

SATURDAY SUBURBAN STRESS

Written by

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INT. PARENT'S ROOM - DAY

A master bedroom, with big windows overlooking the driveway. KEVIN (48) and MARY (41) are getting ready for the day. The alarm clock besides the bed reads 7:30am. Kevin is wearing a baby blue dress shirt that is too big for him, and black suit pants, and Mary is in workout clothes. They stand in front of the mirror as Mary helps put on Kevin's tie.

KEVIN

Honey, this one's important. You know the Kempner family?

MARY

The dad's a lawyer right?

KEVIN

Not a lawyer. The lawyer. Kempner and Associates? I mean shit, they're damn near billionaires. And they want me to take them on as clients.

Mary wraps her arms around Kevin from behind him, placing her hands on his chest seductively. Her nails are painted red, and her wedding ring is massive.

MARY

I just don't see how that justifies having to go in on a saturday Kevin. You should be relaxing. With me.

Kevin grabs her hands and turns around to face her. They start making out. After a moment, Kevin pulls himself away.

KEVIN

I can't. I actually can't be late.

Mary scowls and turns around.

MARY

Whatever. Your loss.

Kevin hugs her from behind. He speaks softly in her ear.

KEVIN

When I come back after I've landed the Kempners we can celebrate tonight. Maybe I'll bring back a bottle of wine, we can relax by the fire, Whaddaya think about that huh?

Mary smiles. Kevin smirks mischevously and slaps her butt. She turns and gives him a look before walking out the room.

KEVIN
Wish me luck.

MARY (O.S)
You'll need it if you wanna get lucky tonight.

Kevin turns back to look into the mirror. He adjusts his tie and takes a deep breath, then walks out the bedroom door.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENT'S LATER

Downstairs in the kitchen, Kevin is making a cup of coffee. The family dog, WILLOW (40 pounds), is lying at Kevin's feet. His daughter, JESS (16), enters the room, head down staring at her phone. She is in workout clothes.

Kevin watches her enter, expecting a hello, but gets no acknowledgement as Jess opens the fridge in front of him.

KEVIN
Good morning to you too.

Jess looks up from her phone to see Kevin standing in front of her, arms crossed. She doesn't care. She's too cool for him. She reaches in the fridge and grabs a Celsius.

KEVIN
You know you really shouldn't be drinking those. They're bad for you.

JESS
And your Five Hour Energys' aren't?

KEVIN
I'm just saying at your age all that caffiene can't be good.

Jess shoots him a "whatever" look, and walks out of the kitchen with her Celsius. Kevin watches her leave, happy he at least got a few words out of her. He checks his watch. It's almost 7:40. He glances at the coffee machine. Still not ready. His gaze lingers a little bit, but he decides its not worth it. He walks over to the kitchen counter, grabs his keys, and leaves the kitchen. Willow trails behind him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Kevin walks through the living room and out towards the entryway. He puts on dress shoes, and leaves the house through the front door.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Kevin walks out onto the driveway and heads towards his Honda CRV. He opens the door and climbs inside.

INT. HONDA CRV

Kevin wrinkles up his face. He sniffs. It smells strange. He turns around and looks at the back seats. There are little shit pebbles in the cracks of the seat.

Suddenly, a goat stands up in the trunk and pokes its head through the headrests, letting out a bleat.

KEVIN

Holy shit!

Kevin's body flinches in shock. He scrambles out of the car.

CUT TO:

INT. CALEB'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CALEB (17), is asleep in his bed. His room is littered with unwashed clothes and paper plates. Posters line the walls. Kevin is yelling his name from outside the room. Caleb shuffles around in bed and puts his pillow over his ears. Kevin bursts into the room, stomping over to Caleb and shaking him awake.

KEVIN

Caleb! Why the hell is there a goat in my car?

CALEB

(groggy)

What time is it? Chill out.

KEVIN

No, get up.

Kevin continues shaking Caleb.

CALEB

Alright! Jesus Christ calm down. It's not that deep.

KEVIN

Don't tell me to calm down, Caleb, there's a goat in my car.

Caleb sits up in bed now.

CALEB

I know I messed up okay, calm down. It's fine I'll fix it later.

KEVIN

No, you're fixing it right now. I mean seriously Caleb? What kind of shit is this? Were you high last night?

CALEB

No?

KEVIN

It smells like weed in here.

CALEB

No it doesn't, you're just mad. Calm down.

Kevin steps back and shakes his head. He looks down and checks his watch. 7:43am.

KEVIN

Look, I'm not arguing right now. I have to go to work. You better get your ass downstairs and start cleaning this mess right now.

CALEB

Alright I will.

Kevin turns around to leave the room.

As Kevin leaves the room, Caleb scrambles out of bed and throws on a shirt. He glances at the door. His dad's gone. he reaches in his shorts pocket and pulls out a baggy of weed.

Caleb pulls open his top drawer, an underwear drawer. He shoves the weed into the back and shuts the drawer.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Kevin is downstairs rummaging through Mary's purse on the living room table. He's looking for her keys, but he can't find them. Suddenly, he hears the garage door open.

Kevin walks towards the front door, confused.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Outside, the garage door is open and Jess is backing up a White Cadillac Escalade down the driveway.

Kevin runs over to the car.

KEVIN

Hey! Hey!

Jess stops and rolls down the window.

KEVIN

Where are you going?

JESS

Uhh, practice?

A pause. Kevin forgot.

JESS

I've had practice every Saturday for 2 months now. 8-10? Oh my God dad.

KEVIN

Look, I need the car to get to work.

JESS

You can't take your own car?

KEVIN

It's a mess right now.

JESS

How's that my fault? If you had gotten me a car for my birthday this wouldn't be an issue.

KEVIN

Oh don't start with that shit again.
Fine, take the damn car.

Jess rolls up the car window and backs out of the driveway.

Kevin is fuming. He looks down at his watch. 7:45am.

As Jess leaves, Caleb saunters out of the front door. Kevin turns around and sees him rubbing his eyes, looking dazed.

KEVIN

What are you doing? Get going!

CALEB

Give me a second, I'm waking up.

KEVIN

You know you kids are so spoiled. If I ever pulled some shit like this my dad would have killed me you know that? I mean what the hell were you thinking?

Caleb shrugs.

CALEB

We wanted to make Tiktoks with it.

Kevin laughs in disbelief.

KEVIN

You wanted to make TikToks? Where the hell do you even find a goat?

CALEB

We got it on Craigslist.

KEVIN

Craigslist? They sell goats on Craigslist?

CALEB

I don't know it wasn't me who got it.

KEVIN

Okay then why is the goat in my car? What about your friends?

CALEB

You have a CRV.

KEVIN

What's that have to do with anything?

CALEB

All my friends have nice cars. They didn't want to get their cars messy.

KEVIN

(seething)

They didn't- Oh you are going to clean this car until it is spotless. You hear me? And get that goat out of my car. I don't care if you have to take it to a butcher just figure it out!

CALEB

Alright, I got it! Message received you can stop yelling now.

Kevin glances down at his pocket. His phone is buzzing. He pulls his phone out. It's his business partner, JOHN, 42.

KEVIN

Figure it out!

Kevin turns around and walks towards the front door as Caleb stands near the car, watching Kevin walk away.

When Kevin gets inside, Caleb walks around to the back of the car and opens the trunk. The goat is standing on a large pile of hay. They stare at each other for a second, before Caleb grabs the leash attached to the goat.

CALEB

Come on buddy.

The goat lets out a bleat and jumps out of the car. Caleb walks the goat around the side of the house.

EXT. SIDE OF HOUSE

Caleb opens the gate to the backyard. The goat walks through first, then him. He grabs the gate behind him and swings it shut, but it doesn't latch. Caleb doesn't notice. As he walks into the yard with the goat, the gate slowly swings open.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Kevin is standing in the living room talking on the phone.

KEVIN

Look, John, I'm sorry. I'm not gonna make it in on time. You're just gonna have to put me on Zoom.

JOHN (O.S)

Fuck Kevin! I mean what the fuck!

KEVIN

I know, I know I'm sorry. I'll hop on the Zoom in a minute.

Kevin hangs up the phone and takes a deep breath, running his hands through his hair.

Behind him, Caleb opens the sliding glass door and walks into the living room. Kevin turns around.

KEVIN

What the hell are you doing in here?
Get your ass outside and start cleaning!

CALEB

Jesus calm down dad. I had to put the goat in the back.

Kevin glares at Caleb and shakes his head.

CUT TO:

INT. MARY'S CAR - DAY

Jess is driving her mom's car to practice. The radio is on playing Ice Spice. She's singing along.

JESS

The boy's a liar, the boy's a liar. He doesn't see ya, you're not looking at me, boy.

Jess glances down at the passenger seat next to her. She stops singing, and turns the radio down. She looks in the seat behind her.

JESS

Fuck, my cleats.

She looks back up at the road in annoyance, and puts on her blinker to make a u-turn.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Kevin is sitting at the living room table facing away from the backyard. His laptop is open. Willow is lying at his feet under the table. He joins a Zoom call with John, and MR. KEMPNER (early 70's).

KEVIN

Hey Mr. Kempner! I'm so sorry I
couldn't make it in today I've had a
very unexpected morning.

In the background, the goat walks into view, grazing on the
grass in the backyard. Willow pokes her head up suddenly.
She's seen the goat.

MR. KEMPNER

(annoyed)

It's alright, let's just get goi-

Willow runs at the window and starts barking. Her tail is
going a million miles an hour. She jumps at the window.

Kevin turns around.

KEVIN

Hey, Willow! Willow!

She doesn't stop.

He mutes the Zoom and gets up from his seat.

INT. OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Mr. Kempner and John are sitting across from each other at a
massive conference table. At the end of the table is a TV
connected to a computer, sharing Kevin's Zoom screen. John
gives Mr. Kempner a nervous smile.

JOHN

Sorry sir, just give him a second.

On the TV, Kevin gets up from his chair and grabs Willow, but
she won't stop barking. He gives up and walks back towards
the computer. He unmutes himself. John and Mr. Kempner both
turn to face the TV. Willow's continuous barking comes
through the speakers.

KEVIN

So sorry, give me one moment.

He mutes himself again. Mr. Kempner turns back towards John,
glaring.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin is marching quickly towards a closed door.

KEVIN

Honey!

INT. FITNESS ROOM

Kevin bursts into the room. Willow's barking echoes up from downstairs. Inside the room, Mary is on a Peloton, wearing massive headphones, facing away from the door. She turns around and slows her pedaling. She's annoyed. On her screen is a hot, shirtless Peloton instructor.

KEVIN

I've been calling for you!

MARY

What are you still doing here?

KEVIN

I need you to take Willow out for a walk.

MARY

What? I'm busy.

KEVIN

I couldn't go into the office and I'm doing my meeting on Zoom okay? Do you hear her down there?

MARY

Just let her out in the backyard.

Kevin clenches his jaw.

KEVIN

There's a goat in the backyard, okay?
I can't let her out.

Mary slows her pedaling.

MARY

What?

KEVIN

Caleb bought a goat last night, and there's shit and piss all over my car, and the goat's in the backyard okay? I need you to take Willow out.

Mary doesn't respond. She stares at Kevin with her mouth open. She's stopped pedaling at this point.

KEVIN

Honey, I'm on the Zoom right now with John and Mr. Kempner. Caleb is out front cleaning the car just ask him on your way out.

MARY

Okay...okay I'm coming.

Kevin stands and waits for Mary impatiently.

Mary gets off her bike and walks out the room with Kevin.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin and Mary walk into the room. Willow is still barking like crazy and jumping at the window.

Mary walks over to Willow and grabs her by the collar, dragging her to the front door as Kevin takes a seat at the table and unmutes himself.

KEVIN

So sorry about that.

INT. ENTRYWAY

Mary is calming Willow down.

MARY

Sit. Stay. Good girl.

Willow sits, and Mary opens the door. As soon as she opens the door, Willow launches herself past Mary and into the front yard.

MARY

Shit!

Mary runs out the door after Willow. Kevin looks past his computer screen to see what happened.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Caleb is vaccuming out the car with a large car vacuum. Out of the corner of his eye, he sees Willow run out the front door and around the house towards the backyard. Mary comes out the front door a second later. He turns off the vacuum.

MARY

I mean what the hell Caleb. We let you have the car for one night and you come back with a goat?

CALEB

Oh my God I'm sorry okay? It's really not that big a deal.

From the backyard, Willow's barking rings out. The goat begins bleating loudly as well.

Caleb and Mary both whip their heads around and look towards the side of the house in shock. Caleb and Mary run towards the sounds.

INT. OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

In the conference room, John is talking as Mr. Kempner listens intently.

JOHN

The purpose of the 15% equity valuation-

A faint shriek comes from the TV speakers.

MARY (O.S)

(faint)

Kevin! Help! Kevin!

On the TV, Kevin whips his body around in the chair. He turns back around quickly.

KEVIN

Oh shit. I'm so sorry.

Kevin stands back up and runs out the sliding glass door behind him.

Mr. Kempner shakes his head and looks down at the table. He's fed up. John looks at him nervously.

JOHN

I'm very sorry about Kevin, sir. This is not how he usually acts.

The faint sound of a woman screaming, goat bleating and dog barking come through the TV speakers.

Mr. Kempner and John both look at the screen in confusion.

EXT. BACKYARD

In the backyard, Willow is darting around the goat playfully. The goat is backing up, preparing to headbutt Willow.

MARY

Willow! Come here baby! Oh my god.
Kevin! Grab Willow! Grab her!

Kevin is standing in between Willow and the goat. Willow is dashing back and forth excitedly, leaping towards the goat. Kevin tries to grab her as she jumps forward, but can't get a grip.

Caleb is standing behind Willow being useless, unsure what to do.

As Kevin tries to grab Willow, the goat runs towards him and headbutts him in the back of the leg, hard.

KEVIN

Ah fuck!

Kevin falls to his knees and reaches down to clutch his leg. Mary screams.

MARY

Oh my god, Kevin!

Kevin looks back at the goat and glares. The goat backs up, getting ready for a second headbutt.

Kevin stands back up, facing the goat now.

KEVIN

Alright you fucker, its on.

CUT TO:

INT. MARY'S CAR - MOMENTS EARLIER

Jess is pulling into the driveway, singing along to music. As she drives the car up, she looks over and sees the CRV trunk open, and the vacuum. Her singing trails off as she stares confusedly at the mess.

She parks the car and opens the door, then hears the sound of Mary screaming from the backyard.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

Jess hops out of the car and runs around the side of the house, towards the backyard.

EXT. BACKYARD

Kevin has just been headbutted by the goat.

KEVIN

Alright you fucker, its on.

From the side of the yard, Jess yells.

JESS

Dad, what's going on?

He doesn't acknowledge her. He's crouched in an athletic stance with his arms out in front of him.

MARY

Your brother thought it would be a good idea to get a goat last night.

CALEB

Oh my God mom I already said I'm sorry okay?

JESS

There's no way this is real.

Jess takes out her phone and starts recording.

Kevin takes another headbutt to the quad.

KEVIN

Ah fuck!

He clutches his leg. Jess laughs.

MARY

Jess this is not funny!

JESS

It is to me.

Jess walks over to the sliding glass door. As she passes Caleb, she gives him a big smile.

JESS
(to Caleb)
Oh you are so fucked. Good luck.

Jess walks through the sliding glass door into the house.

INT. OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM

Mr. Kempner and John are both leaned forward in their chairs, squinting at the TV screen. They can hear yelling and barking and see small figures moving around. Suddenly, Jess fills the screen as she steps through the door.

JOHN
Hey, Jess!

Jess notices the computer and walks towards it.

JESS
John?

JOHN
What's going on out there?

JESS
Caleb bought a goat or something and
now my dad is wrestling it.

John gives her a weak smile.

JESS
See ya.

Jess walks off the screen. John turn towards Mr. Kempner. He is glaring back.

MR. KEMPNER
Is this some sort of joke to you?

JOHN
Sir I apologize for this mess, I-

MR. KEMPNER
No, this is ridiculous. Very
unprofessional. I'm leaving.

JOHN
Wait sir, Mr. Kempner!

Mr. Kempner stands up from his chair and grabs his briefcase. John stands up with him.

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Caleb is holding Willow, but she is squirming, trying to get out of his grip. Kevin is trying to calm down the goat and slowly backing away from it.

KEVIN

I'm calm, you're calm. Caleb, take Willow inside.

CALEB

I'm trying.

Mary runs into view from around the side of the house. She's holding Willow's leash.

MARY

I got her leash.

Mary runs over to Caleb and puts her leash on. Caleb drops Willow to the ground, and Mary leads her towards the house.

Kevin slowly keeps backing away from the goat towards the house. Finally, he turns around and heads inside. Caleb follows him through awkwardly.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Inside, Mary walks Willow through the house towards the front, and brings her out for a walk. Caleb is standing behind his dad awkwardly. Kevin's computer screen is dark.

He turns it on. The Zoom has ended. He pulls out his phone. There's one text from John. It says "You fucked up."

Kevin puts both hands on the table, and puts his head down. He takes a deep breath. Caleb stands behind him, unsure what to do. He just waits.

Kevin turns around. He looks at Caleb, furious. After a moment, he storms off. Caleb is left standing there, stunned. He knows he messed up big time.

END.