

Landed On Your Doorstep

by

Joseph Arnone

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Cast of Characters

MEL:

31

BILLY:

33

Place

Living Room

Time

Night

Setting: Billy and Becky's home.

At Rise: Billy drinks a beer while sitting on his couch.

Billy sits in the middle of his couch, drinking a beer.

Mel enters holding a beer.

MEL: Hey Billy, hey...how ya been? (beat) Ahhhhh shit. You take good care of me man, I have to say, I have to say it loud...good man!

I know I said I'd be here two days and as it turns out it's been two years but it's kind of hard leaving this place cause it's become home for me.

You and Becky have really, really, really made me feel welcome. I know I don't say it much but thank you. Thank you for letting me live here, eat your food, drink your beer, wash my dirty clothes, allow me to sleep late into the day and smoke my cigarettes late into the night, thank you for your patience and putting up with my slob like manners, my belches and farts, my allergies, I know, I know I have really bad allergies and am sneezing over everything all the damn time but man oh man I love you guys.

You and Becky are the best two things that ever happened to me in my pathetic, useless life. I know I make no contributions whatsoever and haven't worked since I landed on your doorstep but hey, I'm a hoot, right? I know I sure as hell make you guys laugh and shake your heads. Maybe life would be more mundane if I weren't around.

Mel downs entire can of beer in one go and burps ferociously long afterward.

He crushes and tosses can.

That's all I'm saying to ya. (stretches) Gonna go rock a nap.

(he exits)

Billy gets up and picks Mel's can of beer off the floor. He throws it in the trash can.

Mel enters the living room.

MEL: Think I got one more beer left in me

BILLY: I think you should go to bed.

MEL: Nah, man, I got one more in my toes.

BILLY: Mel. Go to bed.

MEL: What's wrong?

BILLY: Becky left.

MEL: When's she coming back?

BILLY: She's not. She's not coming back, until you leave.

MEL: What?

BILLY: She wants you to leave, Mel.

MEL: She said that?

BILLY: I want you to leave, too.

MEL: All any of you needed to do was ask. I mean, I know I've been here and all but I thought you guys liked having me around. I thought I was the comic relief since you both been having problems.

BILLY: We've been having problems ever since you showed up. Don't you get it man?

MEL: So I'm to blame for your divorce?

BILLY: Nobody said anything about a divorce.

MEL: She's your wife and she left you, didn't she?

BILLY: She's staying at her Aunties until you leave and if you don't leave then yeah, I'm headed for divorce.

MEL: How can I have the power to decide your marriage?

BILLY: You don't, cause you're leaving.

MEL: I'll leave right now.

BILLY: You can leave in a timely manner, you don't need to be a neurotic.

MEL: I'm not getting blamed for Becky leaving you.

BILLY: She didn't leave me. She left YOU.

MEL: Me??

BILLY: She can't be around you anymore. It's all become way too much for us.

MEL: What did I do wrong?

BILLY: Mel, it doesn't boil down to any one specific thing you did. It's a combination of many things that have added up and have become too much to handle.

MEL: So, I'm too much too handle? I'm not a child, you don't need to handle me.

BILLY: I know. You're a grown man and that's why you need to get your own place. I can help you. There's a small, one of those tiny houses a friend of mine had built on his property---

MEL: What's a tiny house?

BILLY: It's economical.

MEL: What does that mean?

BILLY: It means livable. You're a single guy and it has all the essentials. All you need to do to live there is help maintain the property, cut the lawn, run errands...basically be a custodian to the place.

MEL: Custodian...

BILLY: Yeah, it's all arranged. All you need to do is go and do it. I think things will be better for all of us.

(beat)

MEL: Why'd we stop talking?

BILLY: When?

MEL: Before man, why?

BILLY: Before...when?

MEL: You know when bro, stop acting like you don't know when! Whenever when's when, that's when. You know we used to talk everyday, everyday and now we talk every month if we're lucky. I want to know what I did. What did I do man?

BILLY: You've been living here for two years, we talk everyday.

MEL: I'm talking before I crashed in on your parade. I'm talking before I came out here. During our phone days.

BILLY: Relationships change over time Mel, that's all.

MEL: So our relationship as brothers has changed?

BILLY: Evolved.

MEL: Why did it evolve?

BILLY: Everybody's relationships evolve over time, it's natural.

MEL: Don't give me that shit man. We evolved for the worser.

BILLY: Worser?

MEL: Yeah!

BILLY: You mean worse.

MEL: Hell yeah I do! Worse, worser, same damn thing.

BILLY: I think we should hang it up and go to bed. I'm exhausted as is and I have work in the morning man.

MEL: No, you said something. Back it up now. What did you just mean?

BILLY: You stayed the same, I evolved. You never changed. The same way we were in our teens is exactly how you remained. It's like you haven't developed to the next chapter. I evolved. I changed. I moved to the next chapter. I'm married, have a house and work hard. I have commitments. Do you understand? You didn't do any of that and there's nothing wrong with your life because it's the way you've chosen to live it and that's fine but you don't respect my choices and who I am today. You think I'm still teenage Billy and I'm not.

I'm not who I used to be, Mel. You keep trying to pull me back to who I used to be and I'm not going. I'm not walking back there with you, even for a second because I like who I am now.

MEL: We're no longer the same.

BILLY: We've gone in different directions.

MEL: I don't believe you.

BILLY: Believe what?

MEL: This! This whole bullshit world you've created. It's not true. Any of it! You are still the same guy, don't even try to lie about it. Nobody knows you better than me man. Becky is your wife, yeah but I've been around your entire life. I know you since we were kids and this isn't what you had planned. It's what you fell into. Just admit it. You didn't want any of this shit. We used to talk about never getting married, becoming rich and living our dreams. You've settled cause you've given up. I'm still out there trying.

BILLY: Trying what? Trying to be who and what?

MEL: I have dreams man!

BILLY: That's right. Dreams! No goals, no consistency, just a bunch of hot air and no action to back up your claims. Life isn't like that.

MEL: Oh, so you know life.

BILLY: I didn't settle. I'm situated.

MEL: Same shit.

BILLY: I am happy!

MEL: Are you? Are you really happy? Do you really love Becky?

BILLY: How can you ask me that?

MEL: I see the way you look at her man and it ain't with true love.

Billy pushes Mel.

Yeah, well, it's what I see.

Billy pushes Mel against the wall.

BILLY: Say it again and I'll break your face!

MEL: Look me in my eyes Billy, please, look me dead in my eyes and tell me that there still isn't a part of you that wishes you didn't give up.

Billy grabs Mel by the shirt and presses him against the wall.

BILLY: I want you out of here now. Get your shit and get the fuck out of my house. (Billy releases his grip) GET OUT!

Billy and Mel stare into one another.

Mel exits.

Billy remains standing.

Mel comes back.

MEL: I'm only leaving with the clothes on my back and this.

Mel holds up a photo of him and Billy as kids.

Mel turns to leave the house.

BILLY: You know who took that photo?

MEL: Who?

BILLY: Your father. I was always closer to him than you were. He was more like a father to me cause we had the same interests. (beat) We drove to Michigan from New York to stay with you guys and I woke up during the night and went downstairs to get a drink. Your father was sitting at the table and he took me to the basement and pulled out a box of all these contraptions he built. All of these magical ideas and he gave them to me. He shared them with me and then he gave them to me.

I never gave up. I'm still here, plugging away, doing my thing in a different way than when we were kids. I have a job but I'm still building, creating and making things with these two hands...I haven't settled and I never will settle because it will hurt too much if I do.

I'm not gonna ever do what your dad did. Quit. He gave me that box he showed me that night. He gave it to me because he knew it was all over for him. He gave it to me so that I can continue on and I am.

MEL: I haven't seen you work on anything since I've been here. Not one device, nothing.

BILLY: Because it's private work.

MEL: You can't show me anything?

BILLY: I can.

MEL: Then show me.

BILLY: If you take this job I got for you, I'll be willing to let you back in.

MEL: Kiss my ass.

BILLY: Next chapter.

MEL: (agreeing) Next chapter.

END OF PLAY