

Reunion

By

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A ten-year high school reunion. A "CLASS OF 2007" banner hangs up-center stage. Guilty pleasure pop hits from 2006 and 2007 play throughout.

Dan and Maddie walk in together, surveying the room. Maddie wears a name tag that says "Maddie Dagan", while Dan puts on a name tag that says "Brad Brubaker." Maddie is very pregnant.

DAN

Do you see the bastard?

MADDIE

No, not yet. Wow, this place is a lot more packed than I thought it would be.

DAN

Yeah. Makes me wish I had bothered to go to my ten-year reunion.

MADDIE

(reviewing his name tag)

Well, now you can, "Brad Brubaker." What made you pick that one?

DAN

I like the alliteration. You didn't know Brad?

MADDIE

Nope. Couldn't you have made up a name? Or better yet just stayed in the car?

DAN

Where's the fun in that? How big was your class?

MADDIE

I dunno, like 800.

DAN

Alright, half of those people aren't even going to show up. And it's not like I picked "Habib" or "Tyrone" here. I think Brad's a safe bet.

MADDIE

Whatever, we're going to be in and out as soon as I find the prick.

DAN

We can stay a little while. You needed a ride here and I provided one, did I not?

MADDIE

Yeah, but be real. You didn't want to miss the fireworks.

DAN

I think a fitting reward for your partner in crime.

MADDIE

Hold this.

Maddie hands Dan her purse so she can adjust herself. She turns her back to the crowd and reaches under her dress to pull out a pillow, the substitute for her "pregnant belly."

Maddie fluffs the pillow a couple times before putting it back in.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Ugh, so itchy.

DAN

I still think you should have listened to me.

MADDIE

About what?

DAN

Bringing a fake DNA test.

MADDIE

Yeah right.

DAN

Go all Maury Povich on this asshole. You ARE the father! Haha.

MADDIE

No, no, I just want to scare the guy, you know? Make him sweat for a few weeks, maybe think about what he's going to do for child support-

DAN

Oooh, you should totally ask for child support.

MADDIE

I'll settle for knocking the Homecoming King down a peg.

DAN

You slept with the Homecoming King?

MADDIE

Well, ten years after the fact.

DAN

Still counts.

MADDIE

He was quarterback of the football team too. What an asshole.

DAN

You're sure he's coming to this?

MADDIE

He accepted on Facebook. And he hasn't shown any other activity in months. I should know. I've been stalking him since he fucked and ran.

DAN

Totally healthy behavior I might add.

MADDIE

Oh fuck you.

Tara walks over. She's a wannabe prom queen still holding on to that last ounce of school spirit.

TARA

Maddie! So glad you could make it.

MADDIE

Hi Tara.

TARA

And look at you! Congratulations! How far along are you?

MADDIE

Oh, pretty far.

TARA

That's so wonderful.

MADDIE

The gym looks great. I hardly remember it.

TARA

Oh, maybe that's because you always skipped gym class! Hahaha! Smoking in the girls' bathroom, you little minx!

MADDIE

Sure.

TARA

We worked every night this week. I wouldn't say it's perfect, but there's always the 15-year reunion! Hahaha! So is this the lucky father?

MADDIE

No, just my friend. You remember Brad?

TARA

(she clearly doesn't)

Of course! Brad! Brad Brubaker.

DAN

It's actually Bru-bah-coor.

TARA

Oh, of course! So sorry. It has been forever, hasn't it?

DAN

Far too long.

TARA

So how are...things?

DAN

You know. They are.

Dan laughs loudly. Tara joins him, awkwardly.

TARA

Oh, Brad! You were always the class clown.

DAN

What can I say? Still the same ol' Brad.

TARA

So good to see you two! Ooh, I love this song! Gotta run, but congratulations again!

MADDIE

(catching her arm)

Hey Tara. I'm looking for someone. Mike Howard? I thought he would be here by now, but I haven't seen him.

TARA

Oh, Mike Howard! You didn't hear?

MADDIE

No...

TARA

He got into an awful car accident. He's in the hospital. Poor thing totally shattered his pelvis.

MADDIE

Oh damnit to hell.

TARA

I know, so awful. They think he'll be walking in about a month, fingers crossed.

MADDIE

Hey, you don't happen to know which hospital he's staying at?

TARA

No. Did you want to send flowers?

MADDIE

(adjusting her "belly")

Not exactly.

TARA

No, sorry. I'm sure we could find out for you.

MADDIE

Oh nevermind.

TARA

Well, I'll see you two around the party. Ciao for now!

Tara skips off. Maddie pulls the pillow out underneath her dress.

MADDIE

All this for nothing.

DAN

Hey, look at the bright side! Karma took care of this for you. It's going to be a long while before Mike can fuck and run. Either of the two, really.

MADDIE

Yeah, but where's the satisfaction in that? Ugh, let's get out of here.

DAN

Now hold on. We just got here. No sense in wasting the night.

MADDIE

Christ, if you think I'm playing wingman for you, you're out of your mind.

DAN

I don't need a wingman tonight. I got Brad on my side.

MADDIE

Oh please.

Dan sits at a table.

DAN

Did anybody know this Brad guy? Did he even go to your school?

MADDIE

Fuck if I know. Ok, now that I'm not pregnant, I'm getting drunk. You going to be okay by yourself?

DAN

(tugging on name tag)

By myself?

MADDIE

Right, you have each other. Well, enjoy Brad. He's going to be the only action you get tonight.

Dan takes his fat wallet out from his back pocket and throws it on the table.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Really?

DAN

What?

MADDIE

You're just going to leave your wallet on the table? So it can get stolen when you're not looking?

DAN

I can't sit on that thing. Makes me off-balance. Can't run my game when I'm off-balance.

MADDIE

You're insufferable.

She takes the wallet and puts it in her purse.

DAN

Thanks, you little minx.

MADDIE

Blow me.

DAN

Aww, I liked you better when you were knocked up.

She flicks him off as she exits. Dan starts checking out the room. Linda sits down next to him.

DAN (CONT'D)

Hi.

LINDA

Hello.

DAN

Bradley Bru-bah-coor. Pleasure to meet you.

Beat.

LINDA

Linda Madigan.

DAN

Ahh yes, the name tag gave it away. Can you believe it's been ten years?

LINDA

It's been a long time.

DAN

Sure has. I hardly remember this place.

LINDA

Go figure.

DAN

It's quite depressing.

LINDA

Excuse me?

DAN

These reunions. These people.

LINDA

You're here.

DAN

I suppose. Nobody who's here ever really left high school. It's still the popularity contest. The ones who actually bothered to show up to this? They want to know that the people who bullied them and ignored them in high school have actually led shit lives so they can feel better about their own shit lives. It's pathetic.

LINDA

And what about your shitty life?

DAN

Are you kidding me? I'm Brad Bru-bah-coor. I'm sitting pretty.

Beat.

DAN (CONT'D)

You wanna know a secret?

LINDA

Sure.

DAN

I'm not actually Brad. I didn't even go to this stupid school. I'm here with a friend and, get this, she's trying to get back at this guy she slept with like six months ago, they both went to this school and-

LINDA

(hurt)

You fucking asshole.

DAN

Sorry?

LINDA

You know, it's one thing to act like you don't remember me, but it's another to say you aren't even you. It's cruel.

DAN

I'm sorry, I don't understand.

LINDA

Right. You're not Brad. You just look exactly like him, talk exactly like him - you haven't changed one bit.

DAN

I really think you're confused. Seriously, I'm not Brad. My name is Dan.

LINDA

Would you please stop doing this?

DAN

Seriously, my name is Daniel Haig. I just picked up a name tag randomly off the table. Look, I can prove it to you.

Dan goes to reach for his wallet and realizes it's still in Maddie's purse.

DAN (CONT'D)

Shit. Umm, listen, just hold on. Maddie!

LINDA

Haven't you put me through enough? Are you not done completely ruining my life?

DAN

Listen, let me go find my friend, I'll get my wallet, and you will see this is all just a big misunderstanding.

LINDA

I swear to God if you get up from this table, I'll run home and slit my wrists. Try me.

DAN

Oh Jesus Christ.

LINDA

I came over here to tell you you're a horrible, rotten person.

DAN

I appreciate the sentiment but I believe you're mistaken.

LINDA

Am I? So you didn't take my virginity our sophomore year?

DAN

No, I've never seen you before in my life.

LINDA

Did you know that? You were my first.

DAN

Christ, listen, I'm not who you think I am.

LINDA

I know exactly who you are and you know exactly what you did.

DAN

I didn't take your virginity.

LINDA

I'm not talking about that. You know what I'm talking about.

DAN

What's that?

LINDA

What, do you want me to spell it out for you? Is that the game you're playing?

DAN

I'm not playing any games!

LINDA

Well I won't! I'm not going to stoop down to your level and give you the satisfaction of hearing me say those words.

DAN

Calm down.

LINDA

Calm down? Do you understand what the next two years of high school were like for me? I know you were off with some other bimbo, acting like I didn't exist, but I...I trusted you, Brad. I trusted you and you took everything I had.

DAN

I'm-

LINDA

Right, right, you're not Brad, you're just some random asshole who likes to laugh at everyone's shitty life. You think my life is a joke?

DAN

No, I mean, I don't even know you!

LINDA

Well it is. My life has been an absolute catastrophe since high school. I can't hold down a job, a relationship. I can't let anyone get close to me now. So congratulations, Brad. I'm so glad you can feel better about your shit life knowing mine's so much more of a fucking mess.

DAN

I, uh...I don't know what to say. I'm not Brad.

Linda slaps Dan.

LINDA

Stop it.

Beat.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I didn't come over here for an apology or for you to show remorse. That would be asking too much, right? But I didn't expect this. I mean, don't you care about anything?

Linda is close to breaking.

DAN

Maddie!

LINDA

Don't you dare.

Beat.

DAN

Ok. The truth. I am Brad. I don't know why I lied before...I was scared. And what I did to you in high school...I am so sorry. I can never be sorry enough. But listen to me: you have to move on with your life. You need to get over me and get over yourself.

LINDA

I'm so over you.

DAN

Oh my god you are so clearly not. We're talking about high school. A lifetime ago. We were teenagers! We did awful things, but we didn't know what we were doing, how it would affect us. So this is what's going to happen: you're going to take me out of your life. Completely. You're not going to think of me, you're not going to see me, you're not even going to speak my name. Brad...

Dan rips off his name tag and crumples it up.

DAN (CONT'D)

Brad is not going to hurt you anymore.

Instinctively, Linda kisses Dan on the mouth. She pulls back to see his reaction. He's stunned. She kisses him again, deeper and longer this time. She pulls back slowly.

LINDA

I should go...

Dan grabs her arm.

DAN

Wait...wait. Let's just...talk.

LINDA

I don't want to...talk.

DAN

What do you want to do?

Linda grins and covers her eyes.

DAN (CONT'D)

Oh man.

LINDA

But you said I shouldn't see you anymore.

DAN

I did. That was hasty. I may have spoken out of turn.

LINDA

I shouldn't think about you...

DAN

You can think about me. I give you permission to think about me.

LINDA

I can't even say your name. Do you want me to say your name?

DAN

Yes please.

LINDA

Are you sure?

DAN

Utterly.

Linda leans over and whispers in his ear.

LINDA

Brad...Brad...

DAN

Oh dear God.

LINDA

I want you. Right. Now.

DAN

Where should we go? I don't live close to here. Your place?

LINDA

There's a motel about ten minutes away.

DAN

Really? Ok, yes. Let's do it. I need to get my wallet, and then we're out of here.

Dan gets up to find Maddie.

LINDA

What are you doing?

DAN

I have to find my friend, she still has my wallet.

LINDA

If you leave, I'm gone.

DAN

What? It'll take two seconds. I just don't see her right now.

LINDA

You're going to ditch me.

DAN

I am not.

LINDA

Yes you are. It's what you do best, Brad.

DAN

But I'm a new Brad! I hardly remember the Brad of the past.

LINDA

If you leave me now, I won't be here when you come back. I promise.

DAN

I'm not- how can I show you that I'm not ditching you? What will it take? Ok. I drove a red Mazda Miata here. It's right outside in the parking lot, right as you come out of the doors. You can't miss it.

LINDA

You want me to wait by your car? It's freezing outside.

DAN

This way, you know I can't leave without you.

LINDA

And I'm supposed to believe you when you say this is your car because...?

DAN

Fair enough. Ok, here are my car keys. The red Mazda Miata in the front. Get inside, you can turn on the heat, and wait for me. Not even two seconds.

Beat. Linda stares at Brad.

DAN (CONT'D)

Please.

Linda takes the keys. She leans in and kisses Dan.

LINDA

Two seconds.

DAN

Not even.

Linda saunters off. Dan watches her leave. Barely a few moments later, Maddie and her friend from high school stumble over, tipsy and giggling.

MADDIE

Danny boy!

DAN

Jesus Christ, where were you? I've been looking all over for you since you left.

MADDIE

Oh nothing, just a little thing I like to call "Smoking in the Girls' Bathroom."

Maddie and her friend giggle.

DAN

Classy.

Dan grabs her purse and starts digging through it.

MADDIE

Hey! Purse snatcher!

DAN

Pipe down. You will not believe the night I have had. Listen, can you get a ride with someone else?

He finds the wallet, shoves it in his pocket, and hands the purse back to Maddie.

MADDIE

(to her friend)

You can drive me home?

MADDIE'S FRIEND

Are we still hitting up the Denny's?

MADDIE

Duh.

DAN

Ok, I'll call you tomorrow.

Dan starts to head out.

MADDIE

Umm, hello? You leave without even introducing yourself?

DAN

Right. Hi. Daniel Haig. Pleasure.

MADDIE'S FRIEND

Hi. Linda Madigan. Pleasure me, beautiful.

Maddie and her friend giggle some more.

DAN

Excuse me?

MADDIE'S FRIEND

Sorry. We're a bit tipsy.

DAN

Is this some kind of joke? Ok, so who are you really?

MADDIE'S FRIEND

Linda Madigan.

DAN

I was just talking to Linda Madigan.

MADDIE

No you weren't. She was smoking ciggies with me in the little girl's room.

DAN

Fine, I was talking to a Linda Madigan. There must have been more than one at your school.

MADDIE'S FRIEND

No there wasn't.

DAN

How would you know?

MADDIE'S FRIEND

I think I would remember if someone in my class in my high school had the same name as me.

DAN

Well...

It dawns on Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)

Shit. My car! Fuck!

Dan frantically runs off.

MADDIE'S FRIEND

Your friend's kind of a bastard.

MADDIE

I know. It gets to be endearing after awhile. This helps too.

Maddie sips her drink.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

You ready to bounce?

MADDIE'S FRIEND

Sure.

Maddie, who has been carrying her pillow this entire time, stuffs it back under her shirt.

MADDIE'S FRIEND (CONT'D)

Why?

MADDIE

We'll be able to use the "expecting mothers" spot at the Denny's. If nothing else, we can dine and dash when my water unexpectedly breaks.

She throws her drink down, and it splashes at her feet.

MADDIE (CONT'D)

Tah-dah!

MADDIE'S FRIEND

I've missed you.

MADDIE

Me too.

They exit skipping, hand in hand. Blackout.