

CLOSE ENOUGH
'PILOT'

Written by

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EXT. IRISH ROCKS - NIGHT

The pitch black Ireland sky is broken up by cracks of lightning while the waves crash against the mountain side. Stone pillars rest in a pattern as the rain baptizes them.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

In a dark bedroom two peaceful PEOPLE sleep in bed. The peace is interrupted by a gut wrenching SCREAM as PERSON #1 KICKS AND SCREAMS IN AGONY.

Person #2 shakes awake and tries to hold Person #1 steady but almost like a seizure there is not help that can be done.

PERSON #2
You're bleeding!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

ROBERT 'DEUTCHIE' WINTHER II (60s) SHOOTs upright in his bed. Sweat beats down his face as he grabs a small wrist watch off his side table and shakes himself awake.

The time reads: 4:44am.

He collapses back down on his mattress as...

TITLE: CLOSE ENOUGH

INT. CAR - DAY

Deutchie rides in the backseat of a sedan while his assistant, **CHARLES 'CHUCKY' BANKSTON** (30s), scrolls on his phone.

CHUCKY
Darnell at the BBC--

DEUTCHIE
Don't care.

CHUCKY
And Claire from--

DEUTCHIE
I don't care.

CHUCKY
How would you like me to respond to
their inquiries then?

DEUTCHIE
Don't.

CHUCKY
What do you mean don't?

DEUTCHIE
As in do not.

CHUCKY
Well we can't do nothing.

DEUTCHIE
Yes you can.

CHUCKY
How so?

DEUTCHIE
I pay you to do nothing everyday,
why should today be any different.

CHUCKY
Sir, excuse my brashness but--

DEUTCHIE
(sternly)
They make robots in boxes that
could do your job.
(warmly)
You're lucky *Terminator* came out at
a fragile time in my life or else
I'd have an Amazon Alexis next me,
wouldn't I?

CHUCKY
(under his breath)
Alexa.

Deutchie smirks to himself then he lifts his cane and taps on
the black glass screen between him and the front of the car.

The screen rolls down to reveal his driver, **STIX CLUMBO**
(20s), a skinny fellow with a warm smile, behind the wheel.

DEUTCHIE
(to Stix)
Make sure to pull around back. I
don't need Ozzie to fish me into
some press frenzy.

STIX

Of course.

DEUTCHIE

And do you have any--

Stix extends a cigarette out to Deutchie, who plants it between his lips.

DEUTCHIE (CONT'D)

She doesn't like me having these.

CHUCKY

Neither does the board--

DEUTCHIE

Not today, Charles. Enough talk for today.

Deutchie lights the cigarette, inhales, and exhales a sigh of relief as the car leaves the smoke in its tracks.

INT. CHURCH

JANET 'JJ' WINTHER (late 50s) sits in pew. She wears all black and stares at a closed casket.

She messes with her bracelet to distract herself until the church doors SWING OPEN and a flood of REPORTERS charge through.

At the front of the mob is **OSWALD 'OZZIE' BRASCH** (70s), who sports a suit, but neither the colors nor his facial expression bears sorrow.

OZZIE

As you can all assume, this is a terribly trying time for our family as a whole. To lose someone whose light shined the brightest, whose laugh echoed the loudest, whose--

JJ blazes down the walk way swatting her arms in the air.

JJ

No, no, no! This is for family only!

OZZIE

(going for the hug)

JJ! How wonderful it is to see you!

JJ
(pushing him off)
You're lucky we're standing where
we are Ozzie.

REPORTER #1
(re: JJ)
Thank you so much for the quote
from the board Ms. Winther.

JJ
(re: Reporter #1)
Excuse me? What quote?

REPORTER #1
Well, everyone's been wondering--
Hell, the whole world--sorry God--
about the status of the company,
the family, your older brother.

JJ
Oh, is that right?

REPORTER #2
Our sales are up 10%.

JJ
Aren't you all just snakes, even on
a day like today--OUT!

JJ pushes all the reporters out the doors but not before...

REPORTER #1
Don't mind if I use the snake
remark too! Our readers love when
the few degrades the many!

The church doors slam shut and JJ turns her eyes onto Ozzie.

OZZIE
Can you believe those vermin?

JJ
You brought them in here.

OZZIE
Please, come on, I'm family.

JJ
Yes, you are. That is the only
reason you're still standing.

Janet brushes past her cousin and past a board of family pictures, of a family, once whole, of parents, aunts, uncles, and kids with wide smiles plastered on each face.

OZZIE

Don't walk away like that. Suppose I was to die, how would you feel--
hmm--knowing those were the last words you scoffed at me?

JJ

You mean now? As in, you mean what if you were to drop dead in this very moment?

OZZIE

(not so solemnly)
Yes, that is *exactly* what I mean.

JJ

Only in death would you save us money.

OZZIE

I am flabbergasted--

A cane stomps against the floor of the church. Deutchie stands by the back entrance.

JJ

Deutch!

JJ runs to her brother as he hobbles to his sister and they embrace.

JJ (CONT'D)

(hugging)
You smell like a chimney.

DEUTCHIE

Windows don't work like they used to.

JJ

I thought you quit.

DEUTCHIE

I did too. But on days like today, I remember why I started.

Ozzie slithers over to his cousins.

OZZIE

Oh, Deutch, you should've seen them, the reporters, like hyenas.

DEUTCHIE

Shut it Ozzie. You've been lying the same way all your life. The only difference between your face now and when you stole my Johnny Callison baseball card is how low it sags onto the floor. Be careful not to get dirt in your mouth next time you squawk.

OZZIE

I don't know why I show up to these things.

Ignored.

JJ wraps her arm around her older brother, there is solace in his presence. They creep towards the board.

DEUTCHIE

Where are the others?

JJ

They should be here soon. I know Debra had to deal with some things at home but they are all coming.

DEUTCHIE

Good.

JJ

But, I am so glad you made it. I know you weren't sure if you'd be able to give the speech like you did for Goo's and the Old Man's but-

DEUTCHIE

(a picture)

Do you remember this trip?

JJ

It was the Poconos.

DEUTCHIE

Yeah.

JJ

The Old Man insisted we go.

DEUTCHIE
Every year.

JJ
I love that picture.

DEUTCHIE
(almost singing)
So many years...up the mountain,
down the path, around the river...

JJ
(joining in)
Across the bend, until we do it all
over again.

DEUTCHIE
Did Richie make that song? I can't
seem to remember for the life of
me.

JJ
Who else?

DEUTCHIE
Fair. As I look at this board, JJ,
I wish we had more pictures. At the
time, I didn't see a real point in
it--I always thought I'd just
remember it all but...as the days
grow shorter, I seem to forget more
and more.

JJ
The reporters were asking about
you.

DEUTCHIE
(not shocked at all)
Really? Were they?

JJ
Before we're all out of here I'm
sure it will have made headlines:
The status of the CEO, the
contention of the board, yada yada.

DEUTCHIE
Family and business are two
dastardly things. I was the fool
who mixed the two.

JJ

You're no fool. Myopic, hot-headed,
and opinionated--I'll give you--but
calling yourself a fool just makes
you a liar.

Deutchie removes an envelope from his jacket pocket while
Ozzie pays his respects at the foot of the casket.

DEUTCHIE

This is for you.

JJ

Is that your official statement to
the board?

DEUTCHIE

No.

JJ

Good, because as a member I can't--

DEUTCHIE

(handing the envelope)
Don't open it for 48 hours. That
will be enough time for me to get
where I'm going.

JJ

Where are you going?

DEUTCHIE

I want the next funeral I attend to
be my own.

JJ

Don't talk like that.

DEUTCHIE

To live with regret is no way to
live. Promise me, 48 hours.

JJ

I promise.

DEUTCHIE

If you break it, God's watching.

They laugh together in a tender moment before...

DEUTCHIE (CONT'D)

I have to get going now.

JJ

What?!

DEUTCHIE

Before the other's get here.

JJ

The speech--

DEUTCHIE

You have your own?

JJ

Yes but--

DEUTCHIE

Then you're set.

JJ

I can't--I mean, I don't, I don't
know how to do this.

DEUTCHIE

No one knows how to do anything
until they do.

JJ

Can't you just stay a little
longer? What's the harm in waiting
for the rest of them?

DEUTCHIE

I'm afraid if I don't leave now, I
never will.

JJ

Where are you going, Deutch?

DEUTCHIE

Up the mountain, down the path, and
around the river.

He gives his sister a wink before he snatches that picture
off the board.

DEUTCHIE (CONT'D)

You don't mind if I?

JJ hugs her brother even tighter than before.

JJ

You're coming back? Right?

DEUTCHIE

We'll be together again before you know it.

JJ

48 hours? I can't bear the loss of another brother.

DEUTCHIE

(smirking)

I better say goodbye.

Deutchie walks to the foot of the casket and rests his hand on Ozzie's shoulder. Ozzie comes to his feet.

OZZIE

I couldn't help but overhear...be safe won't you. It is so dangerous to travel now.

Deutchie hugs his cousin.

DEUTCHIE

Thank you, Ozzie.

Deutchie kneels down and for a moment the three of them share in the silence of the church.

He rises and walks towards the door from whence he came. As he reaches for the handle, the door SWINGS OPEN and **ROBERT 'ROB' WINTHER III** (late 20s) looks through his father.

ROB

Dad...

DEUTCHIE

How are you?

ROB

I'm--I'm good, I'm doing good. You're really getting the hang of that cane now.

DEUTCHIE

Where's Katie?

ROB

At home with Gus and Sammy. I didn't want them here--they're so young and all, it can be a lot for kids.

DEUTCHIE
Sammy's the same age you were when
Goo died.

ROB
(he missed the point)
Exactly.

DEUTCHIE
Well...I have to get going.

ROB
You're not giving the eulogy?

DEUTCHIE
Not this time.

ROB
That's not like you at all.

DEUTCHIE
Call it a life crisis.

ROB
Do you need me to do it?

DEUTCHIE
No, no JJ is gonna take care of it.

ROB
Right. Will you be at the luncheon?

DEUTCHIE
(No.)
We'll see.

A beat.

ROB
I know this all must be really hard
for you so, ugh, if you, um, were
to ever, if you ever wanted, to um,
you know.

Deutchie hugs his son. Rob is taken aback but after a moment,
he wraps his arms around his father.

DEUTCHIE
Stock up before things get worse. I
am going to do everything I can. I
love you.

Deutchie puts his cane under his arm as he removes the watch from his wrist. After a nod, Rob extends his wrist out and the leather band tightens.

DEUTCHIE (CONT'D)
I'll be back in no time.

A beat.

DEUTCHIE (CONT'D)
Get it? It's a watch, no time--

Rob hugs him again.

They share a knowing smile before Deutchie shuffles out the back door.

Rob walks to Ozzie and JJ.

JJ
(hugging)
I'm so glad you could make it.

ROB
I am too.

OZZIE
(hugging)
Your father was just here.

ROB
Yeah, I saw him.

The old gold of the watch shines in the daylight that penetrates the church stained glass windows.

EXT. BACK OF CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Stix stands against the building as he drags on a cigarette.

Chucky talks on the phone, the windows are up but his arms flail wildly.

Stix shakes his head and continues puffing.

Deutchie comes out the back door.

STIX
Ready?

DEUTCHIE
No, but this...this I want to try.

Stix shares his cigarette with Deutchie. Chucky notices his boss's return and shoots out of the car.

CHUCKY

I cannot believe it, simply cannot believe it! Have you seen what they are reporting? Unofficial board statements, the downfall of the company, like the three horsemen just fucked dooms day right in the ass.

Deutchie pulls again.

STIX

Calm down Chuckster, have a smoke.

CHUCKY

Calm down? Calm down? A smoke? At a time like this! How can I? They refuse to kill the story. Said an "Official Board member made the statement of" FUCK YOU THE INQUIRIER. And they even refuse to tell me which one--I swear, I swear to you Mr. Winther, when I found out which one of those slimy bastards lied about all this I'll wrap my hands around their necks until they turn blue, on God, as he looks down upon me today and the rest of my days. I swear it.

DEUTCHIE

You could use a smoke.

CHUCKY

Why don't you care?

DEUTCHIE

It's not that I don't care.

CHUCKY

You seem like it.

DEUTCHIE

There are just more pressing matters at the moment--

CHUCKY

Like what?

Chucky takes that smoke now, as he remembers where they are.

DEUTCHIE

My brother is dead. The Earth is dying. People are getting sick in record numbers and everyone wants me to have answers to their questions. Sometimes there aren't any answers.

CHUCKY

I'm-I'm sorry. I was so--I should've--I'm sorry.

DEUTCHIE

Now, Mr. Bankston, if you want to be of some use, go in there and talk to Ozzie. He may know a thing or two.

CHUCKY

Do you think it was him who leaked this?

DEUTCHIE

(Not a chance.)

If it was, only you can find out for sure.

Chucky wipes his mouth and stands up straight.

CHUCKY

Will do. I will report back anything I find immediately to you. First thing.

Chucky storms through the church door like a bat out of Hell.

DEUTCHIE

God's speed, Chucky, God's speed.

STIX

You ready to hit the road?

Deutchie throws the cigarette on the ground and extinguishes it with his cane.

DEUTCHIE

Before that lunatic comes back.

Stix takes the front seat and Deutchie slides into the passenger's seat. He throws his cane in the backseat.

STIX

Where we headed, boss?

DEUTCHIE
Atlantic aviation.

STIX
Planes aren't going, travel's been
restricted.

DEUTCHIE
I called in a favor.

Stix laughs.

STIX
You crazy son of a bitch.

DEUTCHIE
You're coming with me.

They both laugh and the car leaves the church. The Reporters
out front recognize the car.

REPORTER #1
Holy shit, he was here.

Reporter #1 calls someone on the phone.

REPORTER #1 (CONT'D)
(on the phone.)
Yes, yes, make a revision. Robert
Winther was at the funeral. Yes...I
don't care, no time to fact check
I'm the primary damn source--run
it.
(to herself)
This is my ticket to the times.

EXT. HIGHWAY - MINUTES LATER

The car ZOOMS down an near empty highway. Billboards
advertise the latest movies and concerts except with big fat
letters that all read CANCELED on them.

Another billboard advertises the importance of washing your
hands while the last one shows that medical masks and gloves
are all, in big red letters, SOLD OUT in the Greater
Philadelphia area.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Stix turns down the music in his car and Deutchie reclines in
his seat.

STIX
So who is that you exactly called?

DEUTCHIE
An old friend.

STIX
He safe?

DEUTCHIE
From this whole virus?

STIX
Yeah.

DEUTCHIE
Of course. He's my age, couldn't be flying if he had it.

STIX
Good--well I mean not good, but, you know what I mean. I'm just worried is all.

DEUTCHIE
Why? You're young, you'd be fine.

STIX
I know, I would be but...

DEUTCHIE
But, what?

A beat.

STIX
Brenda's pregnant.

Deutchie SHOOTS back up in his seat.

DEUTCHIE
No shit! That is amazing. Congratulations.

STIX
Thank you.

DEUTCHIE
How far along is she?

STIX
7 months.

DEUTCHIE

That is awesome. I mean, really brother, this is going to change your life and for the better.

STIX

I hope so.

DEUTCHIE

What do you mean you hope?

STIX

I don't know, I don't really want to say it out loud and give it any real power, or make it true, but I don't know...with everything going on and the virus and what it does to the young and old--my minds been going to the darkest places.

DEUTCHIE

Right.

STIX

Like, what if she gets it, and she's fine and in good health, but what does that mean for the baby or worse, what if my baby gets it? I can't even go there really because it's too painful to imagine.

DEUTCHIE

You're gonna be a great dad, Stix.

STIX

You think so, what if I'm not ready?

DEUTCHIE

You've been taking care of me the past couple of years haven't ya!

They two laugh again and for a moment the worries subside.

The car drives further down the highway and the laughter fades with it.

INT. CHURCH - MINUTES LATER

The interior has filled up more as FAMILIES, FRIENDS, and LOVED ONES greet each other. The music from the pipe organ swells and makes it impossible to hear anything.

JJ ascends to the podium while the others take their seats.

EXT. LANDING STRIP - SAME TIME

The pipe organ music carries into this scene as Stix parks the car. They walk to the foot of the stairs. At the top, is their pilot, **DANNY 'DUCK' MASHEVITZ** (60s).

Deutchie takes each step at a time with his cane to support him. Once he reaches the top, him and Duck embrace. Stix shakes his hand and the stairs come up.

INT. CHURCH - SAME TIME

JJ takes her seat. Tears stream down the faces of many.

The organ screams louder as the casket is covered and blessed by the CLERGY.

The PALLBEARERS stand and assume their positions.

INT. PLANE - MOMENTS LATER

The music continues on as Deutchie lifts his right pant leg and reveals a prosthetic leg. He takes it off and Stix puts it away.

They both strap themselves in as the plane RUMBLES AND ROARS FOR TAKE OFF!

EXT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

The music crescendos up as the Pallbearers load the casket into the hearse. The door closes shut as the...

EXT. IRELAND PRIVATE AIRPORT - NIGHT

Plane lands in stormy Ireland. The wheels screech with the chimes of the church organ as Deutchie touches down in his motherland. The rain bathes the plane of it's travels.

EXT. CEMENTARY

CROWDS surround the casket as it is lowered into the ground. The pipe organ echoes through everyone's soul as their loved one is lowered into the ground and retired to oblivion.

Roses are tossed while JJ stands center. Her **SIBLINGS**, two men and one woman, stand with her--the family is here.

INT. RENTAL CAR

Stix drives Deutchie to a green mountain scape that on this wretched night is as black as the sky.

DEUTCHIE

Stop here.

Deutchie grabs his cane and opens the door.

DEUTCHIE (CONT'D)

Go back to the airport. Duck is waiting for you.

STIX

I thought I was coming with you?

DEUTCHIE

This is as far as your journey with me will go. You're a family man now, my friend. Be the father you were meant to be.

Stix can't help but shed a tear through his smile.

STIX

When you land back in the states,
I'll be there to pick you up.

DEUTCHIE

That's how I know you're ready.

Deutchie offers up a wink and then closes the car door. He knows that day will never come.

EXT. IRISH ROCKS - NIGHT

The car drives away and Deutchie turns and stares into the darkness of the night. A crack of lightning ERUPTS through the sky and Deutchie faces the stone pillars seen earlier.

He takes out the picture from earlier, admires it, and puts it back safely where it was.

INT. JJ'S CAR - HOME

JJ returns home from the funeral with the boards of pictures in her back seat. She takes out the envelope Deutchie gave her.

She takes her fingers and slices right through the seal. Before she fishes out the contents, she waits a moment and remembers her brother's request. She tosses it on the dashboard and taps her fingers against her steering wheel.

She can't stop herself and she snatches the envelope back and empties the contents: A letter. She reads. Her face morphs into something horrible as she realizes where her brother has gone and what he has done.

EXT. IRISH ROCKS

Now in the center of the rocks, Deutchie waits. The rain pours down and cleanses his soul while the storm rages around him.

After a few moments, thunder SHAKES the mountain and lightning STRIKES the pillar in front of him, summoning...

THE LADY OF DEATH

Who stands before Deutchie.

LADY OF DEATH
Robert Daniel Winther II.

DEUTCHIE
The lore says you're all knowing--

LADY OF DEATH
I am timeless.

DEUTCHIE
You must--

THE LADY OF DEATH LETS OUT A BANSHEE CRY THAT ALMOST KNOCKS DEUTCHIE OVER.

LADY OF DEATH
You have come to me because you seek another chance. Do overs are impossible. Your brother's death is inevitable.

DEUTCHIE
That's not what I want.

The LADY OF DEATH FLYS UNTIL SHE IS MERE INCHES FROM HIS FACE.

LADY OF DEATH

LIAR! I see through you Robert. You are a successful man whose made a business out of, how you mortals say, bullshitting each other. But I also see in your soul. You are empty. Hollow. I feel sorry for you.

DEUTCHIE

I don't need your pity. I need your power.

LADY OF DEATH

A unbreakable bond. Between this time and the past. Irreversible.

DEUTCHIE

I don't intend to come back.

The Lady of Death smiles.

LADY OF DEATH

This isn't about your brother. No, no not at all. This is about something far more raw. Yes, yes, I see it now. A time distant from ours, almost otherworldly. Regret is as timeless as I, there is no remedy.

DEUTCHIE

No, but now I know the symptoms.

LADY OF DEATH

Say it.

DEUTCHIE

Say what?

LADY OF DEATH

Give me your oath and the deal will be made. You know what is at stake and you wish to gamble it, that is on you. I am but a humble servant.

DEUTCHIE

You have my word.

LADY OF DEATH

Close enough.

At that moment, the LADY OF DEATH STRIKES HER CLAW DOWN UPON DEUTCHIE'S FACE, GASHING HIS CHEEK CLEAR OPEN.

LADY OF DEATH (CONT'D)
BLOOD FOR BLOOD IS THE ONLY WAY!

Deutchie falls over but he never meets the ground. He falls endlessly like Alice in her rabbit hole until he comes CRASHING out of the darkness and onto a mattress.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

This is the room from earlier. Deutchie sits up and pants as though he had the wind knocked out of him. He runs into the bathroom and...

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

He flicks the light switch up and he looks at his reflection but the dried scar isn't the oddest thing about what he sees.

Starring back at Deutchie is him but from another time, he moves his arms and hands and begins to feel his torso as 18 year old Robert Daniel Winther II stares back at him. This moment interrupts as PERSON #1 breaks through the bedroom door with paper towels.

INT. BEDROOM/BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Person #1, **CASSANDRA 'CASSIE' HAAS** (18) bolts her head around trying to look for him.

CASSIE
Deutch!

DEUTCHIE
I'm in here. I'm fine, I'm fine. It stopped.

Deutchie flicks the light off to hide the aging of his scar.

CASSIE
Oh thank God!

The two hug and kiss.

DEUTCHIE
Let's just, let's go back to bed,
huh?

CASSIE
That's all I want right now.

They kiss again and Cassie gets into bed.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

DEUTCHIE
Just checking to make sure I didn't
lose something.

Deutchie picks up his 1974 letterman jacket and out of falls
a the picture from the funeral! He sighs a sigh of relief and
covers the picture up again in the jacket.

CASSIE
Did ya?

DEUTCHIE
Nope, it's here.

He climbs into bed and two kiss some more.

DEUTCHIE (CONT'D)
I'mma call it a night. I feel like
I've been thrown around all over
the place.

CASSIE
I swear you're the only person I
know who ever cut themselves
sleeping.

She gives him one last goodnight kiss.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Try not to cut me next.

He rolls on his side and the look on Deutchie's face is that
of shock as he stares out his girlfriend's window into the
night as the rest of the city of Philadelphia sleeps in 1974.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END