White Picket Fence with Tulips and a Dog

by

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INT. CAR - RIDING - DAY

BORDY DRIVES. HENRIETTA sits shotgun.

    HENRIETTA
    ...Get the money?

    BORDY
    I didn’t get anything. She needs a few days.

Henrietta gives Bordy a dirty look.

    BORDY (CONT'D)
    My mother isn’t an ATM, alright? She’s not gonna shoot out money at the push of a button.

    HENRIETTA
    Bullshit. She’s loaded.

    BORDY
    She’s not loaded. You could have went in to meet her, she saw you from the window.

    HENRIETTA
    I told you I’m not meeting parents anytime soon. God knows where this is even going.

    BORDY
    You don’t need to meet a parent because we’re getting married but out of some kind of decency.

    HENRIETTA
    Whatever. Few days she said?

    BORDY
    Yeah.

    HENRIETTA
    What are we doing for food?

    BORDY
    I ate.

    HENRIETTA
    What about me?

    BORDY
    What about you? If you would have come inside, you would have been fed.
HENRIETTA
Selfish asshole.

BORDY
I’ll get you something to eat, alright? Chill.

HENRIETTA
So she did give you money!

BORDY
She gave me a few bucks to get by but she’s working on the rest.

HENRIETTA
So how much did she give you?

BORDY
What’s with all the questions?

HENRIETTA
What’s with all the secrets?

BORDY
She gave me like a hundred.

HENRIETTA
That’s nothing man.

BORDY
Better than nothing, right?

HENRIETTA
Whatever.

BORDY (IMITATING HER)
‘Whatever, whatever.’ What’s that your new favorite word now?

HENRIETTA
Whatever, dude.

BORDY
Yeah. Never happy. That’s your new nickname, never happy.

HENRIETTA
And your new nickname is IDIOT.

BORDY
Whatever, never happy. Whatever.

HENRIETTA
Whatever, whatever, IDIOT.
(pause.)

I want to eat.

BORODY
What do you want from my life?

HENRIETTA
What you promised me.

BORODY
Yeah, well, life’s not that easy.

HENRIETTA
You promised you’d take care of me and I’m here not being taken care of. I could go back home and leave this all behind.

BORODY
You know, it’s not 1950 anymore, incase you haven’t noticed. There’s no white picket fence with tulips and a dog. That shit don’t exist anymore.

HENRIETTA
Yes it does.

BORODY
That window is closing down hard and fast baby doll.

HENRIETTA
I want my white picket fence or I’m out.

BORODY
I can only do what I can do.

HENRIETTA
I don’t want this shit life.

BORODY
What do you mean? With me or in general?

HENRIETTA
With you and in general. Sick of it. Always a struggle man.

BORODY
Work harder.
HENRIETTA
You got some pair. You work harder! I’m the one holding down a job. What do you do all day with those paintings...pathetic. How are we gonna have a future together? Look where we are! Look at us. This is going nowhere man. This shit is no joke.

BORDY
It is, it is.

HENRIETTA
It is what? What the hell do you mean? You’re going nowhere! Achieving nothing! Sold all your books for money, the change jar is gone...what else is there to sell? Loserville man! God forbid you actually sell one painting, other than the one to that old lady who took pity on you last week. Pathetic! I’m living in loserville with your wasted ass!

BORDY
You know, for the past week you’ve been sticking your nails in my neck, making my blood boil each and every day and I constantly ask you to calm down, to talk to me nicely, to be positive, to stop putting me down and what do you do, you keep grinding away, keep talking trash with that mouth of yours and it’s gotten me to my limit. You understand? You’ve reached my limit and I’m about to drive this piece of shit car right through those (pointing) cemetery gates and park us in a coffin so we can be together in hell for all eternity! If you don’t shut up for once in your life and stop barking at me all day I’m gonna go NNNNNNUTS over here, I swear to God, I’m gonna go crazy and do it. I’m gonna do it. (Bordy squeezes the steering wheel and starts shaking violently)
MmmmmmmRRRRAAAAAAAaaaaaaa!!! Right through those gates!!!
HENRIETTA
Holy shit man, calm down. Take it easy alright, I didn’t know you would get this upset.

BORDY (VOICE HAS REACHED A DEEP DEMONIC SOUND)
I’ve told you eighty-three million times to chill out. Haven’t I? Right? RRRRight?

HENRIETTA
Dude, I’m chill. Calm down, you’re scaring me.

Bordy lets out a scream. Then another scream. He punches the steering wheel and shakes himself against it violently. He bites the steering wheel with his teeth. He slowly begins to calm his rage and breathe.

BORDY
You know, I told you, you know. I’m a little off in the head. Spent my whole life trying to stay calm but you push me to the limit of no return. I don’t want to go there, especially with you. It’s a side to me that I don’t ever want to come out. Stop pushing me. You hear me or what?

HENRIETTA
Yeah...yeah. I just don’t want things to be like this for us...

BORDY
Neither do I but you don’t have to destroy me every time something goes wrong. Life isn’t perfect! Nobody’s life is!

HENRIETTA
I’m not destroying you. Stop being so dramatic.

BORDY
I’m already stressed out. I can’t have you chipping away at me day in and day out. It’s hard enough as it is and I just borrowed two thousands dollars from my mother! For us! How do you think that makes me feel? GOOD? I feel like a piece of shit!
HENRIETTA
I get it.

BORDY
Do you? You’re supposed to be on my side. I’m doing what I can for us. Everybody thinks it’s so easy. Everybody.

HENRIETTA
I don’t.
(pause.)

BORDY
What do you want to eat?

HENRIETTA
A bagel with cream cheese.

BORDY
That it?

HENRIETTA
Ummm. I want a red bull.

BORDY
A red bull? Don’t you think you’re hyper enough?

HENRIETTA
I’m drained.

BORDY
If you’re drained then I’m wearing an IV.

HENRIETTA
Chips.

BORDY (SIGH)
Anything else?

HENRIETTA
Onion garlic chips.

BORDY
Let’s just go in together. I’ll go to that bagel place near the house we like.

HENRIETTA
I hate that place.

BORDY
Why?
HENRIETTA
That bitch that works there. Can’t stand her. She’s gonna get a slap from me one day. Always flirting with you. She wants your ass so bad.

BORDY
She’s a beast.

HENRIETTA
But still. I’m gonna jump over the counter one of these days man and beat the shit out of her. I feel it. She winked at you last time. Don’t think I didn’t see from the car. With her dumb little wink. The hoe.

BORDY
What wink?

HENRIETTA
You smiled right at her when she did it.

BORDY
I was being polite.

HENRIETTA
Don’t make me find out.

BORDY
What’s wrong with you?

HENRIETTA
Men will sleep with anything.

BORDY
That’s disgusting. Never in a million years and then after that a million years more. You couldn’t pay me to be with that thing. No freaking way man.

HENRIETTA
Alright, just checking.

BORDY
Check all you want. (beat) So you want me to go to the place or not?

HENRIETTA
Fine. Fine. I hope she’s not there that’s all.
BORDY
I’m gonna blow her a kiss.

Henrietta punches Bordy in the shoulder.

HENRIETTA
Do it. I dare you. Watch what I do, watch.

BORDY
I’ll give her a little tongue action...(he sticks his tongue out and wiggles it)

HENRIETTA
That’s fine. I want you to. I do. I’ll kick both your asses together.

BORDY
Relax. Just the thought makes me sick.

HENRIETTA
But honestly, when did your mom say she was gonna give you the money?

BORDY
Few days.

HENRIETTA
Okay.

BORDY
We friends now?

HENRIETTA
We’ll see how bagel bitch goes first.