

DEATH'S PARTY

by

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Birds twitter outside the window as a young boy (around 11 or 12) sleeps peacefully in his bed, the headpost reveals his name is STEWERT. He is stirred awake by an alarm playing the birthday tune - He picks up his phone and turns it off. STEWERT, in a sleepy daze, rolls off his bed and onto the floor. He remains in the sleepy daze.

A woman's voice is heard.

WOMAN (OC)

Stewart! Are you awake?

Stewart stirs with a small groan.

WOMAN CONT'D

I have chocolate chip pancakes!

Stewart's head shoots up, now fully awake.

STEWERT

(In a high pitched,
singsong voice)

Coming Mother!

INT. BEDROOM/HALLWAY/STAIRS - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Stewart proceeds to jump to his feet and clumsily rush out of his bedroom and downstairs. Halfway down the stairs, Stewart stops in his tracks, turns around and makes his way to the bathroom.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Still shot of the bathroom door as we hear splashes in the toilet, and then a flush

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Stewart runs again down the stairs and into the kitchen, jumping over a chair action-man style and plonking himself down at the table. At the same time, a plate of STEAMING PANCAKES is placed in front of him by his MOTHER, the woman heard before. She runs around and wraps him in an awkward sitting-standing hug.

MOTHER

My beautiful boy is turning 12! Oh
time goes so fast, soon you'll be
graduating high school and then
university and then getting married
and then -

She stops hugging him and looks intensely into the distance, a grim look on her face.

MOTHER CONT'D

- Dying

STEWERT

Whoah woah woah. Mum calm down I'm only 12, none of that is happening any time soon ok.

MOTHER

Oh, I know, you're just growing up so fast and -

Mother starts crying. stewert smiles and begins eating his pancakes, he's used to this. The DOORBELL RINGS.

STEWERT

(In a singsong voice)

I'll get it!

INT. FRONT DOORWAY - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

Stewart gently places down his cutlery and SKIPS to the door. He opens it to reveal a TALL FIGURE wearing a motorbike helmet, leather Jacket and carrying a duffle bag. His smile is instantly turned upside down and his eyes squint intensely.

STEWERT CONT'D

Oh. Frederick, it's been a while.

FREDERICK

How could I miss my little brother's birthday!

STEWERT

You have no business here. Good day sir.

Stewart begins to shut the door, when mother appears beside him.

MOTHER

Freddie!

FREDERICK

Hello Mum!

Stewart follows frederick with his squinted eyes as the mother and son hug.

MOTHER

Come inside, I have chocolate chip pancakes!

Frederick takes off his jacket and places it on a chair near the front door, then follows them inside.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - MINUTES LATER

Stewart continues staring at frederick with the same expression as he eats his pancakes.

STEWERT

So. You're here for my birthday, is that it!

Stewart thrusts himself up, kicking his chair back and placing one hand firmly on the table, the other pointing at Frederick -- interrogation style. Several OBJECTS on the table shake.

MOTHER

Oh, Stewart don't be so dramatic.

He slowly sits back down.

FREDERICK

Yeah, stu. All I wanted to do was give you this.

Frederick lifts his duffle bag onto the table and places an equally obnoxious bow on the top. The brothers stare at eachother.

MOTHER

Awwwwww how sweet! Let me get the camera.

She scurries out of the room.

FREDERICK

(Not breaking eye contact)

Great idea Mum, you wouldn't want to miss this. Go ahead, open it.

STEWERT

Maybe I will.

The two boys stare at eachother for a while, when their Mother makes a sudden re-entrance.

MOTHER

OK! I got the camera!

She stares at them both.

STEWERT

Sorry mother, how unfortunate, the present has disappeared.

His mother looks closely at the clearly not-disappeared bag on the kitchen table.

MOTHER

Are you OK Stewey?

She feels his forehead.

MOTHER CONT'D

Maybe you should go lay down.

Stewart physically jumps to the suggestion. Scurrying away as he speaks.

STEWERT

Splendid! Once again an excellent idea from my dear mother, see you in a bit!

Stewart leaves the kitchen, and stomps loudly up the stairs.

MOTHER

He's acting strange...

FREDERICK

Indeed. Tea?

MOTHER

Oh, yes please darling, eight sugars.

As the mother and son fuss over tea, we see Stewart sneaking down the stairs and into the entrance. Stewart then grabs Frederick's jacket and slips into the closet room.

INT. CLOSET/BATHROOM - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

The muffled voices of his mother and brother are heard in the other room. He frantically searches through the pockets of the jacket. In a small inner pocket, he finds what he's searching for. An unfolded piece of paper shows a letter from the Australian Secret Intelligence Service: Showing Frederick's task (As an assassin) to murder his younger brother.

STEWERT

(Whispered)

Crap. I knew It.

The voice of his older brother/assassin is heard louder as he approaches the room. Stewart frantically tries to hide the jacket anywhere he can. He ends up putting it on as Frederick opens the door.

FREDERICK

What are you doing in here? With my jacket?

STEWERT

Just trying it on, you know I've always admired your style. Hehe...

It's too late, they both know that they both know. Stewart removes the jacket and scurries up to his room.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING - MINUTES LATER

Stewart sits on his bed. His Skype ringtone is heard on a laptop. He lifts it onto his lap and answers. We see his best friend, LUCY.

INTERCUT - SAME TIME -- INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM

She blows a party blower at the camera (webcam). We see her, then, sit back in her desk chair and begin wrapping a gift. Her room shows that she is clearly much cooler than Stewart, with movie posters, drumsticks and flannel shirts strewn across the room.

LUCY

Happy Birthday Stewart!

Despite the shocking news, he smiles when he sees her.

STEWERT

Hey Lucy.

LUCY CONT'D

So, did you get those world famous chocolate chip pancakes I've been hearing all about?

Stewart says nothing.

LUCY

Stewart? Are you Ok?

STEWERT

I have something to tell you and it's very important.

LUCY

Umm, sure OK, what's wrong?

Stewart takes a deep breath.

STEWERT

My brother has been hired by the Australian Secret Intelligence Service to assassinate me.

LUCY

I KNEW that bastard was up to something.

She starts pacing around the room.

STEWERT

Yeah, I know. You've been telling me that like every day.

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON - YEARS BEFORE

We see Stewart and Lucy sitting at the kitchen table doing crafts. Frederick enters the room, and Stewart quickly stands to introduce him. Lucy and Fred shake hands. Fred then leaves, and Lucy leans in to Stewart.

LUCY

(Whispering)

That bastard is up to something.

INT. STEWERT'S BEDROOM - PRESENT - MORNING

STEWERT CONT'D

What am I going to do?

She thinks for a second.

LUCY

I'm coming over. In the meantime,
hold tight and don't trust anything
suspicious, OK?

She hangs up. He nods to himself and shuts the laptop.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - MINUTES LATER

Stewart walks down the stairs, faking a yawn. He enters the Kitchen.

MOTHER

Do you feel better Darling?

STEWERT

I think so. I feel much better.

FREDERICK

Good. Now you can open my present!

Stewart looks at the present. Lucy's words ring in his ears.

STEWERT

Maybe I should have some tea first.
T-to wake up.

Frederick shows his anger as the gift is removed from the table and replaced with a large cup of tea.

MOTHER

Here you go.

Stewart nervously takes a sip, and then his head hits the table. He lays motionless.

EXT. BLACKNESS

Darkness for seconds, then Stewert blinks awake to find himself in a black abyss. In the distance, a small section is decorated for a party.

STEWERT

Huh?

VARIOUS VOICES

(whispering)

He's here, he's here, etc.

Stewert stands up and looks around - the darkness continues all around. A SHADOWY FIGURE steps out of the darkness.

FIGURE

Hello, Stewert.

STEWERT

(carefully)

Hi, uhh What happened?

The Figure gently puts his hand on Stewert's back, encouraging him to walk and talk. He jumps slightly, but follows.

FIGURE

(a beat, then)

You managed to avoid Frederick's delightful little gift prank, but he was smart, he poisoned your tea.

STEWERT

I'm DEAD?!

FIGURE

I'm afraid so. I'm death, and this is purgatory.

He gestures around the space.

STEWERT

This is insane...

DEATH

It is a lot to take in.

They walk in silence for a while, then:

STEWERT

This place. It's not much, is it.

DEATH

It is quite boring, but we did our best with the decorations.

Stewert and Death approach the small party setup. We see a CAKE with the words: "Happy Birth/deathday Stewert"

DEATH (OC)

We don't usually do this, but it
was your birthday, and your brother
killed you, so that's pretty rough.

Cut to black

STEWERT (VO)

You're telling me.

END OF EPISODE ONE