

Biggest Break

by
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A 15 minute Chekhovian drama in split-scene

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Characters:

Ben...late 20's. Beth's son. The reality of his situation is finally setting in. Waiting.

Uri...late 20's. Ditto reality. Ditto waiting.

Beth...late 40's. Her style is more stylized. Her favorite condolences card, written by an old friend, read, "With each door that closes, new ones open."Already always waiting.

Louie...late 50's. Takes. Reacts. Is no longer waiting.

Setting:

A suburban house in Tucson, Arizona. Summer, the present.

SPLIT STAGE. FOREGROUND: BETH SITS IN HER LIVING ROOM. BACKGROUND: BEN'S ROOM. BEN AND URI SIT. AFTERNOON.

BETH wears ridiculous layers of cumbersome winter clothing which she slowly takes off throughout, as noted. BEN prepares to smoke a bowl as URI looks on.

BEN

You wanna hit?

URI

Dude, maybe that's not a good idea.

BEN

Since when do you turn down pot?

URI

Since I got arrested last year for possession.

BEN

That didn't stop you last week. Or the week before that.

URI

With everyone downstairs maybe it's not a good idea, Ben.

BETH approaches the door. She is about to knock--

BEN

My mom doesn't give a fuck.

URI

When there's no one else here. But I mean, your grandma--

(Ben lights the bowl)

BEN

Wanna hit?

URI

Maybe I should crack a window?

BEN

The A.C. is on. She may not care about smoking up but get the place hot and there'll be no end to the nagging.

(Uri doesn't move)

Beth retreats. She resumes taking off her outerwear.

URI

It was hot out there. It's the suits.

BEN

That's why I never wear one.
(He smokes)
Some good shit.

URI

Ok. Just a puff. What are we doing, anyway?
(He smokes)

BEN

We're waiting.

URI

Waiting for what?

BEN

The biggest break we ever got.

URI

What do you mean?

BEN

I was thinking: what do you think happens after you die?

URI

What's "the biggest break we--"

BEN

-Tell me, Uri. Is it all dark and nothing? Or do we get wings and walk around on clouds and talk to God?

URI

I think there's like a light. And then you go in it.

BEN

You got that shit from some kinda tv show. There's just blackness. You're dead. Like a rock.

URI

Rocks never lived.

BEN

Like petrified wood.

URI

The light's at the beginning. After that, it's not people walking around in robes with harps. But it's not all dark either. It's something...between. Like maybe when you cum--you know how your heart kind of stops and you feel like you're everywhere at once. I think it's kind of like death.

BEN
He'd like that.

URI
Yeah?

BEN
But when you die you're dead. Like a rock.
Beth comes to the door.

BETH
Ben!

URI
Hide the shit!

BETH
Ben! Everyone's leaving! Your grandmother wants to say bye.

BEN
Mom! I'm busy with Uri. We're talking business.

BETH
...you know he would've liked you to speak with her--
-

BEN
--Jesus mom! Can you not pound me with that shit today?

URI
Dude--

BEN
(To Uri)
--Shut up.
(To Beth)
How much can we talk about how "I'm the man of the house." And how I need to "look after my mother."

BETH
Ok, Benny. I'll tell her you're upset.

BEN
Tell her I'll see her at the airport.

Beth retreats

URI
You shouldn't talk to her like that, man.

BEN

What?

URI

I mean...her husband just died.

BEN

If she had died my dad would be screwing so many company secretaries his dick would start oozing white-out and printer ink. 25 years of listening to him talk about responsibility, while he was out there fucking everything that moves. Mom pretends she doesn't know-badly I might add, and mopes around all day. 25 years of this shit. They owe me restitution for my life.

URI

We just went to his funeral.

BEN

My mom should've gone to Vegas instead of inviting the family over to Tucson. She's been a saint to that prick. Better yet, she shoulda gone to visit them back East. She's always talking about how much she hates the heat.

Beth re-enters the living room and resumes taking off her winter clothing.

URI

He kept you guys living alright, though.

BEN

He knew business. And you and me, my friend, are going to be the primary beneficiaries.

URI

What do you mean?

BEN

He gave me this fucking heart to heart where he apologized for being a prick. 'Told me he was going to make it up to me.

URI

What's that mean?

BEN

He said he'd never taught me how to handle business. And so when he was gone, that he would set me up.

URI

He left you money.

BEN

He had a shit load from his development company.

URI

The desert's destruction is your gain.

BEN

Our gain.

URI

Hazmat?

BEN

Hazmat's gonna happen. We've been talking about owning a record label since college. Now we can put money down.

URI

We can sign artists.

BEN

Not just any artists, man. The Sun Bolts were just released by 'F-ing.

URI

That would be like 100,000.

BEN

I wanna offer 'em 2.

URI

2?

BEN

Just to make sure we get them. We've known those guys since high school, since they were sitting around jerking off in their rooms like we're still doing.

URI

They probably still do that--

BEN

--If 'F-ing got a band like the Sun Bolts, think what we could do. Their last album made Pitchfork. They're gonna blow up with-

URI

--You know we'll get the money?

BEN

I'm willing to bet. In fact, I already did. 5 thousand.

URI

What's that?

BEN

What I gave them. Money down. No obligation.

URI

Where'd you get that?

BEN

College job.

URI

Selling weed does not qualify as a college job.

BEN

It got me 5,000 alright? It's my fucking life savings.

URI

And you gave it to Scott? No strings attached?

BEN

It got him to wait, OK? He said he'd wait a few days. He's got other offers, man. I bought us time. As soon as we get the rest, we're gonna sign.

URI

But if you don't get the money then you're out 5,000--

BEN

--He said he'd fucking set me up.

URI

He said that? Those exact words?

Beth finishes undressing. She wears an elegant evening-dress and a scarf.

BEN

You know how he talked out of the side of his mouth, he said: "You gotta learn business son, so I'm gonna set you up."

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