

Stand To

by

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Final Marked Up Script

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1 FADE IN: 1

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 2

An empty room. A photo of a young loved-up couple rests on a small table. The man is in uniform. Beyond the living room, the sound of a headboard knocking against the wall can be heard.

3 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT 3

Outside the bedroom door, the knocking is even louder, and accompanied by low, guttural grunts.

4 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 4

A young man, DEAN, 25, is tossing and turning violently, in the grip of a nightmare. Beside him is ADRIENNE, 23. She lies on her side, eyes wide open, she doesn't dare move.

Dean lashes out, his flailing arm catches Adrienne across the face. She fights not to cry out, gripping the duvet tightly in fear.

5 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 5

Adrienne flinches as she touches the angry red mark under her tired, baggy eyes. She goes to apply concealer, but the tube's empty.

Without looking, she flings it at the bin but misses. As she bends down to throw it away, she spots something. Reaching inside, she pulls out a bottle of anti-depressants. It's nearly full.

6 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY 6

Adrienne stands expectantly before Dean, who's sprawled on the sofa playing PlayStation. Her bright outfit of pink shorts and white sleeveless top are the yin to Dean's yang of unkempt stubble, a stained t-shirt and jogging bottoms.

DEAN
You look tired.

ADRIENNE
I didn't sleep well.

A flicker of guilt crosses Dean's face.

DEAN
You still going out today?

ADRIENNE
Steph's picking me up at one. You should come, get out of the house. It'd do you good.

Dean doesn't respond. Any feeling of guilt has evaporated.

ADRIENNE
Especially as you're off the pills.

DEAN
You been through my stuff?

ADRIENNE
What, the bin? Babe, you promised.

DEAN
I don't need them.

ADRIENNE
But Doctor Corlett said --

DEAN
He knows jack shit.

ADRIENNE
Now you're just being childish.

Dean suddenly advances on her.

DEAN
Am I? So it's childish to storm an
IED factory? Or slot a suicide
bomber?

He gets right in her face and pokes her with a finger gun.

DEAN
Right there. Poof. Jackpot. Is it
childish to serve your country?
Even after seeing Tom...

Dean starts shaking, his lip quivers as tears fill his eyes.

DEAN
Doctor Corlett knows nothing.

Adrienne goes to touch his face, but he jerks his head away.

DEAN
You're not going out like that.

ADRIENNE
I haven't worn this in ages.

DEAN
Just...!

He crashes back onto the sofa without another look at her.

7 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

7

Adrienne hurls the anti-depressants into the bin. She exasperatedly runs her hands through her hair and stares at herself in the mirror again, breathing to compose herself.

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

8

Dean's fixated on his game until Adrienne nervously emerges, modestly dressed in trousers and a simple shirt. Dean moves towards her before breaking into a smile.

DEAN

Now that's what I'm talking about.

ADRIENNE

Yeah?

He kisses her before pulling her into a hug. Adrienne relaxes and embraces this rare moment of affection.

Suddenly, a car horn blasts from outside. Dean clenches tight, squeezing the air out of Adrienne as he seizes up.

ADRIENNE

Dean!

Dean starts hyperventilating.

ADRIENNE

It's okay! It's just Steph. It's just Steph.

Adrienne prises Dean off and sits him down.

ADRIENNE

It's okay. You're all right.

9 EXT. HOUSE - DAY

9

Adrienne storms towards STEPH, 23, who's climbing out of her car.

ADRIENNE

The fuck are you doing? I told you!

Steph gasps in horror at the realisation of what she's done.

STEPH

Oh my God! Adrienne, I'm so sorry, I didn't think.

10 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

10

Adrienne leads Steph through the front door, they hover in the hallway.

STEPH

This isn't going to work.

ADRIENNE

It's worth a go.

STEPH

I'm telling you, he's lost --

ADRIENNE
Just bloody try. For me. Please.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

11

Adrienne herds Steph in to find Dean playing his game.

STEPH
Hey Dean.

Dean merely grunts.

STEPH
How you doing?

DEAN
Fine.

STEPH
Sorry about the horn.

DEAN
Yep.

An uncomfortable pause. Adrienne gives Steph a look.

STEPH
I was saying to Adrienne, if you
wanted to come out, that'd be fine.

Dean doesn't respond. Steph gives Adrienne a look of 'I told you so'.

ADRIENNE
Babe?

DEAN
What?

ADRIENNE
Did you hear what Steph said?

DEAN
Yep.

ADRIENNE
So?

DEAN
I'm busy.

ADRIENNE
You're playing video games.

DEAN
Got a problem with that?

STEPH
I'll wait outside.

Steph exits with a subtle shake of the head at Adrienne.

ADRIENNE

Dean, when someone invites you out,
the polite thing to do is accept.

DEAN

I told you once.

ADRIENNE

Fine. Don't say I didn't try. Are
you going to be okay?

DEAN

Why wouldn't I be?

Adrienne sweeps from the room, huffing in frustration.

DEAN

Keep your phone on.

12 INT. HALLWAY - DAY 12

Alone, Adrienne drops all pretence. She slumps, silently
fighting tears.

13 INT. CAFE - DAY 13

Steph watches Adrienne continually glance at her phone
resting on the table between their two coffees.

STEPH

Talk to me.

ADRIENNE

I feel like I'm always on edge.

STEPH

You should see someone.

ADRIENNE

I'm going nowhere.

STEPH

No, I mean --

ADRIENNE

I'm fine.

STEPH

You literally just said you're
always on edge.

ADRIENNE

I'm not the one who needs a
therapist.

STEPH

Why not?

ADRIENNE

Because what I'm going through is
nothing compared to...

She tails off. She taps her phone, gazing at herself beaming
as Dean kisses her cheek.

ADRIENNE

Remember what it used to be like?

14 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

14

SUPER: ONE YEAR AGO

A lively house party. A good luck banner hangs on the wall.
Adrienne, dressed in her pink shorts and white sleeveless
top, chats with Steph. Meanwhile, Dean is engrossed in a
game of FIFA with TOM, 24.

TOM

Yes, go, go, go... Oh!

Dean concedes a penalty in the dying seconds.

DEAN

Bullshit, ref!

TOM

Good spot, ref. Red card, red card!

Tom lines up to take the penalty. When it goes in he throws
himself on Dean in celebration, the bundle spills over onto
the girls who join in the mayhem. Steph seizes the moment to
take a quick picture of them all together.

TOM

Forfeit! Forfeit for you sir, yes!

They line in the kitchen as Tom pours out a row of vodka
shots.

TOM

Parade! Quick! March! Ready...
Left! Right! Left! Right!

Dean splutters and chokes as he tries to down shots in time
with Tom's commands.

DEAN

Oh Jeez!

Everyone laughs. Tom takes up a couple of glasses.

TOM

Job shared is a job halved. Cheers!

Cheered on, together they finish the row. The girls applaud
them and Dean steals a kiss from Adrienne.

TOM
Where's mine?

Tom plants a cheeky kiss on Dean's cheek and throws his arm round Dean, all of them indulging in their carefree fun.

15 INT. CAFE - DAY

15

Adrienne stares into her coffee. Her phone rings, it's Dean.

STEPH
You don't have to --

ADRIENNE
(into phone)
Hey... I'm still with Steph... What are you talking about? Who else would I be with?... Don't be stupid... Fine, I'll prove it...

She thrusts the phone at Steph who's utterly bemused.

ADRIENNE
Just say hi.

STEPH
(into phone)
Hi? Dean?

Adrienne puts the phone back to her ear.

ADRIENNE
(into phone)
Happy?... Yep, yep, home by five... Okay... Love you too.

She hangs up and flings the phone onto the table.

STEPH
Really? You love him?

Adrienne and Steph lock eyes, Steph's unperturbed by Adrienne's fierce stare.

STEPH
He's getting worse. It's not your job to get him better.

ADRIENNE
I want to. He's worth it. He just getting used to civvy street.

Steph shakes her head in disbelief.

STEPH
Stop kidding yourself. You know he's still not over Tom.

16 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

16

SUPER: NINE MONTHS AGO

Adrienne sits on the sofa, glued to an iPad as Dean is on the other end of a video call.

DEAN

Saw another rat today.

ADRIENNE

What'd you call this one?

DEAN

Tom, obviously. They're all Toms.

Adrienne gives a little laugh.

ADRIENNE

Obviously.

Out of nowhere, Tom pounces on Dean, grabbing him in a headlock.

TOM

All right Adrienne? See, I'm taking care of lover boy like you asked!

Tom releases Dean, who gives him a playful shove.

TOM

How's things? How's your fancy man?

ADRIENNE

Fancy man?

TOM

Yeah. You must have one by now, all them lonely nights.

Adrienne grins and laughs with Tom at Dean's concerned face.

ADRIENNE

Oh yeah, definitely. He's amazing, barely had the energy to call!

TOM

Great. Just wanted to say hi, I'll leave you guys to it.

Tom disappears from the screen.

ADRIENNE

He never stops, does he?

Dean gives a small smile.

DEAN

Miss you.

ADRIENNE

Miss you too.

DEAN

It's a bit shit here. I just want to get home and see you now.

ADRIENNE

Can't wait.

DEAN

So what you been up t--

Bang! Dean jolts and Adrienne jumps out of her skin.

TOM (O.S.)

Contact!

Tom hurls Dean's kitbag at him as Dean scrambles.

TOM (O.S.)

Dean! Stand to, mate!

More bangs are heard as Dean hangs up. Adrienne's left clutching the tablet, her hands shaking, helplessly staring at the 'Call Ended' screen.

17 INT. CAFE - DAY

17

Same as before. Adrienne's phone rings again.

ADRIENNE

That's when it started, I'm sure.

She looks down at Dean's face.

STEPH

Do yourself a favour. Leave --

ADRIENNE

More coffee?

She hurries off with her phone, a worried Steph watches her.

18 EXT. HOUSE - DUSK

18

Steph's car pulls up and Adrienne climbs out.

STEPH

Call me if you need anything, yeah?

Adrienne turns away and Steph drives off. Adrienne takes a moment to gaze up at the flat.

19 EXT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK) 19

SUPER: THREE MONTHS AGO

Adrienne bounds out to the front of the apartment block as Dean approaches from down the street. Beaming, she stands expectantly, but her smile fades at the sight of his stone-faced expression.

With barely a look, he passes her by and heads towards the entrance, leaving Adrienne confused and unsettled.

20 EXT. HOUSE - DUSK 20

Adrienne checks her phone: 17:08. She hurries inside.

21 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK 21

She's immediately met with Dean looming over her, furious.

DEAN
17:00. That was the arrangement!

ADRIENNE
There was traffic! I'm sorry, it's only a few minutes.

DEAN
Only a few minutes? We make plans for a reason. When you deviate, that's when people die!

Realising what he's said, Dean crumbles to the floor.

ADRIENNE
Dean...

DEAN
Why do you love me?

Adrienne, blindsided by the question, hesitates. She resorts to helping him to his feet

22 INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK (LATER) 22

Adrienne helps settle Dean on the sofa.

DEAN
You'd do better if I wasn't around.

ADRIENNE
No, Dean, I love you. And I'm trying. So. Fucking. Hard. I just want things to be like they were.

She moves to stroke his face.

DEAN
Don't!

She freezes and backs away.

DEAN

IEDs. Everywhere. Go! They can't
take all three of us!

Dean's eyes dart around the floor as Adrienne bolts.

23 INT. HALLWAY - DUSK

23

Adrienne takes out her phone and gazes at Steph's contact details, her finger hovering over her number. At the last second, she pockets her phone instead.

Unbeknownst to her, Dean's seen everything. He's seen her tap something on her phone, and his eyes widen in horror.

24 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

24

Adrienne lies in bed alone, awake and on edge.

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

25 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

25

SUPER: TWO MONTHS AGO

Dean is watching TV. Adrienne enters and sits beside him, wrapping her arms around him. He tenses up.

ADRIENNE

We need to get you up and out. Help
you get back to normal.

DEAN

I'm fine here.

Adrienne takes his hand, which is firmly gripping the remote, and helps him turn the TV off.

ADRIENNE

Dean please.

She gently touches his face. Dean pauses, pondering.

26 EXT. PARK - DAY

26

They walk hand in hand. Dean's alert, clocking everyone, but calm as Adrienne leads him across the grass.

ADRIENNE

See? Bit of fresh air, what could
be better?

Dean wheels Adrienne round in front of him and kisses her. Nearby, children are playing. One of them screams, and Dean freezes, his eyes stare blankly and his hands clench. Adrienne flinches in pain.

ADRIENNE

Dean... Babe, you're hurting me.

Dean doesn't respond. He clenches tighter, breathing heavily as he sinks down. Adrienne crouches beside him, glancing helplessly at mystified passers-by.

ADRIENNE

Dean!

Dean curls up, holding himself tight and sobbing. Adrienne holds him, desperately trying to calm him down.

END FLASHBACK.

27 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 27

Dean crouches on the floor, deeply focussed, steeling himself.

28 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 28

A loud bang makes Adrienne sit bolt upright, listening.

DEAN (O.S.)

Clear!

Grabbing her phone, Adrienne scrambles out of bed towards the door.

29 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT 29

Adrienne peeks out to see Dean emerging from the bathroom clutching a large kitchen knife. Hearing her heavy breathing, Dean turns to face her.

ADRIENNE

Dean, it's me.

Fighting to contain her fear, she slowly approaches, but as she gets closer, she sees his wild eyes and realises she's a stranger.

Dean lunges, knife poised. Adrienne screams and scrambles to the bathroom, slamming the door just in time.

30 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 30

Adrienne locks the door and collapses to the floor. She presses herself against the door, terrified.

There's a bang and she's thrown forwards by the power of Dean's efforts to force entry.

ADRIENNE

Dean! Dean!

The banging intensifies.

DEAN (O.S.)
Where's the detonator?

Shaking, breathing hard with tears streaming down her face, Adrienne clamps her hands over her ears and cries out.

31 INT. CAFE - DAY

31

Steph watches Adrienne absent mindedly stir her coffee.

ADRIENNE
The neighbours heard the screams.
Must have called the police.

STEPH
Where is he now?

ADRIENNE
Still in hospital. They'll probably
fucking section him now.

STEPH
What about you?

ADRIENNE
I promised myself I wouldn't
abandon him like everyone else.
Maybe if I'd just --

STEPH
Listen to me, you did all you
could. Christ, you were so worried
about taking care of him you forgot
to take of yourself.

ADRIENNE
But after all he's been through --

STEPH
He attacked you with a knife!

ADRIENNE
I just hope he'll be all right.

STEPH
He will be. You just worry about
you. Do you have a date yet?

ADRIENNE
Yeah. Except --

STEPH
It's for the best.

32 INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

32

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

Adrienne sits, still and silent, among other patients waiting their turn. Behind her is a noticeboard of mental health posters.

THERAPIST (O.S.)
Adrienne Wheeler?

Adrienne takes a moment, running her fingers through her hair, visibly agitated before standing and walking off.

33 EXT. PARK - DAY

33

She walks aimlessly, head down, withdrawn. Her phone rings.

ADRIENNE
(into phone)
Hello?

DR. CORLETT (V.O.)
Hi, this is Doctor Corlett. Is this Adrienne? Dean's emergency contact?

ADRIENNE
I was... I mean, yes. Yeah, I am.

DR. CORLETT (V.O.)
Have you heard from him?

ADRIENNE
No. Why? What's wrong?

DR. CORLETT (V.O.)
Dean's declined further treatment.
He's discharged himself. The hospital never should have let him.
He could be dangerous.

The colour drains from Adrienne's face. She starts running.

34 INT. FRONT DOOR/HALLWAY/BEDROOM/LIVING ROOM - DAY

34

Adrienne bounds up the stairs to the front door. Frantically, she tries to unlock it, the keys shaking in her hands.

She bursts in and searches the rooms.

ADRIENNE
Dean!

She hurries along the hall.

ADRIENNE
Dean!

Reaching the living room, she freezes. Dean is slumped, pale and lifeless against the sofa. A bottle of whiskey and anti-depressants scattered around him.

Frantically Adrienne tries to revive him, but he's gone. She holds his head, utterly distraught.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) EXT. COMMON - DAY - Tom introduces Dean to Adrienne, they hit it off immediately.

B) EXT. PARK - DAY - Dean and Adrienne frolic in the sun. Dean lifts her into the air. They share a moment that leads to their first kiss.

C) INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - Everyone's enjoying the party. Steph takes a photo of the four of them together.

35 INT. ADRIENNE'S BEDROOM - DAY

35

The photo from the party sits, framed, on the bedside table. Next to it is Adrienne's phone, it rings.

Adrienne's sat on her bed, staring a thousand yard stare. She lets the phone ring out. She receives a text, but doesn't react. Another text, still nothing.

When it rings again she picks it up, but just stares for a moment at the bank of missed calls and messages from Steph: 'It's not your fault X'/'Please call me xx'.

She drops the phone and sits, holding herself close as she stares blankly.

FADE TO BLACK

END.