

A Fate Worse Than Death

(entry for 50 Kisses)

by

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EXT. OUTSIDE A RESTAURANT - EVENING

EMILY (19) and CALVIN (30) exit the restaurant (with Valentines Day promotions prominently displayed) laughing happily. They walk past a cemetery hand in hand. In the (very) distant background a SHADOWY FIGURE is standing at a grave. CALVIN pulls EMILY in for a kiss: As their lips are about to meet, EMILY looks to the side and pushes him away.

EMILY

Oh no..

MARTIN (19) walks into view pointing at them aggressively.

MARTIN

You have got to be kidding me!

A shoving match begins between CALVIN and MARTIN. EMILY forces herself between them. As they grapple...

MARTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Dear Emily, It appears you have upgraded. You both looked very happy...I remember that feeling.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MARTIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MARTIN is writing at his desk. He drinks from a glass. A shadow descends on MARTIN from the direction of the doorway, gradually devouring him as he writes.

MARTIN (V.O.)

(drunkenly slurring)

But now I know happiness is for children. It's Santa Claus. Once it ends you discover it never existed in the first place. You were tricked.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(stops writing)

But until then...until then...

MARTIN begins writing again with renewed conviction.

MARTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He's a child! True adults are the ghosts of children because they know the only truth: They are dispensable. And then they have the advantage: Once you accept you are nothing, there is nothing to fear. Not even Death.

The shadow stops just before it reaches his face.

MARTIN swallows a handful of pills, washes them down and continues to write.

MARTIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I now have proof I am dispensable. It is a fact. I AM AN ADULT. I pity those living in artificial contentment, their second womb, unaware the clock is ticking. What could be worse? Thank you. Yours...

MARTIN slumps forward onto his desk. The SHADOWY FIGURE comes into view and looks down at MARTIN. He then looks at the desktop calendar that reads 'Feb 14th 2013'. His gloved hand flicks the calendar back so it reads 'Feb 14th 2012'. The SHADOWY FIGURE lifts up MARTIN'S head and turns it to the calendar. A flash of bright light.

EXT. A PARK - DAY

MARTIN and EMILY are having a Valentines Day picnic (flowers, cards, heart shaped chocolates, wrapping paper etc). MARTIN sits stunned as the people circling them like sharks come into focus. He realizes someone is tugging his sleeve and calling his name - it's EMILY.

EMILY

Calvin'll take a picture of us.

CALVIN stands smiling as EMILY hands him her phone. EMILY kisses MARTIN and CALVIN takes the picture.

CALVIN

Right, I'll leave you alone. Nice meeting you Martin. See you at work, Emily. Argh! Kill me now!

EMILY laughs as CALVIN shakes MARTIN'S hand (their faces harden) and exits. MARTIN looks at the grey people in the park, scattered and stationary like gravestones. Some children are playing happily amongst the statuesque adults.

MARTIN

(gripped with fear)  
Don't ever leave me. Please--

EMILY

(laughing)  
Don't be silly, baby.

MARTIN holds EMILY'S hand as she shows him the picture. As he looks at it, the SHADOWY FIGURE walks into the distance in the background. MARTIN checks his watch.

**THE END.**