

Unhinged and Unplugged

By

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EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT. NOON.

A car pulls off the highway into the parking lot. It's a mid-90s model car. Run-down, probably bought for cheap.

In the passenger seat is BRENDAN, a 19 year old recent high-school graduate. He is nicely dressed in casual attire, with a sharp haircut and a cleanly shaven face.

Driving this shitmobile is TYLER, a 22 year old. He is scruffy faced and has heavy bags under his eyes. He's not much when it comes to a friend, but he's all Brendan's got outside of his church youth group.

INT. TYLER'S CAR. NOON

Tyler pulls into a handicapped parking space and puts the car in park.

Brendan is rubbing his face through his hands and tapping the car door frantically. He's nervous.

TYLER
Well, we're here.

Brendan starts shaking his head

BRENDAN
I don't know. I don't know.

TYLER
What? What don't you know?

BRENDAN
Like what do I say to him? I've never been in a situation like this before.

TYLER
That's the thing, you don't say anything to him.

Brendan stares at Tyler in a sort of confused way.

BRENDAN
That's why we're here, dippy: to talk things out.

TYLER
Go take a look in the back.

Brendan tries to look in the backseat but can't, his seat belt is too tight.

(CONTINUED)

Brendan undoes his seatbelt and looks in the backseat.

There's nothing but McDonalds bags and empty cans of Rockstar Energy.

TYLER

No, dipstick. The trunk.

BRENDAN

(opening the car door to get out)

Well, you said the *back*. Not the *trunk*.

TYLER

(Mockingly, in a stupid voice)

"Well you said the back not the trunk". The back *means* the trunk.

BRENDAN

(outside the car)

Says who?

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT. NOON.

Brendan tries to open the trunk. It won't budge, even though it appears popped.

BRENDAN

Hey, did you pop the trunk?

TYLER

Yeah you just gotta fuck with it a little bit. It'll op-

Brendan fucks with the trunk a little bit before it finally pops open.

TYLER

Yeah.

Brendan looks inside, moving around plastic bags and trash.

Then he sees it.

BRENDAN

Oh. Oh no. No, no, no, no, no.
Nope.

INT. TYLER'S CAR. NOON

Brendan hops back in the car shaking his head.

BRENDAN
Nope. Nope nope nope.

TYLER
What? You saw it right?

BRENDAN
Yeah! Yeah I saw it!

TYLER
Oh, okay. What's your problem then?

BRENDAN
Well, like, where do you even *get*
one of those things?

TYLER
Chinatown.

BRENDAN
Chinatown?

TYLER
Yeah, Chinatown. Like the beginning
of *Gremlins*, ya know?

Brendan rubs his eyes with frustration

BRENDAN
Is that the movie with the space
bounty hunters?

TYLER
No, that's *Critters*-
(beat)
Look it doesn't matter what movie
features fuckin' Chinatown

Tyler smacks the dash before gaining some self control.

BRENDAN
And why are you insisting I *kill*
this guy, don't you feel that's a
little extre-

TYLER
Don't you fuckin' nag me, Brendan.
You came to me for help, remember?
I brought you all the way here to
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TYLER (cont'd)
confront this guy and all you
wanted to do was "talk it out".
Well guess what, pussy boy, talking
it out doesn't get shit done. What
I've got back there-

Tyler points to the general area of the trunk

TYLER
That gets shit done.

Brendan sits there, raging in silence as he stares down
Tyler's soul.

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT. NOON. CONT.

Brendan leaves the car in a fit of rage.

We follow him from the car all the way up to the apartment.

Brendan gets to the apartment door and lifts his fist up to
knock.

He puts his fist back down and collects himself.

BRENDAN
(To himself, as if he were
talking to the cheater)
Hey man, what you did to me and my
relationship like, yeah it wasn't
cool. Just thought I'd let you kno-

He stops

BRENDAN
No, no that, that fuckin' sucks.
(Sighs)
Ughhhhh. Alright, screw it.

Brendan hesitantly knocks on the door.

No response.

Brendan waits. He turns around and looks back at Tyler.

CUT TO

INT. TYLER'S CAR. NOON. CONT.

Tyler makes eye contact with Brendan. He looks back at him with a somewhat unimpressed look on his face.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT. NOON. CONT.

Brendan turns back to the door and knocks again.

Again, there's no response.

Brendan turns around defeated, in an attempt to escape this shitty -and odd- situation he got himself in while also being able to say he tried.

Just as he turns around, Brendan notices a doorbell.

He looks at the doorbell.

Then back at the car.

The doorbell.

The car.

He hits the doorbell, and a loud ringing noise can be heard from the inside.

CHEATER

Come in!

Bewildered, and extremely regretful that he didn't just waltz back to Tyler's car, Brendan heads back for the apartment door.

INT. TYLER'S CAR. NOON. CONT.

Tyler notices that Brendan is starting to head back to the apartment door. He rolls down the window and lights a cigarette as he reclines in the driver's seat.

INT. APARTMENT ENTRY. NOON.

The inside of the apartment is dark and dingy. A single lavalamp illuminates the entry way.

The wall above the bed is covered with an NRA flag. Empty bottles of water and crunched cheap beer cans litter the floors and counter tops.

It reeks.

(CONTINUED)

The sound of bathwater running from the bathroom down the hall can be heard, along with the humming of a song.

The apartment door opens up, and Brendan slowly walks in.

We see Brendan look around the apartment with fight or flight expression on his face. He's puzzled that no one is in the immediate area.

CHEATER

(From the bathroom)

I wasn't expecting you for like
another half-hour or somethin'
baby, why didn't you tell me you
left early?

Brendan looks confused, but continues on towards the bathroom.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN. NOON. CONT.

Brendan gets to the kitchen of the apartment, right outside the bathroom where this man seemingly was at.

Brendan goes up to the bathroom door, attempting to knock with the knuckle of his pointer finger.

CHEATER

I'm glad you decided not to get
back together with that pussy-boy
boyfriend of yours.

Brendan stops himself from knocking on the bathroom door. It's clear he wasn't aware of this years-long affair.

CHEATER

I didn't like sharing you all those
years anyway.

Brendan begins to tear up a little bit. Years? How did he not know that this was going on for years!?!

Brendan heads back to the kitchen, frantically looking for a glass so he could pour himself some water.

He lifts a dirty towel off a dish rack, revealing glasses and plates. Brendan grabs a glass and fills it with water from the sink.

He takes a big gulp and spits it out. Tap water tastes terrible. He looks back to the bathroom door.

(CONTINUED)

Brendan, in a rush of both rage and fear, knocks on the bathroom door.

BRENDAN

Hey man, she was everything I had
and you took her away without a
second thought.

Beat.

Beat.

Bathwater stops running.

CHEATER

Who.... Who is this?

BRENDAN

I'm the guy you cuckolded, man. I came
to clear things up with you.

CHEATER

How'd you get in my house?

The sound of a drawer opening from the inside of the bathroom can be heard.

BRENDAN

What? You don't remember inviting
me in-

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

Three bullet holes form from the bathroom door.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. TYLER'S CAR. NOON.

Tyler hears the three gunshots go off. He jumps with surprise out of his seat. He opens his door and attempts to bolt out but gets restrained by his seatbelt. Cigarette ash falls off his chest and onto the car floor.

Tyler gets back in his seat, properly unbuckles his seatbelt, then heads behind his car looking for cover.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN. NOON.

Brendan has thrown himself on the floor against some cabinets in an attempt to save himself.

BRENDAN
Jesus Chris-

BLAM.

Another gunshot, then the sound of an empty gun clicking.

Brendan, acting defensively, looks for something in the nearby vicinity to use as a countermeasure to the Cheater's gun.

He spots a toaster plugged into the wall nearby.

Fight or flight kicks in and Brendan gets on his feet and runs to the toaster like it's the last thing he'll do in this life, because it very well may be the last thing he does in this life.

He unplugs the toaster and heads for the bathroom door.

INT. BATHROOM. NOON. CONT.

The bullet-ridden bathroom door barges open, with a crazy-eyed Brendan charging through.

The bathroom is filled with a thick cloud of steam from the bathwater. The outer coat of the toaster shines through like the sun on a foggy morning.

The Cheater is covered with a towel, standing in the bathtub. His eyes are filled with fear and confusion. He's holding the gun by the barrel, in hopes of getting to use it against this home invader.

Brendan charges at the Cheater, holding the toaster high above his head. He's gotta make this count.

Brendan slips on a floor mat in front of the bath.

THUD

The Cheater is now screaming, and raises his gun in an attempt to whack Brendan upside the head with it.

Brendan gets back on his feet.

(CONTINUED)

BRENDAN
Eat shit and die, *fucker!*

He throws the toaster in the bathtub.

The Cheater screeches in fear of getting electrocuted.

INT. APARTMENT. NOON. CONT.

Brendan bolts for the front door, convinced he put an end to whatever atrocity just took place.

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT. NOON. CONT.

Brendan hops out the apartment door, racing for the car.

Tyler stares at him, excitement in his eyes. He's standing at the back of the car with the trunk popped open. He was getting ready for whatever was gonna come his way.

BRENDAN
Go, go, go, go!

TYLER
What the hell was that? Who had a gun?

Brendan opens the car door.

BRENDAN
Come on, let's go!

Tyler hops in the drivers seat and they take off.

INT. TYLER'S CAR. AFTERNOON. CONT.

TYLER
(driving frantically)
Did you shoot him?

BRENDAN
No, no, no, no. He shot at me. I toasted him.

TYLER
You toasted hi-

BRENDAN
Yeah. He was taking a bath and I threw a toaster in the tub with him.

(CONTINUED)

They both start hootin' and hollerin'

TYLER

I can't believe you killed that guy!

BRENDAN

Yeah it was insane man. I just thought on a whim. Toaster plus bathtub equals electricity. See ya later, Mr. Asshole! I unplugged it and BAM! There it went!

TYLER

Haha, yeah so how far do we go until we turn off on-

Tyler looks at Brendan

TYLER

You unplugged it?

BRENDAN

Yeah. I got back on my feet, unplugged the toaster and threw it at him.

TYLER

You, you...

Tyler hits the steering wheel

TYLER

You dumb motherfucker. You *unplugged* the toaster and then threw it in the tub.

BRENDAN

Yes, I "*unplugged*" the toaster. The cable wouldn't be long enough to reach the tub, jackass.

Tyler pulls the car over.

He stares at Brendan in utter disbelief. Mouth wide open. Shocked.

BRENDAN

(confused)

Wha-... What?

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT PARKING LOT. AFTERNOON.

The Cheater is standing outside his apartment building. Cop cars are all over the parking lot.

A DETECTIVE is talking to him. The Cheater has wet hair, and his clothes are soaked. The EX-GIRLFRIEND stands behind the Cheater, worried and confused.

DETECTIVE

Now, can you describe the man who
broke into your home?

END