

Broken Legs

By

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Log Line: After a lonely man breaks his legs he relies on his mother to care for him, though she neglects her duties leaving him to lose his mind.

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INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

TOM, 35, is laying in a hospital bed. His MOTHER is sitting in a chair to the right of him. She's on the phone.

MOTHER

Yep both legs. He was moving my armchair and didn't look while crossing the street. does he really not have anyone else to take care of him... how did I raise such a loser.

Tom's eyes are barely open, he feels dizzy and light headed. A doctor walks into the room. Tom looks over at the doctor then back to his mom.

Next to her Tom sees someone sitting in another chair, only his head is totally caved in. Tom falls back into unconsciousness.

INT. TOM'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tom turns on the tv and a game show host is talking to a contestant.

The room is lit only by windows, you can see shafts of light coming through them because of all the dust circulating. There are used containers and trash littered on the ground by Tom.

He sits back in his wheelchair and props up his legs wrapped in casts. His phone rings, it goes to voicemail.

MOTHER

(V.O.)

Hi Tommy, I forgot I was playing bridge with the girls today so I won't be able to come over and help with dinner. But you'll be able to take care of yourself right? Call me if you're in trouble. love you.

Her voice stops for a moment. It resumes quieter than before.

MOTHER(CON'T)

(V.O.)

Jesus when is he gonna take care of himself? I raised him for eighteen years I should be done with this shit. He's a fucking man child now and I'm the one who has to take care of him,

that's just not fair.

The phone beeps and the message is over. Tom turns up the volume on the tv. He continues to watch the man on the gameshow.

GAMESHOW HOST

Welcome back to Famous Aces, the show where people like you can become kings and queens. Today's contestants are Suzie Dean from North Carolina, Charles Wise from Dallas Texas and--

Tom hears the hum of an engine getting closer to the front of his house. He quickly unlocks the wheel brakes on his chair and hurries to the front door.

He cracks the door open just enough to see who was delivering the mail. The MAILMAN gets out of his truck he holds two envelopes.

TOM

Hey.

The mailman pauses for a moment until he sees Tom looking at him through the half open door.

MAILMAN

Hi.

TOM

Delivering a lot of mail.

MAILMAN

Yup.

TOM

I must have missed you yesterday?

MAILMAN

Yesterday was Sunday.

Tom sweats.

TOM

Yeah.

MAILMAN

We don't deliver on Sundays.

TOM
Huh, thats weird.

Tom waves his hand at the mailman. The mailman doesn't see Tom's hand. Tom shuts the door and rolls to the kitchen.

TOM
(V.O.)
I'm an idiot! of course the mail
doesn't deliver on Sundays. Why did I
even say something, I'm trembling just
from that conversation. Jesus I'm a
loser.

The kitchen is a mess. The sink is overfilled with dirty dishes, fruit flies swarm a pile of rotten apples. Tom opens the fridge and takes out a cup of yogurt.

He rolls back to the tv. The same game show is on.

GAMESHOW HOST
Well Suzie you chose the Tom category
let's see what the cards reveal.

Tom opens the yogurt. It's gone bad. He places the half open yogurt on the table beside him. He looks closer at the tv and turns the volume up more.

GAMESHOW HOST
The four cards are--

The gameshow host pauses for a moment as the four cards under the Tom category are slowly revealed.

GAMESHOW HOST
A famous inventor, a football player,
a character from a popular children
series.

The gameshow host stops looking at the screen where the four cards were and looks directly at Tom through the tv.

GAMESHOW HOST
And a sad sad lonely man.

Tom turns off the tv and sits in silence for a moment as sweat starts to form on his forehead. Someone knocks on the front door of Tom's house.

Tom creeps toward the front door. Tom slowly turns the door knob and opens it. No one is standing on the other side of

the door. A VOICE echos throughout Toms house.

VOICE
(O.S.)
Lonely.

Tom turns away from the door and looks inside of his house.

TOM
Hello?!

Tom does not hear anything.

TOM
Mother are you here?

VOICE
(O.S.)
Stupid.

Tom goes to the bottom of the stairs.

TOM
Hello!

A voice comes from the second floor of Tom's house.

VOICE
(O.S.)
Lonely.

Tom rolls over to his home phone. Tom picks up his phone. He calls mother. She picks up.

MOTHER
Hello? Tom.

TOM
Mom are you home!?

MOTHER
What? No I'm playing bridge.

TOM
Well could you call the cops or come over here! I think someone else is in the house!

MOTHER
Have you been talking to the mailman again. I told you to stop that your

just annoying him with your constant chatter.

TOM

Mom just get here as soon as you can I think someone is here. Im serious about it this time. Im calling the cops

MOTHER

What Tommy? you are really getting under my skin to-

Tom hangs up. He starts to dial 911. The power in the house GOES OUT. Tom presses the buttons on the phone to try and call the police. It does not work. The house seems even darker than before even though Tom already had the lights off.

VOICE

(O.S.)

Stupid.

TOM

(yelling)

It's too late the cops are on their way here right now!

VOICE

(O.S.)

Lonely.

Tom rolls back over to the bottom of the stairs. Tom hesitates then starts to get out of his wheelchair. Tom begins to crawl up the stairs.

VOICE

(O.S.)

Stupid.

Tom gets to the top of the stairs.

VOICE

(O.S.)

Lonely.

The voice is coming from a door at the end of the hall. Tom crawls towards the door. Though the hallway seems much larger and longer than he remembered.

VOICE
(O.S.)
STUPID.

Tom makes it to the door. He pulls himself up by the doorknob. He opens the door and falls into the room behind it.

VOICE
(O.S.)
Lonely.

The room is old and dusty. Nothing is in it except for a chair in the center. On the chair sits an older TAPE RECORDER connected to a speaker

TAPE RECORDER
STUPID.

TOM pulls himself up to his feet. He walks to the tape recorder moving like he's on stilts.

TOM
What the fuck is this?

Tom presses the stop button on the recorder. It's silent for a moment. Tom hears the tv from downstairs turn on.

GAMESHOW HOST
Tom are ya there?

Tom quickly makes his way to the top of the stairs. He walks awkwardly. Tom almost misses the first step of the staircase.

He catches himself before falling on the top step. He takes a deep breath before descending.

Tom takes a step cautiously. He takes another step.

GAMESHOW HOST
Could ya go any slower Tom?

Tom's leg buckles as he puts his weight on it and he slips off the step. He rolls forward and hits his head on a step.

CUT TO: BLACK