

Something Sweet

by  
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Revisions

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EXT. ADAM'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

It's a sunny day near late afternoon in a modest suburban neighborhood where SOME KIDS are playing basketball in a driveway.

An OLDER MAN is mowing his lawn as his WIFE brings out a pair of cocktails.

The POSTMAN is dropping some letters into a mailbox.

The kids hear a car coming and make eye-contact among themselves. A RED-HEADED KID with the ball winds up and hurls it past another player and right into the car's window, leaving a large crack in the window. The driver honks as the kids laugh.

ADAM (V.O.)

Alright. So I'll see you in an hour and a half-ish then? Great. OK, bye. (click) Katie... (beat) Shit.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

A slender man in his late twenties, ADAM, puts the phone on the kitchen counter and begins checking his cabinets for food. His sweatpants have holes in them and there are grass stains and dried paint all over his white T-shirt. There's a plant on a coffee table that has been dead for weeks next to a small pad of canvas and acrylic paints.

A few loose sheets of paper blow off the table. Adam throws an angry look toward a broken window letting a breeze through.

The cabinets are empty and Adam checks the freezer and pulls out a tub of ice cream and begins to eat it. He reaches for the phone and dials quickly.

EARLY (O.S.)

Bueno.

ADAM

Early, what's up, do you still have that chicken in your freezer?

EARLY (O.S.)

Adam, well I'm doing great thank you so much for asking.

ADAM

Jesus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Adam sets the tub of Ice Cream on the counter and grabs some of his sketches from the refrigerator and placing them in a kitchen drawer.

EARLY (O.S.)

Well a lot can happen in two hours! Like me buying two new Cubs jerseys. Hell yeah.

ADAM

Cool. (beat) So, two Cubs jerseys means you've got plenty of cash to resupply after our chicken wager?

EARLY (O.S.)

Yeah I haven't forgotten.

EXT. EARLY'S BACKYARD - DAY

Dressed in snowboarding pants, a Cubs jersey and black sport coat, EARLY, 27, is perched on a floating raft holding his unopened O'Douls and the phone. The backyard is very well-kept minus a few odd toys lying around. Also floating in the pool is a mini-raft carrying chips and salsa.

ADAM

I hope not. And the strangest thing happened, my salsa is missing.

EARLY

Salsa you say... I'm quite the dancer, but in a tango-sea-walk-to-the-spelling-bee-championship-podium kind of way.

Adam begins to close the drawer, then opens it back up when he spots and grabs a small black jewelry box.

ADAM

Wow.

EARLY

Well maybe I wasn't champion... Okay honestly I can't read at all.

ADAM

No, I came across the ring.

EARLY

Oh. You should sell that thing and get the money back. Earth dollars.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: EARLY (CONT'D)  
 You could put a payment down on  
 your own place.

ADAM  
 I can't just sell it.

EARLY  
 Well it was pretty silly to spend  
 seven-thousand dollars in the  
 first place Adam, on a psycho no  
 less.

Adam looks at the phone. Early is reaching for some  
 snowboarding goggles on the edge of the pool.

EARLY (CONT'D)  
 What's with the dinner plans  
 anyway? A lot of old friends are  
 coming out here tonight.

Adam has been roaming the room and places the ring in a  
 drawer in the living room.

ADAM  
 Well, I'm not sure that I'm  
 feeling up to the party, I kind of  
 just want to cook here and I don't  
 have any food... and Katie is  
 coming over.

EARLY (O.S.)  
 WHAT?

Early leans up quickly on his raft and his watch pierces  
 the raft. Air begins to leak quickly and Early looks  
 concerned.

ADAM  
 What? I saw her at the store  
 yesterday and we got to talking.  
 She's going to come over in an  
 hour and we're having dinner.

EARLY  
 Katie? She's back and she hasn't  
 called me?

ADAM  
 Because she calls you all the  
 time....?

After making a last ditch roll from the raft onto the  
 side of the pool, Early calmly collects himself and  
 stands up. He then notices that his goggles didn't make  
 the transition.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EARLY

Come on, you know how she gets when she's around me. She tenses up... she doesn't know what to say...

ADAM

Yeah, she's frightened by you, so am I.

EARLY

So does this mean you're not coming by tonight?

ADAM

Well that depends on how things go. Look, my place is a mess and I still need to shower. I'll be over to collect my prize in fifteen minutes. Hey you guys still have wine in the cellar right?

EARLY

Probably.

Early is using a pool net to grab his goggles from the pool.

ADAM

You can't check?

EARLY

I'm kind of busy at the moment.

ADAM

Are you finally facing your fear of water?

EARLY

I'm not scared. I just don't like the way it feels on my skin.

ADAM

Yeah.

Adam hangs up the phone.

EXT. EARLY'S BACKYARD - DAY

Early turns and yells toward the house.

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CONTINUED:

EARLY

Mom, we need a new raft.

CUT TO:

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Adam stands looking at the black jewelry box. He glances at the coffee table and sees a vase of dead flowers. He puts the box into another drawer and grabs the dead flowers from the vase and turns to see his Ex-wife EVE walk in the door. She is wearing a casual business suit with stockings and black high heels.

EVE

Are those for me?

Eve walks into the house.

ADAM

They should be.

They stand blankly looking at each other.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'll give them to you if that will get you to leave.

Eve takes a look around and enters the kitchen.

EVE

Why are you in a rush to get rid of me? It's been a rough year, for both of us I'm sure. Honestly I didn't think I'd ever see you again... but I heard you had come back and I spent some time thinking about whether or not I should even...

ADAM

Eve, it's nice to see you or whatever, and I really wish we could talk, but I've got a... business meeting to go to.

EVE

Right.

ADAM

Couldn't you have called first?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVE

You know I wouldn't have made it near here if you had warning. Spike strips, a sniper in the clock tower, trust me I'd have shown you the same courtesy, but I'm not here to talk about "us". There's an open position in the warehouse and I know it's possible for two people with a shady history to function together professionally. Plus I knew you'd need a job.

ADAM

Oh? Well I don't need your help, and I know that I wouldn't have needed a sniper.

EVE

Really.

ADAM

First off, I got to the point where I could slip myself out of the noose, but you managed to kick the stool out from under me again. I commend you. Second, I am actually looking for work, but you sound like a turkey when you talk and gobbling makes you hard to trust.

EVE

But this is your style, lead designer with a schedule you can negotiate. Yes I'll be your boss but I'm never in the office anyway and trust me when I say that I wouldn't want to see you all the time either. Today is the only day I can offer this, and it's the best job you'll ever see.

Eve walks over to the table and sits down.

EVE (CONT'D)

Pour some coffee and let's talk.

ADAM

Psycho?

Adam glares at Eve, then looks at the counter and sees a day-old pot of coffee.

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CONTINUED: (2)

Also on the counter are two apples. He fills a cup and offers an apple to her. She returns with a smirk and he drops the coffee in front of her.

EVE

I'm serious Adam. Quit being childish and think about this. So can I get some sugar?

ADAM

Sugar? Why are you here?

EVE

I'm not leaving until you take this job. You need to get out of the house. You're always just sitting around here. Do you not even have any sugar around here?

ADAM

What? How about this, I'll go get your sugar, you have your cup of coffee and tell me of this great little job, I tell you to go back to the domain from whence you came, then you leave.

They seem to make an eye connection, then Adam turns to leave.

EVE

Where are you going?

ADAM

I need to get something at Early's then I'll be back.

Adam glares at her and leaves the house. The instant the front door closes Eve jumps up and begins looking around.

EXT. ADAM'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Adam walks down the street towards the last house. On the sidewalk is a HOT DOG CART. A short HOT DOG GUY is behind the cart wearing a mustard stained apron and a small white chef's hat.

Adam walks by the cart keeping his gaze fixed on the Hot Dog Guy.

CUT TO:

EXT. EARLY'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Adam walks up and knocks on Early's door. Early opens the door wearing a new baseball jersey while holding his unopened bottle of O'Doul's and the frozen chicken. Just inside the door a bottle of wine sits on a small table.

Early hands Adam the chicken. Adam's disgruntled look confuses him.

EARLY

Here. Why didn't you sound this  
pissed on the phone?

ADAM

SHE's here.

EARLY

Katie is already here?

ADAM

No. HER.

EARLY

Oh my God! So is Katie free  
tonight then?

Early shifts slightly in the doorway as the POSTMAN barges outside from the house. He's buttoning his shirt and nods to Adam and Early on his way out. Adam throws a questioning look toward Early but he is just as confused.

ADAM

Well Katie is not free tonight  
because I'm going to get that  
circus animal out of my house  
before she gets here. But I need  
some sugar.

EARLY

Sugar? Don't think so. Try the  
bicycle guy.

ADAM

You don't have any sugar?

EARLY

You don't?

ADAM

Alright.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Adam looks at the bottle of wine sitting on the table. He glances back up at Early.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
I'll pay you back.

EARLY  
That's not good enough.

Early grabs the bottle and holds it out to Adam.

EARLY (CONT'D)  
I'll give you this, but I have to have some.

ADAM  
Pardon?

EARLY  
I'm coming over.

ADAM  
It's a date!

EARLY  
So?

Adam grabs the bottle of wine.

ADAM  
No.

EARLY  
Come on I just want to see her.

ADAM  
No.

Adam begins to turn to walk away but turns back.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
Do you ever actually open the bottle?

Early pulls out his phone and dials a number.

EARLY  
When I want to get trashed.

ADAM  
Hmm.

Adam leaves as Early picks up the phone again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EARLY

Katie, Hi.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S NEIGHBORHOOD - HOT DOG GUY - DAY

Adam walks down the street in a hurry. He looks over at the Hotdog vendor who is contentedly staring straight ahead. Adam has an air of curiosity about him and decides to stop.

ADAM

Well you've talked me into it,  
I'll have one.

The vendor has a hotdog ready to go and squirts some mustard on the dog, then some ketchup and relish. As Adam speaks the Hot Dog Guy continues to drop onions on the bun.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Honestly though how can you get  
any business sitting in a suburban  
neighborhood? I mean who buys hot  
dogs here?

The Hot dog guy seems confused by the question, then hands the dog to Adam.

HOTDOG GUY

Well you do.

ADAM

Hmm.

Adam turns and picks up his pace across the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S NEIGHBORHOOD - BASKETBALL - DAY

Adam is carrying the bottle of wine and frozen chicken in one hand while he inspects the hot dog. He seems disinterested in the large amount of onions when a basketball hits him in the kneecap.

A group of 10 year old kids giggle when Adam turns and hurls his hot dog at one of the kids, hitting him in the face and making him drop to his knees.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

You don't like onions either?

Adam turns to continue walking down the street as the kids move toward him. The ringleader, a RED-HEADED KID moves to the front.

REDHEAD

Hey it's been three days now. If we don't get the magazines then we better get our twenty dollars back.

ADAM

What kid, I don't owe you twenty bucks. You like wine?

The group of kids look at Adam with a blank stare.

REDHEAD

If you don't pay up I'm going to tell that hot dog guy and he'll eat your cat or something...

ADAM

Yeah, go for it kid. (beat) You guys don't have any sugar packets or anything do you?

REDHEAD

You have twenty dollars?

Adam turns and walks off.

CUT TO:

EXT. BICYCLE GUY'S HOUSE - DAY

The house has somewhere around fifteen bicycles on the porch and the door is cracked open. Adam has picked up his pace and wastes no time entering.

INT. DEAD BODY'S HOUSE - DAY

The lights are off and the blinds are closed. Streaks of daylight illuminate the wall. There are framed posters of David Hassellhoff and other people riding bicycles.

ADAM

Hello? I'm sort of your neighbor, so I'm not breaking in...

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CONTINUED:

After a moment in the living room, Adam glances into the kitchen. On the counter he can see a large glass jar of sugar.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Yes. I am governor glucose.

Adam walks past a couch leading to the kitchen and stops when he finds a motionless body on the floor. For a moment Adam is confused. He then notices a half-eaten hot dog with onions near his hand.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I guess people do buy these things.

Without hesitation Adam heads straight for the jar of sugar and as he grabs it there is a distant window-cracking sound followed by a group of children's laughter.

A quick glance at the dead body and Adam picks up a nearby phone.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I would like to report some gang activity.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Adam rushes back across the street.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Holding the chicken, wine and sugar in one arm, Adam opens the front door and speaks as he notices Eve digging through a drawer.

ADAM

I got your sugar. What the shit?

Eve pulls the jewelry box from the drawer.

EVE

Yes!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Most people take pills for this kind of thing.

EVE

This was my ring, I earned this damn thing after putting up with you for four years.

ADAM

With me!? Hand it over.

EVE

I spent four years having you around, then you start staying at work late? "Working on a job." Or some bullshit. Like any woman ever falls for that.

She grabs a lamp and throws it at him.

ADAM

I was trying to make enough money for that stupid ring! And you banged the grass cutter!

Adam dodges and makes a move toward the ring.

EVE

Well, for the record, he was my postman! But I made up the banging because you were fucking all the secretaries.

ADAM

What secretaries!?

Eve frantically slips the ring into her pocket and grabs a coat rack. KATIE walks in with Early sneaking right behind her while Eve swings the coat rack once and misses, Adam lunges forward ripping her shirt as she swings again and nails Adam in the kneecap.

Early has a scared look on his face as Katie runs out of the house screaming. Early turns and follows her out.

CUT TO:

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Katie is walking briskly to her car with Early right behind. She is holding back tears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EARLY

It's okay, I knew this would happen.

KATIE

I've watched COPS so many times that I thought I could handle any sort of domestic violence in person... But...

EARLY

I know, I know. It's a hard thing to take in, but sometimes you have to realize that, some animals just aren't meant to be caged. If you need a place to cool down and take it easy for the night, I live across the street.

KATIE

Really, thanks.

Katie clears her face and glances over toward the Hot Dog Guy. The tears almost seem to start right up again.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Daddy?

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Adam and Eve are sitting across from each other in the living room. Eve has a torn shirt and looking out the window she can see police officers around the bicycle-guy's house and another officer arresting the group of kids. The muffled sounds of kids yelling at the hot dog guy can be heard. Adam sees the Hot Dog Guy nod in his direction.

ADAM

Maybe we...

EVE

I just...

They interrupt each other and sit for another moment in near-silence, except for the yelling kids.

EVE

This is an interesting neighborhood.

Adam looks at the frozen chicken and the wine.

ADAM

Are you hungry?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

END.