

QUANDARY

by

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INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

EVAN WEBB, early 30's, a hopeless frat guy who never outgrew immaturity, opens his eyes. Squints.

There seem to be multiple, distorted images as he looks around the simple, bare, unfamiliar room.

BRIDGETTE SKELWYN, late 20s, magnetic, round eyes, charges towards him. Swings at him.

BRIDGETTE

Where are they, what have you done
with my children?

EVAN

Your children? Whoa, lady! Look,
I'm sure we had an awesome night,
and we should totally do it again,
but I really should be...

He reaches for the front door. No doorknob. He whirls around.

EVAN (CONT'D)

What is this, what's--

BRIDGETTE

Please, don't hurt me.

EVAN

Why would I hurt you?

BRIDGETTE

Why else would you bring me here?

EVAN

You brought *me* here!

TIM "TINY" BLATT, late 30's, a huge, spray-tanned bodybuilder, comes towards them out of nowhere.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Oh God.

(to Tiny)

Listen, buddy, I didn't know she
was married, I swear.

(to Bridgette)

Please tell your very large husband
I didn't know.

BRIDGETTE

(whispers)

I don't have a husband.

TINY
 (southern drawl)
 Guessing y'all woke up the same as
 me, not knowing where you were?
 Hell of a quandary we got ourselves
 into. I'm "Tiny". Tiny Blatt.

EVAN
 I'm Evan.

BRIDGETTE
 Don't tell him your name!

EVAN
 Why not?

BRIDGETTE
 None of us should be trusting...
 any of us.

TINY
 That's your right, ma'am. Now, I've
 already tried the front and back
 doors.

EVAN	TINY (CONT'D)
No doorknobs.	No doorknobs.

TINY (CONT'D)
 Right.

EVAN
 So, what, someone has taken us all
 hostage? Trapped us here?

TINY
 Seems to be the case...
 (looks around)
 Yep.

BRIDGETTE
 Have you gone into the rooms?

TINY
 Not yet.

They hear someone crying.

ROCSI TACHIN, 15, the epitome of lost youth with her emo
 attire and pregnant belly, sits on the ground, her head down
 a few feet away.

EVAN
 It could be a trick.

BRIDGETTE
It's not a trick...
(moves towards her)
It's a child... a pregnant child.

TINY
Are you hurt?

Suddenly, LUCINDA ZUMBADO, 55, stocky, wide-eyed, lunges at Tiny from above. She lands on him, cursing as she beats him.

LUCINDA
(in Spanish)
Die, Bastard, die!

Tiny spins with her on his back as she continues beating.

TINY
Hey! Heyyyyyy!

EVAN
This must be the maniac, grab her
arms--

BRIDGETTE
(grabs at her)
I got you now!

TINY
(throws her off him)
Get off me!

Tiny towers over her. She jumps up and down nervously.

LUCINDA
You can't keep us here, I refuse to
be an inmate!

BRIDGETTE
No, he's not... we thought you
were.
(to Tiny, taking him in)
Are you sure you aren't?

TINY
No!

LUCINDA
Prove it!

TINY
You *prove it*. You jumped on me from
the... the ceiling or...
(looks up)
(MORE)

TINY (CONT'D)

Where the hell did you come from?
If anyone is suspicious--

LUCINDA

I jumped on you... *to protect her.*
She's having her babies soon.

TINY

Babies? How many?

ROCSI

Who knows.

EVAN

Well, how far along are you?

ROCSI

A week.

Evan looks at Rocsi's large stomach as Lucinda helps her up.
He glances at Bridgette. That's... weird.

LUCINDA

Her name is Rocsi. I'm Lucinda.

TINY (O.S.)

I'm starving. Anyone else starving?
(turns to go)
It's a house right, there's got to
be food in the kitchen or
something. Y'all hungry?

BRIDGETTE

Don't you think we should
concentrate our energy on finding a
way out of here?

TINY

Can't find a way out if we starve
to death.

EVAN

I could... eat.

Bridgette gives him a look. Rocsi pushes past Bridgette.

ROCSI

You think there's any chocolate? Or
candy? I think it's called a
craving or something.

They all follow Tiny into the...

KITCHEN

They look around at the nondescript kitchen. It's the basics.
They try to open the refrigerator. It doesn't budge.

TINY

The bastards glued it shut.
(looks closer)
This is some sick shit. I ain't
never--

BRIDGETTE

They glued it... ?
(pulls it)
What the fig fuck, who seals a
refrigerator shut?

EVAN

A psychopath. A calculating
psychopath.

BRIDGETTE

Like the Long Island Napper, you've
heard of him? He knocks his victims
out and traps them--

ROCSI

I remember that one from the TV!
Only one person ever escaped.

EVAN

It's not the Long Island Napper, he
only goes after women. What would
he want with us? It doesn't fit.

BRIDGETTE

Are you saying that serial killers
have to follow some kind of
protocol?

TINY

Whoever it is, when we get loose,
I'm gonna round up all my friends
and invade his space.

EVAN

You sound real tough, but all your
tough talk isn't doing anything to
get us out of here, is it?

BRIDGETTE

Okay, let's think this through,
what do we all have in common?

ROCSI
Girl, I hope nothing.
(grips stomach)
Ow!

LUCINDA
Yes?

ROCSI
(breathes through it)
Not yet.

TINY
So, what are we supposed to, just
not eat?
(loud)
Is that the plan, you trying to
starve us to death?

BRIDGETTE
What are you doing?

TINY
They got to be watching us, right?
Through hidden cameras, maybe?

Tiny stops, a stand-alone, black, glossy closet-looking thing
catching his eye.

TINY (CONT'D)
What is this?
(sniffs)
There's food in there!
(starts to go in)
I'm going in.

EVAN
(grabs him)
Wait, don't! You don't know what's
in there.

TINY
It's food, I can smell it, I told
you.

Tiny shakes him off. Goes into the...

CLOSET-LOOKING BOX THING

It's like a sleek funhouse where Tiny sees his reflection on
the side. He smiles. Makes a goofy face.

He comes upon a pile of food. Then more. He grabs a pile.
Shovels it into his mouth.

TINY
There's piles of it in here, y'all.
There's...

Something on the ground catches his attention. He looks down.
It's a dead, rotting body.

Tiny screams as he becomes entangled in the body. Suddenly,
he gags. Drops dead beside it.

BRIDGETTE (O.S.)
What's going on in there?

BACK TO KITCHEN

Bridgette turns back from glancing inside the box.

ROCSI
What's that smell?

They sniff the air. They all stare as a fine, misty cloud
rises in the dining room. It's eerie. Surreal.

It starts towards them. They begin to choke.

EVAN
They're trying to gas us! Bring
your ass, Tiny!

They run out of the kitchen. Down the hallway. Into...

BEDROOM #1

They jump when they come in to see corpses dangling from
amber-colored, sticky walls.

They scream. They turn to go, but see the smokey cloud
gathering outside which keeps them in.

Rocsi reaches out to the walls. Lucinda swats her hand.

LUCINDA
Don't touch.

They stare up at the bodies as Evan and Bridgette check the
windows. The windows are sealed, with blinds pulled down.

BRIDGETTE

No latches. No way to even open them.

LUCINDA

What about the blinds?

EVAN

(looks in disbelief)

The blinds are on the outside of the window.

ROCSI

We're going to die here, aren't we?

EVAN

I'll be damned if I died here.

(beats on window)

Let us out you asshole... *assholes?*

ROCSI

I'm so hungry.

(plops down, pouting)

Me and the babies are hungry.

LUCINDA

(whispers prayer)

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners--

EVAN

Hey, speak for yourself, I ain't no sinner. Keep that religious shit out of this.

ROCSI

I appreciate your prayers, Lucinda.

BRIDGETTE

Maybe that's why we're here.

EVAN

What?

BRIDGETTE

Maybe we deserve it. Maybe this is punishment or hell or...

(turns to Evan)

What's the worst thing you've ever done?

EVAN

Look, we don't have time for games.
I thought you wanted to get out of
here--

BRIDGETTE

I do--

EVAN

Okay then...

LUCINDA

Are you afraid to answer?

EVAN

Answer what?

BRIDGETTE

What are your sins?

LUCINDA

I bet he's attacked people--

EVAN

Attacked... ?

ROCSI

You haven't?

EVAN

Well...

BRIDGETTE

Well...

EVAN

Maybe. But, it was self-defense.

BRIDGETTE

(snorts)

Self-defense.

EVAN

Oh, yeah, what about you?

BRIDGETTE

Me?

EVAN

Yeah, you! You know, I've known
women like you--

BRIDGETTE
Women like *me*, what is that
supposed to mean--

ROCSI
I've annoyed people. Stuck around
too long. Outstayed my welcome.

BRIDGETTE
Well, that isn't so--

ROCSI
And I've shit in people's food.

BRIDGETTE
Oh!

LUCINDA
I have too.

BRIDGETTE
Do you two know each other?

EVAN
Okay, it wasn't self-defense, I
ambushed the guy.

BRIDGETTE
What do you mean, "ambushed"?

LUCINDA
Rocsi!

Evan and Bridgette turn, surprised to see Rocsi attached to
the top of the sticky wall with the corpses.

She is face down, licking the wall hungrily.

ROCSI
It tastes like candy, like a fruit
roll-up or something.

LUCINDA
No, stop, don't! Get down from
there.

ROCSI
Can't. Stuck.

A vibration sound comes from Rocsi as she continues to eat.
It soon becomes overpowering.

EVAN
What is that?

Evan and Bridgette look at each other. Then at Rocsi, realizing the sound is coming from her.

EVAN (CONT'D)

The babies...

They watch as a cluster of white, slimy balls come from between Rocsi's legs. They slide down slowly.

Cracking noises, and then the white balls begin to hatch. Dozens of maggots crawl out. Get stuck on the sticky wall.

Lucinda seems to be drawn to the maggots. She rises in the air. Attaches to the wall and begins eating the maggots as they fall out of Rocsi. It's a disgusting scene.

BRIDGETTE

(sobs)

Oh God.

Evan and Bridgette watch in horror as Lucinda gets stuck, still eating the maggots with her tongue.

Then, they hear a flap as the window blinds spring open O.S. They both slowly turn their heads to look.

A huge eye peers in, filling the whole window. It focuses on them. Terror overcomes them.

They turn to go, running into Tiny who is pulling himself through the door, twitching, one eye open, looking like a monster.

TINY

Help... me!

They scream. Gas is blasted again, the awful, smoky cloud.

Tiny, Lucinda, and Rocsi choke, still stuck on the sticky wall as Evan and Bridgette run into the...

HALLWAY

Evan and Bridgette run down the smokey hallway, covering their faces.

They become lost in the cloud. Spin around, scared, unsure of where to go.

They stumble through an open door. Into...

BEDROOM #2

Evan and Bridgette struggle to see as they enter. He loses sight of her as the smokey cloud turns flashing blue.

EVAN

Hey...

Then... ZAP! and SIZZLE!

EVAN (CONT'D)

Hey! You okay?

He rushes through the smoke towards Bridgette's moans. Runs right into the blue light, which electrocutes him.

He falls out beside Bridgette.

BEDROOM #2 - LATER

Groggy, Evan tries to open his eyes. Everything is smokey. Blue. Bridgette, who is lying beside him, is on her side.

Neither move, just stare into each other's eyes. They're weak, defeated. This feels like the end.

BRIDGETTE

I'm not a perfect angel... I left them.

EVAN

What? Who?

BRIDGETTE

My babies. *My kids*. I used to carry them on my back, took them everywhere with me. Then, one day, I just... I abandoned them. Left them on the side of the road. I don't know why I did that, why did I do that? Am I bad?

EVAN

You're not bad.

BRIDGETTE

Are we-- ?

EVAN

No!

BRIDGETTE

But, we've bitten--

EVAN
Only a few times.

BRIDGETTE
Stalked...

EVAN
Yes, but--

BRIDGETTE
I don't want my babies to hate me.

EVAN
Maybe it's not too late.

BRIDGETTE
(laugh cries)
"Not too late"? We're trapped in a
serial killer's--

EVAN
Presumed...

BRIDGETTE
"Presumed" serial killer's house,
so I'm not sure I share your
optimism. If I could go back,
though, I would. I wouldn't just
leave them. I would be a good mom.

They hear a door open in the living room.

BRIDGETTE (CONT'D)
Was that-- ?

EVAN
The front door.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Evan and Bridgette struggle out of the hallway into the
living room, coughing as they drag themselves.

They see the front door is open. They stare at each other.
The window gets dark as the big eye looks through.

It wanders, looking for a target.

EVAN
Did you mean what you said?

BRIDGETTE
About--

EVAN

About being a good mother, did you mean that?

BRIDGETTE

Yes!

The eye focuses on them.

EVAN

Then, go!

BRIDGETTE

What?

EVAN

Go out the door. I'll distract him.
Go!

Evan rises. Striking at the window at the eye. While the eye is distracted, Bridgette runs to the door.

BRIDGETTE

My name is Bridgette, by the way.

EVAN

Be a good--

Foam squirts from the wall, drenching Evan before he can finish. He falls to the ground. Twitches on the floor.

He dramatically takes his last breath as Bridgette makes it out the door.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bridgette runs out. A big shadow descends upon her.

A large shoe (the source of the shadow) comes down on her, squashing her.

The shoe kicks her off his shoe, causing her corpse to roll under a large table.

We see now that Bridgette is actually a spider.

INT. STORE - DISPLAY TABLE - SAME

Up to the OLD MAN, the owner of the eye and the shoe.

On his shirt, a tag says, "BugEnd".

OLD MAN

As you can see, all dead. Every
single one of them. Dead.

(holds up products)

Get your BedEnd, kill all your
household pests!

He smiles.

Over to the house, where we now see that it's a small display house on top of the large table at the end of an aisle. A little sign in the front that says, "BugEnd, kill all your household pests."

All the products that were used to kill them are beside the small display house: Bug spray, bug bombs, sticky fly paper, electric bug zappers, and roach motels.

Over the top of the display house, to all the bug corpses that litter the house.

Evan, who we now see is a spider, lies twitching in the foam.

BEDROOM #1

The maggots are still, some still hanging from between Rocsi's legs, who we now see is a fly, and out of Lucinda's mouth, who is also a fly.

KITCHEN

Over Tiny, who is stuck in the roach motel because he's a roach.

Back out to...

EXT. HOUSE/INT. STORE - SAME

CUSTOMERS grab different bug products in a rush as the Old Man's smile stays.

THE END