

Joshua

By

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EXT. HAMILTON - NIGHT

Two blood covered hands grab the top of the dirt brown fence in the back garden from the alley that runs along side the house. Joshua clammers over the top and lands clumsily on his knees. He brings himself to his feet and starts making his way quietly to the backdoor. He makes his way to the back door of his home.

INT. JOSHUA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Joshua enters the house quietly. He makes his way through the house to the downstairs bathroom where he sees himself in the mirror. He stares at himself as he turns on the tap.

CAROL HENLEY

Joshua?

Joshua whips his head in panic.

JOSHUA (TO CAMERA)

Oh shit.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. JOSHUA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Joshua's alarm is blaring. However, Joshua is already awake, facing upwards staring at the ceiling. He shuts it up and moves out of bed onto his computer. He is scrolling through a forum site when a message pops up from a user called Pogo2. The message reads:

ON COMPUTER SCREEN: Pogo2 - **Mornin man**

Joshua reads this and manages to squeeze out a smirk. He replies.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN: Joshenleyy02 - **Hey, ur up early**

Pogo2 - **Yet to sleep, going to school?**

Joshenleyy02 - **Yeh**

Pogo2 - **Just quit already**

Joshenleyy02 - **Would if I could**

Pogo2 - **Ur too big of a puss**

Joshenleyy02 - **Fuck off**

(CONTINUED)

Pogo2 - **Quit**

Joshenleyy02 - **It's not that simple**

Pogo2 - **Kill your parents, then quit**

Joshenleyy02 - **Lmao I'd rather kill the cunts at school**

Pogo2 - **You should, have fun being bullied**

Joshenleyy02 - **Cheers dickhead cya later**

Joshua gets up and moves through to the upstairs bathroom

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - DAY

Joshua washes his face and stares into the mirror.

JOSHUA(TO CAMERA)

He might seem mean but it's only
fun. Trust me, he gets it more than
most. He's probably the only person
I can talk to openly.

Joshua makes his way downstairs.

JOSHUA(TO CAMERA)

It's not as if I can talk to these
people.

His brother Daniel, and mother Carol, are sat at the kitchen table watching TV. Daniel is similar looking to Joshua but much more well kempt. His mother is in a uniform with dark blue shirt and trousers, the words Strathclyde Loch Elderly Care Home are printed on the shirt in a white cursive font. Her face is worn and her crows feet seem to be the only thing stopping her eyes from being pulled down by the bags under them. She is very much Joshua's mother.

CAROL HENLEY

Morning.

JOSHUA

Morning.

Daniel is eating and looking at his phone and doesn't take his eyes up to notice Joshua. Joshua joins them at the table. There is an awkward silence. Carol puts some toast in front of Joshua and Daniel quickly grabs some of his plate.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA
Oi, fuck off.

Daniel doesn't seem to care what Joshua says. Carol is still staring at the TV while slowly chewing toast.

JOSHUA (TO CAMERA)
Welcome to my home. This vermin here is my younger brother Daniel. He's the "normal" sibling, apparently. If you consider being a worthless pothead normal. But apparently drug users are considered good company these days. Oh and this is my mother Carol. She's fine.

CAROL HENLEY
Yous ok with take out tonight.

DANIEL HENLEY
Can it be Indian?

CAROL HENLEY
Yeah that's fine

JOSHUA
Can we not get chinese?

CAROL HENLEY
Joshua, don't be difficult.

DANIEL HENLEY
Yeah shut up fag.

CAROL HENLEY
DANIEL. We'll get chinese next time.

JOSHUA (TO CAMERA)
Great start to a morning.

HAMILTON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL. EXT - DAY

Calderside highschool is nobodies first choice of school. The square, brutalist structure matches the colour of the heavy clouds above it. The children that surround it make a dizzying wall of noise with their excited yelps and screams. Joshua slices through as though hiding in plain site.

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JOSHUA(TO CAMERA)

And here we are. The totalitarian headquarters in all it's glory. Where, the world lobotomises you by telling you aren't good enough because you don't want to memorise trivia about dirt, dead people and the inner workings of plants.

HAMILTON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL. INT - DAY

Joshua enters the school through the front door and starts making his way through the hallways, eventually reaching his locker.

JOSHUA(TO CAMERA)

All the meanwhile groups of troglodytes can have fun abusing you because they haven't developed enough to understand how much oxygen they waste and they see you being different as a threat. Speak of the devil.

A group of 6 boys surround Joshua, they are all taller than him a look older. Their uniforms are scruffy and some of them are wearing designer track suit jackets. One taller boy, Declan, is the obvious ring leader for the bunch. He has short, slick back and black hair with shaved sides, a 5 o'clock shadow and greyish skin. He carries himself with smug arrogance and very much thinks of himself as a hard man.

DECLAN

Well if it ain't winner of Scotland's most broken home award. How's life smiley?

Joshua stays silent facing his locker.

JOSHUA(TO CAMERA)

This is Declan. The world's least educated delinquent.

DECLAN

Aww mon Joshie dinny be shy. Its nae fun.

Declan pushes Joshua lightly and his gang snicker.

(CONTINUED)

DECLAN

Ya think am here ta be mean Joshie.
C'mon you know me better than that.
I just want to make sure your mum
hasn't offed herself is all.

Declan's rant continues but his voice fades out as Joshua's voice over comes in.

JOSHUA(TO CAMERA)

Everyday I stand and listen to this
ape man pretend he has power by
belittling me. If anything it's
more insulting to him seeing as he
can't even seem to do it in
English. Although he's probably so
far behind in evolution his mouth
probably isn't capable of forming
the words. It says a lot when
waste like him can be above me in a
social status.

Declan's voices fades back.

DECLAN

You ignoring me?

Declan appears much more stern at this point. Joshua turns his head and makes eye contact with him through his fringe.

JOSHUA

Just leave me alone.

DECLAN

Awww Joshie, you must be having a
bad day. Well alright we'll leave.
But I'll leave you with this.

Declan gives Joshua a swift punch to the stomach, the impact makes fleshy thud. Joshua lets out a sickly grunt and falls to his knees. While he is on the ground Declan grabs his face and pushes it against the lockers. He leans in close to him.

DECLAN

Don't get fucken cheeky wi me.

He stares him down for a few seconds before letting go. Joshua immediately looks towards the ground. The gang walk away while snickering to themselves. A couple of lackeys make remarks as they pass him. Joshua raises his head after they've left and looks around before coming up to his feet. His phone buzzes in his pocket.

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TEXT BUBBLE:

Pogo2 - **How's school going pussy?**

Joshua looks at the text and lets out a disgruntled sigh while putting his phone away again.

JOSHUA(TO CAMERA)
And look around. A word from
anyone. Nope. All these people are
as bad as each other.

Joshua begins walking through the halls again.

JOSHUA(TO CAMERA)
There will come a day when I will
refuse to be a victim and they'll
regret everything they did to me.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Henley family sit in the Daniel is filling the air over the food. Daniel is talking about some drama at school while Carol listens half-heartedly. Joshua is staring into his meal and swirling it around his fork.

DANIEL HENLEY
The dude threw a whole table. At a
teacher. Psycho man.

CAROL HENLEY
Well there's always one. A kid
tried to stab a teacher when I was
at school.

DANIEL HENLEY
Did he get away with?

CAROL HENLEY
Hmph no. Think he's in jail now
actually.

DANIEL HENLEY
Well like you said always one.
Maybe this one will snap and stab a
teacher as well.

Daniel bows his head to gesture towards Joshua.

JOSHUA
Fuck up.

(CONTINUED)

CAROL HENLEY

Behave.

DANIEL HENLEY

Hmm. I'd like to see you try some
of that attitude on Declan.

Daniel looks down at his food with a slight smirk on his face. Joshua leans over the table slightly and raises his voice.

JOSHUA

SHUT UP.

CAROL HENLEY

Who's Declan?

JOSHUA

Doesn't matter.

CAROL HENLEY

No, who is he?

JOSHUA

It doesn't matter. It's fine

Carol looks at Joshua for a second then lets out a sigh and shakes her head.

JOSHUA (TO CAMERA)

What would she do if she knew?
Wouldn't change anything, unless it
made it worse.

INT. JOSHUA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joshua is asleep in his room when a message wakes him up.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN: Pogo2 - **I have a surprise for you.**

Joshua stares at the screen with his mouth open slightly.

JOSHUA (TO CAMERA)

A surprise? It's 3am.

Another message pops up. A picture of someone tied up in a dark room. A school tie from Joshua's school is being used to blindfold them.

JOSHUA (TO CAMERA)

What the fuck?

EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - NIGHT

The industrial park is devoid of life. The familiar nuclear glow irradiating the sky above the black sea of tarmac surrounding the monolithic gray box that is Warehouse 3. Joshua slowly creeps his way towards it. Eyes fixated on the entrance.

JOSHUA (TO CAMERA)
The adrenaline is coursing, the
journey here was a blur.

He makes his way inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE 3 - NIGHT

The inside of the warehouse is a cathedral made of dingy ash coloured metal. Piles of debris fill the its dark corners. a single light in the middle of the warehouse's ceiling on a kneeling with a bag over his head. Perfectly still.

Joshua stares at the person. He stands as still as they kneel as the door closes behind him. He gets a message in his phone.

ON PHONE SCREEN: Pogo2 - **What do you think?**

JOSHUA
What have you done?

ON PHONE SCREEN: Pogo2 - **What you've always wanted to.**

JOSHUA
Where the fuck are you?

INT. WAREHOUSE 3 - NIGHT

Joshua raises his hand to take the tie off the person's head. His hands seem to stretch for miles in front of him. When he finally grabs the fabric he peels it from their face. When the mask is off we see the teary eyed face of Declan. Joshua's face changes from that of concern to a dark scowl. He looks down on him and his eyes become covered by a deep dark shadow. He stares him down. Declan lets out a few muffled bleats while shaking his head, his eyes darting between the knife and Joshua's face. He hears a voice from all around.

POGO2
Just as you wanted.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA
I'm not sure.

POGO2
Joshua, if you weren't sure we
wouldn't be here.

JOSHUA
Who are you?

POGO2
You already know.

INT. WAREHOUSE 3 - NIGHT

JOSHUA
I'm not ready for this.

Joshua is looking into the dark corners of the warehouse past the Declan. From the darkest part of the room he sees a person emerge. They walk slowly but as the light drifts over them Joshua realises that it is himself completely. Even the clothes are the same. He freezes in shock, turning paler than he ever has before. His twin has a knife in his hand. When he reaches Joshua he slightly grasps his hand and places the knife into it.

POGO2
You've been ready your whole life.
You just needed to act. Now's the
time.

Joshua's hands grip around the knife handle as he stares into his reflection in the blade. Joshua stands over Declan and looks into his eyes seeing only fear. He raises the knife with both hands into the air and holds it over Declan staring at him intensely.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. JOSHUA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Joshua is still staring into the mirror.

JOSHUA
Yeah?

CAROL HENLEY
Are you ok? It's late.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA
Yeah, I'm fine.

CAROL HENLEY
Ok, well go to sleep soon please.

JOSHUA
Ok.

The upstairs light goes off and Joshua continues staring into the mirror. He turns and faces the camera and stares into it.

CUT TO BLACK