HARVEY' S DREAM

based on a short story by $\ensuremath{\mathsf{STEPHEN}}\xspace{\ensuremath{\mathsf{KING}}\xspace}$

adapted for the screen by CHRISTOPHER ZATTA

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1 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

ESTABLISHING SHOTS. A heavy wind rustles tree leaves and blows debris across the street.

2 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

HARVEY kneels beside the bed. He weeps, his face in tearstricken anguish. Then, suddenly happy, he smiles. His crying stops. He wipes the tears.

HARVEY'S POV: JANET, peacefully asleep in bed.

BACK ON HARVEY, he crawls into bed with Janet, as we --

FADE TO BLACK

A cacophony of grinding and metallic sound fills our ears.

CUT TO:

3 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Janet wakes. We realize the loud noise is a garbage truck just outside the window. Janet notices Harvey, fast asleep, spooning her. She scowls and slides out from beneath him.

4 INT. HALLWAY - DAY - LATER

Janet exits the bathroom, her hair now pulled into a ponytail. She puts on her glasses and glances to the bedroom.

JANET'S POV: The room is clean, sparse, with a pristine decor of white sheets and curtains. Harvey is still asleep in bed.

BACK ON JANET, she glances into the office.

JANET'S POV: The office is dark, with sunlight peeking through drawn window-blinds. Piles of screenplays litter the desk. A laptop lies open. An unfinished glass of scotch rests beside the computer. And an air mattress fills the floor space, with tattered dark sheets strewn about.

5 INT. KITCHEN - DAY - LATER

Janet glares at a frying pan in the sink. It's stained with the residue of cooked eggs. Janet then turns to the adjoining living room. An OLD CARTOON plays on the TV. A plate of uneaten scrambled eggs rests on the coffee table.

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INT. KITCHEN - DAY - LATER

Janet washes dishes. Coffee brews. Harvey ENTERS.

He's beaming as he pulls Janet into an intimate embrace, startling her.

HARVEY

Morning, Jax.

Harvey leads Janet in a small, little dance. Janet laughs and goes with it. They spin apart, still laughing.

JANET What's got into you?

HARVEY

Happiness.

JANET You haven't called me Jax since...

As she thinks back on it, her smile fades. Harvey doesn't notice, still grinning as he pours himself some coffee.

JANET (CONT'D) What's got into you?

HARVEY Something happened last night. (beat) Well, it wasn't really night. Dawn.

JANET Harvey. What happened?

HARVEY I had this, this dream. Surprised you didn't hear me crying.

Janet looks at him, her eyebrow arched.

JANET Crying? Is that why you were in bed?

HARVEY (understanding) You're upset about that.

JANET Yes. We discussed, that... that we would discuss, when the sleeping arrangement could change. HARVEY

I know.

JANET

You can't --

HARVEY But I feel... different now, Janet.

JANET

I don't. You can't distance yourself from me, for so long, and not... and just, decide, without discussing, that you'll climb back into bed.

HARVEY Can I tell you my dream?

JANET I steer the direction of us, too.

HARVEY I know that. I do, and I... (taking her hands in his) ...I remembered that smile, you just had...

JANET Because you said Jax.

HARVEY I'm ready to go back to what... to who I was, before I got distracted.

Janet withdraws her hands from Harvey's clasp.

JANET That's great... for you.

HARVEY

It's because I had this dream. I
want to share it with you. Can I?
 (off her silence)
Can I?

JANET Okay. Go ahead.

HARVEY

It was awful.

JANET I thought it was a good dream.

HARVEY It gets there. (proceeding) So, in it, I wake up at, must've been... 4am. She pours some coffee. Harvey crosses to the couch and sits. HARVEY (CONT'D) I was hungry, so I... I actually made breakfast. Janet looks at the freshly washed dishes on the dish rack... HARVEY (CONT'D) Then I put on the TV. There was nothing really to watch though, some... old cartoons. Janet moves to the fridge and gets out milk and eggs. HARVEY (CONT'D) (remarking) The details were, really... vivid. JANET Harvey. The cartoons. Your eggs. What are you talking about? HARVEY (oblivious to her confusion) I'm just telling you my dream. (getting back to it) While I was eating, maybe on my second bite, my phone rang. JANET Uh huh? And who was it? HARVEY Hannah. Janet's eyes go wide. She watches Harvey for a beat. JANET She called you? HARVEY Yeah, I thought it was strange, too. She's your friend. I've never

talked to her without you around. I don't think she even has my number.

JANET What did she say? HARVEY It was... like I woke up, in the dream, specifically for her call. JANET What did she say, Harvey? Harvey looks at Janet for a beat. His enthusiasm abates. HARVEY That... you're having an affair. That you met someone, and it'd become... serious. (laughs uncomfortably) I wasn't... completely surprised either. Given our... I've even... I've wondered... if you were having an affair. (then, angered) But, in my dream, when Hannah confirmed it, it... drove me mad. Janet shudders, suddenly flustered. She moves toward Harvey. JANET Harvey...? I need to --He stands, waving his hands, dismissive of it all. HARVEY Don't... say anything, based on a dream. It was just a stupid dream. (adding) Remember you told me once, how... dreams are, they aren't logical. They're poems of the subconscious. I don't know what a nightmare must be, but... I think I, I think... I had this nightmare, to break me from the... mental block that I've been in. JANET I don't want to hear anymore. HARVEY But it doesn't end there, Jax. JANET I don't care. It wasn't... This... I just don't want to hear the rest.

She turns to the kitchen. Her back to Harvey. She busies herself by grabbing ingredients and accessories for pancakes. The batter, a pan, a wisk, etc.

HARVEY

I hung up. I took a knife from the knife block. I went to the bedroom. And I... stabbed you. Repeatedly, stabbed at your throat. I was saying something. But I wasn't really able to say the words. It was like... I don't know... I couldn't close my mouth around them. Like I'd had a stroke. Like it wasn't my voice. It was... Ellee ow ew ood. Ell-ee ow ew ood, ax.

He trails off for a beat. Then, snapping out of it --

HARVEY (CONT'D) Right then I became aware I was still in bed, I mean, the air mattress. I cried myself awake. But still... saying it. *Ell-ee ow ew* ood. *Ell-ee ow ew ood, ax*.

JANET (pieced it together) Tell me how you could?

HARVEY

(nods)
Tell me how you could, Jax.
 (adding)
And I was disgusted with myself.
With what I'd dreamt. I finally
understood how you must have felt
lately, how I've neglected... us,
how much you must have hated me.

JANET

I haven't...

HARVEY You've been disappointed by me. I

was supposed to be... a good catch.

He takes her hands again. Janet lowers her eyes to the floor.

HARVEY (CONT'D) When I went to our bedroom, I was so happy to see you. Sleeping peacefully. I was relieved you were okay... it was all a dream. (MORE) HARVEY (CONT'D) I decided... in that moment, to make us work. No matter what. I felt... how much I still love you. (beat) So I crawled into our bed.

Janet looks up at Harvey with absolute terror. But Harvey just smiles at her with his happy smile.

JANET

Is that where it ended?

HARVEY Us in bed. Me holding you. Just before I fell back asleep, I had this, image... stupid, simple image... of us having breakfast. (gestures to the table) Right over there.

He gestures to the breakfast that Janet has prepared.

HARVEY (CONT'D) And we were having pancakes and coffee.

Harvey laughs. Janet lets out an exasperated gasp, almost sounding like a laugh too.

HARVEY (CONT'D) Amazing, isn't it, how deep imagination goes?

She pushes away from Harvey. Rushing out of the kitchen. Harvey moves to the pancake batter and turns on the stove.

> HARVEY (CONT'D) A dream like that is... how a poet, one of the great ones, must see their poem. Every... detail, so clear. So bright.

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7 INT. HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Janet moves through the hallway, stumbling towards --

8 INT. BEDROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

-- she takes several steps inside, looking in horror at something she sees off screen.

9 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Harvey places two servings of pancakes on two plates. He moves to the dining room table, a plate in each hand.

10 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Janet drops to her knees. She pulls herself along the bedside by the mattress, gasping in an audible cry.

11 INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Harvey places one of the plates at one end of the dining room table. He leans forward. Kisses Janet's forehead.

12 INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Janet's blood covered dead body lays in the bed. The Janet that was kneeling on the floor is now nowhere to be seen.

13 INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Harvey looks directly into camera with a smile.

Janet looks directly into camera with a smile.

WIDEN TO REVEAL:

Harvey sits across from Janet at the dining room table, both having pancakes and coffee. Both smiling at one another.

THE END

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