

THE FRIEND BIN EP.1: THINK TWICE [READER]

by

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EPISODE 1: THINK TWICE

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. BURNSIDE FUNERAL HOME, MORGUE #2 - DAY

PENNY ROWLAND, mid twenties, stands over a CLIENT laying on the table applying makeup.

PENNY
(to Client)
So, I was moving into my new apartment. My friend, Brooklyn, who I'm totally in love with, was helping me move in. The only one who showed up that day, might I add.

INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - EVENING - FLASHBACK

Moving day. Penny, carrying an open box, enters her apartment. Not too far behind her carrying three boxes covering his face, BROOKLYN GAINES, late twenties, the "make your heart stop" kind of handsome but not conceited type.

Penny places her box on top of another stack of boxes. Brooklyn struggles.

BROOKLYN
Um, Penny...

PENNY
Oh! Sorry, Brooklyn.

Penny makes a space for Brooklyn.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Over here is fine.

Brooklyn sits his boxes on the floor. REVEAL Brooklyn.

PENNY (V.O.)
Brooklyn. No matter what, he's always there when I need him.

BROOKLYN
Aight, I gotta get going.

Brooklyn crosses to the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

Wait! I...thought maybe we could order something to eat. It's the least I could do for you helping me move in.

INT. PENNY'S APARTMENT, FRONT DOOR

Brooklyn contemplates.

BROOKLYN

Promised the guys I'd be done before the game starts. Sorry, Penn.

PENNY (V.O.)

I love it when he calls me "Penn." It's not like when my other friends call me Penn, something in his voice, it makes me-

BROOKLYN

Rain check?

PENNY

It's a date. A plan. Cool.

As Brooklyn opens the door.

PENNY (V.O.)

I said to myself, this is it, Penny. You've been friends for a while, profess your love or forever hold your peace. Do something, anything!

PENNY

Brooklyn. Thanks again.

BROOKLYN

My pleasure.

PENNY (V.O.)

And then it happened.

Penny and Brooklyn's eyes lock. Penny closes her eyes, tilts her head then slowly leans in for a kiss. Brooklyn backs away, and then.

BROOKLYN

What are you doing?

Penny opens her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENNY

(groans, stretching)
Just a little side stretch, you
know, moving has me all, stiff.

BROOKLYN

Right...I'll call you tomorrow.

Brooklyn leaves.

PENNY

Yeah. Tomorrow. Later. Whenever.

Penny closes the door then palms her face.

BACK TO MORGUE #2:

Penny, still standing over her Client, applies the final touches of makeup.

PENNY

It was SO embarrassing. Being in
the friend zone sucks. I bet you
never had those problems, my
goodness, your bone structure, and
those lashes, I'm sure you had to
beat the men off of you.

The Client lays, lifeless.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Just add a little more color to
your lips and-

Penny's by-the-book, and a little skittish, co-worker, ROGER REDDING, walks pass, he stops then leans into the doorway.

ROGER

Hey, Penny.

Penny looks over her shoulder, she greets Roger with a smile.

PENNY

(to the Client)
That's Roger, one of my favorite co-
workers.

Roger enters. He walks around to the other side of the table then leans in to look at the Client.

ROGER

Wow. Looks great.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Proud, Penny sits back appreciating her work.

PENNY

Thanks.

ROGER

You look nice today.

PENNY

Oh, I just rolled out of bed and tossed this on.

ROGER

Well, it looks good on you. Wanna grab lunch? There's a new sandwich spot on the corner.

PENNY

Sure. Sounds-

MEAGAN BURNSIDE, funeral home director, shrewd and intimidating, enters.

MEAGAN

Good morning, you two. What's all the talk about?

ROGER

(nervous)

Uh, we uh...

PENNY

We're about grab lunch, just trying to figure out where.

MEAGAN

I see, and while you're still on the clock. I have a suggestion, get back to work. You can discuss what to eat for lunch at a more convenient time, like, lunch time.

(to Roger)

Roger, Phil needs your help, we have another body coming in.

ROGER

(to Penny)

See you later-

MEAGAN

Penny...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Meagan leans over the Client, she holds a photo of the Client next to Penny's work.

MEAGAN (CONT'D)

Hmm...could use a little more color
in the cheeks.

Penny looks at the picture.

PENNY

Oh, I think that's a shadow.

Meagan takes the photo from Penny then places it on the table.

MEAGAN

Penny, I've been in this business
for years, and I have a
responsibility to uphold my family
name. When I make a suggestion, it
comes with experience. And I'm
pretty sure I know the difference
between color and a shadow. With
that said, a little more color in
the cheeks. K.

Meagan walks away Penny mocks "a little more color in the cheeks. K" Meagan turns around.

MEAGAN (CONT'D)

Oh and, Penny, this is a funeral
home, not a fashion show.

Meagan eyes Penny's attire from head to toe.

MEAGAN (CONT'D)

So, you know, less of-

Meagan gestures towards Penny's attire with her hand.

MEAGAN (CONT'D)

That.

Meagan leaves. Penny returns to her Client.

PENNY

(softly)
I love my job. I love my job. I
love my job.

END COLD OPEN

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MAIN CREDITS

ACT ONE

INT. BURNSIDE FUNERAL HOME, MORGUE #1 - DAY

Roger wipes down his work station as PHIL JACKSON, a jovial wise guy, sutures a Y-incision on a MAN while talking on the phone.

PHIL
(on the phone, bluetooth)
Of course I want to see you.

Phil looks at Roger, he shakes his head and mouths "No, I don't."

PHIL (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
I have a lot of work to do, these bodies are falling from the sky. No, not literally. You know what I mean. Look, I'll call you later. Yes, I promise. But if I don't it's because I'm working, but I'll call you...but if I don't, you know. Bye.

Phil ends the call. Roger chuckles.

ROGER
Chanel?

PHIL
The other night, we're out on date, she's all "why do we always have to go out in a hearse?" Wasn't like there were any dead people in the back, plus, it's a classic. A 1959 caddy hearse-

ROGER
Just like the one in
Ghostbusters.

PHIL
Just like the one in
Ghostbusters.

ROGER
I know that, and you know that, but not everyone is thrilled about riding in a "meat mobile."

TESS DIAZ, assistant beautician, late 20s, dry but zany, enters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHIL

A ride is a ride, and did I mention
it's a classic.

TESS

Took another unsuspecting date out
in the hearse?

Phil finishes suturing.

PHIL

I see I'm the only one around here
who has an appreciation for vintage
cars.

TESS

Phil, it's a hearse. I don't know
why you waste your time with those
broads anyway, all they do is boss
you around then break your heart.
Three weeks from now you'll be in
here singing the same song.

INT. BURNSIDE FUNERAL HOME, MORGUE #1 - DAY - FLASHBACK

Phil sits on the stainless steel gurney.

PHIL

(breaking into sobs)
All she did was boss me around and
break my heart. This hurts, man.

BACK TO MORGUE #1, PRESENT DAY

Phil stares at Tess.

PHIL

That's cold, Tess, real cold.

As Phil rolls the gurney over to Tess.

TESS

Is my guy ready?

Tess rolls the gurney out of the morgue.

INT. BURNSIDE FUNERAL HOME, ARRANGEMENT ROOM - DAY

Seated at a table, CORAL MATTHEWS, excited about life and
overly sympathetic, speaks with an elderly bereaved husband
and wife, MR. and MRS. SEELY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CORAL

We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Thank you for choosing Burnside to make that final voyage home a pleasant one.

MRS. SEELY

We wouldn't have it any other way. Burnside has serviced my family for generations.

CORAL

Wonderful. Simply wonderful. Let's get started.

Coral opens the coffin catalog.

CORAL (CONT'D)

As you can see, we have a number of coffins for you to chose from for Jade.

Mrs. Seely stares at the catalog then begins weeping. Mr. Seely comforts her.

MR. SEELY

(to Coral)

Just give her some time, she's still...

CORAL

I understand, this is a difficult time for the both of you.

Mr. Seely slides the catalog over to get a better view. He looks through the catalog, Mrs. Seely regains her composure, they look at the catalog together.

MR. SEELY

These are really nice, Sweets.

MRS. SEELY

Yes, I agree. You have a very nice selection here.

CORAL

Thank you.

Mrs. Seely continues thumbing through the catalog.

MRS. SEELY

My only concern is that these are too big.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CORAL

I don't understand.

MR. SEELY

Jade was very small for her age.

MRS. SEELY

She was born with a rare condition,
doctors said...

(tearful)

Doctors said she wouldn't make it,
but she did...

MR. SEELY

(proud)

10 years strong.

CORAL

I see. We offer toddler coffins as
well. What...size...do you think
she'd need?

MRS. SEELY

Oh, I don't know.

Mr. and Mrs. Seely look at each other.

MRS. SEELY (CONT'D)

About...

Mr. Seely holds up his hands, 12 inches apart.

MR. SEELY

This size.

CORAL

That's, pretty small.

MRS. SEELY

Rare condition-

MR. SEELY

Very rare.

CORAL

That's perfectly fine, and what
will she be wearing?

Excited, as Mrs. Seely digs in her oversized purse.

MRS. SEELY

Oh, we picked out a very nice
dress, and her favorite necklace.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Mrs. Seely places a studded dog collar on the table. Mr. Seely comforts Mrs. Seely as he reminisces.

MR. SEELY
She loved that thing. Wouldn't be
caught dead without-

Mrs. Seely starts to sob.

MR. SEELY (CONT'D)
(to Mrs. Seely)
I'm sorry sugar.
(to Coral)
You know what I mean.

Coral gingerly closes the coffin catalog.

CORAL
Right. Mr. and Mrs. Seely, Jade, is
she, was she...nevermind. Excuse me
for a moment.

INT. BURNSIDE FUNERAL HOME, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Coral exits the Arrangement Room into the hallway as Meagan is passing by.

CORAL
(softly)
Meagan.

Coral tiptoes over to Meagan.

CORAL (CONT'D)
I think Mr. and Mrs. Seely wants to
bury their dog.

MEAGAN
Yes, and?

CORAL
Well, I mean, it's a dog.

MEAGAN
Coral, these days, pets are
considered people too. So, we have
to treat them as such.

CORAL
With all due respect, is that,
sanitary?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Meagan stares at Coral then walks away. Dumbfounded, Coral re-enters the Arrangement Room.