Internal Deception Part 2

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English 121

Mr. Cummings

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A Short Week

After breakfast he sees Julia off to work and spends his day reading and waiting for her return. It always fills him with such happiness when she returns from work. Greeting her and showing his love, then making them dinner and retreating to the bedroom. They spend a few hours talking until they both fall asleep. This is his normal routine during the week until Friday. Julia is always off work from Friday through Sunday.

Friday

On Friday morning his alarm goes off and he turns over “Good morning my love,” Henry says as he sees Julia laying their smiling back at him. “Good morning,” she replies. Then he gets up and heads to the bathroom but stops to look at the calendar again. His heart sinks a little as he notices that tomorrow is the day circled in red. He always dreads that day even though it happens every week the same way. He knows it is good for him but wishes Friday would never end and Saturday never shows up.

After his shower he draws back the curtains and stairs out at the willow and feels Julia’s arms wrap around him from behind. “Will today be the day?” She asks him softly, even though she knows the answer won’t change. “No not yet,” he says as he continues to stare out the window. He can almost feel the breeze on his skin as he pictures himself standing out under the willow holding Julia tight. He wishes the window would open, because it would have been the closest he will get to leaving the house.

After a few minutes pass they head down stairs for breakfast, greeting all the help as they pass. They all seem extra cheerful this morning to him, and he wonders if they really are or is it that he is just a little sad. They continue to the kitchen were Julia takes her normal seat at the island to watch him. He makes them a large omelet with all the sides, and then joins her to eat. They seem to talk for hours sitting there in the kitchen, even well after they are done eating. Finally Henry gets distracted hearing the clock chime from the den, “wow it is already noon, shall we go take our trip for the day?” Julia gets up taking him by the hand leading him off to the cozy couch in the den. She rests her head on his shoulder as he takes them off to the Appellation Mountains. They have a wonderful day playing in the snow, and going on a long hike across the mountain range.

Henry brings them back home as the clock rings out a single chime letting them know its half past six. “It’s time for dinner, are you hungry?” He asks Julia. She happily replies “yes I am sweetie, how about we have some of your delicious fried chicken?” So they head back to the kitchen and Julia talks about all her favorite parts of their trip while he cooks. After dinner the house is quiet except for Julia and him, for all the help have already finished for the day. They head up to their room and crawl into bed and he holds her trying not to fall asleep. On the back of his mind he is thinking about the calendar, and not wanting it to end.

The Final Day

Henry is woken up Saturday by the alarm, but does not want to stop holding Julia to silence it. After a few minutes he turns it off and Julia turns towards him and asks “Why are you crying dear?” “I had the nightmare again last night, and it always feels so real.” Henry says with such sorrow in his voice. Julia quickly wraps her arms around him and calms him down some. Once he is relaxed he gets out of bed, and heads towards the bathroom but stops short. “It’s Saturday!” He says as he almost starts to cry again, but pulls himself back together and gets ready for the day.

He does his normal routine of shaving and a hot shower followed opening the curtains. As he stands there looking at the willow, he can see all the branches dancing in the wind. They are coming towards the house as if it was reaching out for him, calling to him. “Are you going to try today?” Julia asks as she sees the corner of his mouth start to curve up almost into a smile. “Soon. I hope.” He says because he so desperately wants to join the willow. After starring out at the tree for a while he takes Julia down stairs for breakfast.

“Good morning Mr. Glendonberg!” Echoes down the hall as they are greeted by all the help as they pass. Once in the kitchen Julia takes her place at the island watching as he makes breakfast. He always makes a big breakfast on Saturday’s knowing it will be the last meal. He goes all out with ham, bacon, eggs, fried potatoes, mixed fruit, English muffins, milk and fresh squeezed orange juice. For this meal he even sets the table rather than eating at the island like they do the rest of the week. After they are done eating they head to the sitting room by the front door and wait until eleven O’clock.

Knock! Knock! Knock! Henry’s heart skips a beat as he hears the familiar metallic sound from the key entering the lock and turning. As the door opens a young voice calls out “Father I’m here!” Their daughter Victoria enters carrying the groceries for the next week. She is always very punctual when she arrives every Saturday to see him. Henry gets up to help her carry the bags to the kitchen. “Good morning Victoria.” He says greeting her. He quickly grabs the bags from her and she disappears back out to the car for the last of the items. Once everything is in the house and put away Victoria tells him, “Head to the den and I will be there shortly.” Henry takes a deep breath, grabs Julia’s hand and goes to have a seat on the couch. He sits down in the middle with Julia on his left and gives her kiss and holds her close to him.

After a few minutes Victoria enters the room carrying a small tray with a glass of water and a little box on it. “It’s time father” she says as she sits down on his left and places the tray on his lap. Victoria and Julia both have their head on his shoulders and an arm around him. He slowly opens the box to see the little white pill. He picks it up and spins it between his finger tips for a moment. He is hesitating until Julia whispers “you can do it.” He grabs the glass with his other hand and softly whispers back “Good bye my love.” He places the pill on the tip of his tongue and begins to drink the water as he closes his eyes.

After a short time he begins to feel it working. The footsteps slowly disappear followed by the voices of the help hard at work around the house. Next the smells from the kitchen make their way to him. Slowly coming back to reality Henry says, “One….. Two….. Three.” He opens his eyes again, and he is sitting on his couch with Victoria holding him tight. “I’m proud of you father.” She tells him softly. With his sadden heart they get up and begin the work of cleaning the kitchen. The first step is to clear the week’s plates still set and uneaten.

**THE END**