

# **AUDITORIUM ZERO at BAKERSON PLACE PILOT (EPISODE "MOUSE ROOM")**

by

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FADE IN

INT. BAKERSON HOUSE - DAY

BIANCA (ANDERSON, 21, cute, casual style) waits in the foyer, clearly annoyed, looking back and forth from the front door to one of her phones (black case).

The front door opens, revealing a crowd of paparazzi. No faces are clear, just a bunch of flashing camera lights.

KASE SANDEFORD (30ish, glasses, nerdy artist type, super attractive) enters and the door closes behind him. He holds up a gold movie ticket for her to see.

KASE

Hello. I'm--

BIANCA

Late. Some of us are on a schedule.

KASE

My bad.

BIANCA

Popcorn or drink?

KASE

Nah. I'm good.

BIANCA

Good. Let's go.

Bianca walks in the direction of the basement. Kase follows her. The basement door is closed. There is a scrolling marquee over it that reads: Auditorium Zero: Mouse Room.

Bianca holds the door open for Kase. He waits for her to go in first.

BIANCA

I'm not going in. It's not for me.

Kase goes in and Bianca lets the door go.

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Auditorium Zero is a full-size movie theater. Kase stands at the bottom of the steps, looking at the empty seats, the projector and the screen.

KASE

Man, this is crazy.

Kase goes up the steps and stops at the third row from the top.

INT. BAKERSON HOUSE - SAME

Bianca is in the kitchen. She sits on a bar stool at the island with all three of phones out and unlocked (one black case, one pink case, one purple case).

On the pink case phone she presses play on a podcast hosted by JONAS MASON. His show is called "J. M. Just Making It." Jonas is never seen, only heard.

JONAS

(os)

Welcome back to J.M. Just Making It  
and I am the man J.M. That's Jonas  
Mason to you peons.

BIANCA

What an ass.

JONAS

(os)

Latest news, says Bianca 'Loose  
Cannon' Anderson has been spreading  
them wide for running back Zaylen  
Proctor.

BIANCA

News from where?

JONAS

(os)

No surprise. These new age females  
have no class and no controls. Just  
out here being extra worldly in  
these streets. Loose Cannon is  
what? Twenty? And has at least six  
exes that we know of.

BIANCA

And you care because why?

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase sits in a center seat near the top most rows of the theater.

The lights go dark, he is nervous and rubs his hands, rocking back and forth in an agitated manner.

The screen lights up. There are no opening credits. The opening shots are the interior of an empty house. The camera shows a close up of a hole in the floor near the baseboard then fades to white.

[ IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN ]

EXT. URBAN AREA - DAY

Horns honk and angry drivers yell out of their car windows as TODD EDMONDSON (60ish, looks haggard, clothes wrinkled and dingy) does a stretching routine in the middle of an intersection.

A police car honks at pedestrians on the sidewalk to move. The officer drives up on the sidewalk to get around backed up traffic. The cop car stops in front of Todd with the lights blinking.

INT. BAR - SAME

TORY EDMONDSON (30ish, well dressed, clean cut, very attractive, played by Kase) sits at a table alone, staring into space. He is startled by his ringtone which is a wolf howling.

Tory answers his phone and places the caller on speakerphone immediately.

TORY

Hello?

TODD

Are you busy? I need you to come pick me up.

TORY

Todd?

TODD

Why don't you go back to calling me 'Dad' or 'Pop' or something like that?

TORY

I haven't called you 'Dad' in almost twenty years and you're bothered by it now? Where are you?

TODD

County.

TORY

Where in the county specifically?

TODD

Jail. Come get me.

INT./EXT. TORY'S CAR - DAY

Tory sits in the driver's seat. Todd gets into the passenger's seat and slams the door.

TORY

If you break my door, you're paying to fix it.

TODD  
What took you so long?

Tory lets all the power windows down.

TORY  
You stink. When was the last time  
you showered?

TODD  
Don't change the subject. You were  
thinking about leaving me in there,  
weren't you?

TORY  
Maybe I should have.

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase has stopped fidgeting. He sits with one ankle on his  
knee and finger tips pressed together.

The movie screen is not shown.

DR. RONSON  
(os)  
Tell me what your most pressing  
issue is right now?

TORY  
(os)  
I can't accept praise. It never  
feels genuine.

DR. RONSON  
And how has this disrupted your  
life?

TORY  
I don't like to be bragged about.  
Whenever I hear it or find out  
about it I cringe and try to hide.

Kase frowns and rubs his chin.

[IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN]

INT. BAR - DAY

Tory sits at a table alone, reading a newspaper on his  
e-reader. The article is about Todd's arrest.

DAWN (RANDALL, mid 20s, too energetic and happy) walks by  
his table and backtracks.

DAWN  
You look familiar? Do I know you?

Tory looks Dawn up and down and shakes his head.

TORY

Nope.

DAWN

I've seen your face before.

Dawn leaves him alone and comes back a few minutes later with her phone in hand. She shoves her phone into Tory's face.

DAWN

This is you, isn't it?

His photo is on the homepage of Todd's official website. Tory is horrified

TORY

How long has this been up?

DAWN

Like a month or so. You don't visit his website? Your dad is my favorite contemporary writer. Well one of them. He's a legend. Is he doing okay?

TORY

He's okay. But he won't be when I see him.

Dawn looks disappointed.

DAWN

Aww. Come on. Don't be like that. It's a good picture. You're really attractive at least. Take it as a compliment.

Dawn leaves and Tory turns his e-reader off.

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Todd's house is a complete wreck. Not quite hoarder level junky, but there are clothes, shoes, food containers, newspapers, magazines and dirty dishes everywhere.

Todd stretches out on the floor by an open window. He wears no shoes or socks. There is notable discoloration on his feet and calves.

There is a knock at the door, then the sound of the key being turned. CATHERINE HALL (40s, 'worried mother look') enters the house and gags.

CATHERINE

It smells dead in here.

TODD

Hello, Catherine. Come dream with me.

CATHERINE

Todd. What in the world are you doing?

TODD

Dreaming. No. It's called brainstorming. I'm brain hurricaning. Come join me.

CATHERINE

No, thanks. I can't prove it, but it seems like your antics last month gave you a nice sales boost. I won't encourage you to act like a fool in public, but...whatever helps.

TODD

My brain hurricane just gave me a new idea.

Todd tries to get up and winces.

CATHERINE

What happened to your feet?

TODD

I don't know. Probably eczema or something. Anyway, did you see my website update?

CATHERINE

I did. Did Tory give you permission to use his picture?

TODD

Permission? What I need permission from him for? I'm the parent, he's the child.

CATHERINE

He's an adult and he can sue you.

TODD

But he won't. He's a good looking boy. He should be flattered.

CATHERINE

Totally beside the point. Clean up in here and make a doctor's appointment. You need to get that looked at.

TODD

Sure. I'm naming my next brain storm Hurricane Catherine.

Todd chuckles. Catherine rolls her eyes.

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase puts his feet up on the chairs in front of him.

The screen is not shown.

TORY

(os)

I never had the chance to have a real conversation with my mother before she died. No chance for closure there. I guess it doesn't really matter at this point, does it?

DR. RONSON

(os)

It does matter. What did you want to say to her?

TORY

(os)

I wanted to ask her why she had me. I wanted to ask that a long time ago, but I think I already know.

DR. RONSON

(os)

You figured it out?

TORY

(os)

Yeah. I think Todd, I mean my dad wanted me. He seemed to like his role when I was younger. When they were still together, but after they divorced, he lost interest.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Being a single parent isn't easy.

TORY

(os)

Neither is being an unwanted child.

INT. BAKERSON HOUSE - SAME

Bianca is in the kitchen, still listening to Jonas, while eating chocolate chip cookie dough.



JONAS

(os)

I wish modern girls were more like my grandmother.

BIANCA

Bullshit.

JONAS

(os)

They didn't have a long list a guys they banged. They saved themselves for the marriage bed.

BIANCA

Shot gun weddings aren't a new thing, dipshit.

JONAS

(os)

Some people ask me why I care so much about what Bianca, I mean Loose Cannon, does.

BIANCA

Listening.

JONAS

(os)

It's not her I care about. I have nieces and they look up to chicks like her.

BIANCA

Not my kids, not my problem.

JONAS

(os)

It's a terrible example to set. They see these young stars who seem to have it all. The money, the fame, the houses, the cars, the jewelry. And they think, 'Oh. If I act like her, I'll have what she has.'

BIANCA

If they think that, they're stupid.

[IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN]

INT./EXT. TORY'S CAR - DAY

Tory turns his e-reader on. He sees a headline for the latest Bestseller Lists for novels. Todd Edmondson has four books in the top twenty.

INT. BOOK STORE - SAME

Tory browses the adult fiction section. He sees a few books by Todd Edmondson.

Tory walks around some more and notices a whole display table of Todd Edmondson books. BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE comes up behind Tory.

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
What do you think of this guy?

TORY  
Pardon?

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
Edmondson. You like him?

TORY  
As a writer or as a person?

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
As a writer of course. I mean, do you know him? He's not an asshole is he? He seems cool. Kinda weird, but not super arrogant like some other writers.

TORY  
I know him. But I won't ruin your image of him. Which one of these is the newest?

Book Store Employee picks up a book titled 'When No Bad Deeds Go Unrewarded'.

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
This one. Heard good things about it. Haven't started on yet. It's on my 'to read eventually' list.

INT. BOOK STORE - NIGHT

Todd bursts into the store and hobbles around, with less than ten minutes left until closing time. The only other customer leaves.

Book Store Employee sees and recognizes him immediately. He follows Todd around the shelves.

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
Mr. Edmondson? You're Todd Edmondson, aren't you?

TODD  
I am.

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
Are you looking for something?

Todd puts an arm around Book Store Employee and pulls him close.

TODD  
How many of my books do you have in stock?

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
I'm not sure. We do have a table and maybe a box in the back.

TODD  
Where's the table?

Book Store Employee takes Todd to the display table of his books. Todd takes a fountain pen out of his pocket and starts signing them all.

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
Is this allowed?

TODD  
Maybe. Maybe not.

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
We are closing in...eight minutes.

TODD  
Uhuh.

Todd signs all the books on the table, then spins in a full circle.

TODD  
Where's your store room? You got a box of 'em? Let's go.

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
I don't think I can do that. I'll have to ask the manager.

Todd takes off, peeking around shelves like he's on a spy mission. Book Store Employee stays right behind him. Todd sees a closed door in the back and assumes it's the storage room.

TODD  
In there?

BOOK STORE EMPLOYEE  
Yes, but--

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase sits normally with his feet on the floor. He leans forward and has pushed his glasses to the top of his head.

The screen is not shown.

DR. RONSON

(os)

At what age did you decide that your mother didn't want you?

TORY

(os)

Around six or seven. Something like that.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Did she ever say that you?

TORY

(os)

No. Not directly. She had a hobby room. She put a 'do not disturb' sign on the door. She explained to me that when the door was closed and that sign was on the knob that she didn't want to be bothered. The thing is, the door was always closed. She never wanted to be bothered. At least not with me.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Not ever?

TORY

(os)

Only to appear normal to certain people. She would play the role when it was convenient for her. That's probably why I hate being showcased.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Showcased?

TORY

(os)

She liked to show me off to people. Her extended family. Friends. Business people. She would dress me up nice and pile a bunch of bullshit compliments on me just for their approval. She never really cared I how felt.

[ IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN ]

INT. BAR - DAY

Tory sits at a table with Catherine. They share a plate of buffalo wings.

CATHERINE

Does he have a history of mental illness I wasn't told about?

TORY

No. He just likes the attention.

CATHERINE

He seems off. He's been weird as long as I've known him, but he's acting like a lunatic. And his house is trashed.

TORY

Really? News to me.

CATHERINE

Will you help him clean up? Not for him, for me. Please?

TORY

I'll do what I can. Maybe I can get a maid service in there.

CATHERINE

That is great idea. And get him to see a dermatologist.

TORY

Sure. Anything else?

CATHERINE

Nope. That's it.

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - SAME

Tory stands at the open door, with his mouth open. He is shocked and appalled by the state of Todd's house.

Todd limps around trying to clean up the dishes and food containers.

Todd walks in, slowly with his face screwed up and holding his nose.

TODD

Excuse the mess. I'll get this straight. Didn't know you were coming. You never visit.

TORY

If I'd known it was this bad, I would have rented a hazmat suit.

TODD

It's not that bad. Just give me a minute.

Tory rolls his sleeves up and just looks around. He notices a hole in the wall near the baseboards.

TORY

You need to get that fixed before some critters come sneaking in.

TODD

Noted.

Upon further inspection of the hole, Tory sees what looks to be mouse droppings on the floor. He recoils in horror.

TORY

Critters are already in. Seriously, Todd. What the hell?

Tory opens the nearest window. Todd gathers all of his clothes and shoes in his arms. He limps out of the living room and into his bedroom.

TORY

Where is your mop and do you have bleach?

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Todd's house is finally clean. Todd lies on the floor, asleep with the window still open.

Tory returns with mouse traps. He tests them out and the snapping noise startles Todd awake.

TODD

What? Who is it?

TORY

It's me.

Tory goes to the kitchen and comes back into the living room. The mouse traps are baited with peanut butter.

Tory places two traps by the hole in the wall.

TORY

It still stinks in here.

TODD

Yeah. I don't smell anything.

Tory notices the discoloration on Todd's feet and legs. He shakes his head and leaves.

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase stands up and stretches. He does a couple of squats then sits back down.

The screen is not shown.

TORY

(os)

After their divorce, Dad spent most of his time writing and groveling trying to get her to come back. It was sad to watch. When he realized she was never coming back it was just writing. We became roommates. I was eleven when she left.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Is that when you started calling him by his first name?

TORY

(os)

I only did it to get a reaction out of him. I thought he might get mad, but he didn't. He had no reaction at all. Just like it was any other random person calling him Todd. I was just some person.

[IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN]

INT./EXT. TORY'S CAR - DAY

Tory is parked outside the bar. His phone is ringing. Tory answers his phone and puts the caller on speakerphone.

TORY

Yes.

TODD

Hello, son.

TORY

What do you need, Todd?

TODD

What kind of bird should I get?

TORY

Bird? What are you talking about?

TODD

I was thinking about getting a parrot. One them big red ones or the grey ones. The grey ones are smart. If I get one of them grey ones I can make it my assistant.

TORY  
Have you caught any yet?

TODD  
Any? Any what?

TORY  
Mice. Are they still baited?

TODD  
Oh. I threw them traps away weeks ago. Kept stepping on em and scaring the shit out of myself. So, what you think? Red or grey?

TORY  
Neither. Bye, Todd.

Tory ends the call. He tries a deep breathing exercise to calm down before getting out.

TORY  
Don't get mad. Don't get mad.  
Breathe and relax. Calm. Calm.

INT. BAR - SAME

Tory sits at a table alone. He reads the newspaper on his e-reader.

He doesn't notice, but Dawn has just come in. She yells at him from the door.

DAWN  
Tory! Your dad has lost his mind.

Dawn invites herself to sit at the table with him as he stares at her in disbelief. Dawn plays a video on her phone and holds it up for Tory to see.

Todd's house is a complete wreck again and he takes his fans on a virtual tour of it, showing all his dirty clothes piled up, dishes piled up in the sink. Messy bathroom and trash/junk all over the living room.

DAWN  
Time for an intervention, maybe?

TORY  
You intervene. I already tried. I'm done babysitting his old ass.

Tory's cellphone rings in his pocket. He takes it out and answers it while staring directly at Dawn.

TORY  
Yes? Catherine? How did you get my number? Oh. I saw it. I'm not doing it. I'm done. D-O-N-E.



Tory ends the call and puts his phone back in his pocket.

DAWN

I thought you two had a really good relationship. He talks about you all the time in his blog.

TORY

Really? Haven't read it.

DAWN

He mentions you in almost every post.

Dawn leaves the table to go sit at the bar.

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase has taken his shoes off. He sits on the back of his chair with his feet on the seat.

The screen is not shown.

DR. RONSON

(os)

How many real relationships have you had?

TORY

(os)

None.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Not even one? You've never had a girlfriend?

TORY

(os)

Not officially. No. Whenever I wanted to take it to that level, every time, they would want to take me to meet their parents and their friends.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Something that people tend to do.

TORY

(os)

I know that they didn't mean any harm, but it still felt like showcasing.

DR. RONSON

(os)

And you ran away. Did you even tell them why?

TORY

(os)

No. How would I even explain that?

DR. RONSON

(os)

I have a homework assignment for. If you can, I want you to write a formal letter of apology to every woman you've ever bailed on. Even if you can't give it to them personally. If you can give it to them, please do. But write them out.

[IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN]

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Todd sits on a bed, behind a curtain. NURSE AVA (mid 30s) listens as he explains his symptoms.

TODD

I keep hearing cymbals and seeing little worms slithering all over the place. Is my brain broken?

NURSE AVA

Maybe. Anything else?

TODD

I keep forgetting stuff and never feel well rested. So strange. Wonder if the mice did it?

NURSE AVA

Mice?

TODD

Yeah. My son put some traps out but I threw them out. Mice wouldn't cause any of this, would they?

NURSE AVA

I'll have to ask the doctors. Excuse me.

EXT. TORY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tory stands on the front porch. Catherine is on speakerphone.

CATHERINE

He's in the hospital and used me as his emergency contact.

TORY

Okay.

CATHERINE

I'm in New York. Can you go? I know you don't want to and I wouldn't ask you if had any other choice. Please.

INT. HOSPITAL - SAME

Tory stands outside of a private room with DR. HENRY KIM (40ish, glasses, very kind face).

TORY

What's wrong with him?

DR. KIM

We don't know yet. His symptoms don't point us in any particular direction. We'll run every test we can think of, but we can't rule out the possibly of dementia.

Tory is disturbed by the mention of dementia.

DR. KIM

It's an unfortunate reality we all have to face when our parents start aging.

TORY

Yeah. I know. I just always saw him as an old man, and now he actually is.

DR. KIM

Oh. I saw his emergency contact was some woman named Catherine Hall. Is she--

TORY

His agent.

DR. KIM

Oh. Well, you can go in. He was awake just a minute ago.

EXT. TORY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tory sits on the steps watching people and cars pass by. Catherine parks on the street and stands in front of him. She looks distressed and is holding back tears.

TORY

Welcome back. Any news?

CATHERINE

He's in organ failure. He's also going blind and never mentioned it to me.

TORY

Dr. Kim. What did he say?

CATHERINE

Possible poisoning of some kind. We would have to go and get all of his food and water tested. The paint and dust and everything. He said that there were mice. I don't do mice. I can't get in anyway, because he changed the locks.

TORY

I saw droppings. Over a month ago.

CATHERINE

If you can get one, a live one, it can be tested for whatever horrible things it might be carrying.

TORY

Will he recover?

CATHERINE

Not likely.

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - SAME

Tory climbs in through the window wearing a backpack. He gags and tries to cover his nose with his shirt.

There is garbage and dirty dishes everywhere. There are flies also. Something scurries by Tory's foot and he jumps onto the couch, that is covered in clothes.

Tory puts out a no-kill mouse trap and sets up a camera near the hole in the wall.

EXT. TORY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tory sits on the steps, watching the live feed from the camera that he set up via app on his phone. He watches as a strange looking "mouse" goes into the trap.

TORY

The hell kind of deformed mouse is that?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Todd stretches out on the bed with his ankles crossed and arms behind his head.

Tory sits in the chair beside his bed.

TODD  
You got some paper?

TORY  
No, I don't.

TODD  
New idea. A bird with a pet person.  
When I make parole I'll start on my  
new book.

TORY  
Parole? You are not in prison.

TODD  
I may as well be.

Todd sticks his fingers in his ear and shakes his head from side to side.

TODD  
Annoying. Freaking marching band...

Tory looks at Todd with great pity. Dr. Kim sticks his head in the room.

DR. KIM  
Mr. Edmondson, a word please.

TODD  
Right out, doc.

DR. KIM  
(to Todd)  
Not you. The other.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - SAME

Dr. Kim and Tory stay near the door. Tory holds the door shut by the handle.

DR. KIM  
I got an update on the mouse that  
you caught.

TORY  
It's not a mouse is it?

DR. KIM  
It's a shrew. A new species.  
They've named it Edmondson.

TORY  
Shrews are venomous.

DR. KIM  
They are and these, that have been getting inside his house, have been biting him without him knowing.

TORY  
I'll have an exterminator come out and call someone about the hole. A maid service has already been in to clean up.

DR. KIM  
Good. So, should I assume that you'll be handling his end of life care? I can get you referred to a facility.

TORY  
He won't go. He's stubborn. Always has been. I'll just try to keep his house clean until the day.

DR. KIM  
That's the best you can do, sometimes. Take care of yourself, too.

Dr. Kim leaves. Tory wipes tears from his eyes before going back into the room.

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase stands and stretches some more, bending and twisting side to side.

The screen is shown.

[On Screen] Tory sits in his car, driver's seat. He has a legal pad in his lap, composing a letter addressed to 'Ashlyn'.

Kase sits back down.

[On Screen] So far Tory has written:

Nothing that I write will undo the pain I've caused you. Trying to explain why I abandoned you feels like a waste of time and effort. Not because you don't deserve an explanation, but because I don't deserve forgiveness. I am getting help for my issues and should have before I met you.

Tory opens a memo app in his phone. It shows a list of names. Ashlyn along with Jennifer A, Jennifer H, Lashawn,

Nina, Shonique, Brianna, Jordyn, Thalia, Alana, Taylor P, Taylor G, Sophia, Chyna, Shenaë, Mia and Diamond.

KASE

Pimp.

INT. BAKERSON HOUSE - SAME

Bianca waits in the foyer, texting on her purple case phone. The podcast continues playing from the pink case phone.

JONAS

(os)

I would be more than happy to give Loose Cannon the opportunity to defend herself.

BIANCA

Defend? I did nothing wrong.

JONAS

(os)

Worldly behavior should not be praised and encouraged. We should hold our women to a higher standard.

BIANCA

Our? Who does this clown think he is?

JONAS

(os)

Give me some feedback. I want to hear your opinion on Loose Cannon and her ilk. I'll read your responses on air.

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase sits in his chair normally, elbow on armrest and chin in hand.

The screen is not shown.

DR. RONSON

(os)

I saw in the paper that your father was arrested.

TORY

(os)

He was. For being a dumbass.

DR. RONSON

(os)

It's not your responsibility to save him. You do know that, don't you?

TORY

(os)

Well, tell Catherine that. She seems to think so.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Your letters finished?

TORY

(os)

Yes. I've delivered eight of them.

DR. RONSON

(os)

And?

TORY

(os)

Mia tore hers up without reading it.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Go on.

TORY

(os)

She was the most pissed off when I broke up with her so that didn't surprise me. I don't blame her.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Knew homework assignment.

TORY

(os)

Another one. Give me a break.

DR. RONSON

(os)

Get some professional photos done.

TORY

(os)

What?

DR. RONSON

(os)

Do it.

Kase snickers.

KASE

Showcased.



[IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN]

INT. BAR - DAY

Tory sits at a table. Dawn sits at the bar. She sees how sad Tory looks so she joins him at his table.

DAWN  
So, he's back home, is he?

TORY  
Yep.

DAWN  
He announced a new book coming soon.

TORY  
Uhuh.

DAWN  
Will you read it?

TORY  
I might.

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Todd's house is clean. He stretches out on the couch. Tory inspects the hole in the wall that has been covered with electrical tape.

TORY  
You need to get this house inspected.

TODD  
For what?

TORY  
Mold. Termites. Ants. Roaches.  
Mice. Rats.

TODD  
I haven't seen any roachbugs or ants.

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase stands, swaying back and forth with his arms crossed.

The screen is not shown.

DR. RONSON  
(os)  
How's your dad doing?

TORY

(os)  
He's dying.

DR. RONSON

(os)  
Oh. Sorry to hear that.

TORY

(os)  
He won't accept my help. Even now.  
He doesn't care anymore. What else  
can I do?

DR. RONSON

(os)  
Live your own life. That's all you  
can do now.

[IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN]

EXT. TORY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tory stands on the steps, talking to Catherine.

CATHERINE

Seems like the worse things get,  
the higher the numbers go.

TORY

People are idiots.

CATHERINE

Are they idiots for liking his  
books?

TORY

They're idiots for liking drama.  
Personal drama. Real shit. They  
wouldn't care if he was quiet and  
laid back.

CATHERINE

His latest is sold out in  
paperback. That has never happened.  
Not for him or my other clients.

TORY

Congratulations, I guess.

CATHERINE

Have you read it?

TORY

No. But I might. One day.

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Todd squints to see his phone screen. He can't and is forced to use the voice feature.

TODD  
(to voice assistant)  
What do shrews eat?

VOICE ASSISTANT  
Searching for 'What do shrews eat?'

Todd goes outside, barefoot and with no socks. His cellphone rings while he is out. Todd comes back inside with a handful of wet dirt.

Todd drops the dirt on his coffee table and pulls out a couple of earthworms.

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase sits on the end of his seat, tapping his feet in a nervous manner.

TORY  
(os)  
I'm going to do it today.

DR. RONSON  
(os)  
How does it feel?

TORY  
(os)  
Terrible. But it has to be done  
doesn't it?

DR. RONSON  
(os)  
Are you going to his funeral?

TORY  
(os)  
He asked to be cremated so there  
won't be one.

DR. RONSON  
(os)  
Well, if you're ready to let go,  
then go do it.

Kase quickly wipes tears from his eyes.

[IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN]

EXT. BAR - DAY

Tory unlocks his car door. Dawn walks by him and does a double take.

DAWN  
You look tired.

TORY  
Thank you.

DAWN  
How's your dad?

TORY  
Still here. I'm going to see him.  
You want to come?

DAWN  
Seriously?

TORY  
Yes.

[OUT OF FILM]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

Kase sits in his chair normally. He pushes his glasses back down onto his face.

The screen is not shown.

DR. RONSON  
(os)  
What's next?

TORY  
(os)  
Cleaning the house out.

DR. RONSON  
(os)  
Not keeping it?

TORY  
(os)  
I'll keep it. As a rental property.  
He has some crazy fans. Pretty sure  
I can find one who would just love  
to be in his space.

DR. RONSON  
(os)  
Yikes.

TORY

(os)

Yeah.

DR. RONSON

(os)

When you feel up to it, you should find someone that you don't want to flee from.

TORY

Already did. Her name is Dawn.

Kase applauds and fist pumps.

KASE

Pimp!

[IN FILM, MOUSE ROOM, FULL SCREEN]

INT. TODD'S HOUSE - SAME

Todd has covered his entire coffee table in dirt. He sits on the couch, squinting, trying to see his laptop screen.

He sticks his fingers in his ears and closes his eyes. Todd pounds on the sides of his head until the sound of cymbals goes away.

There is a knock at the door. The door opens, as Tory has been given a new key.

Tory and Dawn enter the house. Dawn is nervous. When she sees Todd, barefoot with his discolored legs/feet showing, tears form in her eyes.

TODD

Hello. Who's this? Is that a girl?

Todd stands up and his laptop crashes to the floor.

DAWN

Hello, Mr. Edmondson. I'm Dawn. I'm a huge fan.

TODD

Oh. Good. I'm working on a new book.

DAWN

What's the dirt for?

TODD

Oh. Looking for some worms.

Dawn looks at Tory for an explanation. He just stares at Todd with pity.

TORY

Dad?

TODD

Yes? Oh, I'm dad now. I feel important.

TORY

Do you want to add anything to your final requests?

TODD

No. I'm good. Good I am.

Tory pulls Dawn out of the house by the hand.

TORY

Bye, dad.

TODD

Bye.

After Tory and Dawn leave. Todd gets a hammer from the kitchen. He opens the hole in the wall back up and leaves a saucer full of earthworms on the floor by the hole.

[OUT OF FILM, THE END]

INT. AUDITORIUM ZERO - SAME

There are no end credits. The lights come on. Kase jumps up from his seat and jogs down the steps, smiling wide. The screen goes black, then turns white.

Kase stops to watch the screen.

KASE

What?

On screen text reads: PLEASE EXIT THIS WAY. THE CAMERA IS WAITING.

There is a large arrow on screen pointing to the right, where there is an exit door.

KASE

Didn't even notice that door there.

INT. REVIEW ROOM - SAME

Kase enters a small room with bare white walls. There is one spinning chair in the room, and a camera/tripod set up in front of it.

On the chair is a single sheet of paper that reads: PRESS REC and TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.

KASE

Oh. I have to do a review. Cool.

INT. REVIEW ROOM - SAME

Kase hits 'REC' on the camera and takes a seat.

KASE

Yo! What's good folks? I'm Kase Sandeford. The movie I saw was called Mouse Room. It's hard to explain, but put simply the main character is the son of a writer. This writer Todd Edmondson has been in a downward depressed spiral since his wife walked out on him. The main character Tory goes to therapy to get his issues with his parents resolved because all the emotional baggage was affecting his personal life too much. I mean with women. He just couldn't keep a woman to save his life because he was a kind of a bitch about all the issues he had with his parents. I can relate. Parents can be the best and the absolute worst. I think Tory was believable. It was kinda sad watching him watch his father self-destruct. Spoiler alert: his father does die. No one else will ever see this movie, so spoiling it doesn't really matter does it? I'll do a more detailed review on my blog. Just search for my name and you'll find it. I give it a solid 4.5 out of five stars. Peace!

INT. BAKERSON HOUSE - SAME

Bianca is still in the foyer with no phone in hand. Kase rejoins her (coming back from the basement).

Bianca opens the front door, exposing the crowd of paparazzi again.

BIANCA

Congrats. You're famous now. Bye.

KASE

Bye, Lil Meanie.

Kase leaves and Bianca slams the door behind him. Bianca goes to the basement and opens the door. The theater is gone. There is nothing there, but a plain finished basement with a recliner and tabletop projector.

Bianca turns the light off and closes the door. The scrolling marquee over the door goes blank.

THE END