

A Life Worth Living
by
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RAY

And remember, it's not premarital sex if you don't intend on getting married.

BRAD

You're sure you're not Mormon.

JASON

Positive.

Jason scans back for Brooke. He finds her in a heated argument with a very drunk Keith.

JASON

Who is she?

Ray sees Brooke.

RAY

Her. Nothing but trouble.

JASON

So hostile. Did she shoot you down, Romeo?

RAY

Hey, we all have our quirks and idiosyncracies. Brooke comes from a family of Jerry Springer sized issues.

BRAD

If you came from the Reynold's clan you'd be whacked, too. It's a mystery Brooke hasn't climbed a water tower yet.

ACROSS THE FIRE

Keith suddenly swings. He hits Brooke in the face. Jason bolts.

RAY

Leave it alone!

Jason is already there. He floors Keith with a solid right.

JASON

Get up. C'mon! You looking to hit someone then you got me.

Keith is helped up by his two friends, RYAN STOLTZ and ANGEL RODRIGUEZ. Ray and Brad hold off Jason.

JASON

Get off me.

RAY

Ease off. It ain't worth it.

ANGEL

Better get country outta here quick, homes.

JASON

You looking for some rumbling I'll oblige you, too.

RAY

Chill, Angel. This doesn't concern you. My frisky friend and I were just leaving.

Teens gather as Brooke gets up. Her eyes lock with Jason's as she rubs her bruised face.

JASON

Are you okay?

Everything around them blurs. Jason's heart rends at the tears in her eyes.

JASON

We can take you home.

KEITH

She's staying here.

JASON

Not asking you, pussy.

Brooke looks hesitantly at Keith than back to Jason.

BROOKE

I'm fine. You better go.

ANGEL

You heard the lady, kick rocks.

RAY

Keep talking smack and I'll break that jaw. Brooke softly mouths the word "go" to Jason.

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JASON

Fine. Okay. We're gone.

(to Keith)

You lay hands on her again I'll
beat you down. Believe that.

EXT. PARKING LOT (BIG BEAR) - NIGHT

Jason, Ray and Brad head for their cars. Brad glances nervous
back.

BRAD

I was so wrong. You and Brooke are
perfect for each other. You're both
major trouble.

JASON

What was I supposed to do?

RAY

I told you, leave it alone. None of
your business.

JASON

Watch a girl get smacked around.
That how you handle it around here?

BRAD

You never get involved in domestic
disputes. Even cops avoid them.

JASON

You tell me those two are married
I'll slap you.

BRAD

Hell no, this is Illinois not
Alabama. Incest is illegal, here.

JASON

You're shitting me. They're family?

BRAD

If you're hot to get in her pants
you didn't score points with her
big brother.

JASON

So much for brotherly love.

RAY

I told you. The whole family is looped. Keith drinks more than a fish and has a nasty temper. Parents are drunks. When daddy isn't gambling he takes time to smack around his kids.

JASON

Like father like son.

BRAD

Do us all a favor and steer clear of anyone with the last name Reynolds.

JASON

Maybe.

RAY

Not maybe, bro. Nothing but pain going that route.

EXT. PARKING LOT (STEVENSON) - DAY

Jason heads for his car. He sees Brooke with Ryan. Their eyes briefly meet before she gets into their car. Jason looks around at his car. He spots Ali standing by a group of goth teens. Ali!

JASON

She waves before she breaks away from her new friends.

JASON

Where'd you meet the funeral procession? Bite me.

ALYSON

Ali hops in the car. Jason mouths "bite me" with a shocked look.

EXT. BIG BEAR LAKE (DREAM SEQUENCE) - NIGHT

[note: This scene is blurry, surreal.] Jason looks across a bonfire and sees his ex, Stacy, swaying to a sultry beat. As he comes closer, she moves further away. Stacy seems to fade, her hair shimmering from red to blonde. Still swaying, Brooke now dances where Stacy was. Jason moves in close. Brooke seems to smile at him. As quickly as it came, the smile fades into a frightened look. Brooke's face lurches as she was struck. She hits the ground. With tears in her eyes, Brooke looks up at Jason. A bruise