to connect with the plane
back to Sydney.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN
She could've got an earlier
flight.

SHAUN
God, I hope so. I can't reach
her. Why doesn't she call me ?

STEPHEN
You heard what they said.
Everyone's having problems
getting through.

SHAUN
It's been two days.

STEPHEN
She will call you. First chance
she get's .

SHAUN
And what if she doesn't ?

STEPHEN
She'll call.

CUT TO

23 INT. ROBYNS LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

23

Melissa is scoffing the dips.

KATLYN.
Leave some for the others.

MELISSA
I have been working on those
designs all day. I didn't even
have time for breakfast. I am
starving.

STEPHEN
Hi.

KATLYN.
Hi.

Katlyn gives Stephen a look that says she wishes there was more between them. Stephen doesn't notice but Melissa does.

MELISSA
Oh, please would you two get a
room.

She leaves with a handful of crackers.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN
What's she talking about?

KATLYN.
I have no idea. Is something wrong with Shaun, he seems a little distant tonight.

STEPHEN
Give him some space for the moment

KATLYN.
What's wrong ?

CUT TO

24 INT. ROBYNS CORRIDOR -- MOMENTS LATER

24

SHAUN
Well can you put me through to someone who can help me....What..what do you mean ? ..don't give that crap. You are not doing everything you can..Uh.Hello ? Hello...Shit.

KATLYN.
Still no word.

SHAUN
Nobody will talk to me.

KATLYN.
There's still a lot going on over there.

SHAUN
Dammit, why doesn't she call ?

KATLYN.
Give her time.

SHAUN
I just want to know she's okay.

KATLYN.
I know.

Shaun walks away.

KATLYN. (cont'd)
He's very worried.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

I don't blame him. If it was my girlfriend I'd be tearing down the walls by now.

Melissa and Kira approach.

MELISSA

Hey. How's he doing ?

KATLYN.

Not good.

MELISSA

They reckon they know who did it. Someone called Al kida.

KIRA

Al Quida and it's a group.

MELISSA

You've heard of them ?

KIRA

My father knows of them. He lived in Afghanistan all of his life until he moved to Australia.

STEPHEN

Whoever they are they're going to get their asses kicked. The Americans aren't going to sit still for this.

MELISSA

If they ever catch them.

KATLYN.

Can we not talk about this now. It's been on the TV and the radio for the last couple of days. I really don't want to talk about it right now.

STEPHEN

Sure.

KATLYN.

Where's Robyn ? This is supposed to be her party.

MELISSA

I'll give you three guesses.

CUT TO

25 INT. ROBYNS BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 25

The room is empty. But we hear a rhythmic thumping coming from the closet.

ROBYN
Oh God ! Oh God ! Oh God !

CUT TO

26 INT. ROBYNS KITCHEN -- LATER 26

Melissa and Kira are drinking and talking.

KIRA
I don't think your friends like me.

MELISSA
Of course they do, sweetie.

KIRA
They only tolerate me because I'm with you.

MELISSA
No, they really like you trust me.

She gives her a gentle kiss to assure her.

Katlyn enters.

KATLYN.
Typical, the real parties are always in the kitchen.

She gives Kira a non committal look. It doesn't go unnoticed by Kira.

MELISSA
Are they going to cut the cake soon. I'm starving.

KATLYN.
What do you mean ? You ate half the dips.

MELISSA
That isn't a meal.

Robyn, unhappy, walks into the kitchen. A man much older than her follows behind.

(CONTINUED)

OLDER GUY
I said I was sorry.

ROBYN
Yeah, Yeah. Heard it all before.

Katlyn and Melissa are surprised by the age of the man.

OLDER GUY
Well, what do you want me to say
?

ROBYN
(to Older Guy) Can you
excuse us for a moment.
Private conversation, here.

OLDER GUY
Uh..Sure. I'll just..um..we'll
talk later.

ROBYN
Sure we will.

The Older Guy, embarrassed, leaves.

KATLYN.
Tell me you didn't.

ROBYN
Alright I won't tell you. You can
work it out from yourself.

MELISSA
Ewww. Robyn that's disgusting. He
must be, what ? Eighty.

ROBYN
He's Fifty five.

KATLYN.
Who is he ?

ROBYN
He's a friend of my dad's.

MELISSA
What !

KATLYN.
You're kidding.

MELISSA
This is way to weird for me.

KATLYN.

I don't get it. Is this your way
and getting back at your dad for
something?

ROBYN

Nothing so Freudian. It was just
sex.

MELISSA

My God, I never realized you were
that desperate.

ROBYN

How long have you known me ?

MELISSA

Ten years.

ROBYN

Then you should know I am that
desperate.

CUT TO

27 INT. ROBYNS LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

27

The Older Guy, MARK is called over by CRAIG, Robyns
father, and MARTHA, Robyns mother. Stephen is in the
background hovering nearby.

CRAIG

Mark ? I didn't know you were
here?

MARK

I..uh slipped in a few moments
ago. Just wanted to chat to you
about something. Didn't know you
were having a party

CRAIG

My daughter. She's 21 today.

MARK

Well, wish her a happy birthday
for me.

MARTHA

Have you just come from the gym ?

MARK

Sorry ?

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG

You look like you've just finished a workout.

MARK

Yeah, Yeah. Actually, I think I pulled a muscle.

MARTHA

Rubbing will fix that.

MARK

You think ?

MARTHA

Of course my Gym instructor says the best way to ease a strained muscle is to massage it.

MARK

I'll keep that in mind.

MARTHA

Which muscle is it ?

MARK

Well, it's ...

MARTHA

It doesn't matter. Just give it a good rub and you'll feel better.

MARK

So..uh..Those planes crashing into the trade center. That's really bad news.

CRAIG

Yes. It'll affect the stock market for sure.

MARK

And the oil prices.

MARTHA

But what about all those people. They're saying two to three thousand people are dead.

MARK

Damn shame.

Craig notices Stephen.

CRAIG

Oh, Stephen have you seen Robyn ?

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

Not really. She's probably with
Melissa and Katlyn.

Craig nods.

MARTHA

We were just saying, tragic thing
those plane crashes are.

STEPHEN

Yeah. Still they can't say they
weren't warned.

CRAIG

There was no way of knowing that
was going to happen.

STEPHEN

Not specifically. But American
Home security has lacked
sufficient funding for some time
to mount an effective counter
terrorist campaign.

MARK

I'm sure they get their fair
share.

STEPHEN

When they're at war. But during
peace time they have to justify
their budget.

CRAIG

Well, I believe they will be
getting more money now than
they've ever seen.

STEPHEN

I'm sure. But it's kind of too
little too late. The Americans
are too complacent with the
possibility of an attack on their
home soil.

MARK

They have some of the toughest
security in the world.

STEPHEN

All the security in the world
doesn't matter if the killer is
someone who's lived there all
their life.

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG

I suppose it's always the enemy
you don't know that's the worst.

STEPHEN

The Americans never expect an
attack on home soil. The last
time was Pearl Harbour.

MARTHA

I saw that film. Ben Affleck is a
wonderful actor.

CRAIG

It's got nothing to do with what
we're talking about. Martha.

STEPHEN

But movies have been saying for
years this could happen. Like how
easy it would be for someone to
just walk in unnoticed and take
out a building or a bridge.

MARK

(scoffs) They're always so
far fetched.

STEPHEN

There was a Chuck Norris movie in
the eighties. It was called
Invasion USA. Showed how easy a
terrorist group could walk into
suburbia and just blow away the
neighbourhood and no one could
stop them. Doesn't seem so far
fetched now.

CUT TO

28 INT. ROBYNS CORRIDOR -- LATER

28

Shaun is punching numbers on his mobile. No one answers He
is getting frustrated. He slams his mobile shut.

MELISSA

Why not give it a rest for a
while.

SHAUN

I can't. I should go. Tell Robyn
I'm sorry.

MELISSA

No you don't. Come on. We're
going to do the Birthday book
thing now.

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN

I'm really not in the mood.

MELISSA

And what are you going to do ?
Sit at home and sulk all night ?
Look trust she's okay. She just
can't get to a phone that's all.
I bet she wasn't even on the damn
plane.

SHAUN

You're probably right. It's just
this damn waiting. It's killing
me.

Kira walks up beside Melissa.

KIRA

(To Shaun) Hi. I'm really
sorry to hear about your
friend.

SHAUN

I should really go.

Shaun leaves.

MELISSA

No, wait.

Shaun is gone before Melissa can say anything else.

KIRA

Is he going to be okay ?

CUT TO

29 INT. ROBYNS LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

29

Robyn enters and joins her fathers little group.

ROBYN

Hey, Stephen we're going to do
the birthday book thing, now.

STEPHEN

Okay.

CRAIG

Robyn. This is Mark. He works for
me ...

ROBYN

We've already met.

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG

Oh ?

ROBYN

Sure. We were having sex in my closet a few minutes ago. Didn't he tell you ?

Robyn takes Stephen away. Leaving Mark very flushed.

CUT TO

30

INT. ROBYNS BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

30

Katlyn and Melissa are already waiting when Robyn enters with Stephen.

STEPHEN

I can't believe you just said that.

MELISSA

Said what ?

ROBYN

I told dad I just screwed one of his employees.

KATLYN.

No !

MELISSA

That old guy works for your father ?

ROBYN

Is that a problem ?

MELISSA

Woman. You are evil.

KATLYN.

Robyn, that's terrible.

ROBYN

Oh, please. They'll work it out.

STEPHEN

I think you should apologies.

ROBYN

For what ?

STEPHEN

You put that man in a very awkward position.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

They just screwed in the closet.
It doesn't get any more awkward
then that.

STEPHEN

He could loose his job because of
you.

ROBYN

He should've thought of that
before he started screwing
daddy's little girl.

KATLYN.

He probably thought you were
going to be discreet.

ROBYN

Why ? He sure as hell wasn't.

MELISSA

They're both adults. What's the
problem ?

STEPHEN

The problem is it shows a lack of
respect for you for him and your
father.

KATLYN.

Stephen's right. An affair is one
thing But blurting it out in
front of everyone and just
walking away is inexcusable.

STEPHEN

Who started it you or him ? Be
honest.

ROBYN

(hesitant) I did.

Pause she looks at everyone.

STEPHEN

Go and apologize

ROBYN

Fine.

Robyn leaves.

CUT TO

31 INT. ROBYNS LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

31

Robyn walks out into the living room. There is no-one there but her father.

ROBYN
Where did everybody go ?

CRAIG
They decided the party was over.

ROBYN
But we haven't cut the cake.

CRAIG
Robyn, your old enough to do what you want with your life....

ROBYN
....I'm sorry. What I did was really out of line.

CRAIG
I'm not the one you should apologize to.

ROBYN
I've got to apologize to Mark as well ?

CRAIG
That would be best.

ROBYN
(to herself) Damn !

CRAIG
Sorry ?

ROBYN
Nothing.

CRAIG
How long has this been going on ?

ROBYN
Not long. Are you angry?

CRAIG
Surprised would be more like it. And a little disappointed.

ROBYN
Are you going to fire him ?

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG

No. You're both adults it's none of my business.

ROBYN

Wow, that's very liberal of you.

CRAIG

Just think about what you're doing before you get in too deep.

ROBYN

I will.

She gives him a kiss then leaves.

DISSOLVE TO

32 INT. SHAUNS' LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

32

Shaun stares at the phone waiting for it to ring. The wait is painful for him. He continues to wait and wait and wait. The phone never rings.

FADE TO

Super title; October 26 2002

33 INT. SHAUNS LIVING ROOM -- AFTERNOON

33

The usual suspects are there except for Robyn and Melissa. As well as a mixed crowd. Shaun is on the phone Katlyn is beside him.

SHAUN

Okay. Thanks Mrs Parker. Bye.

KATLYN.

Is she coming ?

SHAUN

She left about twenty minutes ago.

KATLYN.

She should be here by now.

SHAUN

Probably caught in traffic. Her dad's bringing her.

KATLYN.

Why ?

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN
She's not well enough to drive
yet.

KATLYN.
Right.

SHAUN
But she's okay?

KATLYN.
That remains to be seen.

The doorbell rings. Both Shaun and Katlyn go to answer it.
It's Melissa and Kira.

MELISSA
Hello birthday boy.

Melissa gives Shaun a big hug and a kiss on the cheek.

SHAUN
How you doing ?

Melissa enters with Kira right behind her.

KATLYN.
(so only Melissa can hear)
Still dating the angel of
death I see.

MELISSA
Don't start.

Melissa sees Stephen and hugs him.

MELISSA (cont'd)
Hey, big fella.

STEPHEN
Hey.

MELISSA
My god, look at these muscles.
Army life has definitely been
good to you.

She gives him a gentle punch in the stomach as a sign of
affection.

STEPHEN
You're not looking to bad
yourself.

MELISSA
Watch out. You'll make Katlyn
jealous.

(CONTINUED)

Katlyn just smiles.

MELISSA (cont'd)
Robyn here yet ?

KATLYN.
She's on her way.

MELISSA
How's she doing ?

KATLYN.
I haven't seen her. No-one has.

SHAUN
I had to twist her arm to come today.

MELISSA
She wouldn't let me visit her either.

STEPHEN
She's had a rough couple of weeks. Give her time.

MELISSA
So, where's the food. I'm hungry.

SHAUN
Don't you ever eat at home.

MELISSA
Who has time ?

SHAUN
Well, you know where the kitchen is.

MELISSA
Humh. Some host you are.

Melissa walks into the kitchen. Kira follows behind her, but before she leaves she gives Stephen a look. Katlyn knows that look. It makes Stephen a little uncomfortable. Kira, embarrassed, lowers her head and follows after Melissa.

Party goes in another part of the living room are arguing. PETE, TIM SARAH.

PETE
It's about oil. That's what it's always been about.

(CONTINUED)

TIM

It's more than that. America is empire building. They have to, if they want to maintain their so called standard of living.

SARAH

How is taking over Iraq going to help ? It'll cost them billions.

PETE

Peanuts compared to what they'll make in the long term.

SARAH

It'll take years to re-coop that.

TIM

Not necessarily. Once they've devastated the place and private industries move in it'll only take ten years, maybe a little more.

SARAH

Shaun. What do you think ?

SHAUN

About what ?

SARAH

Is America going to invade Iraq within the next year.

SHAUN

Count on it.

CUT TO

34

INT. SHAUNS KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

34

Melissa munches on some chicken wings. Kira has a drink.

KIRA

I think Katlyn hates me.

MELISSA

No she doesn't.

KIRA

She looks at me as if I'm going to rip her soul out.

MELISSA

She's just not used to you yet. It takes a little time.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA

We've known each other for three years.

MELISSA

No, WE'VE known each other for three years. Katlyn you only meet at parties.

KIRA

I should talk to her.

MELISSA

No. She'll come around in her own time. Here have a chicken wing.

KIRA

You know I'm vegetarian.

MELISSA

It's okay, I'm sure the chicken never ate meat.

CUT TO

35

INT. SHAUNS LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

35

Stephen hands Katlyn a glass of wine. He looks at the clique that shaun is with. He overhears a little of what they are talking about and shakes his head.

STEPHEN

They've got no idea.

Katlyn looks at him. We can see it's something she doesn't want to discuss.

KATLYN.

This is supposed to be a party.

STEPHEN

I'm not going to start anything.

KATLYN.

Good.

STEPHEN

Unless they start it first.

KATLYN.

No.

STEPHEN

I'm only saying...

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN.

I mean it.

STEPHEN

Fine. I'll keep the peace.

The doorbell rings. Katlyn looks anxious. Stephen nods her to go. She follows Shaun to the door. It is Robyn. But she is not her usual bubbly self. She seems conservatively dressed. (At least for her) And she wears a scarf like a hood that hides one side of her face. Her father is standing behind her.

SHAUN

Hey stranger.

ROBYN

Hi.

Nervously she turns to Craig.

CRAIG

Give us a call when you ready.

KATLYN.

It's okay. I'll give her a lift.

Robyn nods to Craig. She'll be fine. She gives him a kiss good-bye and he leaves.

SHAUN

Come in.

Robyn enters. She feels self conscious and looks around at the people. Some look at her a little curious for a second but go back to what they were doing. Some only give her a momentary glance. Others don't notice her at all. But Robyn re-acts as if the whole world is staring at her.

SHAUN (cont'd)

Drink ?

ROBYN

Uh ?

SHAUN

Your usual. Vodka and dry.

ROBYN

Maybe later.

Shaun reaches to take her coat. But Robyn hugs it into herself.

ROBYN (cont'd)

It's okay.

Shaun just shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN
Sure I can't get you anything.

ROBYN
I'm fine really.
(to Katlyn) Can we talk ?

KATLYN.
Of course.

They head outside.

SHAUN
Oh, hey Robyn. Just so you know.
I've put a padlock on my bedroom
closet.

She doesn't smile. There is a sadness to her and she turns
away.

SHAUN (cont'd)
I'm kidding. Who padlocks their
closet. Right ?

Katlyn and Robyn go outside. Shaun goes to the kitchen.

CUT TO

36 INT. SHAUNS KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

36

Shaun walks in to see Melissa scoff a whole chicken
breast.

SHAUN
Leave some for the starving
masses.

MELISSA
Screw them.

SHAUN
Robyn's here.

Melissa drops the chicken breast and almost sprints out.
Shaun stops her.

SHAUN (cont'd)
Whoa. Hold it. She's talking to
Katlyn.

MELISSA
So.

SHAUN
Give them a moment.

Melissa relents.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA
How does she... Is she okay.

SHAUN
Hard to say.

MELISSA
Are there any....Scars, something like that?

SHAUN
I didn't see. She's wearing a scarf over her face.

CUT TO

37 INT. SHAUNS LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

37

Pete grabs another drink. Shaun walks by and Pete stops him.

PETE
Hey, I hear you used to date a tranny.

SHAUN
So ?

PETE
Wasn't in kind of weird. You know the sex. I mean how...What did you actually do ?

SHAUN
That's none of your business.

PETE
Hey, don't get me wrong. To each his own, you know ? Just curious that's all .

SHAUN
It's still none of your business.

PETE
Whatever. You still seeing him,her..Uh..what ?

SHAUN
No.

PETE
Didn't work out huh ? Hey, guess it wasn't meant to be. Cheer up you'll find some other weirdo, right ?

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN

She died. She was on the first
plane that crashed into the world
trade center.

Shaun leaves.

TIM

(sarcastic) Good one, Pete.

CUT TO.

38

EXT. BACK YARD OF SHAUNS -- MOMENTS LATER

38

Katlyn and Robyn are sitting not saying anything. There is
an awkward moment before Katlyn speaks.

KATLYN.

I got a promotion of sorts.

Robyn doesn't respond.

KATLYN. (cont'd)

The manager is over in New
Zealand for six months. I've
taken over while his away.

Robyn still says nothing. A momentary pause.

KATLYN. (cont'd)

I called every day after I heard.

Robyn just lowers her head.

KATLYN. (cont'd)

Your father was very patient with
us calling up all the time. He's
a good man.

Robyn still says nothing.

KATLYN. (cont'd)

I can take you home if you want ?

Robyn bursts into tears. Katlyn comforts her.

CUT TO

39

INT. SHAUNS KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

39

Kira is still drinking and Melissa is gorging another
chicken like she's never eaten in her life.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA
Do you have any idea how
disgusting you look.

MELISSA
Huh ?

Melissa looks up she has grease all over her face. Kira
takes a tea towel and wipes Melissa's face. Melissa pushes
her away.

MELISSA (cont'd)
Hey

KIRA
Go look at yourself in the
mirror.

MELISSA
I'm eating.

Kira takes the chicken from her.

KIRA
Go.

Melissa snatches the chicken back.

MELISSA
When I'm finished.

Kira snatches it again.

KIRA
You're finished now.

Melissa snatches it back again.

MELISSA
No, I'm not.

Kira snatches it again.

KIRA
Go, or I'll eat it.

MELISSA
No you won't.

KIRA
I'm desperate.

MELISSA
Go on than.

KIRA

I'll do it.

MELISSA

Okay, tell you what. If you take three bites of that chicken I won't eat anything for the rest of the night.

KIRA

You promise ?

MELISSA

Promise.

Kira looks at the chicken.

MELISSA (cont'd)

If you don't, I get to eat whatever I want and you don't say a word.

KIRA

Alright.

MELISSA

Alright.

Kira looks at the chicken. All of a sudden she regrets making the deal. She move's the chicken closer to her mouth .

MELISSA (cont'd)

Go on.

Kira really doesn't want to do it.

MELISSA (cont'd)

I knew you wouldn't.

Kira suddenly takes a bite.

MELISSA (cont'd)

Whoa ?

She chews. She looks like she is chewing rat poison.

MELISSA (cont'd)

Come on, swallow.

Kira swallows. She looks like she is about to faint.

MELISSA (cont'd)

Okay, that's one.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA
You can't be serious.

MELISSA
A deal's a deal.

KIRA
It taste like cat food.

MELISSA
A little. So, you done ?

Kira takes another bite. She can barely hold it in.

MELISSA (cont'd)
You spit it out the deals off.

Reluctantly Kira swallows.

MELISSA (cont'd)
See that's not so bad.

KIRA
You are a barbarian.

MELISSA
I've been called worse. So, you
going to finish this or do I get
my breast back.

KIRA
You are not getting sex for a
year.

MELISSA
No, that wasn't part of the deal.

Kira slowly puts the chicken to her mouth.

MELISSA (cont'd)
Well ?

Kira just looks at her.

MELISSA (cont'd)
What's it going to be ? Chicken
snack or Chicken shit ?

Kira takes the third bite. She chews it.

MELISSA (cont'd)
See that wasn't so bad.

Kira puts her hand to her mouth and runs.

CUT TO

40 INT. SHAUN'S CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

40

Kira runs through the corridor knocking people out of the way. She pushes open the bathroom door and slams it behind her. Seconds later the people in the corridor hear the loudest vomiting sound ever. Melissa moves her way through. Once again vomiting noises are heard. Melissa taps on the door.

MELISSA

Sweetie, are you okay ?

The response is more vomiting.

MELISSA (cont'd)

Just a small technical point. You didn't actually swallow that third bite so I guess that means I win.

More vomiting.

MELISSA (cont'd)

Oh, don't be angry. At least you broadened your taste pallet.

More vomiting.

MELISSA (cont'd)

I'll be in the kitchen if you want me.

Violent vomiting.

CUT TO

41 INT. SHAUNS LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

41

Stephen see's Katlyn and Robyn outside. He wants to go out to them but knows he should leave them be. FRANK walks up to Stephen. Frank by now has had a few. Stephen really doesn't want to talk but he does so to be polite.

FRANK

Hey, Stevey .

STEPHEN

(tolerant) Frank

FRANK

So, how's the war mongoring ?

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN
Good.

FRANK
Cool.

An awkward pause.

FRANK (cont'd)
So..Uh..is it true. You really
going to Iraq.

STEPHEN
Maybe. We'll see what happens.

FRANK
Right
(awkward pause) Cool.

STEPHEN
If I do. I'll think about you
when I'm swallowing Arab sand.

Stephen gives him a look of cool disdain. It chills Pete.
The moment is broken when Tim interrupts.

TIM
Dude, come and check it out. The
vegi lezzo chick barfing like a
volcano.

All three go to the corridor.

CUT TO.

42 INT. SHAUN'S CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

42

Stephen knocks on the door.

STEPHEN
Kira ? Kira, are you alright ?

Violent vomiting.

TIM
She's been at it for ten minutes.

STEPHEN
Kira, open the door.

Stephen tries to open the door. Shaun hearing all the fuss
arrives.

SHAUN
What's going on ?

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN
Kira. She's sick.

SHAUN
She probably drank too much.

STEPHEN
She hasn't been here long enough.

Violent vomiting. Stephen tries to open the door.

SHAUN
The lock must've slipped shut.

Suddenly there is no sound.

STEPHEN
Kira ? Kira can you hear me ?

Stephen kicks the door open.

CUT TO

43 INT. SHAUN'S BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

43

The door flies open. Kira is lying with her head almost down the toilet. Stephen and Shaun grab her. She appears to have passed out. But she is awake, just weak.

SHAUN
I'll get her some water.

STEPHEN
Give her a second. Kira, you okay
?

Kira groans. Melissa pushes through people hovering around the door.

MELISSA
Jesus.

She goes to Kira.

MELISSA (cont'd)
Sweetie? Honey speak to me.

Kira groans. She glares at melissa.

KIRA
I am never, ever eating chicken
again.

Some of the people hovering near the door are holding chicken wings. They look at them and suddenly they are not very hungry.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO.

44 INT. BACK YARD OF SHAUNS -- MOMENTS LATER

44

Katlyn and Robyn are still sitting on the wooden chair.

KATLYN.

It helps if you talk about it.

ROBYN

Oh come on. You don't really believe that.

KATLYN.

It helped me. When I came back from Egypt.

ROBYN

I don't want to talk about it. I want to forget it.

KATLYN.

Fine. What ever you want.

ROBYN WHAT I WANT IS TO BE THE WAY I
WAS !

KATLYN.

It takes time.

ROBYN

I'm scared. I'll never get another modelling job like this.

KATLYN.

Your scars will heal. With plastic surgery...

ROBYN

Plastic surgery won't fix this.

Robyn pulls away part of the scarf. There is a bandage over her eye.

ROBYN (cont'd)

Damaged beyond repair, they said.

KATLYN.

I am so sorry.

ROBYN

I can't do anything else. Modeling is all I know.

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN.

That's not true. You're smart
there are lots of things you can
do.

ROBYN

No there's not. I'm just a bimbo
designers hang clothes on.

KATLYN.

That's enough. You are better
than that. You always knew
modeling would not last forever.
That you would have to give it up
eventually.

ROBYN

But not yet. I could've gone
further. I could've gotten six
figures.

KATLYN.

You'll do it some other way.

ROBYN

No. I won't.

KATLYN.

Yes you will.

ROBYN

I don't want to talk about this
anymore.

KATLYN.

Robyn...

ROBYN

I just need to go to the bathroom
for a second.

KATLYN.

I'll wait here...

ROBYN

Fine.

Robyn leaves.

CUT TO.

45

INT. SHAUNS LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

45

Robyn makes her way through the living room, avoiding eye contact with everyone as she makes her way to the bathroom. Pete, more than just a little pissed, sees Robyn and checks her out.

PETE

Check it out.

TIM

Nice.

They intercept Robyn before she enters the corridor.

PETE

Hey, how you doing ?

Robyn just smiles and continues moving through.

PETE (cont'd)

My names , Pete. You a friend of Shauns ?

She politely nods. She really isn't interested.

PETE (cont'd)

You know, your feet must be tired.

Robyn frowns. "What the hell is this guy on about ?"

PETE (cont'd)

Because you've been racing through my head the second I saw you.

Tim just rolls his eyes.

ROBYN

Excuse me. I need to get through.

TIM

Shit man. That was just so lame.

PETE

She wants me. I know it.

Pete goes in pursuit of Robyn. Stephen appears behind him and puts his hand on Pete's shoulder making him stop.

STEPHEN

Leave the lady alone.

PETE

She your's ?

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN
She's a good friend. Stay away
from her.

PETE
What ? Say's you ?

STEPHEN
Say's me.

TIM
Come on Pete, forget it.

PETE
Why ? I'm not scared of this
poof.

TIM
Don't be stupid. The guy's army.

PETE
So what ?
(to Stephen) We're not a
fascist regime yet . You
can't give me orders.

Stephen starts to walk away.

PETE (cont'd)
That's it. Walk away you gutless
wonder.

TIM
Pete.

PETE
Go back to all your queer army
buddies.

TIM
You're causing a scene, man.

PETE
Piss off. Hey, massacred any
towns lately ?

Stephen does his best to ignore him.

TIM
Stop it. You're being a jerk

PETE
Did the people of Afghanistan
ever thank you for ridding their
country of Terrorism.

Stephen does his best to keep his cool.

(CONTINUED)

PETE (cont'd)

No ?

By this time Pete has the attention of the whole room.

PETE (cont'd)

You mean they Didn't thank you for bombing the shit out of their homes and destroying their livelihood ?. What about hospitalizing their relatives. The ones you didn't kill. Did they ever thank you for that ? No ? Man what a bunch of ingrates. You go to all the trouble of clearing away all those pesky unsanitary little villages with irradiated bombs that have a half life of four million years, so that even if the next generation survives they'll never be able to plant crops again without the risk of radiation poisoning and they didn't even say thank you.

There is an uncomfortable silence. By now Katlyn has entered. She is watching to see what Stephen will do.

PETE (cont'd)

(sarcastic) When are you guy's ever going to stop saving the world ?

Stephen walks right up to Pete.

STEPHEN

The woman in there just lost her husband on their honeymoon in Bali to a terrorist bomb.

Deathly silence.

STEPHEN (cont'd)

Ask her if she wants us to stop saving the world.

Stephen walks away.

CUT TO

46

INT. SHAUN'S BATHROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

46

Robyn tries to lock the door to the bathroom. She can't because Stephen broke it earlier. She gives up and goes to the sink. She turns the tap on and lets it run, She pulls back her scarf and we see the full extent of her scars.

(CONTINUED)

She looks down at her left hand. She is still wearing her wedding ring. She bursts into tears.

CUT TO

47 INT. BACK YARD OF SHAUNS -- MOMENTS LATER

47

Stephen walks out to the back yard to cool off. He paces back and forth the kicks some furniture. Katlyn comes out.

KATLYN.
That'll teach it.

Stephen looks at her. He has calmed down a little,

STEPHEN
I should go.

KATLYN.
Why ? Because some piss head who doesn't know his dick from his brains makes an ass of himself. Fuck him.

Stephen is surprised

STEPHEN
Never heard you use that sort of language before.

KATLYN.
I have my moments.

STEPHEN
I see that.

KATLYN.
Are you really going to Iraq ?

STEPHEN
I don't know for sure. But it looks like it.

KATLYN.
You were only going to teach new recruits unarmed combat. You never said anything about joining up.

STEPHEN
Things change. The truth is I wanted to join..

KATLYN.
Are you insane ?

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

No, I'm doing what I'm supposed to do.

KATLYN.

Getting yourself killed.

STEPHEN

It's a risk. But somebody has to stop these guys.

KATLYN.

You want to be a hero ? Is that it ?

STEPHEN

I want it to stop. I don't want what happened to Brian and Robyn to happen to anyone else I care about.

KATLYN.

And what about you? Don't you think people care what happens to you ?

STEPHEN

I'll be okay.

KATLYN.

You could die.

STEPHEN

I won't let that happen.

KATLYN.

How are you going to stop it ?

Stephen doesn't answer.

STEPHEN

I'll be careful.

KATLYN.

I know I can't stop you. But I'll be damned if I let you go without telling you how I feel.

She kisses him on the lips passionately. Shaun is watching from inside.

SHAUN

Finally.

CUT TO

48 INT. SHAUN'S BATHROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 48

Robyn looks down at the running water in the sink. She raises her hand. We see she has a razor blade in her hand.

CUT TO

49 INT. SHAUN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 49

Shaun approaches Pete, who has yet another drink in his hand.

PETE

Hey, dude.

SHAUN

Get out.

PETE

What ?

SHAUN

I want you out of my house.

PETE

What's up ? I didn't do anything.

SHAUN

You're being a dick head. Get out.

PETE

Whatever. I'll just finish this...

Shaun smacks the drink out of his hand and glares at him.

PETE (cont'd)

You don't wanna mess with me.

Shaun takes him off guard and slams him against the wall.

SHAUN

Neither do you.

Shaun pushes him toward the door. Pete relents. He knows when he's not wanted. He raises his hands and leaves.

PETE

Lame party anyway.

CUT TO

50

INT. SHAUN'S BATHROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

50

Robyn raises the blade she is within inches of her throat. Her hands are shaking. Tears are running down her face. Melissas' hand gently touches hers.

MELISSA
(gentle) Honey, these things
will ruin your make up.

She gently lowers Robyn's hand away from her neck and takes away the blade.

ROBYN
It's my fault. It Should've been
me, not him.

MELISSA
Don't say that. Nobody could've
seen that coming.

ROBYN
I left my purse on the table in
the club. Mark went back to get
it. If I wasn't so stupid....

Robyn hits her hand against the wall.

ROBYN ITS ALL MY FAULT !

MELISSA STOP IT !

ROBYN
If it wasn't for me he'd still be
alive.

MELISSA
I said stop it. You didn't kill
him. Those fanatics did.

ROBYN
I should've gone in with him.

MELISSA
And then you'd both be dead?

ROBYN
I can't live like this.

MELISSA
Yes you can. Look at me.

Robyn looks away.

MELISSA (cont'd)
I said look at me.

Melissa pulls robyn around so she faces her.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA (cont'd)

You are going to get through this. I know you, you're tough. And you've got people who are going to help you. People who love you. But you've got to stop blaming yourself, do you hear me ?

ROBYN

I'm scared.

MELISSA

Of course you're scared. And that's okay. Who wouldn't be scared after what you've been through.

ROBYN

Why are you doing this ?

MELISSA

You have to ask ?

Robyn embraces Melissa.

CUT TO

51 INT. SHAUNS LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

51

Shaun lays the birthday book on the coffee table. Stephen lays down a photo of himself in his army uniform.

MELISSA

Very fetching.

Katlyn presents a photo of her in her new temporary office.

SHAUN

New digs. Nice.

Shaun shows his photo. It's him in the field with a documentary film camera.

SHAUN (cont'd)

Watch out Michael Moore.

Then it's Melissa's turn. It's a photo of her with her designs on a rack.

KATLYN.

Going for a more modest look this year ?

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

Please.

Robyn lowers her head. They all understand.

MELISSA (cont'd)

It's okay.

Robyn takes out a photo.

ROBYN

No. I want to.

She puts down a wedding photo of her and Mark. No one says anything. Melissa breaks the silence.

MELISSA

It's beautiful. Really.

Robyn does her best not to cry.

ROBYN

He was beautiful.

Katlyn comforts her.

FADE TO

Super title; March 31ST 2003

52

INT. STEPHEN'S LIVING ROOM -- AFTERNOON

52

This party is not a big one just the usual suspects. Except for Stephen and Katlyn who have not arrived yet. They are preparing a surprise party for Stephen. Melissa seems to be the one in charge but the whole affair looks like organized chaos.

MELISSA

Hurry up, there going to be here soon.

SHAUN

We've got another hour yet.

MELISSA

You've tied the blue balloons with the yellow ones.

KIRA

So ?

MELISSA

It's wrong. Totally wrong.

(CONTINUED)

ROBYN

Melissa, it's a party not a beauty pageant.

MELISSA

It's not just any party. It's a surprise party. Everything has to be right.

KIRA

Stephen doesn't care if the balloons don't match.

MELISSA

I care.

SHAUN

We're wasting time. Let's just get this finished.

MELISSA

That's what I'm trying to say here.

KIRA

Why are the balloons wrong ?

MELISSA

Blue and yellow are not a good mix.

KIRA

Says me. Now, go and pick another colour.

Robyn is bringing out snacks from the kitchen.

MELISSA

Robyn, can I see you for a minute.

ROBYN

I haven't finished setting the table.

MELISSA

Shaun can do that. I want your opinion on something.

Melissa takes Robyn away without asking her permission.

CUT TO

53

INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

53

Melissa drags Robyn into the bedroom. She goes to the closet and looks for something.

ROBYN

Melissa, I don't do the closet thing anymore. Besides you're not my type.

MELISSA

What ? No, I asked Stephen to look after something for me. I knew you'd be here today. Here it is.

She takes out what appears to be clothing protected by a plastic cover.

ROBYN

You asked Stephen to look after a dress.

MELISSA

Not just any dress.

Melissa unwraps a stunning gown.

MELISSA (cont'd)

My latest creation.

ROBYN

It's beautiful.

MELISSA

It's yours.

ROBYN

I can't take this.

MELISSA

Of course you can. I need you to wear it on the cat walk.

Robyn hands the dress back.

ROBYN

I don't do Cat walks anymore.

MELISSA

Sure you will. Look in the cover pocket.

She unzips the cover pocket and takes out a small package. Robyn is puzzled.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA (cont'd)
Well. Open it.

Robyn unwraps the package and holds up a designer eye patch.

MELISSA (cont'd)
Put it on.

ROBYN
I can't. I can't do this.

MELISSA
Sure you can. You've been doing it every day of your life.

ROBYN
People will... I'm sorry

Robyn hands the dress back to Melissa.

MELISSA
No.

ROBYN
Are you crazy ? Look at me.

MELISSA
I am looking at you. Wanna know what I see. I see a beautiful young woman who is going to make heads turn when she walks down that catwalk in one of my dresses.

ROBYN
And they are going to faint when they take one look at my face.

MELISSA
There is nothing wrong with your face.

ROBYN
I was hit by a bomb blast.

MELISSA
And you've had plastic surgery.

ROBYN
I only have one eye.

MELISSA
That's why I made an eye patch. People won't know. It will make you look mysterious. Alluring.

(CONTINUED)

ROBYN
Or ridiculous.

MELISSA
Try it on. We'll see what sort of
reaction you get.

ROBYN
Stephen and Katlyn will be back
soon.

MELISSA
Even better. We'll get a real
man's opinion.

ROBYN
I don't know...I..just don't
think I can do this anymore.

MELISSA
Let me put it this way. If you
don't put that dress on I will
tie you down and strip you and
dress you myself.

ROBYN
I'll bet you've had that fantasy
for years.

MELISSA
Actually, yes.

ROBYN
Alright, I'll put it on. But it
doesn't mean I've agreed to any
cat walk gigs.

MELISSA
Fair enough.

ROBYN
It's only to stop you accosting
me.

MELISSA
You're no fun.

ROBYN
Okay, get out.

MELISSA
Call me when you're ready.

Melissa leaves. Robyn looks in the mirror she holds the
designer eye patch next to her face.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO

54 INT. STEPHEN'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS 54

Melissa walks back out.

MELISSA
How we doing ?

Kira shows Melissa her red and green balloon combination.

KIRA
What do you think ?

MELISSA
In all the years you've lived
with me, have you learnt nothing
?

SHAUN
We're out of tape.

MELISSA
Tape ? Uh...

SHAUN
It's okay. I know where it is.

Shaun exits.

CUT TO

55 INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS 55

Robyn is half naked when Shaun walks in. She instinctively covers herself.

SHAUN
Sorry.

Shaun turns about to leave.

ROBYN
Wait !

There is an awkward pause. Shaun stops but he doesn't turn around.

SHAUN
I didn't know you were in here.
Melissa didn't...

ROBYN
Could you close the door, please.

Shaun closes the door, but he doesn't turn to face her.

(CONTINUED)

ROBYN (cont'd)
Could you do me a favour ?

SHAUN
Sure.

ROBYN
I want you to look at me.

SHAUN
(surprised) Excuse me ?

ROBYN
Shaun, We've had sex in your closet.

SHAUN
I know. It's just that... That was a long time ago.

ROBYN
Look at me.

Shaun is hesitant.

ROBYN (cont'd)
Please.

Shaun turns to face her. Robyn takes away her arms.

ROBYN (cont'd)
I want you to be honest. What are you thinking when you look at me.

Shaun shrugs. He feels awkward.

SHAUN
I don't know.

ROBYN
Are you thinking God, I want to screw her, right here right now ?

Shaun shifts his weight, awkwardly.

ROBYN (cont'd)
Or are you saying to yourself, I wish she'd cover up those hideous scars.

Shaun looks at her. Surprised. Robyn lowers her head.

ROBYN (cont'd)
That's what I thought.

She turns away from him.

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN
Actually, I was thinking what
great tit's you have.

Robyn laughs a little despite her mood.

ROBYN
I always thought they were too
big.

SHAUN
No, No, They're...They're a
perfect size.

Robyn smiles. She takes off her patch and puts on the one
Melissa gave her.

ROBYN
Do you think this suits me ?

SHAUN
Hey. Wow,yeah. I,,uh. Yeah, I like
it.

ROBYN
Thankyou.

SHAUN
Look, the scars. You can hardly
see them. Really.

She just smiles.

SHAUN (cont'd)
I'll let you finish whatever you
were doing.

ROBYN
I'll be out in a moment.

SHAUN
Sure.

Shaun leaves.

CUT TO

56 INT. STEPHEN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

56

Kira is looking out the window. Everyone else is still
doing last minute things.

KIRA
Here they come.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA
What ! We're not ready.

SHAUN
Too late now.

Melissa goes into panic mode, everyone else is cool.

MELISSA
Okay, no one panic. I'll think of something.

KIRA
No one is panicking.

SHAUN
It looks fine.

MELISSA
No it's not. The table arrangements all wrong. We're going to have to start again.

The key is inserted into the door and Stephen and Katlyn enter. Stephen has a cane and is walking with a limp.

ALL SURPRISE !

Stephen is genuinely surprised. Everyone throws streamers. Stephen smiles and looks at Katlyn.

STEPHEN
Your idea ?

KATLYN.
Partly. Melissa said she'd take care of the decorating.

MELISSA
I'm sorry. I thought we'd be finished by the time you got back.

STEPHEN
It looks great. You didn't have to do this.

KATLYN.
Of course we did.

SHAUN
Happy birthday, buddy.

STEPHEN
Thanks. All of you.

Stephen sees something horrific on the table.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN (cont'd)
What's that ?

MELISSA
It's my centerpiece for the
table. Do you like it.

Stephen hides the fact he is cringing.

STEPHEN
It's great.

MELISSA
I call it My ode to joy.

KIRA
It looks like a dog sat on it.

Melissa slaps her shoulder.

MELISSA
You don't know anything about
art.

SHAUN
Well, what are we standing around
for , lets party.

Kira hits the music. Robyn enters, dressed in the outfit
and the eye-patch Melissa gave her to wear. Everything
stops.

SHAUN (cont'd)
Whoa

Robyn is a little self-conscious.

MELISSA
Now, does she look hot or what ?

STEPHEN
Very nice.

MELISSA
Nice ! What, are you blind ?
Honey, She is sex on a stick.

Robyn is feeling embarrassed.

MELISSA (cont'd)
Well, sweetie, don't just stand
there. Strut over here and do
your stuff.

ROBYN
I can't do that.

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN
Sure you can. I'll get my camera.

ROBYN
No don't.

MELISSA
Come on. Shake it girl.

Reluctantly Robyn struts around. At first she is hesitant but after a little encouragement her walk looks more comfortable.

SHAUN
Looking good.

MELISSA
Has she got class or what ?

Shaun snaps a few photos. This makes Robyn a little edgy but she tries to hide it. Shaun continues to take pictures but the flash bothers her. The flash is also having an affect on Stephen although he is better at hiding it. The music and the flashing lightbulbs take on a surreal effect. Robyn isn't having fun anymore she stops and yells. The flash bulbs now sound like explosions.

ROBYN STOP IT !

Robyn runs back into the bedroom.

SHAUN
Okay, what just happened ?

KATLYN.
I'll talk to her.

STEPHEN
No.

Katlyn frowns.

STEPHEN (cont'd)
I'll talk to her.

Stephen exits.

CUT TO

57 INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

57

Robyn is sitting on the bed. She is shaking when Stephen enters.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

You really look great in that outfit.

Robyn smiles but says nothing. She is still shaking,

ROBYN

Sorry. Didn't mean to do that.

STEPHEN

You don't have to apologize. You got scared. I understand that.

ROBYN

It's just a camera. I've had thousands of cameras in my face.

STEPHEN

It's wasn't the camera.

ROBYN

No. It wasn't.

STEPHEN

You're not the only one who's scared. Since I've been back, I've jumped at the slightest sound. I can't walk down the street without feeling that someone is going to jump in front of me. I have to stop myself every time I see a middle eastern person. My reflex is to reach for my gun. Thank god I don't carry one.

ROBYN

Must have been hell over there.

STEPHEN

Must've been hell for you to.

ROBYN

I haven't been in a war zone.

STEPHEN

Yes, you have.

Robyn lowers her head.

STEPHEN (cont'd)

Anytime you want to talk. I'll listen.

Robyn says nothing.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN (cont'd)
I'll let you get changed.

Stephen gets up to leave.

ROBYN
Is that the same closet we had
sex in ?

STEPHEN
(smiles) Yeah. Yeah it is.

ROBYN
You kept it all these years ?

STEPHEN
Sure. It's a good closet. It's
spacious, it's sturdy....

ROBYN
The best sex I ever had was in
your closet.

STEPHEN
Really.

ROBYN
Something about the positioning.
It was just right, you know what
I mean.

STEPHEN
It was good for me too.

ROBYN
That's what started me on that
whole closet thing. But it's
never been the same. The space is
all wrong They've never seem to
be the right fit.

STEPHEN
Guess all closets aren't the
same.

ROBYN
I'd love to have sex in your
closet again.

STEPHEN
You can take it if you want.

ROBYN
No. It should stay here. With
you.

(CONTINUED)

It clicks with Stephen what she is really asking for. They look at each other. The look says it all. They were once close.

STEPHEN
I'd better let you get changed.

Robyn simply smiles as he leaves.

CUT TO

58

INT. STEPHEN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

58

Stephen enters from the bedroom. Katlyn goes to him. He sees she is concerned about Robyn.

STEPHEN
She'll be okay. Just give her a minute.

KATLYN.
What's wrong ?

STEPHEN
The flash bulbs.

KATLYN.
They took her back to.. Oh my god.

STEPHEN
I know how she feels.

Katlyn holds him.

SHAUN
Okay you two. Save it till you're alone.

Stephen just grins as Shaun moves away.

KATLYN.
What ?

STEPHEN
Is there a chance of anything happening tonight ?

KATLYN.
Let's talk about it later.

STEPHEN
Let's talk about it now.

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN.
(uncomfortable) You know how
I feel about this.

STEPHEN
I know. You're catholic. You
don't believe in sex before
marriage.

KATLYN.
Do we really have to discuss this
now ?

STEPHEN
How come I don't see you go to
church every Sunday ?

KATLYN.
I..may have missed a few...

STEPHEN
In fact I don't ever recall you
mentioning anything about
religion other than the fact you
are Catholic.

KATLYN.
Isn't that enough ?

STEPHEN
I don't know. Where are we going
with this Katlyn ?

KATLYN.
We're taking it one step at a
time.

STEPHEN
I'm ready to take the next step.
Are you ?

KATLYN.
Can we really discuss this later
?

STEPHEN
Will your answer be any different
?

KATLYN.
Why are you doing this ?

STEPHEN
The one thing I learnt to
appreciate in the war was time.
How each moment was a gift. You
treasure every second because it
could be your last.

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN.

You're not at war. You're home,
safe, and you're never going back
there.

STEPHEN

It doesn't matter where I am.
What matters is the time I have
left.

Katlyn looks at him puzzled.

STEPHEN (cont'd)

All I want to know is, am I
wasting my time ?

There is an awkward pause.

KATLYN.

Stephen I....

STEPHEN

Yes or No ?

Katlyn doesn't know what to say.

STEPHEN (cont'd)

That's what I figured.

Stephen walks away from her. He grabs a drink from the
table. Shaun is standing next to Stephen but he sees the
expression on Katlyns face.

SHAUN

Everything okay ?

STEPHEN

Everything's fine.

Katlyn approaches Melissa.

KATLYN.

I have to go.

MELISSA

You're kidding. The party's just
starting.

KATLYN.

I have work to catch up on before
tomorrow. I'll call you.

MELISSA

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN.
(to Shaun) Got to go.

SHAUN
What ! It's early...

KATLYN.
Work to do. See you later. Tell
Robin I'll call her.

SHAUN
Sure.

She looks at Stephen. Doing her best to hold back.

KATLYN.
Happy Birthday.

She kisses him quickly and leaves.

CUT TO

59 EXT. FRONT OF STEPHEN'S PLACE -- CONTINUOUS 59
Katlyn quickly gets into her car.

CUT TO

60 INT. KATLYN'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS 60
Katlyn bursts into tears. Eventually she turns the
ignition and drives away.

CUT TO

61 INT. STEPHEN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 61
Robyn comes into the living room in her everyday clothes,
except for the eyepatch melissa gave her.

ROBYN
Where's Katlyn ?

MELISSA
She left. Had work to catch up
on.

ROBYN
(disappointed) Oh.

MELISSA
She said she'd call you.

(CONTINUED)

ROBYN

Okay.

The doorbell rings. Stephen frowns. He is not expecting anyone. He opens up the door. A man in his fifties looking like a cross between Jon Voight and Homer Simpson is standing there. The man, who is also leaning on a cane smiles. His name is Adam.

STEPHEN

Dad ?

ADAM

Hello, son.

STEPHEN

What are you doing here ?

ADAM

It's your birthday, isn't it ?

He hands Stephen a present.

ADAM (cont'd)

Happy birthday.

Stephen takes the present.

STEPHEN

Uh,,Come in.

Stephen opens the door and Adam enters.

ADAM

Looks like a surprise party. I thought you didn't like surprise parties.

STEPHEN

I don't. I'm just humouring them. Everyone this is my dad. Dad this is Melissa, Kira, Robyn and Shaun.

SHAUN

We spoke on the phone.

ADAM

I remember.

STEPHEN

You guy's talked ?

SHAUN

I'm interviewing your dad for my documentary.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

I didn't know you were working on a documentary.

ADAM

It's about the first Gulf war.

STEPHEN

Really.

MELISSA

So, Mr Parker. What are you drinking?

ADAM

It's Adam. Vodka straight up if you've got it.

MELISSA

No problem.

STEPHEN

What's your spin on it ?

SHAUN

The impact it had on the returned serviceman.

Stephen looks at both of them for a moment. He knows where this is going.

STEPHEN

This is about your cancer.

ADAM

Yes.

STEPHEN

There was no medical evidence to link your cancer with those bombs.

ADAM

Don't be naive, They lied. They've always lied. The way they did with agent orange and atomic testing.

SHAUN

It's been proven that radioactive particles from depleted uranium missiles stay in the air indefinitely. And the uranium has a half life of four billion years.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

You don't even know if you were exposed.

ADAM

I was part of the clean up team. The damn stuff was all over the place. It all fits, son. The symptoms, the timing. That's why I didn't want you to go.

STEPHEN

I'm a soldier. I go where I'm ordered to go.

ADAM

You were a pawn. Just like me. Disposable. And now look at you. Chances are you got it too.

STEPHEN

I'm fine.

ADAM

God, I hope so.

MELISSA

There you go.

Melissa hands Adam a shot glass. Adam gulps it down.

ADAM

You got any bigger glasses.

MELISSA

You're kidding right.

ADAM

(shakes his head) Kids. I'll show you how to pour a vodka.

He leaves with Melissa to the kitchen.

STEPHEN

He's wrong.

SHAUN

I don't think so.

STEPHEN

You weren't there.

SHAUN

But he was.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO

62 INT. STEPHEN'S KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

62

Adam pours the vodka straight into a tumbler glass. No ice, he fills it almost to the top. He tips a salute to Melissa and Kira and gulps the lot without stopping for breath.

MELISSA

My God, you're a Cyborg.

ADAM

I'll take that as a compliment.

He coughs a couple of times but the vodka hardly affects him the way a glass that size should.

MELISSA

Did they teach you that in the army?

ADAM

Sort of. In the desert it gets real cold at night. This stuff keeps you warm.

MELISSA

Is it regulation issue?

ADAM

No. It's good for other things as well.

KIRA

Such as ?

ADAM

It helps get you horny.

Adam winks at Melissa. He offers the bottle to Melissa.

ADAM (cont'd)

Care to try it ?

Melissa smiles and takes the bottle.

CUT TO

63 INT. STEPHEN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

63

Shaun and Stephen are in a corner talking.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

Are you serious about this ?

SHAUN

Of course I am. And so is your Dad. He's been a great help.

STEPHEN

He turned his back on the army.

SHAUN

No, they turned their backs on him. He's trying to help his buddies.

STEPHEN

What good will this do. Even if you make it, nobody is going to see it. They won't let you show it.

SHAUN

There are ways around that.

STEPHEN

Even if people do see it, they are not going to care. They say yeah, that's really bad and forget about it the next day.

SHAUN

Don't underestimate people. Some of them do care. And they will do something.

STEPHEN

Who ? A bunch of ferrules that look for any excuse to tie themselves to a tree ?

SHAUN

Some of those ferrules are politicians.

STEPHEN

What ? Couldn't find anyone useful?

SHAUN

It's better than sitting on our ass doing nothing. Those radioactive particles kill people. They cause mutations in new born babies. They pollute the food and drinking water.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN
I don't need a lecture.

SHAUN
They cause cancer in returned
serviceman.

STEPHEN
You don't know that for sure.

SHAUN
I've got enough for a pretty good
argument.

STEPHEN
It doesn't matter. No one is in a
position to stop it.

SHAUN
Isn't it worth trying ? You're
the one who wants to be a hero.
Isn't this worth fighting for.

STEPHEN
It's a waste of time.

Shaun just shakes his head. He looks over at Adam with
Melissa and Kira.

SHAUN
I think your dad is cracking onto
Melissa.

STEPHEN
What ? No way.

The three are chatting they look very chummy together.
Melissa puts her hand on Adam's shoulder. Stephen realizes
Adam is chatting them up.

STEPHEN (cont'd)
Excuse me a minute.

Stephen goes over to Adam.

STEPHEN (cont'd)
Dad, can I talk to you for a sec.

ADAM
Sure.

They move away from the girls.

STEPHEN
What are you doing ?

ADAM

What do you mean ?

STEPHEN

They're old enough to be your daughters.

ADAM

That's a disturbing thought. But a very interesting fantasy. Remind me to ask if they're into role playing.

STEPHEN

They're also gay.

ADAM

Actually, they're bisexual. And Kira likes it doggy style.

STEPHEN

How do you know that ?

ADAM

She told me. You're not seeing one of them are you ?

STEPHEN

No.

ADAM

Good, because I'm trying for a threesome.

STEPHEN

What ? That's disgusting. Dad, they're my friends.

ADAM

They can be my friends too.

STEPHEN

But you're...
(at a loss for words)

ADAM

Old ? Son, you're never too old to enjoy good sex.

STEPHEN

But dad...

ADAM

It's just a quick fling. I'm not going to marry them.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN
Good, if I had to call one of
them mum, that would be
disturbing.

CUT TO

64 INT. STEPHEN'S KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

64

Robyn is getting more food from the fridge. Melissa and
Kira enter.

MELISSA
Feeling okay ?

ROBYN
I'm fine.

MELISSA
So, you ready to tread the
catwalk again ?

ROBYN
I don't think so. At least not
yet.

KIRA
You need time. That's
understandable.

MELISSA
Your choice. But you know what
they say. The quicker you get
back on a horse...you know the
rest.

ROBYN
I'm not ready yet.

MELISSA
Fine. I think we need more vodka.

Melissa holds up two empty bottles.

ROBYN
You drank two bottles of vodka.

KIRA
Actually Adam drank most of it.

MELISSA
We helped a little.

Robyn can't believe it

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA (cont'd)
The man's an alien.

KIRA
He says he has a twelve inch
penis.

ROBYN
You don't believe that.

KIRA
Of course not. I felt in his
picket, I think it's only ten
inches.

They laugh.

CUT TO.

65 INT. STEPHEN'S LIVING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

65

Stephen and Adam are still talking.

STEPHEN
Surprised you turned up. Thought
you weren't talking to me.

ADAM
No, I told you you're an idiot
for signing up and you stopped
talking to me.

STEPHEN
I did what I thought was right.

ADAM
Still think it was right?

STEPHEN
Not really sure.

ADAM
That's something I suppose.

STEPHEN
Something had to be done.

ADAM
Did bombing the shit out of
someone help.

STEPHEN
The Iraqi's are just as bad as
the rest.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

Could you prove it? Did you find any weapons of mass destruction.

STEPHEN

They will.

ADAM

No, they won't. Not really. If the yanks find something it will be whatever was cia planted so they can say to the world see we were right.

STEPHEN

Why are you down on them? They're trying to make this world safe.

ADAM

And making a big profit while they're at it.

STEPHEN

That's bullshit.

ADAM

No it's not. The billions they spend on the war could rebuild the middle east.

STEPHEN

God dad you are so naive.

ADAM

Really, do you know why the war started?

STEPHEN

The nine eleven attack.

ADAM

And what did Iraq have to do with it?

STEPHEN

Iraq is a training ground for terrorist. They have chemical and biological weapons that can be used in terror attacks.

ADAM

Did you see any training bases? Have they found any weapons yet?

STEPHEN

They will.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

And you call me naive.

STEPHEN

I really don't want to talk about this anymore.

ADAM

Neither do I. Your back that's all that matters. Have the nightmares started yet ?

STEPHEN

Yeah.

ADAM

You'll be okay.

STEPHEN

When did it stop for you ?

ADAM

It never stops. They go away for a while. You think it's over. Then it all comes back again. Maybe, not as bad. But you'll be fine. Trust me.

Stephen just nods. Melissa and Kira, clearly drunk approach them.

MELISSA

So, soldier boy you taking us home or not ?

ADAM

Cab'll be here soon. Let's go to your place.

Stephen just shakes his head. There is the sound of a car horn outside.

KIRA

That's our cue to leave.

Adam uses his cane to get up.

ADAM

Happy birthday son. Remember Don't be afraid to call.

Adam and the two girls leave.

SHAUN

I better go too. Happy birthday man.

(CONTINUED)

Shaun leaves as well. Robyn and Stephen are the only two left. There is a momentary pause.

ROBYN
Guess I should be going.

STEPHEN
You don't have to.

Robyn looks at him. "What is he suggesting?"

STEPHEN (cont'd)
There's still cake if you want some?

ROBYN
Thanks but I'm quite full.

STEPHEN
Another drink, than ?

ROBYN
Better not. Don't want to be sick in dads car.

STEPHEN
It's pretty late. You're going to wake him up and make him drive all this way in his pajamas ?.

ROBYN
I don't have enough for a cab.

STEPHEN
I've got plenty of blankets you're welcome to stay.

ROBYN
Seriously ?

STEPHEN
Yeah.

ROBYN
I shouldn't. It's really...

STEPHEN
I would really like you to stay.

They look at each other. They connect and smile.

ROBYN
Okay.

STEPHEN
Good. That's settled. Uhh..
Coffee ?

(CONTINUED)

ROBYN
Prefer tea. Helps me to sleep.

STEPHEN
(nods) Tea.

Stephen goes to the kitchen. Robyn follows behind.

FADE TO

66 INT. STEPHEN'S BEDROOM -- LATER

66

Stephen is tossing and turning in bed. We hear the sounds of tank fire and missiles. He flinches with each explosion. The explosions get louder and louder. Finally Stephen wakes up screaming. He breaks into a cold sweat. Robyn is in bed beside him.

ROBYN
It's alright. It's just a dream.
It's over.

She comforts him. He is shaking she embraces him tighter.

ROBYN (cont'd)
It's only a dream.

FADE TO

TITLE; 8TH JULY 2005

67 EXT. KATLYN'S PLACE -- DAY

67

The doorbell rings Katlyn answers the door. It is Stephen and Robyn.

STEPHEN
Hi.

KATLYN
Hi

When they talk there is an urgency in their voice. This is not a casual conversation.

ROBYN
We were on our way to Melissa's.
We were wondering....

KATLYN
Might be best if I stay here. In case I hear something from her parents.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

I spoke to them before They said they would call Kira if they heard anything.

KATLYN

Of course they would. Do you want to come in for a moment?

ROBYN

Sure.

They enter.

68 INT. KATLYN'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

68

KATLYN

Would you like something to drink?

STEPHEN

We can't stay long we....

KATLYN

I haven't seen you two for a while. Surely there's a little time to catch up.

ROBYN

Just a quick drink.

KATLYN

Tea ?

ROBYN

Thanks.

STEPHEN

Coffee. Black no sugar.

KATLYN

I remember.

Katlyn goes to the kitchen.

69 INT. KATLYN'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

69

Katlyn puts the kettle on and starts preparing tea and coffee. Stephen enters.

STEPHEN

So, how've you been?

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN

Good. Works kept me busy. Haven't had much time to write anything.

STEPHEN

That's a shame.

KATLYN

(awkward pause) Sorry about your dad.

STEPHEN

Thanks.

KATLYN

What actually happened?

STEPHEN

Heart attack. They said it had something to do with the cancer. Stupid bastard. Wouldn't listen to the doctors, didn't take any of his medication.

KATLYN

Was he in any pain?

STEPHEN

The night before he was screwing three hookers.

Katlyn can't help but smile a little.

STEPHEN (cont'd)

What about you? How have you really been?

KATLYN

Fine.

STEPHEN

(awkward) I know we never talked about....

KATLYN

There's nothing to talk about.

STEPHEN

It's just that....

KATLYN

I'm happy for both of you. Really.

STEPHEN

But...

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN

It just wasn't meant to be. Let's
leave it at that.

Stephen can see that's not how she really feels but knows
better then to push it.

STEPHEN

You know, Kira must be going
through hell. She could use some
friends.

KATLYN

You and Robyn will be there. And
Shaun will no doubt turn up.

STEPHEN

Why don't you like her?

KATLYN

I never said I didn't like her.

STEPHEN

Come on. You hated her the second
you laid eyes on her.

KATLYN

That's not true.

STEPHEN

Then come with us.

KATLYN

It's really not necessary...

STEPHEN

Do it for Melissa.

Katlyn looks at him. She holds back from saying something.

KATLYN

Can I at least have time to
freshen up?

STEPHEN

Sure.

KATLYN

Tea's nearly ready.

She leaves the kitchen.

Kira is frantic. She is on the phone. SHAUN is trying to talk to her but she is not listening.

KIRA
I've been holding for the last hour and a half. ...Melissa, Melissa Caton.... What..

SHAUN
Kira..

KIRA
No, I'm not a relative. I'm her partner...What difference does that make...Hello, Hello.. Dammit !.

SHAUN
There's nothing you can do at the moment.

She starts dialing.

SHAUN (cont'd)
What are you doing ?

KIRA
Calling the agency.

SHAUN
You've already called them three times. Kira stop.

SHAUN puts his hand over the phone.

SHAUN (cont'd)
She will call you when she can.

KIRA
What if she doesn't ?

SHAUN
She will.

KIRA
Today's her birthday. She said she would be back in time.

SHAUN
You can celebrate tomorrow.

KIRA
She always calls. Whenever she's coming home she always calls.

The doorbell rings.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA (cont'd)
Oh, god. Can you see who it is?

SHAUN answers the door. It is the usual suspects. Stephen. Robyn and Katlyn.

SHAUN
Hey

STEPHEN
Hi,

SHAUN
Melissa hasn't returned from London.

STEPHEN
We know. That's kinda why we're here.

SHAUN
I don't think this is a good time...

KIRA
It's alright .

SHAUN steps back and allows them in.

KIRA (cont'd)
Please sit down.

They do so. Katlyn looks uncomfortable about being here. Stephen goes to Kira.

STEPHEN
Are you okay ?

KIRA
I'm fine.

STEPHEN
Have her parents heard anything ?

KATLYN
They're in Queensland. I called them this morning. They said they've been speaking to the Australian embassy.

KIRA
Maybe, I should call the embassy.

KATLYN
They said they'd call her parents if they find out anything.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA
Why wouldn't they call me ?

STEPHEN
Look, Chances are she wasn't on
the bus or one of those trains.
London's a big city.

SHAUN
I agree. All this worrying is
probably for nothing.

KIRA
I want to know for sure. I want
to hear her voice.

She grabs the phone and starts dialing again. Everyone goes to her at once, except Katlyn. Everyone is talking over each other but they are getting in each others way and causing Kira to become frustrated and panicked.

SHAUN
This is not going to help

KIRA
Let me go..

ROBYN
Relax.

KIRA
Leave me alone.

STEPHEN
...it will be okay.

KIRA
No..

SHAUN
...Kira listen...

KIRA (EXPLODES !) GET AWAY FROM ME !

They all back off.

KIRA
Just leave me alone.

Kira breaks down and cries. Robyn comforts her. The others feel awkward.

KATLYN
I'll uh..Get some water.

Katlyn goes to the kitchen. SHAUN doesn't hear her.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA
I'm fine I'll get it...

71 INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

71

Kira follows into the kitchen. Katlyn opens the fridge and pours cool water into a glass. She closes the door and Kira enters. They bump into each other accidentally.

KIRA
Sorry..

KATLYN
Did you just grab me ?

KIRA
What ?.

KATLYN
You did. You grabbed my ass.

KIRA
No, I....

KATLYN
You tried to feel my breast as well.

Before she can say anything. Katlyn throws water in her face. With the reflexes and speed of a cat she grabs a carving knife, slams KIRA against the wall, and holds the knife to her throat.

KATLYN.
Nobody touches me.

KIRA tries to speak, but the fear only causes her to stutter. Katlyn pushes the blade tighter against her throat. Stephen, hearing the noise is at the kitchen door.

STEPHEN
Katlyn !

She stops.

STEPHEN (cont'd)
Put the knife down.

KATLYN
No.

STEPHEN
What the hell do you think you're doing?

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN

She should pay. They all should pay.

By this time Robyn and Shaun have joined Stephen at the door. They stand behind him.

STEPHEN

They ?

KATLYN

Them. HER KIND. The Muslims.

SHAUN

Oh, my god.

STEPHEN

What did the Muslims do, Katlyn ?

KATLYN

Everything. It's all their fault. Their damn Jihad. You can't go anywhere anymore, it's not safe. You can't get on a bus or a plane, or a train without being reminded it's not safe

STEPHEN

Kira isn't a terrorist.

KATLYN

How do you know ? She could be a sleeper spy. Waiting for the word from her leader. Then She walks onto a plane or a nightclub and blows everyone up.

KIRA

(hysterical) You're insane.

KATLYN

Isn't that how it works ? Blend in, pretend your our friends. Oh no one would think Kira is a terrorist. Kira is a good woman, she doesn't believe in that sort of thing. Then before you can say Praise Allah she's driving up Pitt St with plastic explosives strapped to her chest.

STEPHEN

You know her.

KATLYN

No, I don't. Not really.

(CONTINUED)

STEPHEN

This is insane...

KATLYN.

This is war. They kill us and we kill them. You of all people should know that.

STEPHEN

That's not what this is about is it?

Katlyn looks directly into SHAUN's eyes.

KATLYN.

My father died in the first gulf war. My mother went missing somewhere in Egypt, she was never found. The police there did nothing, they didn't care because she was only a woman. When I went looking for her do you know what happened ? The guide I hired took me to a little village that wasn't even on a map. There were three men waiting. They gave him some money, and he drove away. He abandoned me.

(tears start welling) They took me into an old stable. Everyone saw them, including the women. They heard me scream and they did nothing. Even after they were done nobody came to help me. And you know what the police said when I told them I'd been raped? We'll file a report but there's not much we could do. When I complained he said just be grateful your alive. My friends and I have all suffered because of your people. And now I may loose another one. For what ? What do you people want from us ? Why do you hate us so much ?

She pushes the blade tighter.

KATLYN. WHY ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING THIS

?

STEPHEN

She can't answer that ?

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN
Katlyn, Let her go.

KATLYN
She touched me. She put her
filthy Muslim hands all over me.

KIRA
No. No I didn't.

ROBYN
Katlyn she's not the one you want
to hurt.

KATLYN
Obviously you haven't been paying
attention.

ROBYN
I'm not going to pretend I
understand. I don't. All I know
is you're in pain and you're
lashing out.

KATLYN
Is there a point to all this ?

ROBYN
I'm just saying don't do this to
yourself. You've suffered enough
already.

The phone rings it startles Katlyn. She nicks SHAUN and
draws the tiniest drop of blood. The phone rings again,
and again.

KATLYN
For god's sake will somebody get
that.

Robyn runs to the phone.

ROBYN
Hello ?
(to everyone) It's Melissa's
father. Yes..

KIRA
(to Katlyn) I lost family in
the war too.

KATLYN
If she's dead you'll be joining
them.

Everyone looks at Robyn .She is not saying anything, just
listening. Her eyes say it all. Tears run down her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

She drops the phone. We know the answer, Melissa is dead. Katlyn removes the knife and moves away. Robyn and Shaun comfort Kira. But they are finding it hard to hold back the tears. Katlyn stares. A tear rolls down her eye. She is angry and hurt and full of emotion. Stephen slowly takes the knife from her. Katlyn cries and Stephen comforts her.

FADE TO

Title: SIX MONTHS LATER

72

INT. STUDIO WITH A BLACK BACKDROP

72

This is a documentary style sequence of the characters talking directly to camera. There is only one person in shot at any time. Shaun is interviewing them off camera. Robyn is first.

SHAUN

Okay, no need to be nervous. Just think of it as you and me having a chat.

ROBYN

Shaun, I've done interviews before.

SHAUN

Of course you have. Okay this is for my new documentary, a kind of follow up to Deadly Wind, you know the one about Depleted uranium missiles...

ROBYN

Right.

SHAUN

...The Gulf war soldiers.

ROBYN

I know the one.

SHAUN

...Yeah, Okay this one's called..Survivors of terror.

ROBYN

Survivors of Terror ?

STEPHEN

That's your title ?

KIRA

Okay, I guess.

(CONTINUED)

KATLYN.
You're not really going to call
it that are you ?

SHAUN
In a word How do you feel about
what we are being told about the
war on terror ?

ROBYN
Scared.

STEPHEN
Frustrated.

KIRA
Sad.

KATLYN.
Angry.

SHAUN
How has your life changed since
your experience ?

ROBYN
I've come out stronger.

STEPHEN
I appreciate life more.

KIRA
I am grateful for what I have.

KATLYN.
I treasure the past.

SHAUN
What are your feelings about what
world leaders are doing to combat
terrorism ?

ROBYN
I think they should talk to the
people they are trying to kill.

STEPHEN
I don't think they are doing
enough.

KIRA
They should be thinking with
their heads, not their wallets.

KATLYN.
Politicians are only out for
themselves.

(CONTINUED)

SHAUN

Since 9/11 what has your attitude
been towards Muslims.

ROBYN

I feel sad. They're not the ones
to blame.

STEPHEN

I respect the Muslim people.
They're not the enemy. The
terrorist are the enemy.

KIRA

I love my people I always will.

KATLYN.

(pause) I hate them. I hate
them all.

FADE OUT

END