

Todd (a screenplay)

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EDDIE

I- I live with a crow.

ABBY

What?

CUT FROM BLACK:

INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

EDDIE sits on his old raggedy mattress with his phone to his ear. Garbage, corn pops, feathers, and bird shit cover the floor around him.

EDDIE

A crow. You know like... the bird.

ABBY

You live with a crow? Is it alive?

EDDIE

Of course, it's alive. I woke up the other day with her pecking away at my feet.

Eddie says with a light chuckle. They sit in awkward silence for a moment.

EDDIE (Cont.)

And we got along so I kept her... Her name is Todd. She uh, laid an egg here so I'm taking care of her. Sweetheart?

Eddie looks up at TODD who is perched on her egg, in her nest, on the far side of the room. She tilts her head at Eddie with curiosity. After a long pause, Abby responds.

ABBY

They came from dinosaurs you know.

EDDIE

What?

Eddie's eyes light up in the wake of her positivity.

ABBY

Birds. They all came from dinosaurs.

EDDIE

Yea, yea that's right. You're such a smart kid. But did you know they navigate by following the moon and stars?

ABBY

Really? That's so cool!

Eddie begins to smile radiantly. Todd lets out a light CAW.

INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Eddie wakes up the next morning. He stands up, stretches, and looks at Todd, sprawled out on the couch eating dry corn pops from a cereal bowl while flipping through a copy of "Bird Weekly."

TODD

Morning Ed.

Eddie walks past unbothered initially before a concerned look crosses his face. Eddie turns to Todd.

EDDIE

Morning Todd. Where is your egg?

Todd shrugs her shoulders and pops another corn pop into her mouth without batting an eye at Eddie. EDDIE turns frantically and runs over to Todd's nest. TODD JR (a chicken egg with a face drawn on it) sits alone in the nest shivering. Eddie picks up Todd Jr carefully and holds out Todd Jr in front of her. Todd Jr looks at her with a freezing expression drawn on it with a sharpie.

TODD

What?

EDDIE

What!? What do you mean what? Todd Jr is freezing! They're gonna die if you don't warm them.

TODD

Edwardo, all I do every day is sit on the goddamn egg. It ain't hatching dawg.

Todd sits up and stretches.

TODD

In fact, I have a few errands to run so I'm gonna head out.

She stands and begins walking towards the window.

EDDIE

What!? You can't leave! You have a responsibility.

Todd scoffs and climbs up to the window.

EDDIE

Todd!

TODD

I'll be home for dinner don't you worry.

Todd jumps out the window and flies away. Eddie runs towards the window and stares out angrily.

EDDIE

TODD! Fuck!

Eddie looks down at Todd Jr in his hands.

EDDIE

We'll get you, warm buddy. Don't you worry.

CUT TO:

Eddie cracks an egg into a pan. It sizzles and splatters everywhere. We zoom out to see Todd Jr wrapped in a small blanket with a lamp over him on the counter behind the pan. Todd Jr doesn't look well. Eddie looks over to Todd Jr and sighs.

EDDIE

Come on little buddy. Don't you dare give up.

INT. EDDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eddie sits on his bed lightly sobbing into his hands.

CUT TO:

Eddie stands over the garbage can and looks down at TODD JR. He wipes a tear off his face before dropping him in the garbage. Eddie looks straight ahead with a defeated look on his face.

EDDIE

How the hell am I ever gonna take care of a kid if I can't even take care of a stupid egg?

CUT TO:

Eddie sits on the couch talking to Abby over the phone again.

ABBY

What will you do? When the baby comes?

EDDIE

I'll take care of it, and so will you when you move here. I'll even let you name it when it comes!

ABBY

What about my friends? Will I have to change schools?

EDDIE

What do you mean?

ABBY

I mean when I move. Will I still get to see Shyla anymore?

Eddie mouths the name Shyla with a confused look on his face.

EDDIE

Don't worry about all that stuff. You will like it here Abby. I promise.

ABBY

But what about Mom? I mean what do I tell her?

Eddie's tone shifts as he begins getting frustrated.

EDDIE

You'll tell her you want to live here with me and that you are old enough to make your own decisions.

Abby hesitates. She sounds startled as she speaks

ABBY

But won't she be mad? Or cry?

EDDIE

Do you not want to live with me? That's why I got this apartment. So you could be with me!

ABBY

It's just...

EDDIE

Just what? Isn't this what you wanted?

ABBY

I mean I thought-

EDDIE

You thought?!

Abby begins sobbing over the phone. Eddie wipes his face in frustration.

EDDIE

You know what Abby just forget it.

ABBY

Dad-

Eddie hangs up the phone. He sits down and rests his head in his hands, enraged before throwing the phone across the floor. TODD flies through the window and lands on the counter.

TODD

Hey Eddie. How are you?

Eddie turns and looks at Todd with rage in his eyes.

EDDIE

How am I? How am I- what like you care about others now?

TODD

Hey! What's going on?

Todd approaches Eddie slowly. Eddie stands up and gets in Todd's face.

EDDIE

Oh gee, I'm not sure maybe it's just that you left your egg to freeze and die!

TODD

Eddie calm down.

EDDIE

Calm down!? CALM DOWN!?

Eddie smacks Todd over the top of her head. Todd caws at him as she begins flying all around the room. Eddie starts swinging his arms around in an attempt to grab her. His arm swings around and wacks Todd

who goes crashing into the wall. Eddie's expression shifts to shock as he begins to panic. He kneels down and begins cradling her.

EDDIE

• Todd? Todd!

Eddie tries to wake Todd, who lets out a dying caw before going limp in his arms. He begins crying.

EDDIE

Todd?

FADE OUT

THE END