

SHADOW BOX

Written by

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AKA ANNABELLE

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SCREEN BLACK

ADEN (V.O.)
I shouldn't be here right now. This
shouldn't be happening to me.

FADE IN:

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Blood drips onto a dimly lit concrete floor.

The bloodied face of ADEN slams into the concrete. He is sweating and frightened, around 30; Caucasian with brown hair. He attempts to scamper away, too wounded to stand up.

Backed into a wall, he looks up. The horror of whatever it is that is attacking him, plays across his face.

ADEN (V.O.)
I don't deserve this. Where did I
go wrong? I've always been so
careful.

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

The familiar sounds of an office accompany a row of bland open cubicles. Aden sits at a desk, in a cubical, adorned with a telemarketer's headset and insincere patience. He speaks to a customer over the phone.

ADEN
I understand you are upset sir, my
goal is to make your experience
with me as enjoyable as possible.
What can I do to make your day a
great one?

The numbers on his computer screen track the time of the phone call: 20:15. "Recording" flashes at the top of the screen.

Aden thumbs through a laminate telemarketing notebook, he stops on a page that reads: **Irate customer - Color no longer available.** Aden reads from the page.

ADEN (CONT'D)
I apologize for the inconvenience
sir, but we no longer carry
Periwinkle blue.
(MORE)

ADEN (CONT'D)

However, I would be happy to assist you in purchasing any of our other assorted varieties today. Ultramarine has been very popular lately and a personal favorite.

At the bottom of the page in the notebook it reads: **Don't forget to smile.** Aden forces a smile.

ADEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry your experience with me has been unsatisfactory sir, however, if you would like to take our survey at the end of this call, it will assist our team in assuring that any future discontentment can and will be alleviated. Hello... sir? Hello? Are you there?

Calmly Aden takes off his headset, places it on his desk and takes two deep breaths. He glances up at a piece of paper on the cubicle wall that reads: **Stick to the script!**

Aden picks up a large plastic soda cup from off his desk, tightens his lips around a straw, and slurps the last remaining drops.

An envelope flops onto his keyboard. The deliverer is already gone. Aden opens the envelope. It's a birthday card.

On the cover is a picture of a Weiner dog with a 1st place ribbon on its collar. The card reads: Happy B-Day Aden! You're a Weiner! Thanks for being a part of the team.

Aden mutters under his breath.

ADEN (CONT'D)

My birthday's tomorrow.

EXT. CITY STREET - DUSK

Aden walks down a sparse city street. In the distance a commuter train rolls by.

An electronic red hand flashes stop on the pole at the intersection. Aden waits patiently until it flashes walk.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Aden sits in a secluded seat. Across the divide, two teenage boys adorned in black lipstick, black clothes, tattoos, and piercings sit in silence.

Aden catches himself staring and quickly turns his attention to the other side of the train car.

Three pre-teen girls dressed almost identical: Trendy skirts, white socks and all talk on their phones.

An ECCENTRIC MAN, with an unsightly SCAR down the side of his face sits a few seats away. He's early 40's; wears bright purple shoes and holds a beautifully wrapped BOX.

ECCENTRIC MAN

You got the time?

ADEN

Uh. Yeah. It's seven sixteen.

The train comes to a stop. Among some of the new passengers to board is ANNABELLE, 24, young and pretty with a hint of innocence, introversion, and independence.

Annabelle finds a seat. Aden stares. Should he say something?

Annabelle smiles. Aden gives a slight smile back and shifts in his seat. Beep. Beep. Beep. Above him a sign flashes the words: Stay Seated.

As the train comes to a stop, Aden watches as Annabelle stands up and walks away. The train door closes behind her.

After a moment the eccentric man bursts into laughter.

ECCENTRIC MAN

That was intense!

Aden attempts to ignore him.

ECCENTRIC MAN (CONT'D)

(Laughing)

Oh man. Woooo! That. Was. Wow!

People in the train start to notice.

ECCENTRIC MAN (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm good, I'm good. But I mean, did you see that?

ADEN

Yeah, I did.

ECCENTRIC MAN

Mother of Mary! I mean the tension in the room... you could (searching for the words) cut it. What's your name son?

Aden hesitates.

ADEN
(appeasing)
Aden. My name is Aden.

ECCENTRIC MAN
Good name. Solid. Your mom give you
that?

ADEN
Yeah, she did.

The man nods in approval. After a moment he folds his arms,
leans back and stares at Aden, and continues to stare.

ADEN (CONT'D)
Can I help you... with something?

ECCENTRIC MAN
Nah, I'm good.

A moment of awkwardness.

ADEN
What's in the box?

ECCENTRIC MAN
Oh this?
(chuckling)
It's comedy. Pure comedy.

The man nods to Aden like he should understand. Aden nods
back.

ADEN
Oh.

ECCENTRIC MAN
It'll blow your mind... Literally.

ADEN
Sounds painful.

ECCENTRIC MAN
Yeah.

Aden notices the man's purple shoes.

ECCENTRIC MAN (CONT'D)
You like em?

ADEN
Uh?

ECCENTRIC MAN
Do you like em?

ADEN
What? Your shoes? Yeah, yeah.

ECCENTRIC MAN
I stole em.
(beat)
Dirty Bastard. I know where I can
get you a pair, if you want some?

ADEN
Um... I'm good. I got some, kinda
like that already. But thanks for
the offer.

ECCENTRIC MAN
Seriously though, you could use a
pair of shoes like these. Trust me,
they'll change your life. My
posture... never been better. I
don't know how they do it. It's
amazing. It's science. Scientists
are awesome.

ADEN
Yeah.

ECCENTRIC MAN
You got a girlfriend Aden?

ADEN
Uh... Nope. (Backtracking) Well you
know, I got a couple girls. That
you know, I'm seeing.

ECCENTRIC MAN
You dog you. I knew you were hiding
something. You're a lady killer! I
knew it.

ADEN
Well. Don't kiss an tell, you know
what they say.

ECCENTRIC MAN
I admire men like you Aden. No
regrets. That's a good thing.
Regrets; those are the real
killers.

ADEN
Yeah.

ECCENTRIC MAN
They'll hunt you down.

The man stares hard into Aden eyes, driving the point home. Aden breaks the stare as the train comes to a stop. The man gets up.

ECCENTRIC MAN (CONT'D)
Well, this is my stop. Good luck
with your love life Aden. Hope to
see you around.

Aden watches the man exit the train and the doors close.

The train begins to move again, but the box is still on the seat. Aden stares at it for a long while.

He looks at the two teenagers who still stare into space, he looks at the girls who are busy on their phones.

The train comes to a stop. Aden stands up, walks toward the doors - but stops. He turns around and picks up the box.

INT. ADENS APT. - NIGHT

The front door closes. Aden enters a sparse yet tidy apartment not unlike something out of an IKEA catalogue.

Aden places the box on the counter.

Quick Cuts: He grabs a frozen burrito from the freezer, throws it in the microwave, plops down on the couch, picks up a remote, turns on the TV.

He pours a few pills into his hand from a prescription bottle, tilts back his head, and pops the pills in his mouth. He picks up an old soda can from the coffee table and takes a swig.

He lays his head on the back of the couch and closes his eyes. A commercial plays on the TV.

WOMAN TV ANNOUNCER
Today for only 3 easy payments of
12.99 - that's right 12.99 you can
enjoy these lovely place mats, sure
to brighten any home for any
occasion. With your purchase you
get not 1, not 2, not 3, but 4
matching mats in an assortment of
vibrant colors - and now even in
Periwinkle blue!
(MORE)

WOMAN TV ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Act now by calling the number at
the bottom of your screen.

The microwave beeps, Aden opens his eyes, stands up and stumbles into the kitchen.

He picks up the plate from the microwave, and passes by the BOX on the counter. He stops.

Aden puts the plate down and picks up the box. He holds the box in his hand, examines it.

He puts it back on the counter, picks up his burrito, and takes a seat on the couch.

MALE PASTOR

Is time running out? Secure your
heavenly mansion today by calling
this toll free number. Remember, if
this life is bad, the next is for
eternity... so protect yourself
today.

Aden looks back over at the box. He stands up and walks over to the counter, picks up the box and moves it from hand to hand.

A tag on the box reads: **Where once you were blind, now you will see.** He opens the box - it's empty.

A chill comes over Aden. He looks around the room. A window is open.

Aden closes the window and returns to the couch.

He focuses on the TV.

AUSTRALIAN HOST

The scorpion is a dangerous
predator, with a venomous stinger.
Besides Homo sapiens, it is the
only animal in the entire animal
kingdom known to commit suicide.
Under extreme heat, the scorpion
has been known to stick itself in
the head with it's own stinger.
Yikes! Now that's one hot day...

Images of a scorpion stabbing itself repeatedly flash across the TV screen.

The TV slowly becomes less audible, its lights shine across Aden's face capturing him in a trance.

INT. ADENS APT. - MORNING

Birds chirp outside the window. Aden slowly opens his eyes and sits up. It takes him only a minute, but soon realizes that his apartment is empty. He's been robbed.

Distressed, Aden jumps to his feet. It's all gone. The only thing left is the wind blowing through the open balcony door and the couch he was sleeping on.

On the wall, the perpetrator left his mark. Yellow shoe prints pattern the wall. Aden stares transfixed, the yellow pattern is almost a work of art. He walks towards the shoe prints and touches the wall - the paint is still wet.

EXT. CLOTHING STORE/PARK - MORNING

Aden exits a clothing store. The tag from his new shirt still hangs from his collar. He talks on his cell phone while walking by the park.

ADEN

Yes. All of it. They took it all.
Except the couch, and the clothes
on my back. I don't know sir. I
don't know what they wanted. The
police are there now. I don't know.
Yes sir. I'm on my way. I'm sorry I
won't be late again. I promise. Yes
sir, I know. A punctual employee is
a good employee. It wont happen
again.

The phone goes silent and Aden hangs up.

DEAN, a man in his early 30's, stands on the grass in the park doing Tai Chi. Aden, entranced, stops for a moment and watches. The man is focused and intense. He wears yellow shoes.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Sitting in his seat, Aden bumps along with the train. The tag still on his shirt collar. Taking two deep breaths, Aden looks up and finds comfort in the blinking, beeping sign: Stay Seated.

A phone begins to ring. And ring. Aden looks to the source.

Annabelle rummages through her purse and attempts to recover the ringing phone. Bumped by a passenger, her wallet falls to the ground. It slides between Aden's feet.

Aden picks it up and stands to give it to her.

ADEN

Excuse me. Miss? I think you
dropped this.

Handing her the wallet.

ANNABELLE

Oh my goodness. Thank you so much.
I can't believe I just did that.
Thank you.

ADEN

Yeah, me neither. I mean, I saw you
drop that and I thought, I bet she
doesn't believe she just did that.

ANNABELLE

(laughing)

Yeah, and you would be right.

The two look at each other in silence.

ANNABELLE (CONT'D)

Funny. Well... um. I'm going to sit
now.

ADEN

Okay. I mean, I should too.

Annabelle makes a step to move away just as the train makes a
turn, which causes Annabelle to lose her balance and grab
onto Aden.

This action, coupled with the force of gravity, sends the two
of them to the ground, in which they quickly find themselves
both horizontal and face to face.

ANNABELLE

Oh my goodness. I am... so sorry.

ADEN

It's okay. I'm okay. Are you okay?

ANNABELLE

Yeah, I think so.

ADEN

Okay... Good.

The two awkwardly stand up and brush off their clothes.
Annabelle grabs a handrail and orients herself.

ANNABELLE
Great, well. That wasn't
embarrassing.

Disheveled, Annabelle smiles.

ADEN
Nah... I don't even think anyone
even noticed.

They look around. All the passengers noticed.

Annabelle and Aden laugh to themselves.

A MOMENT

ANNABELLE
I've seen you before.

ADEN
Yeah. I think so. Here. On the
train. Actually. A few times.

ANNABELLE
Well, maybe I'll run into you again
sometime.

Aden gives a look.

ANNABELLE (CONT'D)
Wow, I just said that didn't I?

ADEN
It's okay. I don't mind. I have a
hard back.

ANNABELLE
That's good.

Annabelle can't help but smile she finds a seat and Aden sits
down on the opposite side of the aisle.

Looking up, they make eye contact and smile. Aden notices an
empty seat next to Annabelle as he fidgets in his own.

Aden checks his breath, closes his eyes, and takes two deep
breaths.

THE TRAIN DOORS OPEN

Onto the train steps DEAN. Up close he is handsome, causally
dressed, and confident.

He sits down in the empty seat next to Annabelle.

Aden, frozen in his seat, watches the exchange.

DEAN
Hi, I'm Dean.

Dean extends his hand.

ANNABELLE
(hesitantly)
Hi Dean. Nice to meet you.

DEAN
And you are?

ANNABELLE
Ah... Annabelle.

DEAN
Ah-Annabelle, well that's
different.

ANNABELLE
No.. It's just. There's no Ah, it's
just Annabelle.

DEAN
Oh. No Ah. Just Annabelle.

ANNABELLE
Right. I'm Ah-less.

DEAN
Well that's too bad, I was kinda
beginning to like the Ah. It gave
you a - sense of wonder.

Annabelle smiles.

ANNABELLE
Funny.

DEAN
That was just the warm up. It gets
better, trust me.

ANNABELLE
It gets better?

Dean smiles.

The train slows down.

DEAN
I'm sorry, but... ever since I sat
down this has been really bugging
me.

Dean reaches in with his hand and grabs a leaf that has
fallen into her hair.

Annabelle, amused yet uncomfortable, pulls away.

Aden grows tense as he watches in silence.

DEAN (CONT'D)
Got it.

He shows her the leaf.

ANNABELLE
Thank you. I had a mishap earlier.

DEAN
Yeah, I can tell.

Dean smiles, Annabelle pretends to be offended and looks
away. The train comes to a stop.

DEAN (CONT'D)
Hey, You have to be nice to me.
It's my birthday.

ANNABELLE
It's your birthday? Well happy
birthday...?

DEAN
Dean

ANNABELLE
Dean

DEAN
Yes, And Thank you.

ANNABELLE
Well, it was nice meeting you but
this is my stop.

Annabelle stands up.

DEAN
That is so funny. Mine too.

Dean stands up and the two head toward the exit.

Aden watches in distress.

As Dean is about to step out of the train, he stops, turns and takes a long look at Aden.

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

Adorned with his headset, Aden speaks to another customer as he follows his script.

ADEN

No Sir, Periwinkle blue is still
not available for another 3 weeks.

(beat)

Yes, I'd be happy to take that in
three easy payments of 12.99. If
you like I can take that credit
card number now.

Aden forces a smile as he types the numbers into his computer. As he types, a loud noise, like someone banging on a door, jostles his concentration.

ADEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry sir could you repeat
those last four numbers. I have
4328.

Aden types. Again the loud banging sound jostles his concentration.

ADEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry sir, I didn't catch those
last numbers. Could you please
repeat that again... please?

Aden types.

ADEN (CONT'D)

Thank you, and the expiration date?

The banging begins once again, loud, quick and repetitive. Frustrated, Aden waits for the banging to stop.

ADEN (CONT'D)

I do apologize once again sir. But
I seemed to have missed that. Can
you please confirm that again?
Thank you for your cooperation. Now
if I could just repeat that back to
you, I can get that sent out. I
have 4367 49

The banging begins again. Aden is annoyed. This time it doesn't stop. Finally Aden just hangs up the phone.

The banging stops. Aden takes two slow breaths and stands up.

OTHER OFFICE CUBICLES - CONTINUOUS

Aden walks down the line of cubicles. Everyone busy on their phones. No one seems to notice.

CO-WORKER CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS

Aden approaches a CO-WORKER who talks on her headset. Aden interrupts.

ADEN (CONT'D)
Hey, do you know what that banging
sound is?

Annoyed, the co-worker covers her mouth piece.

CO-WORKER
No. Just ignore it.
(into the phone)
I'm sorry, the extended protection
plan is a wonderful way to protect
you and your family...

Aden starts back to his cubicle. The banging continues.

Frustrated, Aden follows the sound.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Aden steps into the lobby of the office building. Stopping for just a moment, he listens to where the noise is coming from.

On the ground, Aden notices yellow paint on the carpet. He bends down on his knees to examine the paint closer. It's wet.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING HALL - CONTINUOUS

Aden follows the noise down a hallway. At the end of the hallway is a door. The source of the banging.

Aden stares at the door. Summoning his courage, he opens it.

EXT. DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

A sunny day. Grass extends for a few hundred feet before trees take over the view. In the distance someone rides by on a bike, and a couple lay on a blanket.

Aden takes a step outside. He looks to his left. He looks to his right - Nobody.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING HALL

Aden comes back in and closes the door, but doesn't notice -

DEAN HIDING BEHIND IT

Aden walks back down the hall, Dean follows.

Aden stops. Dean stops. Aden slowly turns around.

A MOMENT

ADEN

What do you want?

Dean takes a step closer, Aden takes a step back.

ADEN (CONT'D)

You can have her if you want. I don't even know her really. I just met her.

DEAN

(laughing)

That's cute. Really.

ADEN

Listen I'll give you all I got. It's not much, I mean I was robbed last night, but... I don't really have anything left... really.

Dean reveals a knife from behind his back and flips it open. He winks.

Aden runs.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Aden bursts out of the office building, Dean hot on his tail.

A CAR HONKS

Aden darts across the street in a mad dash, doing anything to put distance between him and Dean.

PEOPLE SCREAM

Aden bursts through a group of people, Dean right behind him.

A CAR EXITS A PARKING GARAGE

Aden almost gets hit, but continues to run. Dean slides across its hood.

EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS

THE LONG NARROW STREET WITH THE TRAIN IN THE DISTANCE

Aden runs down the middle of the street as hard as he can. Dean right behind him.

The red hand flashes stop at the intersection... this time Aden ignores it.

EXT./INT. TRAIN - CONTINUOUS

Running out one door and in another, Aden attempts to lose Dean through the chaos of people and train doors.

INT. TRAIN

Dean right on his heels. Aden runs down the aisle of the last train car.

THE DOORS CLOSE

Trapped, Aden turns around and screams. Dean is gone.

The passengers whisper to themselves as Aden finds a seat. He slouches to hide his face from the window.

The train begins to move.

Coincidentally, the eccentric man sits right in front of him. He leans over and whispers.

ECCENTRIC MAN

Who are you hiding from?

Startled, Aden jumps. Surprised to see him.

ADEN

No one. I'm not hiding from anyone.
I just sit like this sometimes.

The man nods his head.

ECCENTRIC MAN

If you keep running, he will kill
you.

The wheels turn.

ADEN

How do you know that?

ECCENTRIC MAN

In my defense, it's a lot funnier
from my perspective.

The man leans forward in his seat.

ECCENTRIC MAN (CONT'D)

You know Aden, you really shouldn't
take things that aren't yours. It's
called stealing.

Aden freezes.

ADEN

Is that what this is about? The
box? Listen, I was going to give it
back to you, I swear. Don't do this
to me. Look, I am so sorry. Really.
I... I had no idea. I will make
this up to you. I promise. Just
tell me how.

The Man shakes his head in distress.

ECCENTRIC MAN

See, that's exactly what I'm
talking about. You still don't get
it do you?

ADEN

No, I get it. I am terribly sorry,
I did a very bad thing. I shouldn't
have taken the box. Really. That
was my mistake. I don't know what I
was thinking. Don't hurt me.

The man nods his head, and sits back and looks at Aden for a
moment.

ECCENTRIC MAN
I want it back.

ADEN
What? But I don't have it.

ECCENTRIC MAN
I know.

ADEN
Well... how do you expect me to do that? He has it. He stole it from me.

ECCENTRIC MAN
I want it back. Bring it back and I promise you, he won't bother you anymore.

ADEN
Okay. So how am I supposed to do that? And even if I did, am I supposed to just believe you?

ECCENTRIC MAN
Look at me. Get me the box, and your problem will go away. I promise.
(beat)
Do you have pen?

Aden checks his pockets. Hands the man a pen.

ECCENTRIC MAN (CONT'D)
Keep it.

He hands Aden a name tag. It reads: Hello my name is:

ECCENTRIC MAN (CONT'D)
Write down your name.

Aden writes his name, and hands back the pen and the name tag. The eccentric man tears off the back part of the name tag and sticks the name tag on Aden's shirt.

ADEN
What is this?

ECCENTRIC MAN
It's a name tag.

ADEN
Well I know that. But what is it for?

(MORE)

ADEN (CONT'D)
I'm not going to walk around with
my name on my shirt. It's
embarrassing, and stupid.

ECCENTRIC MAN
Embarrassing?

The man looks Aden up and down.

ADEN
Yeah.

ECCENTRIC MAN
You tell me what's more important
embarrassing or your life?
(beat)
I'm going to tell you something
very important now. So listen up.
If you rip that tag off, you're
going to regret it. You understand
me?

ADEN
Yeah. I understand.

ECCENTRIC MAN
No you don't, so I'm going to tell
you again. You rip that off, you're
going to regret it. This is not a
game, this is not a test, this is
not a joke. We're talking about
your life here. Don't touch it.

ADEN
Got it. I won't touch it.

ECCENTRIC MAN
Good.

Aden scoots back in his seat.

ADEN
Can I ask you a question?

The man waits.

ADEN (CONT'D)
What happened to your face?

The man leans forward, the scar on his face is more
noticeable now.

ECCENTRIC MAN

A man once tried to kill me with a knife. I had a choice, either look him in the face or let him stab me in the back.

The train slows to a stop. The TRAIN CONDUCTOR makes an announcement through the loud speakers.

TRAIN CONDUCTOR

End of the line. Returning to Salt Lake City.

Passengers begin to file out. The eccentric man stands up and looks at Aden.

ECCENTRIC MAN

Good luck with your love life Aden.
Hope to see you around.

The man begins to walk away but stops and turns back around.

ECCENTRIC MAN (CONT'D)

Did you know that under extreme heat scorpions will sometimes stick themselves in the head?

(beat)

Fascinating.

Aden watches as the man walks off the train, still wearing his bright purple shoes.

Aden remains in his seat as passengers begin to file on. The doors begin to close... his last chance to run.

The train begins to move again. He's going back.

EXT. TRAIN - SOMEWHERE

We watch the train speed by from right to left.

INT/EXT. TRAIN

The train rolls into the station. Aden stares out the window, searching for Dean.

There he is, exiting a train car.

Dean takes a moment to look at the train windows... Aden ducks.

Aden peeks his head back up. Dean walks away.

EXT. STREETS - DUSK

Aden quietly follows Dean as he hides behind a number of items lining the street; a garbage can, a parked car, a corner building.

A sharp piece of metal lay on the street, Aden picks it up.

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING

Dean enters an old concrete abandoned building. Aden follows.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

It's dark. Too dark. Only the light from the street lamps outside give him any clue of footing.

He tip toes through the black. The sounds of Dean's footsteps guide his way.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Descending, he hugs the wall, careful not to make a sound.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

He steps into the dark... into a puddle. A sound.

Dean's footsteps fall silent.

DEAN

You shouldn't have followed me.

Aden tenses up. Dean's location becomes hard to place now.

DEAN (CONT'D)

It doesn't matter I guess. You're going to die either way.

Aden steps backwards.

From out of the darkness Dean's fist connects with Aden's face and knocks him to the ground. Aden drops the piece of metal, losing it in the darkness.

Aden scurries to get up but he is punched again, and again.

Blood from Dean's fist drips onto a dimly lit concrete floor.

The bloodied face of ADEN slams into the concrete. He is sweating and frightened. He attempts to scamper away, to wounded to stand up.

Backed into a wall, he looks up. The horror of Dean approaching him, plays across his face.

Aden closes his eyes and waits for certain death.

ADEN

If you're going to kill me. At least tell me why?

DEAN

That's a stupid question. You already know why.

(beat)

Cause you want me to.

Aden opens his eyes.

ADEN

No... No I don't. I don't want you to. Listen I am so sorry. I'm sorry I took the box. I'm sorry I opened it. I'm sorry about everything. I didn't know.

DEAN

You're sorry? We'll I think it's a little late for sorrys', don't you? Besides, the box is the best decision you ever made. You're lucky, not everybody gets to see what's coming for em. You're not blind anymore Aden. Just dead.

Dean sniffs the air and cocks his neck. He looks around the room and wipes sweat from his brow. He smiles.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Man, is it just me? Or is it getting really hot in here? I think maybe, it's about time someone put you out of your misery.

Dean steps fully into the light he holds a knife in his hand.

Aden gets a good look at Dean now. The yellow shoes, the black pants, the white shirt. Dean smiling down upon him.

ADEN

Wait. Why did you say that? The scorpion is the only other animal besides humans to commit suicide.

Dean pauses.

DEAN

Congratulations Aden. You listen to the nature channel.

Dean takes a step forward.

Aden raises his hand to the name tag on his shirt. He looks at Dean - and tears the name tag off.

A name tag instantly presents it self on Dean's shirt. The tag reads DEAN.

ADEN

I know who you are.

DEAN

Wow. So you figured it out. What do you want a standing ovation or something? It doesn't change anything. I'm better than you, and you're still going to die.

Dean smiles and lunges toward Aden with the knife.

ADEN

No.

Aden throws his hand out to stop the knife.

The knife goes through Aden's hand, but misses his face.

Aden push-charges Dean, who falls backwards into a puddle of water cracking his head on the ground. Aden stands and looks at the knife sticking out of his hand.

Dean slowly regains consciousness as Aden realizes he has the advantage. He painfully pulls the knife from his hand, as Dean watches in horror. Aden stands above him.

DEAN

This isn't as simple as it looks. I'm not that easy to get rid of.

ADEN

Stop following me.

DEAN

I can't.

Aden nods. - The name tag on Dean's shirt disappears.

ADEN

That's interesting. Looks like I
don't regret that decision anymore.

Dean smiles.

ADEN (CONT'D)

Give me the box.

DEAN

Sorry. I don't know what you're
talking about.

ADEN

That's okay. I don't need it
anymore.

Aden pauses a moment, turns around, and walks away.

Dean stands up grasping the sharp piece of metal Aden dropped
earlier. He dashes towards Aden.

From the shadow on the wall we see Aden turn around and stab
Dean in the neck. Dean holds onto Aden as he winces and
falls.

Aden watches as Dean gasps his last breath and falls to
ground.

A pool of blood slowly grows larger around Deans fallen body -
it inches its way from his chest, to his stomach, to his
legs... towards the yellow shoes.

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

Aden stumbles out of the abandoned building. He throws the
knife into the nearby crumbling rubble.

After a few steps he stops and admires the hole in his
hand... and the yellow shoes he's wearing.

Aden looks to the road in front of him with a new sense of
confidence. A slight nod. He did it.

Aden gets further away as he walks down the street.
Annabelle's theme music plays.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING

Blood covers the ground from the aftermath of the fight. Dean's body is gone, in his place is a familiar box. All wrapped up.

Purple shoes enter the frame and a hand picks up the box. The Eccentric Man smiles.

THE END