

Don't Make Me Stay!

By

Jim Fagan

77-20 Austin St, Apt 6E
Forest Hills, NY 11375
516-662-9924
james.fagan.iii@gmail.com

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - DAY

ZACH and CULLI are jogging on a beautiful fall day. Zach is decked out in all his aerodynamic jogging gear. Culli looks like he just rolled out of bed.

CULLI

So the neighbors knocked on our door and asked us if we thought we had any bed bugs.

ZACH

Whoa.

CULLI

Yah. So they called that dog. That Rosco dog. And he came over to look and see if we have any.

ZACH

Wow.

Culli stops running. Zach pulls up and jogs in place.

CULLI

So, the landlord says we gotta clear out of there for a little bit. You think I could stay with you and Sarah?

ZACH

Oh man, sorry, but my mom is coming into town for the weekend.

CULLI

From Australia?

ZACH

Yah. Hey, why don't you stay with Jim and Carolyn? They love having you over.

He pats Culli on the arm and runs off.

CULLI

Don't make me stay with Jim and Carolyn!

As the camera pulls away with Zach, we see the title wrapped around Culli's defeated stance:

DON'T MAKE ME STAY WITH JIM AND CAROLYN

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A finger pressing an apartment buzzer. A cookie tray being pulled out of an oven. A hand turning a doorknob.

CUT TO: CULLI IN DOORWAY

JIM AND CAROLYN answer the door. Carolyn wears her favorite apron while Jim is in an old man sweater.

Culli stands in the opposite doorway. He has a half finished 30 rack of cans of Rolling Rock and some clothes in a pillow case. He tries to hide his discomfort.

Jim and Carolyn are very enthusiastic in their sympathy. Carolyn holds a tray of cookies. Jim has a big glass of milk.

JIM
Hey there fella.

CAROLYN
Sorry you have bedbugs! I made you cookies!

Off of Culli's suppressed look of hatred:

INT. APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Culli looks at all the photos of Jim and Carolyn on the wall. There are at least 20 of them: sitting on Santa's lap, half naked at the beach, kissing selfies in 15 different locations. They have some kind of unhealthy narcissistic obsession with the fact that they're a couple.

JIM (PRELAP)
Look. Here's the deal with love.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A candle in an elaborate crystal candelabra. A plate of unappetizing salisbury steak and peas. Wine being poured.

Carolyn and Jim sit together on one side of the table, cheerily sharing and eating and chatting.

JIM
You keep looking for it you're never gonna find it.

CAROLYN
Marriage was meant for people like us.

Culli forces a smile through a plate full of peas.

JUMP CUT TO:

Jim throws down his napkin on his plate.

CAROLYN (CONT'D)

How are we going to have a baby we don't have any money?

JIM

What is that supposed to mean?

Culli stares blankly back at them, cutting the same piece of steak. Uncomfortable.

Jim is picking up pieces of food and throwing it off the table. Carolyn is chugging wine.

JIM (CONT'D)

There must be no food on the table because we're never going to have a baby because we're so poor!

CAROLYN

I should be drinking non alcoholic wine! I'll just have some non alcoholic wine so that we can have some kind of baby!

JUMP CUT TO:

Jim and Carolyn passionately make out over their meal. Carolyn gets handsy above Jim's shirt.

JIM (CONT'D)

Who's your big frog?

CAROLYN

You're my big frog.

They kiss in rapid fire.

Culli takes a long drink from his rolling rock, which he's nestled into one of the tea cups that's been set on the table for him.

In prelap, the sound of a shower.

INT. SHOWER - NIGHT

Culli is taking a shower. He hears a noise and pulls back the shower curtain to investigate.

Jim sitting down on the toilette.

CULLI

What? What are you doing!

JIM

Oh, sorry. I thought you were Carolyn. Don't worry I'm just peeing.

Carolyn comes in topless, brushing her teeth.

JIM (CONT'D)

Hey baby.

Culli tries not to look but really wants to.

CULLI

Can I get some...

Carolyn spits in the sink and turns on the water. Culli screams because the temperature changes as she walks out.

JIM

You know what? Now I'm pooping.

CUT TO:

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

Jim leads Culli up a ladder into the loft.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. LOFT - MOMENTS LATER

Jim and Carolyn show Culli his accommodations. It's a very tight space with slanting ceiling, overpacked with storage boxes. A huge picture of Jim and Carolyn kissing hangs over the bed.

JIM

So you have your own space...

CAROLYN

Stay as long as you like.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. LOFT - MOMENTS LATER

Carolyn swings a huge gate up, so that Matt can't get out. Jim locks it with a huge bike lock.

CAROLYN
Don't want you fallin' out of
there!

JIM
No! Snug as a bug! Night pal!

Culli pulls on the bars. They don't budge.

CUT TO:

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

Culli is trying to sleep in bed, but he hears extremely loud sex noises. He tries to ignore the large picture of them kissing above his bed as he hears:

CAROLYN (V.O.)
Just jimmy it in there!

JIM (V.O.)
I'm trying, it doesn't fit.

CAROLYN (V.O.)
No no, that's good, do that

JIM (V.O.)
There it is! Wait no...

CAROLYN (V.O.)
GOD JUST DO IT!

Off of Culli's look of terror we

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jim and Carolyn moving furniture.

Carolyn is lying on top of the bed that Jim is desperately trying to get into the corner of the room.

JIM

Well maybe if you weren't just lying there like a dead fish you could get off, grab it, and help me finish!

INT. LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Culli is looking out the locked bars, crying.

CAROLYN VO

Do I have to go get Culli in here to help?

JIM VO

No, don't wake him I can do it.

INT. LOFT - MOMENTS LATER

MUSIC: The soundtrack from the Shawshank Remdemption starts to play.

Culli removes the giant photo of Jim and Carolyn kissing from the wall. Behind it is a long tunnel.

Culli looks back and forth to see if he's being watched.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE - CULLI'S ESCAPE

Culli crawling through raw sewage.

MORGAN FRIEMAN FROM SHAWSHANK (V.O.)

Culli crawled to freedom through 500 yards of shit smelling foulness I can't even imagine.

INT. BATHROOM - (FLASHBACK)

Jim on the toilet spraying air freshener while Culli weeps in the shower

MORGAN FRIEMAN FROM SHAWSHANK (V.O.)

Or maybe I just don't want to.

INT. SEWER - SHAWSHANK

Culli falling out of a sewer.

MORGAN FRIEMAN FROM SHAWSHANK (V.O.)
500 yards.

INT. APARTMENT - (FLASHBACK)

Culli walks along the wall of photos of Jim and Carolyn, turns a corner, and comes upon Jim and Carolyn themselves with their faces in a big empty picture frame, laughing at him.

MORGAN FRIEMAN FROM SHAWSHANK (V.O.)
That's the length of 5 football
fields. Just shy of half a mile.

EXT. SWAMP - NIGHT

Culli falls out of the sewer tunnel into a swamp. Thunder and lightning. He rips off his clothes and holds his arms out to the rain, lavishing in his freedom.

Music swells as we

FADE TO BLACK.