

Champagne

By

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INT. CAR IN PARKING LOT OF NURSING HOME, EARLY AFTERNOON

NOAH, a heavy set man in his mid-40s, looks a bit like he's been hit by a truck. This "I'm a mess" look is more akin to a disheveled Tony Soprano than a "hot grungy rockstar".

He sits inside his beat up car, dents covering the exterior. He looks outside the windshield. He stares, in a trance, at the young MOTHER, a blonde woman in her 30s, and SON (7) exiting the building.

The mother playfully nudges the boy's hair and the boy ignores her affection as he types on his iPhone.

Interrupted by a ray of light shining intensely through the windshield, obscuring his vision of the mother and son, Noah snaps out of his trance.

Noah takes a deep breath, looks at the clock (1:30)

Noah looks over at the passenger seat and scoffs at the built in BREATHALYZER next to the steering wheel.

He then spots his FLASK, shakes the empty contents, sighs, places it back down, and exits the car.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF NURSING HOME, EARLY AFTERNOON

Noah walks to the entrance and enters the building

INT. NURSING HOME, EARLY AFTERNOON

Noah walks into the nursing home. Immediately he is greeted by LORRAINE (40), a small but confident British nurse's aid worker.

Lorraine is basically the human manifestation of a ray of warm sunshine--she wouldn't harm a fly-- as seen by her concerned furrowed brow---soon followed by a sympathetic smile as Noah walks closer.

LORRAINE

Today's the big day. Lilyan's been talking about it for the past three weeks

NOAH

Yea, sounds like her

LORRAINE

(beat) Well, I'm sure he'd be proud that you decided to come out today

(CONTINUED)

NOAH

I'm just here for mom.

LORRAINE

She actually just finished eating.
She should be in her room

NOAH

(beat) She's lucky to have you.

LORRAINE

(as Noah turns and walks away)
Likewise

Noah walks down the hall until he spots LILYAN'S room (#116). Outside of her room, next to the number, a small sign above the patient's name reads THIS IS LILYAN PECK'S ROOM, in bold capital letters.

Noah stares at the sign and chuckles in disbelief.

INT. LILYAN'S ROOM, EARLY AFTERNOON

Noah enters the room. He takes in the sight of his mother, LILYAN (85), a small and feeble old woman enveloped in blankets at the center of her bed.

Peeking out of the blankets is a fanciful WEDDING GOWN covering the length of her body, complemented by a pair of fake large DIAMOND EARRINGS in her ears.

The TV is on and a wedding video is playing---it's Lilyan's. She seems to be entranced by the tv.

Surrounding the room are tons of photographs of Lilyan and Noah's father. It looks like a shrine.

Noah walks closer and pulls out a chair from the desk next to her bed and sits down, the wedding tape playing in the background.

NOAH

Hi Mom

LILYAN

Simon and I were radiant

NOAH

If that's what you want to call it

Lilyan does not acknowledge Noah's words. She continues to stare entranced by the tv.

(CONTINUED)

LILYAN

I was the belle of the ball, and he-- well I always knew he liked me.

Noah looks over at her nightstand. On it, rests a picture of Lilyan, him, his dad, and sister.

NOAH

You know mom, Laurie is actually in New Mexico now.

Lilyan stares blankly back at him and continues to go on, ignoring him

LILYAN

Freddy, next door, well he eventually told me that Simon had the hots for me. I pretended to be surprised.

Lilyan continues to stare blankly back at him

NOAH

Yea we've heard the story a million times

Lilyan continues to stare whistfully at the video

LILYAN

I always caught him staring at me in class (beat) I knew right then and there.

Noah, unamused, shifts uncomfortably in the seat. He is sweating.

NOAH

(beat) It's humid in here.

LILYAN

Oh and we danced. How we loved to dance. We played Connie Francis' "I Love You Truly" all night until I learned that song backwards and forwards.

Noah gets up and opens a window, visibly growing redder and sweating.

LILYAN

(singing) I love you truly. Truly dear I do. I love you truly, truly...

(CONTINUED)

Noah sits back down in the chair and breathes heavily, growing more and more agitated.

LILYAN

Where is Simon? Is he still out parking the car? That man takes so long just to park a car. I always tell him--it's just right in between the two lin-

NOAH

(laughing) Simon's dead mom. Has been for five years now. That's why I'm here today remember? Because you want to memorialize your precious memories of him on the anniversary of his death.

Lilyan stares back blankly, not understanding

NOAH

Hey I'm ready to celebrate. I'm ready to throw a fuckin' party. Where are the balloons? Where's the fuckin' cake?

LILYAN

He should be here any minute now. He's just late--that's all

NOAH

(laughing) "Late". That's a good way to put it.

Defeated, Noah pushes in his chair, shuts off the tv playing the wedding video, and hastily walks out of the room and out of the building.

EXT. NURSING HOME PARKING LOT, AFTERNOON

Noah walks to the car and opens the door.

INT. CAR IN PARKING LOT OF NURSING HOME, AFTERNOON

Noah takes one look at the empty FLASK and slams on the gas. He drives to the nearby LIQUOR STORE.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF LIQUOR STORE, AFTERNOON

Noah gets out of the car, slams the door, and enters the store.

INT. LIQUOR STORE, AFTERNOON

Noah walks quickly down the aisle. He spots a bottle of JACK DANIELS and picks it up.

FLASHBACK (INT. LIVING ROOM OF 1960S FAMILY HOME. NIGHT)

A young Noah (10) sits on the living room couch watching cartoons.

Suddenly, SIMON (40), your typical balding drunkard dad, hobbles on over, clearly intoxicated, holding a bottle of JACK DANIELS.

SIMON
(motioning to Noah) My shows are on

NOAH
Where's mommy?

SIMON
Who knows, probably still fuckin
crying in the bathroom or something

SIMON(CONT.)
Come on get up

NOAH
(tracing his finger around his eye)
It was all black and blue there

SIMON
You wanna match mommy's face too?

INT. LIQUOR STORE, AFTERNOON

Noah snaps out of the flashback. Gritting his teeth, he picks up the bottle of JACK DANIELS, when all of a sudden he spots a 1968 MOET CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE the next aisle over.

FLASHBACK (INT. KITCHEN OF HOME IN THE 1960S), NIGHT

Lilyan (48) dances to "I Love You Truly", whirling around the room. She cheerfully begins to dance with a begrudging Noah (18) around the room, spinning and spinning. Noah lets go of her grasp.

(CONTINUED)

NOAH

Mom, what are you doing? What is all this?

LILYAN

What? Your mother isn't allowed to have fun?

NOAH

But I don't understand. Dad--

LILYAN

Oh he always does this. He'll be back in a couple of hours. I wanna practice my moves for when he comes home.

NOAH

But you can't just pretend like--

Ignoring Noah, Lilyan saunters on over to the kitchen, grabs two champagne glasses, and a bottle of MOET CHAMPAGNE. She fills them up to the top, grabs both full glasses, and walks over to Noah.

She hands Noah the other full glass.

LILYAN

You can be my dance partner instead. Would you like that? Just us two tonight?

NOAH

Mom...

LILYAN

(whimsically toasting) To the two of us. My son. My darling darling son.

INT. LIQUOR STORE, AFTERNOON

Noah snaps out from his flashback. He looks down at the JACK DANIELS and sets it back down on the shelf. He then walks over to the champagne isle and spots a '68 MOET CHAMPAGNE.

He picks it up and heads to the register. Behind the register stands the living fossil, RALPH (late 70s), an extremely old man in glasses.

He stares skeptically at Noah's purchase, and then back up at Noah as if looking for a response.

(CONTINUED)

NOAH
(Beat) Something new

RALPH, shrugging, rings up the champagne.

Noah grabs his purchase and quickly exits the store.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF LIQUOR STORE, AFTERNOON

Noah walks to the car, with his purchase in hand.

INT. CAR IN PARKING LOT OF LIQUOR STORE, AFTERNOON

Noah rests the bag of champagne down, knocking the flask over. He then slams on the gas, reverses out of the lot, and drives back to the nursing home.

INT. CAR IN PARKING LOT OF NURSING HOME, AFTERNOON

Noah abruptly pulls into a parking space, grabs the champagne, and exits out of the car.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF NURSING HOME, AFTERNOON

Noah quickly walks into nursing home.

INT. NURSING HOME, AFTERNOON

Noah rushes past the nurses aids, bottle of champagne in hand and ends up back at Lilyan's room.

INT. LILYAN'S ROOM, AFTERNOON

Noah enters the room, out of breath. He sees Lilyan resting in bed, right where he left her last, surrounded by the SHRINE OF SIMON. He looks down at the bottle, ready to open it, but he's missing something...CUPS.

He frantically looks around the room, surveying every corner. Finally, he lands on the BATHROOM, with the door open ajar, he spots plastic cups resting on the sink next to a toothbrush and toothpaste.

INT. LILYAN'S BATHROOM

Noah grabs two plastic cups from the sink. He rests them down.

Noah points the CHAMPAGNE cork towards the sink, and opens the bottle as it overflows into the sink.

Noah pours the CHAMPAGNE into one of the plastic cups, leaving the other one empty, and heads on over to Lilyan's bedside.

INT. LILYAN'S ROOM, AFTERNOON

Noah takes in his mother's presence. She is withering away in bed, old, and feeble.

Noah sits down next to her, two cups still in hand.

Apprehensively, Noah hands Lilyan the full cup of champagne and holds on to the other.

Lilyan stares back at Noah in the same blank and unrecognizing way as before

Noah waits for Lilyan to take a sip...finally, after it seems like an eternity has passed, she does.

Lilyan's face visibly lights up as she tastes the champagne. She smiles at Noah. Now there is recognition in her eyes.

LILYAN

I love you.

Noah smiles back at his mother, warmly.

Noah's smile fades as he looks back at the photograph of the family on her nightstand. He turns it over.

Lilyan takes another sip of champagne and looks up at Noah.

LILYAN

(beat) I know.

Noah looks back at Lilyan quizzically, waiting for her to explain her strange response.

LILYAN

I know he wasn't good to you.

LILYAN (CONT.)

(beat) I know he wasn't good to us.

Noah stares intensely back at his mother. Overwhelmed with emotion, his eyes begin to tear up.

He looks over at the large bottle of CHAMPAGNE and back at his mother.

He looks over at the other cup--EMPTY

He focuses now on Lilyan's eyes and slowly reaches out to hold her hand.

FADE TO BLACK as "I love you truly" plays into blackness

(CONTINUED)

THE END