

Weeds

"The Punishment Light"

by

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WRITER'S DRAFT

RABBI SHUKIAR recites the traditional memorial prayer, *el maleh rachamim*. He's a curious Rabbi, taking in NANCY, ANDY, Andy's hung-over date NORMA, DOUG, SILAS, LUPITA and SHANE. SHANE is wearing his karate Gi. It's an odd group.

RABBI SHUKIAR

...therefore may the Master of mercy shelter him in the shelter of His wings for eternity; and may He bind his soul in the Bond of Life. God is his heritage, and may he repose in peace on his resting place...now let us respond...

Everyone stares at the RABBI who prompts the group.

RABBI SHUKIAR (cont'd)

A-men.

A very distracted, hardly-in-unison Group responds.

THE GROUP

Amen.

The RABBI nods to ANDY who is either hung over or deep in mortal thought.

NANCY

Andy.

ANDY

Huh? Oh.

ANDY unveils the headstone. It reads Judah Michael Botwin, 1964-2005. SHANE bows to the headstone, the RABBI thinks this is strange if not inappropriate.

NANCY

He's got a karate...tournament
...yeah.

RABBI SHUKIAR

Would a member of the family care to share a few words?

NANCY

I think we'll just, ya know...

ANDY

I got that.

ANDY steps forward.

1 CONTINUED:

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ANDY (cont'd)

Judah was what the world would call...a man.

NANCY

Jesus.

ANDY

A man who...did things. He was an engineer, a father, a husband. He was my brother. And he's buried next to my mom and my dad...and me...well, one day I'm going to be buried here too. And sometime after that, not very long at all really, I will be completely forgotten. (choked up) I'm next big brother.

DOUG begins crying, NORMA tries comforting DOUG and almost falls over.

NANCY

Fabulous.

NANCY places a flat rock on the headstone.

2 INT. CELIA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

2

CELIA sitting in front of the mirror putting on her make-up for the day. DEAN, standing by the dresser, getting ready for a day on the golf course. The Camera should indulge in some ECU fun with morning rituals- flossing, nose hair clipping, phlegm check, bra adjustment, ball adjustment because, god knows, the two are barely listening to each other.

DEAN

What are you doing today?

CELIA

Just straightening up around the house. Laundry, dishes, toilets.

DEAN

Where's Blanca?

CELIA

It's Saturday, Dean.

DEAN

Oh.

CELIA

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

DEAN
I'm going golfing.

CELIA
Oh.

DEAN
Playing Braemar today. Course is
all bullshit hills, you never see
where you're hitting...

CELIA
There's something wrong with the
figus. Leaves don't look right.

DEAN
Guaranteed I lose half a dozen
balls. And Fischman's supposedly's
got this new driver says he can fly
it twenty yards past any of us.
Yeah, right.

The sound of a car horn off in the distance, then feet
running down the hallway. ISABEL enters the bedroom.

ISABEL
Peggy's here.

DEAN
Hey kiddo.

ISABEL
I need money.

DEAN
How much?

ISABEL
Twenty.

CELIA
Where are you going?

ISABEL
To the movies. You're supposed to
pick us up.

CELIA
Oh. Right.

DEAN gives ISABEL twenty bucks. The car horn again. ISABEL
runs out.

ISABEL (O.C.)
(yelling)
I'm coming!

DEAN
(beat) So what are you doing today?

Front Door slamming in the distance. DEAN walks over to the mirror. CELIA puts down her brush.

CELIA
I fucked a black man.

Out on Dean's what-did-she-just-say face...

3 INT. NANCY'S CAR - DAY 3

NANCY, SILAS and SHANE driving from the unveiling. A quiet contemplative car, a bit dumbstruck, swelling with sadness. SILAS in the passenger seat. SHANE in the middle of the back seat writing something on his cast. They all stare straight ahead in an uncomfortably-long-for-TV shot...

SILAS turns on the radio.

VOICE FROM RADIO
KFWB, news time, it's 10:35 in the
a.m., traffic, weather and...

Silas hits the search button. It lands on the opening beats of the Beastie Boys 'Brass Monkey'. It's so totally wrong it makes him laugh. NANCY cracks a smile. SILAS looks at NANCY. NANCY looks at SHANE in the rear view mirror, who smiles back at her. SILAS is the first to start rapping along. SHANE joins next. Finally, NANCY. The three should swap rhymes each taking the role of Mike D., Adrock, or MCA. At some point, they should stop rapping and let the moment settle, fly out the window. We're a threesome now and whatever comes our way, we're game, bring it on. There should be some tears but mostly it should be beautiful. Seven parts joy, three parts sorrow. You'll know it when you got it, so...Mary-Louise, Hunter and Alexander, go get it!

4 INT. NANCY'S HOUSE - MORNING 4

DOUG, ANDY, LUPITA and Norma entering from the unveiling, taking off jackets, settling into the living room, kitchen.

ANDY
You saw that look she gave me?
Completely uncalled for.

DOUG
It's Judah's unveiling. She was
upset.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

ANDY

I know Nancy's upset and I'm all for honoring the departed but big bro's been outta here for nine months. Not that you'd know it around here.

He picks up a picture frame of Judah.

DOUG

What's wrong with having a few photos around?

ANDY

It's not the photos I'm talking about. It's the passive hostility, it's her sending...denial-istic psychic energy in every direction. The house reeks of Judah. All you have to do is touch a wall and you can feel it.

LUPITA touches a wall, waits to feel something.

ANDY (cont'd)

It's bringing me down, Doug.

DOUG

Well, if it means anything...you really got me with your speech, Andy.

ANDY

Yeah, well...sometimes god's words are inside me. You wanna smoke out?

DOUG

Does a bear shit in the forest?

ANDY

I believe it does. Make yourself at home.

ANDY heads to the bathroom.

ANDY (cont'd)

And Lupita order some pizzas from Amechi.

LUPITA

(To Doug)

Do I look like his fucking maid?

DOUG

Um...

(CONTINUED)

LUPITA goes to the phone and dials.

LUPITA
NO. Mr. Judah hire me, say look
after the boys. Now Mr. Judah's in
heaven with Our Lady and so I am
Miss Nancy's maid. Andy no. Lazy
fucking gringo. Hello, I'd like the
pizza for delivery.

ANDY returns carrying a Costco super-sized box of Kirkland
brand tampons.

ANDY
The Stress Queen's private stash!

DOUG
She keeps her pot with her tampons?

ANDY
The box where men fear to tread.

DOUG
Got that right.

ANDY
(to Norma) Hi.

NORMA stares at him. LUPITA takes this in, grabs some aspirin
and fills two glasses with water.

DOUG
Crazy night last night?

ANDY
Yeah, I guess so.

ANDY takes off his jacket.

DOUG
You're my hero. Does she talk?

ANDY
Not a lot.

LUPITA walks over to Norma.

DOUG
What's her name?

ANDY takes off his button down shirt, revealing a wife beater
and a large infected 'I LOVE NORMA' tattoo on his arm.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY
(whispering)
I don't remember.

Doug touches Andy's tattoo, who winces but does not take his gaze off of the lovely Norma.

LUPITA
(to Norma) Take three.

NORMA holds out her hand, takes the aspirin and the glass of water. Some water is spilling out of NORMA's tilted glass.

LUPITA (cont'd)
(into the phone)
One, Sausage. One, Bell Pepper.
420 Celestial Moon.

LUPITA hangs up.

LUPITA (cont'd)
I don't work for you.

ANDY opens up the tampon box.

POV FROM INSIDE THE TAMPON BOX.

We see Andy open up the box and get an appalled look on his face.

ANDY
What the...

DOUG's head moves into the frame.

DOUG
What's the matter?

LUPITA's head moves into the frame.

ANDY
What the hell?

There's a hole chewed through the box, through the turkey bag and into the stash!

DOUG
Rodents.

LUPITA
Ratas.

Suddenly, we hear the sound of a scurrying rodent coming through the walls. ANDY, DOUG, and LUPITA's heads all turn following the scurrying.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY
Bitch.

5 INT. PARK GYMNASIUM, OXNARD, CALIFORNIA - DAY 5

Underneath a banner that reads "NACHI BEI BUSSAN presents the 6th ANNUAL ALL-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA KARATE TOURNAMENT" are dozens of teens and pre-teens in karate Gi's, their parents, Sensi's from various DoJos. NANCY and SILAS sitting on bleachers. SILAS is playing with his blackberry. Shane practices his one move next to them.

SILAS
I don't know why I couldn't stay home.

NANCY
I don't want you home alone.

SILAS
I wouldn't be alone. Lupita's there. Uncle Andy's there.

SHANE
Megan's there.

SILAS
Shut up.

PAUL ST. DENIS bounces over.

PAUL ST. DENIS
You're up Shane.

NANCY
Is that who Shane's fighting?

We see TIM. A boy with a build beyond his years.

PAUL ST. DENIS
Hmm? Oh, uh huh.

SHANE
He's a lot bigger than me.

PAUL ST. DENIS
He is, isn't he?

NANCY
That means you'll be quicker.

SHANE
I'm not sure about that.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

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PAUL ST. DENIS

Look, he's a yellow belt, just like you. And if you win today, I have an orange belt back at the Dojo that's got your name written on it. (To Nancy) And really more suited to his complexion. (Back to Shane) Now get in there and be Agrestic!

NANCY

Yes. Go. Kill.

SHANE enters the mat. As he does we hear piped-in KOTO DRUM MUSIC from overly enthusiastic tournament coordinators. The REF, a very ritualistic figure in the landscape inspects TIM, then walks over to SHANE.

The REF inspects SHANE, notices something on Shane's arm. SHANE has written the words, 'Ancient Hebrew' on it. The REF looks at SHANE. SHANE looks at the REF. A deep, timeless understanding is shared between the two.

The REF takes his position on the mat. He instructs them to bow to each other. They do. Then they bow to the REF. They take their fighting stances. SHANE growls. The music reaches a crescendo.

REF

Begin!

SHANE

(a battle cry)
Shmah Y'Israel!

TIM attacks, extending his foot up high and SHANE counters by biting TIM's foot. TIM screams.

SILAS

Awesome.

The REF and tournament volunteers jump in to try to and separate foot from mouth.

SMASH CUT TO

NANCY

(a mile-a-minute)
I'm so unbelievably sorry. I have no idea what just happened there. Shane has never done anything like this in his life.

We see SHANE standing next to SILAS.

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