

BLOODY ROMANCE

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

ROBIN, 26, sits at a vanity in a bra and pants, brushing her hair and staring at herself. She looks up and pulls a photo of her mom off the mirror and kisses it.

She stands, looks at herself in a full length mirror, turns and nods. She looks at a photo in a frame.

CU: a good looking guy hugging a younger Robin, both smiling.

She smirks and shakes her head.

She grabs suitcases from her closet and opens her drawers and tosses her clothes inside the luggage. She looks at her watch. She runs to bathroom.

She hears the sound of the someone entering the house and throwing keys down.

She freezes.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

ROBIN! Come on, I'm ready to go.

She winces. JUSTIN, 30, opens door to find Robin still without a blouse, spraying perfume.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

You hear me, woman? What the hell you doing? We're supposed to be at the dinner in twenty minutes.

Justin grabs her arm spinning her towards him.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

You hear me?

Robin pulls her arm back, rubs it and walks to the mirror.

ROBIN

Yes, Justin, I only have to put on my shirt. Calm down. Did you have any luck today?

JUSTIN

No one's looking for an injured ex-marine with a prison record. I'm sick of fucking looking. Everyone doesn't have it easy like you, with your fancy degrees and suck up ass attitude.

Robin walks up to him to comfort him, but stops suddenly.

ROBIN

Maybe it would be easier if you didn't smell like alcohol Justin. Jesus, you smell like you took a bath in it.

Justin backhands Robin causing her to fall to the floor.

JUSTIN

Why do you always have to talk back, Robin? I have it hard enough from these bastards in the streets and now you. Get up and get dressed. It's time to go. Now!

Justin walks out of the room. Robin goes to the mirror to hide her bloody lip with makeup.

She runs to the bathroom, grabbing a pregnancy test out of a paper bag on the way.

EXT. CAR - AFTERNOON

DIANNE, 27, drives. Her phone rings over lowered music.

DIANNE

Hello?!

ROBIN (V.O.)

Hey girl, I took the test.

DIANNE

What did it say?

ROBIN (V.O.)

I'm pregnant. What am I gonna do? Justin's drinking has gotten worse. I don't want to end up like my mother with too many busted lips and black eyes. My father never changed. Neither will Justin.

DIANNE

Look, honey, all I can tell you is to pray. I know you keep hoping that the old Justin will one day magically appear, but he's gone. Yes, it's messed up that the war effected him like that, but you have to let go of the past. You already planned to leave him.

(MORE)

DIANNE (CONT'D)

If you have this baby do you think he's going to let you leave? I know how you feel about abortion, but in this situation it may be the only way to go.

ROBIN (V.O.)

But what about having the baby and raising it as a single mother? I mean, you do it and you do a great job. Why can't I?

Justin hollers in the background.

JUSTIN (O.C.)

C'mon, Robin! We gotta go!

ROBIN (V.O.)

Girl, I gotta go. He's about to have a fit. I'll call you later.

She hangs up quickly.

INT. ROBINS BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Robin walks back into the bedroom. Justin sits on the bed holding a can of beer. She now has her shirt and shoes on.

JUSTIN

Who the hell were you talking to when you were supposed to be getting ready to go?

ROBIN

I was talking to Dianne. She asked me a question and I was just answering her.

JUSTIN

Your phone didn't ring, so either you called her or you have your phone on silent. Which one is it?

ROBIN

I... uh...

JUSTIN

Do not lie. You've already lied once.

ROBIN

I called her, but I was answering a question that she asked me. I just--

JUSTIN

Stop talking. I'm so sick of you lying to me like you're up to something. Are you cheating on me again? Are you planning to try to leave? I saw the bags at the fucking door. Do you think I'm stupid?

Justin stands and walks towards Robin. She backs away.

ROBIN

Justin, what are you talking about? I am not cheating on you. I have never cheated on you. But I am leaving. Justin, I'm tired. I was gonna wait until after the dinner party, but there's no point in trying to pretend anymore. They're your friends. You go, and explain to them why I'm not there.

JUSTIN

You wait until we're thirty minutes late to tell me you want to leave me? Bitch, you aren't going anywhere. Put on your damn jacket and let's go.

ROBIN

No! I mean it, it's over.

Justin stares at Robin. He turns to walk away but turns back, closing his fist and punching Robin's face. She grabs her face, blood dripping to the floor.

JUSTIN

Didn't I tell you to stop getting smart with me? How dare you talk back to me. I said you aren't fucking leaving, end of discussion. Let's go!

Robin takes her hand from her face, looks at blood and turns and runs to the door. Justin follows and grabs her hair.

ROBIN

Stop it. Stop it!

JUSTIN

Shut up... I'm tired of you constantly disrespecting me.

Justin grabs Robin by her throat.

ROBIN
Justin, stop, I'm pregnant.

JUSTIN
There you go, lying again.

Robin grabs a lamp on a table on the left and hits Justin in the head. Justin falls to the floor.

Robin runs to the front room and grabs her cell phone out of her purse and dials.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
9-1-1, how can I help you?

ROBIN
I need an ambulance to 315 South Apple. My boyfriend just beat me and now he's laying on the floor.

Justin appears in the doorway.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
Are you still in the house?

ROBIN
Yes, ma'am. He's in the bedroom and I'm in the living room.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
Stay on the line. The police are on the way.

ROBIN
Do I need to stay in the house? Can I go outside? I'm scared he's going to get up.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
Go outside to either a car or to a neighbor's house.

CU: the phone.

A GUNSHOT is heard.

WOMANS VOICE (V.O.)
Ma'am! Ma'am! Are you there?

INT. HOSPITAL LOUNGE - NIGHT

JANICE, 48, runs in, frantic. Dianne is there. She runs to her and hugs her.

JANICE
Dianne, what happened?

DIANNE
Justin and Robin were fighting again. I was the last number in her phone. The dispatcher said there was a gun shot. When the police got there Robin was laying on the floor. He was gone..

JANICE
What has the doctor said?

DIANNE
She's still in surgery.

A DOCTOR, 40, approaches them.

DOCTOR
Are you all the family of Robin Butler?

JANICE
Yes, I'm her mother. How is she?

DOCTOR
I'm sorry, ma'am, but I am afraid we lost her a few minutes ago. We did everything we could do to revive her...

JANICE
No, no, no...

Dianne grabs Janice letting her cry on her shoulder. Dianne closes her eyes and begins to recite a prayer.

As Dianne opens her eyes she sees a panicked Justin standing in the doorway to the waiting room.

CU: Dianne's face as she looks towards doctor.

CU: Doorway with no one there.

CU: Dianne's face - she looks confused.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Doctor can we go see her?

DOCTOR

Umm.. Ms. Butler you can, but I am afraid Ms., uh?

DIANNE

Dianne, I'm her best friend.

DOCTOR

Dianne, I'm afraid you will have to stay here.

Dianne nods her head agreeing. The doctor leads Janice to Robin's hospital room where they are greeted by two men in black suits, OFFICER ROBERTS and OFFICER JACOBS.

JANICE

What's going on?

OFFICER ROBERTS

Hello, Ms. Butler isn't it? I am Officer Roberts and this is Officer Jacobs. We need to prep you before you go in this room. Your daughter looks nothing like herself. She was beaten up pretty badly.

JANICE

I understand that. I just want to say goodbye to my baby.

As they open up the door to a private room with Robin in the hospital bed. There are monitors hooked up to her and a breathing tube down her throat all showing life.

Janice looks at the officers confused, tears beginning to run down her face.

OFFICER ROBERTS

Justin has done this before, but he got off for it. Robin is the first to survive. We need her to testify against him, but until we find him we need him to think she is dead.

Janice runs to Robin.

JANICE

Robin, Robin I'm here!

Janice grabs Robin's hand.

CU: Robin's face as a single tear falls down her face.