

BOY

Written by

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EXT. PATIO - DAY

1

A pair of French windows looking in on an unlit kitchen. The day is overcast. Nothing moves inside.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A cross stitched pumpkin sits on a beige shelf.

2

INT. HALL - DAY

2

A dark hall, the doors of which are shut. A framed photograph lies face down on a chest of drawers. Another sits behind a plant, hidden from view. On the hall stand sits a newspaper; we cannot see its cover.

Danny (19) sits anxiously by the front door, waiting. For what, we don't know. He is dressed in a hoodie and joggers.

The doorbell rings. Danny stands, glancing at his phone. He waits a few long moments, not wanting to seem too quick to answer.

Eventually, he goes to open the door. We watch him from behind, looking out at Mark (30s), dressed in a buttoned shirt and trousers.

MARK

Hey.

DANNY

(breathy)

Hi. Mark, is it?

MARK

Yeah, and you're...

Mark reaches to check his phone. Danny doesn't give him a chance.

DANNY

Danny.

MARK

Danny, yes.

An awkward pause. Mark frowns, confused by Danny's hesitance. Danny shakes his head and steps back.

DANNY

Sorry. Come in.

A dark brown kitchen with a seventies design. A pair of French windows look out onto a vast garden.

Danny fills two glasses with water, and joins Mark at the table.

MARK

Nice place, by the way. You really live here?

DANNY

(fast to reply)

No, I'm only staying here. House-sitting.

MARK

House sitting?

DANNY

Yeah. I'm in between places at the moment.

MARK

Got lucky with this one, huh?

Danny takes a long drink. Mark watches him. He is getting slightly impatient.

MARK (CONT'D)

Are you staying upstairs?

A pause.

DANNY

Do you want something stronger?
There's wine, I think.

He gets up. Mark looks a little disappointed.

MARK

Sure.

Danny makes his way over to the fridge to retrieve a bottle. Mark, distracted by a sound outside, goes over to the french windows to look out onto the garden.

MARK (CONT'D)

God, what a view.

DANNY

Nice, isn't it?

MARK
How long're you staying here?

DANNY
Couple weeks.

Mark joins Danny back at the table, fixing him with a stare.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(awkwardly)
Do you mind me asking? Have you...
well, do you do this much?

MARK
I've been around.
(beat)
Guessing you haven't?

Danny takes a long sip of wine.

DANNY
Have you come from work?

MARK
Yeah. Do you work?

Danny hesitates.

DANNY
Student?

DANNY (CONT'D)
Yeah.

MARK
Where do you go?

DANNY
Kings.

MARK
Studying?

DANNY
Maths.

MARK
Clever boy.

Danny stirrs.

MARK (CONT'D)
What? Don't like me calling you
boy?

DANNY
I don't mind it.

Mark smiles.

MARK
Have you been with a guy before,
Danny?

Danny doesn't respond.

MARK (CONT'D)
Ah.

DANNY
It's not like that.

Mark hesitates.

MARK
(slowly)
It's okay. Everyone has to start
somewhere. I know I was late to the
party. Do you know what you want?

Danny's gaze falls to the floor.

DANNY
I don't know. Something quick?

MARK
Quick? That's no fun.

DANNY
I don't want fun.

MARK
Your profile said quite the
opposite.

Danny shrugs.

MARK (CONT'D)
(irritated)
Do you want me to go?

Mark glances at the door. Danny hurriedly puts a hand to
Mark's arm. It's enough to stop Mark from getting up.

MARK (CONT'D)
How old are you again?

DANNY
21.

MARK
God, you're young.

Another pause. Danny looks away, desperate for something to say.

DANNY
You said you were late to the party too?

MARK
Yeah?

DANNY
How late?

Mark gives him a look and Danny's expression goes hollow.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Sorry. Just curious, I guess.

MARK
Well, Danny, I was about your age. Bit older maybe. But things were different. I was more reckless for starters.

DANNY
Reckless?

MARK
Stupid really.

DANNY
How so?

MARK
Does it matter?

A long pause. Danny shrinks into himself. Mark leans forward slowly.

MARK (CONT'D)
(gently)
I suppose, it took me to dark places.

DANNY
Like what?

MARK
Like parks, Danny.

DANNY
I didn't know people still did
that.

MARK
Well, they do. But things are also
different now.

DANNY
You're not *that* much older than me.

MARK
Enough for things to have changed.

DANNY
I don't know.

MARK
I do.

DANNY
Well-

MARK
(fed up)
Are you enjoying your wine, Danny?

Danny takes a long drink of wine. Mark watches him. He puts
the glass down slowly.

DANNY
What now?

MARK
You tell me.

4 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

4

A plain, old-fashioned bedroom with colorful curtains and a
large double bed. The scene is a one-shot taken through the
doorway.

Danny shows Mark inside.

MARK
This is where you're staying?

DANNY
Yeah.

MARK
Where's all your stuff?

DANNY
Don't have much.

Mark frowns.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Most of it's in storage.

MARK
Where are you from originally?

DANNY
Not far.

MARK
London?

DANNY
Just outside.

Marks steps closer to Danny, walking him backwards into the bed.

MARK
You know, you're cuter than your pictures.

Danny smiles, embarrassed. His face is close to Mark's.

DANNY
Yeah?

Mark kisses him. For a long moment, they make out. Danny pulls away.

DANNY (CONT'D)
(breathlessly)
One sec.

He starts to leave. Mark gives him a look.

MARK
Finished already?

DANNY
You're funny.

5 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

5

Danny sits on the toilet, face in his hands. He can't breathe. Pulling off his hoodies, he looks at himself int he mirror. Finally, he leaves.

6

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

6

Danny returns to the bedroom to find Mark on the bed with his feet up. He is fiddling with a condom packet. Mark smiles and looks up.

MARK

I thought you'd run away.

He tosses the condom onto the bedside table. Our focus holds on the condom for a moment.

Without hesitation, Danny climbs onto the bed and kisses Mark. For a few moments, they make out, but Danny's apprehension becomes increasingly obvious.

MARK (CONT'D)

(irritated)

What?

DANNY

Huh?

MARK

You're all tense.

DANNY

No, I'm not.

MARK

I think maybe I should go.

Mark sits up.

DANNY

(a little breathless)

No, don't. Please.

MARK

Settle down, boy.

Mark puts a hand on Danny's chest.

DANNY

(snaps back)

Don't call me boy.

(beat)

Sorry. I just... I'm... new to this.

Mark leans back.

MARK

Yeah, alright.

He stares at Danny a moment.

MARK (CONT'D)

You know, I don't normally go for a twink.

DANNY

Twink.

MARK

You don't like it?

DANNY

I don't know.

MARK

And?

DANNY

Nothing.

MARK

As twinks go, you're cute.

Mark leans in and kisses him. Again, something's off about Danny's demeanor. Mark pulls away.

MARK (CONT'D)

What now?

DANNY

What?

MARK

You're pissed off. What is it?

DANNY

Forget it. Let's just continue.

MARK

I don't know...

Mark sits up again and starts to put his shoes on. Danny looks over at him with vulnerable eyes.

DANNY

Where are you going?

MARK

Leaving.

DANNY

Now?

Danny rushes after mark.

7

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

7

The following scene is a one-shot. Mark walks hurriedly out of the bedroom and down the stairs. Danny follows closely behind him.

DANNY

Come on, stay a bit longer.

MARK

You know what? I'm good.

DANNY

We can skip the foreplay. We can just... you know...

MARK

I don't think we can.

DANNY

Why not?

MARK

You've made it fucking weird. I was weird at your age but I wasn't like this.

DANNY

Talk to me then. What can I do?

At the bottom of the stairs, Mark heads to the kitchen.

MARK

(half to himself)

Where's my bag?

He finds his bag by the kitchen table and slings it over his shoulder.

DANNY

What if we rearranged? I... I could come to yours.

MARK

No. I'm done.

Mark walks back through the hall to the front door. At the door, he turns to Danny and scowls.

DANNY

Mark-

MARK
(snaps)
You're just a kid, Danny!

DANNY
You're the one storming out!

Mark scoffs.

MARK
(controlled)
This was a waste of time. For both
of us.

He walks off.

8 EXT. DRIVE - DAY

8

Danny stands in the doorway, watching the space where Mark
had been. He doesn't move.

9 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

9

Danny washes the glasses and leaves them to dry by the sink.
He settles at the kitchen table on his phone.

There is the bang at the front door and he looks up.

DANNY
(calls)
Hello?

No response.

After a moment, Mum and Nina walk into the kitchen, mid-
conversation. Both are carrying shopping bags.

MUM
(to Nina)
Well, I'm sure it'll be better than
you think. These things always are.

Mum notices Danny.

MUM (CONT'D)
Danny!

DANNY
Hi, Mum.

MUM
Look who I bumped into.

Danny forces a smile.

DANNY

Nina!

Nina grins playfully.

NINA

I've come to crash your dinner
plans, Pumpkin!

Nina and Mum walk past Danny to the island.

MUM

She couldn't keep away from you for
one day, by the looks it.

Danny cocks his head back, self-conscious.

DANNY

Obviously.

Mum and Nina start unpacking the groceries onto the island.
Danny watches them from the table.

MUM

I hear your anniversary's coming
up.

DANNY

In a week, yeah.

Danny looks at Nina.

MUM

Any plans?

He looks uncomfortable at the question.

DANNY

Mum. It's none of your business.

MUM

(to Nina)

That means he's planning something
big.

DANNY

(disapprovingly,
embarrassed)

It does not.

Nina puts her hands up.

NINA
I have no expectations.

MUM
I do. You better take her somewhere
amazing!

DANNY
Mum!

MUM
How was school, Danny?

Danny sits back, giving up on the matter.

DANNY
Fine. I only had classes in the
morning.

MUM
Good, so you're not tired. The rest
of the bags are in the car. Be a
lamb, won't you?

Nina comes round to stand behind Danny, her hands on his
shoulder.

NINA
(teasing)
Yes, be a lamb, Danny.

She kisses him from behind. Danny rolls his eyes at the
comment but gets up.

10

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

10

Danny, Nina and Mum sit around the kitchen table eating in
silence. The sound of cutlery on china. Mum's phone buzzes on
the table and she glances at it. She scowls.

NINA
What is it?

MUM
More nonsense about that
Hargreaves.

NINA
Who, the MP?

MUM
(through a mouthful of
food)
Mmm hmmm.

NINA
He's awful, isn't he?

MUM
I don't think so.

NINA
He's basically a fascist.

Danny looks up from his plate.

DANNY
Who's this?

MUM
Marcus Hargreaves.

DANNY
Huh?

MUM
The education minister. Danny,
don't you read the news?

DANNY
You know I don't.

Danny fixes his eyes to the food. He is clocking out of the conversation.

MUM
He's trying to pass a sensible law-

NINA
Sensible?! He's trying to take us
back to the middle ages!

MUM
I think that's a bit strong...

NINA
He's nuts!

MUM
Somebody has to do something about
the current climate. He's trying to
bring some sense back to education.

Our focus is on Danny. Their conversation gets progressively quieter as the theme starts to play, getting increasingly louder

NINA

If we don't learn about sex, how
are we supposed to do it safely?

MUM

It's not about that.

NINA

So what's it about?

MUM

I don't know. Keeping kids safe?

We travel into the hall. The photo frames that Danny had hidden behind plants before are now in full view - pictures of him and Mum, and of Nina. We continue to hear Nina and Mum's conversation, fading into the music.

NINA

Well, I'm the one at school.

MUM

It's a generation thing.

NINA

I don't think that's fair..

On the hall stand sits the newspaper we saw in the first scene. We pause at it this time and see **Mark's** face on the front page. The headline reads, '"SEX ED - RETURN TO TRADITIONAL VALUES" - Marcus Hargreaves'.

We travel up through the house to the bedroom where Danny took Mark, to find Mark's condom still sitting on the bedside table, half open.

As the melancholic theme reaches its climax, our focus returns to Danny, zoned out at dinner as his girlfriend and mother continue their conversation.

TITLE PAGE: BOY.

The credits roll.

THE END