

CYCLONE

Written by

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FADE IN.

Fourth of July.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER/BROOKLYN - DAY

WE CAN HEAR: the wind and the ocean crashing on the packed beach. Seagulls fly up above, there is laughter from people playing games and screams of terror/delight as people ride the Cyclone roller coaster. Sam (8) and Sophia (11) are throwing a frisbee back and forth as Trent and Patty look on.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER/BROOKLYN - LATER

Trent is standing in front of the Cyclone with his arm around Sam's shoulders. Sam and Trent are in awe of the roller coaster. The Cyclone is one of the oldest roller coaster's in operation in the world, it was built in 1927. The line is down the block and around the corner, with at least a two hour wait. Patty and Sophia walk over eating Italian ices. It has started to drizzle.

PATTY

C'mon guys we gotta go.

Sophia smiles at a boy.

SAM

If we get on line now-

PATTY

I told you to get on line earlier but noooo. They're gonna shut it down soon because of the rain so waiting is a waste of time.

TRENT

(To Sam)

I'm working the next couple of weekends but the next weekend I'm off we'll come back and ride the cyclone all day just the two of us.

SAM

Promise?

TRENT

Have I ever not kept a promise?...

SIX YEARS LATER - CITRUS SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

EXT. KNOTT'S BERRY FARM AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

SAM (14 yo) and his best friend MALCOLM (14) run to the first car on the X-celerator roller coaster. The ride is checked by a COASTER OPERATOR, who gives the thumbs up and the coaster takes off.

CUT TO:

INT. KNOTT'S BERRY FARM AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

The boys are running through the park from ride to ride having a great time.

INT. CLAIRE AND JOE'S SUV - NIGHT

Claire and Joe Smith, Malcolm's parents, are driving the boys home. Sam and Malcolm are asleep in the back. Sam's head slips to Malcolm's shoulder, Malcolm unconsciously pushes him away. Claire looks back and smiles. Joe looks in the rear view mirror and shakes his head.

WE HEAR: SCHOOL BELL RINGING

INT. HIGH SCHOOL/HISTORY CLASS

The class is talking, texting, throwing papers at one another and STUDENT ONE unzips STUDENT TWO's back pack, the contents spill all over the floor. The HISTORY TEACHER ENTERS the classroom and looks around exasperated. He turns on the smart board - a huge LCD like screen used for teaching - he chooses World War II as a history lesson. He turns to the class. 'NARDO takes out a similar remote and changes the channel. THE CLASS erupts into laughter. The Teacher doesn't react.

TEACHER

Okay, everyone thank 'Nardo for your pop Quiz.

The CLASS moans and groans a couple of people throw pens at 'Nardo.

'NARDO

Don't blame me, blame the system.
I'm a product of the system.

TEACHER

Everyone close your books and put them in the aisle next to you.

(MORE)

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Phones, iPads, computers,
abacuses, carrier pigeons and
anything other than a pencil is
grounds for instant failure.

MOLLY rushes in, she takes her seat in front of Sam.

MOLLY

I'm sorry swim practice went late
it won't happen again.

Her hair falls onto Sam's desk, it's a beautiful strawberry
blonde but more strawberry than blonde. Sam is mesmerized by
it. Molly quickly turns around.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

(smiling)

No cheating.

She turns back around as the Teacher walks up and down the
row checking each desk for cheaters. Nardo opens his mouth
he sticks out his tongue and shows the inside.

NARDO

Need me to squat and cough?

TEACHER

No, save that for your next trip to
Juvi. Okay, okay looking good
people.

The teacher is done making the rounds and stands in the back
of the classroom, so he can see the cheaters. He hands out
blank answer sheets.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Thirty seconds per question.

The class groans. The teacher starts a timer on the smart
board.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Time starts as soon as I have
finished asking the question.
Alright, question numero uno.

Malcolm's hand shoots up.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

This is written not oral Malcolm.

MALCOLM

But I already know the answer to
the question.

TEACHER

Probably so, but all the same I
have to ask it first. Alright
pregunto one.

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

'Nardo is trampling through the neighbors flower bed and
yanking flowers out. He pricks himself on a thorn and shakes
the dirt off of the roots.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

SFX: THE FRONT DOOR BELL RINGS

PATTY opens the door to find 'Nardo hiding behind a bouquet
of flowers. 'Nardo always wears 80s themed t-shirts because
he's obsessed with that era.

'NARDO

Lovely night isn't it Mrs. Stafford
or can I call you Patty?
(off look)
Mrs. Stafford.

'Nardo hands Patty the flowers that still have dirt on them.
He tries to conceal something down his pant leg but it's
slipping. Patty looks at him suspiciously.

'NARDO (CONT'D)

Would Sam be home by chance ma'am?

PATTY

Upstairs. Sam! 'Nardo's here!

She steps aside and 'Nardo ENTERS. He tries to go for a kiss
but Patty dodges him.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Don't make me-

'NARDO

You have an eyelash on your cheek.
I was going to blow it off for
luck.

'Nardo goes upstairs. TRENT Stafford walks over and hugs
Patty from behind. He kisses her on the cheek.

TRENT

I think he likes you.

PATTY

Haven't you ever wondered why a kid that old is always hanging around Sam and Malcolm?

TRENT

He's only a year older. He's just big for his age. I was big for my age and look at me now.

Trent walks away amused at 'Nardo's attention to his wife.

TRENT (CONT'D)

(sings)

Patty's got a boyfriend. Patty's got a boyfriend.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE/SAM'S BEDROOM - LATER

'Nardo is drinking the forty ounce beer that he smuggled down his pant leg. Sam and Malcolm are working on a model roller coaster.

MALCOLM

You're gonna be an alcoholic by the time you graduate.

'NARDO

Why should I? School gets easier the more times you repeat it.

SAM

Sounds like a plan.

Sam tests out the track of the roller coaster by pushing a passenger car down one of the hills it doesn't go off track.
CLOSE UP ON MODEL ROLLER COASTER.

'NARDO

Aren't you too old for Hot Wheels?

SAM

They're not Hot Wheels dumb ass.

MALCOLM

(playing PSP)

Yeah dumb ass.

SAM

This my friend is the Cyclone, it's a vintage roller coaster.

MALCOLM
Tell him, vin-tage.

SAM
You have any idea how long it took
me and my dad to track down a
vintage Cyclone model kit?

MALCOLM
Like only forever.

'NARDO
And then you guys wonder why you've
never gotten laid.

MALCOLM
Hah! That's by choice.

SAM
Yeah by choice.

'NARDO
Not getting chosen is not "by
choice".

SAM
Man you're stupid.

MALCOLM
Yeah stoopid.

'NARDO
Oh, yeah? Oh, yeah?

'Nardo attacks them both.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Sam is by the lockers. He opens his locker and there is a pink envelope, inside is an invitation to Molly's 14th birthday party. Sam smiles and looks around to see if anyone's watching him drops of blood fall on the invitation. He rushes to the bathroom.

INT. MOLLY'S HOUSE/BASEMENT - NIGHT

Molly's having her 14th Birthday party. Sam is standing with 'Nardo.

'NARDO
(to Sam)
You gonna hit that tonight or what?

SAM

I- I am I'm just waiting for the
right-

'Nardo shoves Sam really hard in Molly's direction. Molly is talking to a FRIEND when Sam walks over.

SAM (CONT'D)

Hi Molly.

MOLLY

Hi Sam.

Molly's Friend walks away.

SAM

Great party.

Molly shrugs.

SAM (CONT'D)

Here.

He hands her a jewelry box.

SAM (CONT'D)

It's okay if you don't like it. I
can take it back and get you
something else if you don't...

She opens the box and there is a necklace with an 'M' pendant hanging from it.

MOLLY

It's beautiful Sam put it on me.

Molly hands Sam the chain and lifts her hair as he unclasps the chain. She steps forward and his hands shake so bad from being in close proximity that he has trouble clasping the chain. He takes in her scent, the curve of her neck...

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Wait, let me turn around.

Molly turns her back to Sam and pulls her red hair to one side. Sam clasps the chain.

SAM

There.

Molly looks down at it.

MOLLY

Thanks Sam.

She leans in for a kiss, it's tender, soft and sweet. Sam's eyes are closed. He opens to see 'Nardo drinking punch.

'NARDO
Where's my flask when I need it?

MALCOLM
Dude, high five.

'NARDO
You may wanna do a woody check.

Sam looks down, he turns beet red. 'Nardo walks off towards a group of girls.

'NARDO (CONT'D)
Ladies. Como te llama 'Nardo.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL/LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Sam closes his locker, he's just changed into his basketball uniform.

MALCOLM
C'mon let's kick some butt.

SAM
In a minute.

MALCOLM
You good?

SAM
No, I mean yeah, I mean I feel kinda nauseous.

MALCOLM
Want me to get coach?

SAM
No, no it comes in waves, I'll be fine, really go on, I'll catch up.

Malcolm looks concerned, he doesn't leave.

SAM (CONT'D)
Go, I swear I'll be there in a minute let me just splash some water on my face.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL/LOCKER ROOM BATHROOM

Sam splashes water on his face, he's hyperventilating he faints hitting his head on the sink.

MALCOLM (O.S.)
Sam? Sam?!

Malcolm enters the bathroom to see Sam on the floor. Blood is flowing from a gash where he hit his head on the sink.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Sam! Sam!

He holds Sam and tries to stop the blood.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Coach! Coach!

Team mates enter the bathroom.

MALCOLM (CONT'D)
Get Coach! Somebody get Coach!

INT. SAM'S HOUSE/SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Patty, moves Sam's hair to the side. He has stitches where he fell and hit his head.

PATTY
(re: stitches)
I hope that doesn't leave a scar on my handsome boy's face. I wonder if you got food poisoning from that party.

SAM
I think maybe it's a stomach flu.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

TRENT
He buddy.

PATTY
Well if you won't drink the soup at least get some rest.

Patty walks out. Trent walks over to Sam, he struggles to sit up.

TRENT

Don't, your mother will kill me if she comes back in here and you're not horizontal.

PATTY (O.S.)

Let him get some rest Trent!

TRENT

(mimics)

Let him get some rest Trent.

Sam and Trent laugh.

PATTY

Stop making fun of me!

Trent kisses Sam on the forehead and heads to the door.

TRENT

Text if you need anything.

(re: light)

On or off?

SAM

Off.

PATTY (O.S.)

Turn on his night light.

SAM

Night light?

TRENT

Listen, son when it comes to women you gotta go along to get along.

Trent plugs in a juvenile night light and puts Sam's waste basket close to his bed.

TRENT (CONT'D)

Just in case.

(re door)

Open or closed?

SAM

Closed.

Sam's phone rings with a FaceTime call from Malcolm, Trent leaves. INTERCUT CALL AS NEEDED.

MALCOLM

How you feeling bro?