

The Big One Pt. 2 "Formalities & Friends"

By

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EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

The day is calm, the clouds hang in the sky, things are serene.

BRANDON walks toward us on the sidewalk, then past.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY (LATER)

People walk by, normal. Brandon then passes by.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY (LATER)

Brandon walks and stops, looking around. He's nervous, frightened. He watches his back. A car passes, indicating it's time to move, and he scurries off.

The day is calm.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY (LATER)

Objects are strewn about, yells and breaking glass are heard. Instead of nature, birds, wind filling the air, it's screaming, tires squealing, and sprinting footsteps surrounding.

Brandon runs, scared, into frame, chased by a DESPERATE MAN grabbing at Brandon's backpack. Brandon attempts to dissuade him and is pushed to the ground, as the man claws for the backpack.

Brandon falls to the ground, and the man stands up. He breathes heavily, clenching his fists as Brandon moves the backpack behind himself, defending it. The man stands to full height.

SAVIOR runs in, from a distance, spotting the attack. He raises his BAT, mid-jog, and swings down on the man, who goes down pathetically, painfully.

Brandon spins, shocked, and is terrified of this new, imposing figure. The Savior takes a step back, taking in his hit, then turns his gaze to Brandon. Brandon sits, poised. He tells Brandon to get somewhere safe, then turns back, to continue on his way.

Brandon stands, looking at the injured man, then looks away. He looks into the distance, pondering, then turns and runs back the way he came in, sprinting, panicked.

The man writhes on the ground, pain, desperation.

FADE TO: WHITE

(CONTINUED)

TITLE: THE BIG ONE

FADE TO:

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Fields of grass, blue sky.

Then we see Brandon, sorting through his backpack. He appears perturbed, upset. He sighs, and turns, looking away, to the horizon. He spots something.

He reaches back to his backpack, then pulls out binoculars, looking through to...

EXT. SCHOOL BUILDING - DAY (POV BINOCULARS)

WOMAN walks up to door, MAN following in-step behind her. Both breathe heavily, shaken. They are hard to make out perfectly from this distance.

She goes to open it, messing with something on the door, and he reaches towards her, placing his hand on her shoulder. She brushes it off, and he speaks to her a moment. She speaks quickly, succinctly. He acts like her loyal dog. He continually looks around, keeping watch.

He goes to grab her bag, and she grabs it from him, facing him. She grabs his hand, then hugs his arm quickly, then turns, walking in. He follows, hunched over and pitiful, beaten down, emotional.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Brandon puts down his binoculars, pausing. Hesitating.

He looks around, at the barren fields, the quiet day. He looks back towards the building. He takes a step forward.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Jason walks into frame, looking down at Brandon.

JASON  
...Get somewhere safe.

He walks out of frame.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

The grass blows in the breeze. Brandon is gone, and the field is calm again.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

JASON paces back and forth in the back, blathering on. Just venting.

"Oh shit, oh shit, those assholes, those pricks, they didn't get us, no, they got what they had coming, they..."

AUDREY stands still, facing out a window, a bleak face. She just listens.

He starts to wind down, and she begins to turn to him-

RUSTLE. A sound outside the door, in the building. The two turn to the door. They move to the door.

He leans against the wall next to the door, and she stands, facing it.

"What are you doing in here?!" She says, angrily.

Quiet.

"Nothing. I'm, just here." The voice returns, a man's. Sounds innocent.

"Who's there?"

"Me." The voice sounds closer.

"If you want something, we don't have that. We have nothing."

Footsteps. KNOCK. He's outside the door.

"Why are you here?" She's calm, level-headed.

"I didn't come in here with a reason. I thought it was empty."

"No. Why are you here, now? Now that you're here, and you know we're here."

"I just want to talk to someone. Look I'm right outside. I'm opening the door, so just, fair warning."

(CONTINUED)

He pushes open the door, and it swings to the wall. They stand, stationary. Nothing's changed. Except they know who they're talking to now. Jason leans against the wall, silent, looking at Audrey. She looks at the intruder, who's eye-line is inches from Jason's.

Brandon speaks first, knowing, guessing, that she won't.

BRANDON

Hi.

AUDREY

Hi, are you lost?

BRANDON

I'm alone. No, I know this building, I was a student. (about the building) Anthropology. Or something.

AUDREY

Yeah, you're lost.

BRANDON

Please. I know to keep my distance. Looks like you do too, but I can't be alone. Neither should you. I shouldn't be an enemy.

AUDREY

Why? Are you an enemy?

BRANDON

No, no I am not. I want to help.

AUDREY

I don't want help. I want the truth. Nothing more.

BRANDON

I want to be a friend. You and, and me. We need each other.

AUDREY

What's your name?

BRANDON

What does that matter?

AUDREY

I want to know.

( CONTINUED )

BRANDON  
Doesn't matter. I can defend  
myself. And I promise I won't lie.  
Not anymore.

Audrey looks like her expectations were just met. Yup, he  
shouldn't be trusted.

AUDREY  
Ok, Maybe I could trust you. And  
maybe, if you don't lie, you could  
trust me.

BRANDON  
I'm sorry. I lied a little.

AUDREY  
About what?

BRANDON  
I know you're there... I wasn't  
sure when to say, so, yeah, with  
the bat.

Jason looks at Audrey, who looks at Brandon. Jason shrugs  
and comes out, backing towards Audrey. Brandon recognizes  
Jason, and he doesn't let this be known.

Audrey starts speaking, nodding consistently, clearly tense.

AUDREY  
You knew he was there.

BRANDON  
I saw you guys come inside.

They face-off.

BRANDON (CONT.)  
I, want to talk.

AUDREY  
I don't want to talk.

BRANDON  
I can tell.

JASON  
Are you alone?

BRANDON  
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

AUDREY

No one hiding around the corner?

BRANDON

No, look I apologized- ... What will it take for you to listen to me?

AUDREY

Come in. Let's talk in here.

Brandon goes to speak, but considers it. He takes the risk. No going forward if you don't take risks.

BRANDON

Ok. You want my...?

JASON

Yeah, I'll take it.

AUDREY

Give them here.

Brandon takes his knife out, and holds it. He tosses it awkwardly onto the ground in front of him. She picks it up and they go inside.

Brandon is uncomfortable, standing there as Audrey gathers chairs and moves them around on the other side of the room. Jason watches him. Brandon doesn't appear phased. Just not used to being on this side of the confrontation. Out of control.

Brandon and Jason start a little small talk, the two at a distance, but talking.

Audrey moves chairs into place and Jason slides a chair to Brandon. Brandon takes it calmly and sits down, as Audrey continues moving things into place.

BRANDON

Thanks for listening. However much you will, I appreciate it.

JASON

How long have you been alone out there? If you are alone.

BRANDON

A couple days.

(CONTINUED)

JASON  
Just, hiding?

BRANDON  
Yeah. I, uh, I could use some sleep.

JASON  
We don't get much sleep, but, I can imagine more than trying out there after dark.

BRANDON  
What's your name?

JASON  
Jason.

As Jason says this, Audrey stands at the other end of the long table, ready.

AUDREY (TO JASON)  
Jason.

Jason stops, and moves away from the table,  
Audrey doesn't sit for a moment.

AUDREY (TO BRANDON)  
What's your name?

BRANDON  
What's yours?

AUDREY  
I asked first.

BRANDON  
You did. You ask a lot of questions.

AUDREY  
I have a lot more to ask.

She takes a seat.

BRANDON  
It's making me feel a little uneasy.

AUDREY  
Sorry, formalities.

(CONTINUED)



BRANDON  
What do you want?

AUDREY  
The truth.

BRANDON  
...Ok.

AUDREY  
Where have you been since the fall?

BRANDON  
The fall?

AUDREY  
Yes.

BRANDON  
Around. On campus- at apartments.  
Sorry.

AUDREY  
You a student?

BRANDON  
Was. Yeah.

AUDREY  
Who were you with?

BRANDON  
My roommate and, some friends.

AUDREY  
Why aren't you now?

BRANDON  
I didn't like many of them. They  
were his friends.

AUDREY  
Who's he?

BRANDON  
My roommate, Frank. He sorta  
brought everyone together.

AUDREY  
So Frank lead the group. How did  
you do it?

( CONTINUED )

BRANDON

Do what?

AUDREY

SURVIVE.

BRANDON

We found what we needed and traded  
for the rest.

AUDREY

Large group?

BRANDON

Enough, yeah.

AUDREY

That wouldn't be enough then. What  
aren't you telling me?

BRANDON

I'm trying to answer your questions  
truthfully, I want to tell the  
truth here.

AUDREY

Well maybe I don't like what I'm  
hearing. Maybe it doesn't sound  
realistic. Maybe I'm not buying it.

Brandon pauses. Exasperated, he leans back in his chair,  
trying another tactic.

He talks to Jason, lets him know who he is - the person he  
saved before.

BRANDON (TO JASON)

I know you.

JASON

You know me?

BRANDON

At the apartment complex, at 48.  
You, saved me.

JASON

Oh. Oh. You ok?

BRANDON

Yeah, I'm fine, thanks to you.

(CONTINUED)

JASON  
I'm, glad.

BRANDON  
You, still got the bat.

JASON  
Yeah. Yeah this has served me well.

AUDREY  
So, you know Jason.

BRANDON  
I, we met briefly.

AUDREY  
I didn't know you were such a hero.

JASON  
What can I say?

Brandon lessens the tension in the room, momentarily, then they continue with questioning. Audrey isn't phased.

AUDREY  
Why'd you leave?

BRANDON  
I didn't like those guys. I didn't want to do what I was doing anymore.

AUDREY  
Just guys?

Brandon nods.

AUDREY  
And what did you do?

BRANDON  
I found new groups and talked to them first, before anyone else dealt with them.

Audrey tilts her head. BEAT.

AUDREY  
Why did you bring up the guy in the room? Your "hero." You could tell I would've soon.

( CONTINUED )

BRANDON

I couldn't. Maybe you would've. But maybe you would've had him hit me with a bat.

JASON

I don't just do what she says. I make my own choices.

AUDREY

Jason.

Jason backs down.

BRANDON

Next question.

CAM: Whip-pans as they talk, from side, one to the other. Quick question, then answer.

Brandon sits calmly, just watching Audrey, who remains statuesque. He sits up a little.

BRANDON

You know, after everything, I'm glad we can just sit here and talk. Isn't it a miracle? That we can just sit here talking, not yelling at each other... threatening each other? Nothing. Just calm, collected conversation. Meanwhile people are begging for food out there, ordinary people, killing for scraps and they don't even see how much nicer things could be if they'd just sit and talk things through.

Audrey leans in.

AUDREY

You want to threaten me?

BRANDON

No.

AUDREY

I told you I wanted the truth.

BRANDON

Do you still?

(CONTINUED)

CAM: Whip-pans as they talk. This time, CAM goes back to Audrey whenever she starts talking again, and only is on Brandon briefly. He's in danger.

AUDREY

What did you do "after everything"?

BRANDON

I just tried to keep it together, I did what I had to do for Frank. Jason, you remember how scared I was-

AUDREY

Don't do that.

JASON (TO AUDREY)

Maybe he's ok Audrey-

AUDREY (TO JASON)

JASON.

He backs off, hesitantly.

AUDREY

You're using him to try to get on my side.

BRANDON

I just want to tell you the truth, let me talk.

AUDREY

You're the one who wants to talk, you're the one. You want to "negotiate," what you call it. Just saving yourself.

BRANDON

It's not about me... I'm the one what?

AUDREY

You like how things are now?

BRANDON

This place is hell.

AUDREY

You want to mess with us, you like it? Getting under people's skin?

(CONTINUED)

BRANDON

Wait, now wait.

AUDREY

How did you plan on this going?

BRANDON

I didn't have a plan, I didn't plan to trick you guy-

AUDREY

How many people have you done this to before?

BRANDON

I'm sorry, alright, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to when I came here-

AUDREY

What did you do for Frank?!

BRANDON

It doesn't matter-

Audrey signals to Jason with a movement of her finger, and he pushes Brandon's head to the table, and she comes around quickly, placing her knife blade at the side of his throat, as they keep asking questions.

AUDREY

We aren't afraid to hurt you, I will do this if you lie to me!

BRANDON

Ok.

Jason holds him down and has his bat at his side. Audrey holds her knife to the back of his neck. She is direct, wanting answers.

AUDREY

How long have you been watching us?!

BRANDON

I saw you outside, fifteen minutes ago I have binoculars, that's it.

AUDREY

What did you do?

(CONTINUED)

BRANDON

I talked with people. I made deals with them. I made them regret trusting me. And I'm done.

JASON

...You went along with the bad people?

BRANDON

Yes. It doesn't matter.

Audrey holds the knife closer.

AUDREY

That's what matters.

BRANDON

I just wanted to survive. I just want to help.

Audrey releases him, and the two stand. Brandon doesn't do anything major, he stays seated.

AUDREY

How are you going to help anyone?

BRANDON

I can protect myself, I negotiate with people. I do anything I can to help.

JASON

Helping psychopaths, creeps, the baddest people-

BRANDON

It doesn't matter who's- baddest. What matters is the ones that stop you from falling. The ones who save you.

Brandon looks at Jason.

AUDREY

I don't need another person who will turn on us.

BRANDON

I need you. I will die without you, I AM alone. I risked my life coming in here.

(CONTINUED)

AUDREY

What happened with that group?

BRANDON

I left.

AUDREY

Just walked away?

BRANDON

(Chuckles) No. They're not the people to say goodbye. Let you say goodbye. If you want real thoughts, the reality? I saw problems coming soon. I wish I could say I left because I felt bad, angry about what they made me do- what I chose to do for them. Because I hated it... I left because things were going to fall apart, when there wasn't enough water for everyone. Big group. I left because I had to. That group was done... And, I'm done with them.

Audrey looks him over, as Jason raises his bat, breathing heavily. Brandon looks to Jason.

JASON

What did you do to people?

BRANDON

...Not good things and I'm not proud.

JASON

You hurt people.

BRANDON

It wasn't MY plan to.

Jason is worked up.

JASON

But you did it!

Audrey puts her hand to his chest, seemingly holding him back.

AUDREY

He did what he had to, like us, we do the same.

(CONTINUED)



JASON

We don't.

AUDREY

What happened out there today? We  
did that.

Jason is silent. He backs down. Audrey grabs his bat, and he lets her take it as he turns and walks to another side of the room, head in hands. Audrey never breaks eye contact with Brandon.

AUDREY

We don't like it, but we do it.  
Just us.

BRANDON

I'm sorry for it.

Brandon looks straight down at the table, breathing in and out heavily.

BRANDON (CONT.)

Thank you.

AUDREY

It's what I aim to do. Help.

Brandon looks up to meet her eyes.

BEAT.

We hear their voices, talking back and forth, while in video they are just looking at each other, silently.

BRANDON (V.O.)

I just have the knife.

AUDREY (V.O.)

You just have a knife. I have a  
knife. And not JUST a knife. A  
goddamn knife.

BRANDON (V.O.)

I have a goddamn knife.

INT. CLASSROOM - MONTAGE (APPEARS TO BE 1 DOLLY MOVEMENT.  
FADE FROM SHOT TO SHOT)

Preliminary period where they're still learning to trust they won't kill each other with knives. They get closer over course of it. Learn more about each other. Thank each other. Enjoy time with each other. Come to understand one another.

A - START OFF, ALL 3 PHYSICALLY DISTANT. GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

BRANDON  
How did you guys meet?

JASON  
It was after things. I was alone,  
she was alone...

Audrey sits in far corner, facing away. Recovering from earlier attack.

JASON (CONT.)  
Just give her some time, we had a  
run-in today. Look, we all need  
people. Friends. If it's just  
people attacking other people... Or  
else there's no reason for  
anything.

Brandon pauses, considering this thought, then extends his hand towards the two of them, first Jason, then Audrey.

BRANDON  
...I'm Brandon.

Audrey turns, but neither do anything else. He lets his hand drop after a moment.

B - SUPPLIES

supplies alone, plan. then they're like, lets just work together

Lets trust each other, for a minute.

C - JASON AND BRANDON SIT, DISTANT FROM EACH OTHER. JASON CANNOT TRUST BRANDON. AUDREY IS IN FOREGROUND, PACKING SOME SUPPLIES OR WHATEVER.

BRANDON (TO JASON)  
I never got a chance to thank you  
after what you did for me. I wanted  
to thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

D - THEY ALL ENTER THE ROOM, SUPPLIES IN HAND. ALL GLAD OF THEIR SPOILS.

JASON  
Oh man, I found a sweet shirt.

(CONTINUED)

AUDREY  
Is it clean?

JASON  
It's frickin sweet.

Brandon enters the room, heavy backpack in tow.

BRANDON  
You found heat, a heater?

Jason shows him the shirt. Brandon pauses, while removing his backpack.

BRANDON (CONT.)  
Oh that's sweet.

E - BRANDON AND JASON ARE PUTTING ON SHIRTS, APART FROM EACH OTHER, EITHER SIDE OF ROOM.

BRANDON  
Oh man, this is too freakin tight.

JASON  
I can't wear this, it's too short.

F - SWITCH SHIRTS

The two are wearing the other shirt now, without saying anything.

brandon thanks jason

G - JASON AND AUDREY SIT, RIGHT LOOKING AT EACH OTHER.  
BRANDON IS NOT IN THE ROOM.

are you ok? audrey and Jason

H - THEY ALL SIT, CLOSER NOW. EATING.

eating/glad I'm inside

INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT - INTO NIGHT SCENE, SITTING AROUND, JASON AND BRANDON TALKING, SEEMINGLY GETTING ALONG. THEY ARE ALL PRETTY CLOSE NOW.

Mid-conversation. Jason and Brandon sit, Audrey leans on her arm, all three around a little solar-powered garden light, illuminating their faces. Jason and Brandon talk, while Audrey watches, taking in the calm conversation.

Jason talks about sports for a moment, and asks Brandon if he's a sports guy. He's not. He's a little disappointed, but

(CONTINUED)

then recalls a fond memory of a friend in his hometown. But the sadness sets in. He hadn't even thought of his friends back home until now. What does that say about me? ... What kind of friend does that make me?

Feeling down, he sits in silence, looking at the light, while Brandon ponders this for a second. He looks to Audrey for help.

Audrey speaks up, recanting a tale about someone she thought was a friend, but turns out in dire times, they turned on her. The two of them were getting desperate but swore they would stick together until the end, no matter what. Then he turned on me. I never knew them for real until after everything happened. It was a shallow friendship. Friendship's shallow. No one needs friends anymore.

Brandon recalls a time early-on, when his neighbor threatened him, and he had to run or fight. He fought. And he regrets it. It was hard on him

MUSIC: "Tell Me Now"- Moby

CAM: Dollies around the room, the three of them as they try to fall asleep.

CAM: In the memories, same motion, same direction.

Jason lays, eyes slightly open, then close. TRANSITION TO: Hallway. See and hear him arguing with woman, he storms off. We can hear that he is telling her off, in disagreement. He seems like the irrational one here. TRANSITION TO:

Audrey lays. She leans up, and starts rubbing her eyes, in a frustrated manner, trying to calm down. TRANSITION TO: Room. Hear man arguing with her, pleading with her to find another way. She says there's no other choice, she says she's sorry, and he continues pleading. TRANSITION TO:

Brandon lays, eyes open, staring at nothing. TRANSITION TO: Apartment living room/kitchen area. Man is pleading for Brandon to help him, and we see 2 other men standing to the side, with weapons in their hands, and it is clear Brandon is in charge of the situation. The guy almost breaks down. TRANSITION TO:

BLACK. CREDITS.

Partway through credits, visuals come back, as credits continue in lighter parts of the screen.

INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Jason sleeps soundly, mind clear. Audrey wakes up, and sees him, watching for a moment. She then notices Brandon, sitting a distance away, back against the wall. He holds his stomach, breathing deeply, eyes closed. She gets up and walks towards him.

She stops near him, sitting in another chair. He opens his eyes, awaiting her to say something, then realizes she still won't go first. She's in control.

BRANDON

That was, some interrogation.

AUDREY

That? Yeah, I make sure I know who I'm talking to. At least an inkling.

BRANDON

Kind of intense, you think?

AUDREY

No one said it's supposed to be easy.

BRANDON

No one said it had to be that hard, either.

Brandon tries to settle his stomach. He closes his eyes.

BRANDON

I, I'm sick sometimes at night. I don't know.

AUDREY

What from?

BRANDON

I don't have anything... I can't stop. Everybody does their things. Everybody kills. Everyone murders.

AUDREY

...I'm not sure about that. I, defended myself today. I don't think murder.

BEAT.

(CONTINUED)

AUDREY (CONT.)

Is that why you didn't eat?

BRANDON

No, mostly not... I can still handle myself like I am. Can still talk, still talk to someone as dangerous as you, have it out. And be ok afterwards. I'm safe for now, I like to think. I'm not hungry, I'm ok for now.

AUDREY

I'm hungry all the time.

BRANDON

Then eat my soup. Your soup anyway. There it is. It's going to be hard to find anything eventually, and I'm not eating when I don't need to, it's wasting. Until I need it, I'm not wasting...

AUDREY

Not even a little hungry? Even for this gourmet bacon cheddar soup?

BRANDON AND AUDREY

[Chuckles]

She holds the can to him, and Brandon mumbles, in the background.

BRANDON

Thank you.

He takes hold of the can, eating some.

BRANDON (QUIET, DISTANT)

Nice and cold.

AUDREY (QUIET, DISTANT, EATING)

Mmmmmhmm.

END