It’s Been A While

By

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Black screen. A phone begins to ring.

PETE
Hey baby, It’s been a while. I’m in town for a couple of days and I don’t think I can go another second without seeing your pretty face

BABY
Be here in half an hour. I’ll put on my birthday suite

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Pan past a picture of a couple hugging then to a girl sleeping in her bed, hair a mess. PETE (26, scruffy with no shirt on) shoots up beside her. Pete then jumps out of bed.

He gets dressed, goes down stairs, helps himself to some breakfast and makes his get away before her boyfriend returns from work.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Pete leaves the house but accidentally knocks over a few potted plants on the way out. He rushes down the street.

Just then a car pulls into the driveway. OSCAR (28, burley and a mean look) gets out and stares daggers at Pete. Oscar starts to walk inside when he notices the scattered pots. He goes into the kitchen and notices that someone’s been eating his food.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Oscar kicks the bedroom door open. He sees his girlfriend sprawled out in an unmade bed. Oscar is enraged. He turns around.

OSCAR
Pete!
EXT. HOUSE - DAY
Oscar flies out of the house and into his car. He zooms down the street after Pete.

EXT. STREET - DAY
Pete, hearing the commotion from the car, starts to jog. A biker pulls out in front of him.

BIKER
Hey, Pete how long has it been?
How's your sister?

Pete grabs the biker and yanks him off the bike. Pete rides off.

Once Pete is long gone, Oscar passes the biker on the ground.

EXT. STREET - DAY
Pete rolls up to a clearing and dials a number on his phone.

PETE
My man! I’m back in town. Do you know if Dingle and Sumo are still in business?

Pete whips out a pen and writes the address on his arm.

PETE
Fantastic. Well, if I get out of this jam we’ll grab a slice. See you soon friend.

INT. OFFICE - DAY
Pete stands in front of two men in suits. DINGLE (tailored suit, slim figure) sits behind a desk. He slyly grins at Pete. SUMO (large Korean) stands behind him with a face of stone.

DINGLE
So you’re back in town for a couple of days and already your running a muck and mucking barns.

(CONTINUED)
PETE
It’s hard to break old habits.

DINGLE
And you need our help.

PETE
Yes, you guys are the best of the best.

DINGLE
Well, I agree with you there, but as you probably remember, many moons ago we were not on the best of terms.

PETE
I was hoping we could let bygones be bygones.

Dingle looks up at Sumo. Sumo nods.

DINGLE
What’s this cat’s name.

PETE
Oscar Picano, here’s his number.

DINGLE
Standard fee for protection. Okay, we’ll call you when it’s safe. Till then, grab a coffee, keep your head low.

PETE
A thousand thank yous.

DINGLE
Keep your thank yous. Just get me the money.

Pete exits the office. Dingle dials his number.

DINGLE
Hello, is this Oscar Picano?

DINGLE
Never you mind who I am. You want Pete Chicago and we found him. Small fee, he’s yours. Meet my associate and I at the corner of Alfred and Princess.

Dingle looks at Sumo. Sumo checks his watch.
DINGLE
10 minutes. See you soon.

Dingle hangs up. Dingle smiles.

DINGLE
That is one pissed off dude. Whip out the sluggers.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Dingle and Sumo walk down the street holding Louisville sluggers in their hands.

EXT. USED CAR LOT - DAY

Dingle and Sumo meet and shake hands with Oscar. They begin to walk.

EXT. THE PIER - DAY

Dingle and Sumo lead Oscar to a long platform leading into the water at The Pier. Oscar walks in front of them looking pissed.

OSCAR
I don’t see him.

Dingle raises the bat above Oscar’s head.

DINGLE
No you don’t.

Oscar turns around as Dingle swings the bat. Oscar catches the bat. Dingle looks shocked. Oscar uses the bat to throw Dingle into the water. He points the bat at Sumo, Sumo drops his bat and runs away.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Pete walks down the street.

A car rolls up behind him. As the car approaches, Pete begins to quicken his pace, anticipating something bad. The passenger hangs out the window. Pete notices some familiar faces. SIGGY (25, frat boy) is drinking out of a bagged 40 of Old E. The driver, TITS (Russian, large mustache) pulls up beside Pete.

(CONTINUED)
SIGGY
Look who dragged his ass back to the motherland.

PETE
Siggy my man, a little early for drinks don’t ya think.

SIGGY
Couple of beers.

PETE
How you doing, Tits?

TITS
One day you’re up like king, next you’re down in the mud like dog.

SIGGY
Forget how he’s doing, get your shitter in the car.

PETE
I guess it’s safer than out here.

Pete gets in the back of the car.

PETE
What are these stains back here, Tits?

Tits turns back and grins.

PETE
Oh, gross!

They drive off.

EXT. STREET – DAY

The boys are stopped at a light. A knife shoots through Pete’s window. STEPH (crazy looking, blond) holds a knife to Pete’s neck.

STEPH
HANDS UP! If any of you douches move, you’ll be driving your little friend to the hospital. Pete Chicago, you measly sack of shit.

Siggy and Tits start to panic.

(CONTINUED)
SIGGY
Is this who you were running from?

PETE (Calmly)
No.

SIGGY
Then who the hell is this broad?

STEPH
Shut up! And hands off the wheels mustache.

TITS
Excuse me miss, you talk to me like that again, I show you the back side of my hand.

PETE
Easy Tits, she’s an old friend. Steph, how are you?

STEPH
An old friend, you son of a bitch.

PETE
I know you’re upset but let’s think about this. You’re holding us hostage with a knife in broad daylight.

STEPH
You think I care? I’ve been tracking you down for 5 days.

PETE
Wow, I honor your persistence. I thought you’d never find me here.

STEPH
Well I found you. I followed you just to stick my blade through your cold black heart.

PETE
Steph, is it possible that you thought you meant more to me than you did?

STEPH
You piece of shit.
PETE
Come on Steph, we weren’t happy. Our relationship was dead, long before I cheated.

STEPH
I gave you everything and you took me for granted.

PETE
I admit that, but I don’t think I should die over it. Come on, you’ll find someone special, that loves you, that appreciates you for your intelligence and your body.

Steph leans back, lowers her knife and smiles.

STEPH
You’ve always had a way with words.

PETE
(Straightening his tie)
Steph, the timing wasn’t right for us. Was it?

Steph blushes and shakes her head.

STEPH
So how about now? Is the timing right now?

PETE
I’ll call you when the stars align.

Steph trembles in excitement.

Pete touches her cheek as Tits speeds away.

SIGGY
You sly son of a bitch.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

The boys pull into a school parking lot. They hang out on the monkey bars. Siggy is passed out in the sand from drinking all day.

PETE
You know when I came back to town I was scared of running into a batshit crazy ex or some guy who’s girlfriend I fucked.
TITS
And that’s what happened.

PETE
Yeah but I got out of it. Like always. I’m untouchable.

Tits turns his back to take a pee.

PETE
If coming back has taught me anything it’s that I’m better at this stuff than I thought.

TITS
What about the..the karma?

PETE
Screw that philosophical noise.

TITS
You got the horses shoe stuck up the ass.

In the background Oscar approaches the back of Pete at high speed. No one sees him coming.

PETE
You got that right tits. Nothing’s gonna break me down.

Oscar tackles Pete and begins to kick him repeatedly in the side. Grabbing his shirt and knocking his face left and right.

OSCAR
Stay out of this town. Stay out of my girl or next time, there won’t be a next time.

Pete rolls over in the dust. Tits helps Pete up.

TITS
Was that the guy, Pete.

PETE
That was the guy, Tits.

Pete dusts himself off. Tits shakes Siggy from his drunken slumber.
SIGGY
(mumbling)
Betty white spread the butter. I feel-

Siggy stares blankly at Tits and Pete.

TITS
Get up you drunk clown.

SIGGY
I’m not drunk.

TITS
Look how googly your eyes are. Find my eye line, Siggy.

SIGGY
What happened to you, Pete.

TITS
Karma, like I said.

PETE
(Spitting out blood)
Yeah, karma finally caught up to me.

Tits, Pete and Siggy walk over to Tits’ car and get in.

INT. TIT’S CAR - DAY

PETE
A/C tits. Come on now.

TITS
You got it.

PETE
I’m done, boys. That’s it. My luck has finally run out.

SIGGY
That’s what they all say.

PETE
No, I am done. No more deceiving, no more cheating, no more lying, no more second agenda.
SIGGY
You had a good run, Pete.

TITS
You think you can really do it? Go cold turkey. I don’t think you have the will power.

PETE
I guess we’ll see. But I have to stop. I look back at my line of broken hearts and used condoms and what do I have? Nothing to call my own. No girl, no home. This suit isn’t even mine. Steph bought it for me and she had a knife to my neck today.

SIGGY
I knew you couldn’t afford that get up.

PETE
Boys, I’m telling you, I gotta stop. No more.

Pete gazes out his window at the shuffling streets whizzing by.

PETE
(To himself)
No more.

At a red light, CAROLINE (curvaceous, beautiful, woman) struts by the car and waits at the cross walk. Pete looks over. Pete rolls down the window.

PETE
Well, look who it is. Caroline. What a delicious surprise.

CAROLINE
Oh, wow, Pete. I thought you were dead. Well I hoped you were dead.

PETE
(Jokingly)
You don’t mean that.

CAROLINE
(Rolling her eyes)
Well, you look great.

(CONTINUED)
PETE
Wanna grab a coffee somewhere? I’ll clean my self up a little.

CAROLINE
I’d rather run into traffic than spend anymore time with a low life like you.

PETE
I’ve changed Caroline, I’m a new man. The bad was just beaten out of me. Now all that’s left is the sweet gooey inside that you know and love.

CAROLINE
Is that so?

PETE
So how’s about it then?

CAROLINE
Just coffee?

PETE
Just coffee.

Pete leans forward and puts his arms around Siggy and Tits.

PETE
Baby steps boys, baby steps. See you around.

Pete says his goodbyes and walks along side Caroline.

CAROLINE
So what happened to you?

PETE
Turns out I’m not as popular around here as I thought.

CAROLINE
That’s the first truthful thing I’ve heard you say.

Pete laughs as he hails a cab.

PETE
Like I said, I’m a changed man.
A cab approaches Pete and Caroline. Pete opens the door for her. The cab sputters away down through the concrete jungle of Pete's hometown.

THE END