

YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

Written by
Justin Shady

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

KATIE (28) lies in a coma in bed. She's covered in bandages; her right arm is wrapped in a solid cast.

Slowly, she stirs and opens her eyes, staring out her open room door as her eyes adjust.

Suddenly, a NURSE (40s) walks past.

KATIE
Hello?!?

The nurse turns, peers in, and then enters the room.

NURSE
Oh my gosh. You're awake.
(beat)
Honey, you were in a pretty bad car
accident, and--

KATIE
How long have I been out?

The nurse wrestles with her reply; she settles on the truth.

NURSE
Over a month.

KATIE
And Peter?

NURSE
(confused)
Peter? I'm sorry, I don't--

KATIE
My fiancé. He was driving.

Beat.

NURSE
You should wait for your family to--

KATIE
Please. Tell me.

NURSE
He didn't make it, hon. I'm sorry.

Tears well up in Katie's eyes.

NURSE (CONT'D)
I'll leave you be.

The nurse turns to leave, but then turns back around.

NURSE (CONT'D)
You're lucky to be alive, darling.

The nurse exits and closes the door behind her, leaving Katie to mourn alone in the darkness.

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE: ONE MONTH LATER...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Katie is now in a much better place. She's sitting in a wheelchair with a bouquet of flowers in her lap; a mylar "GET WELL SOON" balloon is tied to one of its handles.

Standing behind Katie is her MOTHER (50s); she listens as Katie gets her discharge instructions from a DOCTOR (30s).

DOCTOR
I wish we had met under different circumstances, but you've made a remarkable recovery. I'm sure great things await you in the future.

KATIE
Thank you, Doctor.

CUT TO:

HALLWAY

Katie's mom wheels her past a counter of HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES.

She waves as she passes them; a few of them stand from behind the counter and CLAP for her.

As her mom wheels her out, Katie raises a fist in triumph.

CUT TO:

INT. MOM'S CAR - DAY

Katie stares out the window as her mother drives.

MOM
So... where should we go first?

KATIE
Dino's Pizzeria. I'm craving a--

Katie's thought is cut short when a pickup truck drifts over the center line and SMASHES head-on into their car.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Once again, Katie lies in bed. This time, her arm and one of her legs are wrapped in solid casts. Now, she snaps out of her *second* coma.

KATIE
Hello?!? Anyone?!?

Again, the nurse from before comes rushing in.

NURSE
You're awake! Again!

KATIE
Where's my mom?!?

The nurse lowers her head; that's all the answer Katie needs.

KATIE (CONT'D)
No....

NURSE
You're lucky to be alive, sweetie.
At least you have that.

Again, the nurse leaves and closes the door behind her.

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE: TWO MONTHS LATER...

INT. HOSPITAL (HALLWAY) - DAY

Katie sits in *another* wheelchair, this time being pushed by her best friend ALICE (29).

KATIE
Thanks for picking me up.

ALICE
Should I have made you call a cab?

Katie CHUCKLES.

As Alice pushes Katie down the hallway, she once again waves to the NURSES behind the counter; this time, however, there's noticeably less enthusiasm on both sides of the exchange.

They pass through sliding doors and make their way outside.

CUT TO:

INT. ALICE'S CAR - DAY

Alice drives while Katie rides in the passenger's seat. Unlike before, however, she seems on edge about the ride.

ALICE
You okay?

KATIE
Yeah, it's just....

ALICE
I know.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

Alice's car approaches a high, long-spanning bridge.

INT. ALICE'S CAR - DAY

Alice and Katie are as they were.

ALICE
(glances at Katie)
I'm an excellent driver, you know.

KATIE
(chuckling)
Okay, Rain Ma--
(screaming)
BALD EAGLE!

Alice looks through the windshield to find an AMERICAN BALD EAGLE sitting in the middle of the road. She cuts the wheel hard to avoid the bird, but in doing so sends the car--

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

--through the guardrail and over the bridge.

It plunges toward the rocky terrain below, EXPLODING into a fiery ball of flames upon impact.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Once again, Katie lies in bed. This time, one of her legs and *both* of her arms are wrapped in solid casts. Now, she snaps out of her *third* coma.

KATIE
Hello?!? Anyone?!?

The same nurse peeks her head in, but this time she doesn't actually enter the room.

NURSE
You're awake. Of course.

KATIE
Alice... my friend who came to pick me up last time I was here, she... she died in the wreck, didn't she?

NURSE
No. She didn't die in the wreck.

A look of relief and joy washes over Katie's face. Then--

NURSE (CONT'D)
She died a week later in an explosion caused by a slow gas leak in her apartment building. Freak occurrence, they said. I'm sorry.

Katie starts to CRY.

NURSE (CONT'D)
Still... you're lucky to be alive?
I guess?

The nurse tries to grab the door handle without entering the room. She can't reach it, so she gets creative: she takes off her stethoscope and uses it as a lasso to grab the handle.

Finally, she pulls the door closed.

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE: THREE MONTHS LATER...

INT. HOSPITAL (HALLWAY) - DAY

This time, Katie wheels *herself* down the hallway.

The nurses behind the counter see her coming... and duck beneath the desk as she passes.

KATIE

I know you're back there!

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Katie wheels up to a yellow cab. A CABBIE (50s) gets out.

CABBIE

You call a cab?

KATIE

Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. CAB - DAY

The cabbie does his thing, but Katie's on eggshells; she's wide-eyed, anticipating and assessing his every move.

KATIE

Can you go a little slower please?
I mean, like, *really slow*?

CABBIE

Your dime, lady.

The cabbie slows the cab down to a virtual crawl. Passing drivers honk their HORNS and SCREAM obscenities out their windows as they swerve around them.

Still, the cabbie takes it in stride.

KATIE

I'm sorry. Just a little on edge.

CABBIE

No worries. We'll get you home. May take awhile at this speed though.

Katie warms up and CHUCKLES at the comment.

CABBIE (CONT'D)
 You should take a deep breath.
 Close your eyes, put your head
 back. You know, just relax.

Katie INHALES/EXHALES, and then does just that. She puts her head back on the headrest and closes her eyes.

EXT. RAILROAD CROSSING - DAY

The cab creeps across a pair of railroad tracks at two miles an hour... just as a train barrels through, its HORN blaring.

It SMASHES into the cab and pushes it down the track.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Once again, Katie lies in bed. This time, *all* of her limbs are wrapped in solid casts. Now, she snaps out of her *fourth* coma.

KATIE
 Hello?!?

There's no reply this time, no nurse comes running.

KATIE (CONT'D)
 (loudly)
 Just tell me if the cabbie lived!

After a beat--

NURSE (O.C.)
 He did, actually. It was weird, he walked away from the accident without so much as a scratch on--

KATIE
 That's enough info, thank you!

Beat.

NURSE (O.C.)
 You know, you're lucky to--

KATIE
 Oh, shut the fuck up already!

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE: FOUR MONTHS LATER...

INT. HOSPITAL (HALLWAY) - DAY

Katie wheels herself through the hospital, which is a ghost town; no nurses or doctors in sight.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

She wheels down the car exit and toward the--

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Katie wheels herself down the middle of a busy street. Cars HONK and swerve around her; she couldn't give a fuck less.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

She wheels herself across the bridge Alice drove off. Behind her, a long line of cars wait, HONKING loudly for her to pull over. She doesn't.

A DRIVER (60s) leans out his window as he slowly passes by.

DRIVER

You're gonna get killed!

KATIE

I fucking doubt it, pal!

She flips him the bird; he looks stunned, then drives off.

She wheels past the spot where Alice's car veered off the bridge... to find the bald eagle perched up on the guardrail.

She flips the bird to... well, the bird.

KATIE (CONT'D)

And fuck you, too, bald eagle!

Still, she wheels on.

CUT TO:

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Finally, after a grueling string of accidents, comas, and recoveries, Katie returns home.

She pauses on the front walkway and CRIES; she never thought she'd see this moment come. She wheels herself up to her front door, opens it, and enters.

She closes the door behind her.

A long, quiet beat passes... which is followed by the WHIR of a LARGE PASSENGER JET'S ENGINE as it loses altitude. Obviously, it's pointed directly at Katie's house.

The plane CRASHES into the house and EXPLODES on impact; a large fiery ball of flames reaches high up into the sky.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

JESSICA (20s), a different woman, lies in a coma in bed; she's covered in bandages, her arm wrapped in a solid cast.

Slowly, she stirs and opens her eyes, staring out her open room door as her eyes adjust.

After a beat, the nurse from before passes by.

JESSICA

Hello?!?

The nurse peeks in and enters the room.

NURSE

Oh my gosh. You're awake.

(beat)

Honey, you were in a terrible plane crash, and--

JESSICA

How long have I been out?

The nurse wrestles with her reply; she settles on the truth.

NURSE

Almost a year.

JESSICA

What about my family? We were traveling together.

NURSE

I hate to be the one to tell you
this but... you were the only
survivor on the plane.

Tears well up in Jessica's eyes.

JESSICA

No....

NURSE

I'm sorry. I'll leave you be.

The nurse turns to leave, but then turns back around.

NURSE (CONT'D)

You're lucky to be alive, darling.

The nurse walks out and closes the door behind her, leaving
Jessica to mourn alone in the darkness.

After a beat--

KATIE (O.C.)

She's a...

Jessica looks over to realize she's sharing the room with
Katie. She's wrapped in an entire body cast with just three
holes cut out of it: two for her eyes, and one for her mouth.

And through her one mouth hole--

KATIE (CONT'D)

...fucking... liar.

THE END