

DICKY

Written by

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EXT. GRAVE YARD - MYRA'S FUNERAL - DAY

RICHARD MAXWELL, 34, in a Marine dress uniform, stands in front of a casket, surrounded by flowers.

Richard pulls a photo from his pocket, kisses it, and sets it on top of the casket.

He looks back at CONNER HAHN, 36. Conner nods at the GRAVE MAN, 50, who carries a shovel.

Richard watches as the faces of his wife, son, and himself become covered in dirt. He walks away.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

HELEN MAXWELL, 36, stands outside on the walkway, she looks around her and picks at her red nail polish.

CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER is heard in the distance, helen looks toward the noise.

INT. HELEN'S BATHROOM - DAY - FLASH BACK

Helen sets a white NEGATIVE pregnancy test on the bathroom sink.

She covers her face and CRIES, mascara drips down her face. She slams her hand down on the sink, knocking the test onto the floor.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Helen looks back down at her hands and frowns. She enters the courthouse.

INT. HELEN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

A hand with red nail polish hands a bottle of whiskey through a cracked door. Richard closes the door.

RICHARD  
Thanks, Sis.

Slumped over the sink, he wipes tears from his face. He looks in the mirror.

UNCLE MILO (O.C.)

Yeah... Rich is a mess. Well, you blame him? God, she was so young-- Who, Eli? Ah, I don't know. I don't think he has it in him.

Richard opens the medicine cabinet and snatches a bottle of pills. He downs the whole bottle, chasing it with scotch.

He glares in the mirror and punches it. His image shatters.

INT. DINER - DAY

Conner sips at his coffee. He sits across from ELI MAXWELL, 3, who wears a ninja turtle shirt, at a booth, next to a window.

Conner watches as Eli eats a bowl of cereal.

CONNER

Is that any good?

ELI

Yep! But... Mom's pancakes are the best.

CONNER

I know, bud.

Eli plays with his spoon and he looks up at Conner.

ELI

Where's dad?

Conner takes a swig of his coffee. He looks out the window beside him.

INT. MAXWELL BEDROOM - DAY - DREAM

MYRA MAXWELL, 30, laughs on a bed of white sheets. She reaches for Richard.

Richard smiles. He tries to grab Myra's hand. When he touches her, she and the room disintegrate.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Helen sits by a hospital bed. Richard wakes and looks at Helen.

HELEN  
Dicky, I'm taking Eli.

Helen looks at her hands. Richard wipes the sleep from his unshaven face.

RICHARD  
What the hell are you talking  
about, Helen?

HELEN  
With me, he'd still be with family.

Helen stands up and paces.

RICHARD  
Where's Eli? Where is he?

HELEN  
For Christ sake. You tried to kill  
yourself, Dicky. You can't see him  
right now.

Richard, connected to the IV, tries to move. He cries.

RICHARD  
So what, Sis, you think you can  
just take him from me? You can't--  
Get the fuck out!

HELEN  
Watch me.

Helen exits. Richard lays back and covers his eyes.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - NIGHT

A DOCTOR, 40, approaches with a clipboard. Conner and Helen sit. Eli plays with a tower of blocks.

The blocks tip over. Eli cries. Helen grabs Eli rough by the wrist, scolding him. Conner scowls.

DOCTOR  
Conner? Conner Hahn?

CONNER  
Yes. Is everything okay?

DOCTOR  
Mr. Maxwell is doing fine. He asked  
to speak with you.

The Doctor turns to exit. Conner follows.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Richard, pale, lies in bed. Conner enters and sits.

CONNER  
Hey, man... You look like shit.

Richard laughs and shuffles in his bed.

CONNER (CONT'D)  
How you feelin'?

RICHARD  
I'm better.

Conner nods. Richard looks away for a moment.

RICHARD (CONT'D)  
I-I don't know if I can do this.  
Eli... He needs his mom. And Helen,  
she--

CONNER  
As long as we've been friends,  
Helen's always been jealous of you.  
You had a family. If God wanted  
that for her, she would have had  
her own.

Conner shakes his head. Richard's eyes fill with tears.

RICHARD  
But Myra--

CONNER  
Myra would have wanted you to be  
there for Eli-- Not Helen. You.

Conner pokes his finger at Richard's chest.

CONNER (CONT'D)  
You got this. I'll be there for  
you. You aren't alone, man.

Richard cries. Conner stands and hugs Richard.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY - MORNING

Helen walks with a woman SOCIAL WORKER, 40. The Social Worker carries a stack of paperwork.

Helen guides her to Richard's room. They enter.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY - MORNING

Helen and the Social Worker stand by Richard's bed.

HELEN

Just sign them, Dicky. Don't make it harder than it has to be.

Richard looks at her, disgusted.

RICHARD

You're fucking crazy, Helen.

Helen looks at the Social Worker.

HELEN

See, I told you he's unstable. Especially with his wife gone.

RICHARD

Don't you dare talk about Myra!

Richard sits up.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

You gave me the alcohol! Those were your fucking pills!

The Social Worker frowns and turns to Helen. Helen panics. She looks at Richard.

SOCIAL WORKER

I think I've got everything I need for now. I'm going to do some further investigating. Feel better, Mr. Maxwell. I'll be in touch with you soon.

The Social Worker scowls at Helen and exits. Helen looks at the floor.

RICHARD

Mom and Dad would be so disappointed... Get the fuck out, Helen.

Helen bumps into the Doctor as she exits. The Doctor enters, he holds a clipboard. Richard smiles.

The Doctor smiles at Richard. He looks through his papers.

DOCTOR

I see you're feeling better today.  
Looks, like you passed your mental  
health survey also.

RICHARD

Yes. Where's my son?

DOCTOR

In the lobby with Mr. Hahn.

RICHARD

Can you send him in?

Richard grabs a teddy bear from a table. The doctor exits.

Conner and Eli enter.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Hey, buddy! Mommy wanted me to give  
this to you...

Richard hands Eli the teddy bear. Eli, sad, and examines it.

ELI

You was with Mommy this whole time?

Richard nods. Eli, sad, picks at the teddy bear's ears.

ELI (CONT'D)

I'm hungry-- I want pancakes,  
Daddy. And toast, an-and pickles.

RICHARD

Whatever you want, Bud. Let's get  
outta' here.

Conner and Richard laugh.

THE END