

Sleep No More

Episode #105
"The Friend"

Written by
Marguerite McHenry

Inspired by
"Macbeth"

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Michael and Jesse stand on opposite sides of his room, their HEAVY BREATHING the only noise in the room.

Jesse has a red mark on his face as if he has just been hit, he touches the mark gingerly and winces. Michael glares at him, no remorse in his eyes.

JESSE
So this is really how it's gonna be?
I mean, Christ Michael! You're my
best friend.

Michael blinks at him, then crosses the room toward Jesse. Jesse watches him come closer with a hopeful smile.

Michael passes Jesse and opens the door, motioning him toward it with a sarcastic smile.

Jesse sighs and picks up his bag, walking out.

He turns around in the hallway to make one last plea.

JESSE (cont'd)
You're my best friend, man. My
fucking best friend.

Michael shuts the door in his face.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
There are times in my life where I
have to wonder, "How the fuck did I
get here"?

Michael walks to his desk and grabs a bottle of pills, dumping a couple into his hand.

MICHAEL (V.O.) (cont'd)
There was a time in life where Jesse
was my friend, my best friend. My
only friend if I am being honest.

He looks down at the pills, his hand shaking slightly.

MICHAEL (V.O.) (cont'd)
But even best friends can switch
sides in the fog of war.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Michael and Jesse stand blindfolded in a line with a few other unlucky recruits. Ryan stands in front of them, flanked by MUSCULAR BRO and TATTOOED BRO.

MUSCULAR BRO
Alright bitches, open your mouths.
We've got a present for you.

The recruits reluctantly open their mouths.

TATTOOED BRO
(cheerily)
Tongues out!

Ryan steps forward and begins making her way down the line, placing blue pills on the tongue of each boy.

She comes to the end of line, Jesse takes the pill easily.

RYAN
Don't swallow yet, it works best if
you let it melt.

Ryan turns toward Michael, he backs away.

RYAN (cont'd)
Relax Beck, its just a little
hallucinogenic.

MICHAEL
How do you know my name? Who are you?

Michael begins to remove his blindfold. In an instant, the two frat bros are on him.

TATTOOED BRO
Whoa there! What the fuck do you
think you're doing?

MUSCULAR BRO
You take that mask off, you're dead
bro. Now open up!

The bros pry Michael's jaws apart. Ryan rolls her eyes and places the pill on his tongue.

RYAN
You boys are always so... medieval.

She pats Michael on the cheek and moves away, pocketing the extra pills.

RYAN (cont'd)
Should start working in 30 minutes or
so.

Ryan heads for the door as the frat bros start taking the blindfolds off the recruits. Michael shakes off the dudes and pulls his blindfold off himself.

TATTOOED BRO
Oooh, feisty!

MUSCULAR BRO
So how we know when it kicks in?

Ryan smirks, pausing in the doorway.

RYAN
You'll know.

Ryan waves mockingly at Michael, blowing a kiss before she leaves.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Michael stands unsteadily on the couch, breathing heavily.

EXT. BUILDING ROOF - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Michael stands on the edge of the roof, preparing to jump.

He takes a deep breath, preparing himself.

Suddenly, Jesse bursts onto the roof.

JESSE
Bro! What are you doing? Get down
from there!

Michael looks back and laughs. He bends his knees, preparing to jump. As Michael jumps, Jesse rushes over, catching the edge of his t-shirt.

As Michael disappears from view, Jesse gets pulled with him. The two boys fall, hitting the ground with a THUD.

They check themselves for injuries.

MICHAEL
Bro, we're okay!

JESSE
We're better than okay! We're fucking
invincible!

Michael and Jesse hug, still lying on the ground.

The sound of LAUGHTER brings us back to the present:

INT. FRAT HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER (FLASHBACK)

Michael and Jesse hug on the carpeted floor, almost cuddling
due to their proximity.

The tattooed frat bro records them on his phone while
Duncan, the muscular frat bro, and several other look on and
laugh.

DUNCAN
What the fuck did you give them?

MUSCULAR BRO
Ryan gave them some of her hybrid
shit.

DUNCAN
Remind me to never take anything from
the Weird sisters, they're too
hardcore.

TATTOOED BRO
Yo, look at them! What the fuck are
they doing?

Duncan turns his attention back to Michael and Jesse who are
now play fighting and giggling. The frat bros laugh.

INT. SCHOOL BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Jesse steps out of a classroom with a crowd of students.

He checks his text messages. His last text from Michael is
from three days ago.

VOICE
Hey Jesse, wait up!

Jesse looks back and sees that Mackenzie is the one calling
him. He steps out of the rush of the crowd and waves.

Mackenzie makes her way over to him.

MACKENZIE

Hey!

JESSE

Hey kid! What's up?

MACKENZIE

Nothing much, I just got out of Bio
and I... I don't know, I just-

Mackenzie looks down, embarrassed. Jesse steps forward and smiles, reaching his hand out toward her.

JESSE

Hey come on, you know you can tell me
anything.

MACKENZIE

Yeah, right. I just, I've been
looking into my brother's death and
it just doesn't add up.

Jesse drops his hand, embarrassed, he clearly thought something else was going on.

JESSE

If there's some kind of foul play
going on wouldn't the police figure
it out?

MACKENZIE

I took my evidence to the police,
they wouldn't listen to me. Ever
since they realized he had drugs in
his system, they won't listen to
anything anyone says. We have to find
some evidence they can't ignore.

JESSE

We?

MACKENZIE

I need a man on the inside. Whatever
happened to my brother, it happened
inside the frat. And besides, I trust
you.

JESSE

You do? That's, that's good.

MACKENZIE

Yeah. So anyways, I got a text from
Kailen Weird and apparently they were
at the party.

(MORE)

MACKENZIE (cont'd)

I was going to meet them at 1 but I just realized I have a study group, do you mind going and seeing what you can find out?

JESSE

Yeah sure, I've been told I'm basically a hotter Sherlock Holmes.

MACKENZIE

Well you're definitely hotter than Benedict Cumberbatch, I'll see you later yeah?

JESSE

Yeah, definitely.

Mackenzie walks off, Jesse watches her go with a smile.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Jesse pushes a book cart through the aisles of the library while Kailen sits on top. As they pass through the rows, Kailen places books on the shelves.

JESSE

So what? You eat through the snacks upstairs, Mark tells you where the secret snack stash is downstairs, and you find Duncan's body on your way down?

KAILEN

Yeah but that's not the best part. I wasn't alone.

JESSE

Who was with you?

KAILEN

Guess.

JESSE

Kailen.

KAILEN

I'll give you a hint: Starts with 'M', ends with 'K'. Sound familiar?

JESSE

Malik? I thought he had mono the night of the party.

KAILEN
No idiot, your buddy Michael.

Jesse pulls the cart to an abrupt stop. Kailen scrambles to keep the books in her arms from falling.

JESSE
Michael didn't find out Duncan was dead until he didn't show up for his speech on Monday morning.

Kailen shrugs with a lazy smile.

KAILEN
Look, I'm just telling you what I saw.

Jesse's face turns thoughtful. All of the sudden, he turns and starts jogging away.

KAILEN (cont'd)
(shouting)
Hey! I thought you were gonna help me finish this cart!

From all corners of the library, students turn and shush her.

INT. FRAT HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Jesse pounds furiously at Michael's door, his chest heaving. He waits a second then knocks again. Michael opens the door midway through Jesse's banging.

MICHAEL
Dude, what the fuck? I was studying!

JESSE
You knew Duncan was dead?

MICHAEL
What?

Jesse barges past Michael into the room.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Michael sits at his desk laughing, while Jesse stands near the door looking pissed.

MICHAEL

So let me get this straight, your girlfriend, no sorry, your "friend" sent you on a wild goose chase to find out info on Duncan's death and now you're here, to what? Accuse me?

JESSE

If you knew he was dead and still went on with the campaign, you're an awful person and if you had something to do with it-

Michael jumps to his feet, incensed.

MICHAEL

Whoa whoa whoa! That's a big accusation to make when you don't know shit!

JESSE

So explain it to me! Tell me what's going on!

MICHAEL

What's the point? You couldn't even begin to understand what it's like.

JESSE

Oh don't tell me this is about that fucking "chip on your shoulder" shit.

MICHAEL

See! I told you, you just don't get this shit. You're too privileged to even fathom that life could be hard for someone like me!

JESSE

I'm not saying that your life wasn't hard Michael! Everyone's life is hard, I'm just trying to understand what the fuck your "rags to riches" story has to do with you being seen near Duncan's body the night of the party! All it shows is that you're just as obsessed with Duncan and his money as you ever were.

At Jesse's words Michael raises his hand, slapping Jesse in the face.

MICHAEL

Fuck you man!

JESSE

Fuck you!

Jesse pushes Michael back towards his desk. Michael swings at him, Jesse ducks out of the way just in time. He backs up, breathing heavily.

They size each other up.

FADE OUT.