

Self-Destruction

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MMXVII

2nd Draft

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1: INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

JON wakes up in a bed, groggy from a seemingly long sleep. A DOCTOR is on the right side of the bed, looking at him.

JON
Where am I?

DOCTOR
You're in a hospital Jon. You were leaving school when a car hit you.

JON
How long have I been out?

DOCTOR
About two weeks now. Are you feeling alright?

JON
I feel tired, but that's it.

The doctor walks to the other side of the bed.

DOCTOR
Good. Your body has mostly recovered by now, it's only your brain that's a little concerning.

JON
Why?

DOCTOR
Your head took a lot of the hit, it's a miracle you're alive right now. However, it appears your frontal lobe took enough of a hit that there may be side effects. It's seemingly altered the way it processes information.

JON
What does that mean?

DOCTOR
I can't say for sure, we're still analyzing the information from the lab. I can say that you are healthy enough to go home when you're ready. Your mom is outside, I'll let her in once I write down some notes.

(CONTINUED)

JON

Thank you.

The doctor fills out some papers when Jon hears something.

DOCTOR V.O.

Man, I am so fucking tired. I just wanna go home already. I wonder if Richard can cover for me for the rest of the day. Is there a coffee stain on this paper? Fucking Linda.

The doctor finishes writing.

DOCTOR

Alright, I'll bring her in now.

The doctor leaves as Jon just stares at him.

CUT TO BLACK

2: INT. JON'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jon is laying on the couch, talking on the phone with his friend PAT.

JON

Yeah Pat, I'm fine.

PAT V.O.

You really had me worried when you just ran out of the school like that, and to then find you knocked out on the street...

JON

I'm sorry.

PAT V.O.

It's okay. What Tom said to you wasn't cool anyway. But you just can't let those things get to you.

JON

I know, I know.

A beat.

JON

Hey Pat?

(CONTINUED)

PAT V.O.

Yeah?

Jon sits up.

JON

I know this is gonna sound crazy,
but what if I told you that the
accident allowed me to read
people's minds?

PAT V.O.

You're fuckin' nuts man.

JON

Listen man, I could hear what my
doctor was thinking.

PAT V.O.

But how?

JON

I don't know. He mentioned frontal
lobe damage, maybe the accident
gave me super powers.

PAT V.O.

Hypothetically, if you really do
have this crazy ability, what are
you gonna do with it?

JON

I don't know, haven't really
thought about it.

PAT V.O.

Well, if you asked me, I would use
it to make money somehow.

JON

Of course you would.

Jon lies down again, and sighs.

PAT V.O.

Anyway, I gotta go. I'll catch ya
later.

JON

Peace.

Jon hangs up. Jon's DAD walks into the room which causes Jon
to sit up.

DAD
You doing alright Jon?

JON
Yeah dad, I'm fine.

DAD
Can I talk to you for a bit?

JON
Sure.

Jon's dad sits on the couch right next to him.

DAD
I know you've been going through a lot, and this accident didn't help.

JON
Yeah.

DAD
I just wanted to let you know that no matter what anyone says about you or how it makes you feel, your mom and I always love you.

JON
Thanks dad.

DAD
Want to watch some TV?

JON
Yeah, why not?

Jon's dad turns on the TV. As he is flipping through the channels, Jon starts to listen in on his thoughts.

DAD V.O.
God, there is nothing on TV. Why does Sarah want me to spend time with him so bad? When I was his age, we didn't get so upset about what others said to us. We actually had self-esteem. I'm tired of housing such an unpredictable piece of shit. He needs to grow up already.

Jon looks away from his dad.

JON
On second thought, I'm actually
feeling kind of tired.

DAD
Really?

JON
Yeah, I think I'm gonna go to bed.

DAD
Oh, okay.

Jon gets up and walks away. He looks at his dad, who pays no attention to him.

3: INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Jon walks down the hall. There are many students everywhere either getting to class, or standing around talking amongst each other. Suddenly, Jon walks into a girl, Abby. Her stuff falls on the ground. Both of them get down to pick it up.

JON
I am so sorry Abby.

ABBY
It's fine, it's fine.

Both of them get up, and Jon hands her the stuff he picked up.

JON
You heading to class?

ABBY
Yeah, you?

JON
Mmhmm.

An awkward pause.

ABBY
Well, I'll see you later.

Abby starts to walk away, but Jon gets her attention again.

JON
Hey, I was wondering.

She turns around.

(CONTINUED)

ABBY

Yeah?

JON

Would you, maybe, want to see a,
ugh, movie?

ABBY

Sorry, I'm really busy for the next
few weeks.

JON

Oh, no problem then.

ABBY

Well, see ya.

Abby walks away while Jon hones in on her thoughts.

ABBY V.O.

God, what a creep. He just never
gets the hint. I don't want to go
out with him, yeesh.

Jon is taken aback by what he hears and looks around to see
everyone looking at him.

STUDENT 1 V.O.

Wow, did someone as awkward as him
really try asking Abby out?
Embarassing.

STUDENT 2 V.O.

That might be the cringiest thing
I've seen in a while.

STUDENT 3 V.O.

Isn't he that guy that always gets
upset so easily?

STUDENT 4 V.O.

Damn, Jon looks like he's gonna
snap. I better leave before he
starts screaming at me for god
knows what.

Jon struggles to handle all the thoughts he hears and
finally breaks and starts screaming.

Jon yells at the students around him.

(CONTINUED)

JON

Fuck all of you! You think you guys know me so well that you can judge me! You can all go to hell!

PAT approaches Jon.

PAT

Jon, calm down. Just breathe.

JON

Fuck you Pat! Don't tell me what to do! You're the guy who's only ever interested in money! Do you actually care about how I feel!? You didn't even believe what I was telling you last night!

PAT

Dude, chill out. You're really gonna regret this.

JON

Shut up! You don't control me! You're not even really my friend!

PAT

Fine Jon. I'm not your friend? Then I'm done hearing your bullshit. Later.

Pat turns the other way and leaves. Jon is deeply hurt, but still enraged after this.

JON

Alright Pat! Leave, just be like everyone else!

Pat raises up his hand to show a peace symbol. Jon hones in on Pat's thoughts.

PAT V.O.

Good riddance. He's so annoying, I only stayed his friend out of pity.

Jon screams and rushes out of the school.

4: EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Jon bursts through the school doors and runs away as fast as he can. As he heads for his home, he gets slower, but more emotionally distraught.

5: EXT. JON'S HOUSE - DAY

Jon approaches his house. There are no cars in the driveway. He enters.

6: INT. JON'S HOUSE - DAY

Jon gets inside his house and falls to his knees on the ground. He is a crying, slobbery mess. He punches the floor.

JON

Why!? Why me!? Why can't I just be
fucking normal!

Jon screams loudly, but then falls back to crying. He starts to calm down a bit, but is still very clearly not okay. He gets up and heads to the bathroom.

7: INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Jon enters the bathroom and picks up the BLEACH that is on top of the LAUNDRY MACHINE. He opens it up and looks at the liquid inside. He gets ready to drink it when his phone rings.

Jon puts down the bleach and picks up his phone.

JON

Hello?

DOCTOR V.O.

Hi, is this Jon Appel?

JON

Yes.

DOCTOR V.O.

I just wanted to call you to tell
you we got the results back about
your frontal lobe injury.

JON

Oh, okay.

(CONTINUED)

DOCTOR V.O.

It appears the accident has caused your brain to hear voices. However, you'll likely recover from this in the coming weeks. You should probably stay home as it may impact your social skills and other functions.

JON

I, I understand.

DOCTOR V.O.

Stop by the office so someone can write you a note. Otherwise, have a nice day.

The doctor hangs up the phone. Jon is in disbelief. Jon calls someone else up.

JON

Hey, can I talk with you?

8: INT. JON'S BACKYARD - DAY

Jon and Pat are sitting at a table.

PAT

So why'd you have me come here Jon? Thought we weren't friends?

JON

Listen, I'm sorry for what I said. The doctor called me, it turns out, everything was just in my head.

PAT

(Sarcastically)
Really now?

JON

I acted like an asshole, but if it's not too late, I'd like to still be your friend.

PAT

Honestly man, it's a little late for apologies. That bridge has been crossed and burned.

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

PAT

But let me tell you this Jon. Even though, I can't tolerate this shit anymore. You're not a bad guy. You're kind, and fun to be around. I know that one day you'll gain the strength to deal with your emotions properly. But I just can't be there with you. I have my own problems too, y'know?

JON

(Looking down)

Yeah.

Pat gets up.

PAT

Anyway, I have to go now. But really, have more faith in yourself. You're not a horrible person. You're an amazing person. I mean it.

A beat.

Pat begins to leave and looks back at Jon. Jon attempts to hone in on Pat's thoughts.

PAT V.O.

I just want to tell him how I truly feel, that he's just an asshole who gets offended so easily. But that would only set him off. Maybe a white lie will push him in the right direction anyway.

Jon's eyes widen at what he is hearing, but keeps himself composed for the most part.

PAT

Well, I'm gonna go now. Bye.

Pat leaves as Jon sits in silence.

CUT TO BLACK.

CREDITS.

END.