

TOAST

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

GREY (mid-30s) stands in his kitchen. He opens an upper cabinet, grabs a loaf of BREAD, and plops it onto the counter in front of him. He twists the bread tie off, opens the bag, and grabs two slices.

He drops the slices into the TOASTER, turns the knob, and shoves down the lever.

Just as the lever CLICKS into place we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Grey sits at a desk in a CUBICLE-stuffed bullpen. The fluorescent lights highlight how pale and bloated he is.

He looks down at a stack of FORMS to the left of his keyboard.

He looks up at his computer and starts typing.

He glances down at the form every few seconds.

He types what he sees on the form.

He hits "ENTER" and the screen reloads.

He grabs the form and places it in a folder to his right.

He turns to the next form on the stack and begins typing it.

He finishes the form and hits "ENTER". The button press is loud as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DUSK / NIGHT

Grey sits in his car in a parking lot eating a FAST FOOD cheeseburger while a podcast plays. (Probably Gary Vee or some other fortune-cookie self-help mash up. )

He takes a bite. He reaches in the bag for a fry. He grabs the soda to take a hit.

He throws back the last of the cheeseburger.

He tosses the burger wrapper into the fast food bag and does the two handed BAG CRUMPLE as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Grey is on the far side of the room mopping the tile floors.

He lifts the mop into the yellow bucket, squeezes the dirty water out, and puts the mop back onto the floor to start swiping again.

A few seconds later, Grey is halfway across the room wiping down tables and chairs.

A few seconds after that, Grey moves the mop bucket out of the door and out of sight.

He flips the light switch off as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Grey, on his knees, pulls clothes out of the dryer. As he folds them, you can see his phone light up and it says "11:32 PM".

He leans back and pulls his legs out from under him. He leans forward and does a little stretch.

Still in this position, he reaches into the dryer to grab more clothes to fold.

He slams the dryer door shut as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Grey rinses some dishes in the sink.

He unloads the dishwasher.

He sweeps the floor. He scoops the swept dirt and throws it in the garbage can.

He stares at the full garbage can for a beat. There are empty cereal, yogurt, and snack boxes next to it.

He grabs a cereal box and breaks it down.

He uses the broken down cereal box as a SHIELD to smash the trash down into the can to make more room.

Just as he gives the trash another hit to shove down we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Grey sits in the BATHTUB as it fills with water.

But he is not taking a bath.

He leans forward and shuts the water off.

As he leans back, we see the TOASTER on the edge of the tub. It's plugged into an ORANGE EXTENSION CORD that runs out of the bathroom.

He reaches over, shoves both levers of the toaster down, picks it up and holds it in front of him.

He closes his eyes and lets the toaster go at the same time that he slides down to get his whole head under the water.

SLOW MOTION:

The toaster takes ten seconds to fall ten inches.

All sound is muffled while Grey is under the water.

The near silence is interrupted by a sound like a drawn out "aaaah-eeee".

Grey ignores it, but it comes back louder. "AAAAH-DEEEE".

END SLOW MOTION.

As the toaster hits the water, there's a loud "POP" as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The "POP" sound is the toast popping up from the toaster.

This startles Grey.

He jerks slightly as he sees and smells the BURNT TOAST.

The sound of little feet are heard just a second before BLUE (girl, 4-7 yrs old) walks into the kitchen.

BLUE  
Daddy! What's that smell?

Blue walks up right next to Grey to look at the burnt toast.

BLUE (CONT'D)  
Ohh. You burned the toast daddy!

Grey looks down at Blue. His eyes begin to water. She doesn't notice. She's just staring at the charred toast.

GREY  
I'm sorry.

Grey gets down on one knee and hugs her. His eyes go from slightly watery to full blown teary.

GREY (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. I love you.

Grey sneaks a hand swipe over his eyes to gather himself. He lets go of Blue and stands up.

GREY (CONT'D)  
Wanna help me make some more?

BLUE  
Yes! Can I put the bread in?

GREY  
Of course.

BLUE  
Yay!

Grey opens the bread bag and Blue reaches in to grab two slices. While she does this, Grey moves the toaster dial back down to 2 or 1.

Blue drops the two slices in and shoves down the lever.

*BACKGROUND MUSIC CUE: "Grey Skies Turn Blue" by MxPx*

BLUE (CONT'D)  
Can I do the butter?

GREY  
Of course! Do you want strawberry or grape jelly?

Both! BLUE

Both! GREY

Blue laughs.

*MUSIC CUE: The song goes from background to volume up.*

FADE OUT