

CANDYBAR: A SHORT PLAY

Written by

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WE ARE IN A FUNERAL HOME. SAM IS HOLDING A FUN SIZE CANDY BAR, CONTEMPLATING IT. A CASKET IS ON THE TABLE IN THE CENTER OF THE STAGE. ALEX WALKS IN TENTATIVELY, COVERING HIS EYES.

ALEX

Hey, hi! Is it gross?

SAM

What? No. How are you not over this by now? Plus, the gross stuff happens in the basement. He's all boxed up.

ALEX

You make him sound like Chinese takeout.

SAM

Nah, he's Italian actually. And very handsome.

ALEX

Oh?

SAM

Want to see?

ALEX

What? No! Gross

SAM

He's all done up! Plus he choked to death so his body isn't even cut up or anything.

ALEX

What, so he's not blue anymore? I'm still scarred from when you wanted to show me something "really cool" and it was that tumor that looked like a face.

SAM

Hey, we almost got into "Ripley's Believe it or Not" with that. But trust me, he's fine.

Well, *dead*, but his body is all in one piece, no tumors that we found.

ALEX

I'm only doing this because I'm leaving tomorrow.

SAM

Sorry I couldn't do brunch like we planned. We've been swamped lately.

ALEX

Yeah, but I'm leaving, *leaving*.

SAM

And I still have a life here.

ALEX

It's fine! It's fine! At least we're not downstairs and I really just wanted to hang out.

SAM

So.....

ALEX

Fine, let's take a look.

They walk over the casket and crack open the lid. Light floods out washing over both of them and a chorus of angles swells.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Oh, wow. You weren't kidding.

SAM

See? Told you. You should have seen his abs. And let's just say some other stuff didn't need any embalming fluid to "plump up" if you know what I mean...

ALEX

I hope that's a joke because, ew. What happened to him? Also, can I eat this?

SAM

Ah! Wait, hold on don't touch that yet. Well, it's sanitized but I haven't checked if it's airtight.

ALEX

What? Why? It's candy.

SAM

So our friend here? He, uh choked to death.

ALEX

I remember.

SAM

Well at a party he accidentally smoked some weed laced with DMT and he ate some candy unwrapped while tripping balls.

ALEX

And?

SAM

He choked to death.

ALEX

So you keep saying.

She looks pointedly at the candy.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Oh. Grim.

That's why I get all my weed from a reputable source. A mysterious man that I Snapchat who sends a stranger with a backpack to come into my home to sell me illegal drugs.

SAM

Exactly! Anyway, the candy has been fully sterilized. Now I was gonna see if it floats. If it floats, it's airtight.

ALEX

And why do you care if it's airtight?

They share a look.

ALEX (CONT'D)

...Sam?

She gives him a look.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Sam. Ew. No. You can't,

SAM

Oh come on you can't say it didn't cross your mind either.

ALEX

I can say with 100 percent certainty that it did not.

SAM

You're not even a little bit curious?

ALEX

You are?

SAM

It's fully wrapped! It's air tight! It's an incredible story for my memoir.

ALEX

Yeah but not only was it inside a person, it killed him.

SAM

We have both put things in our mouth that have been inside another person.

ALEX

Yeah but that's different.

SAM

Yeah, ever since my IUD the things going into me haven't been wrapped. Ey oh!

They high five.

ALEX

Nice.

But seriously, you can't actually be considering eating that just because he's a cute boy.

SAM

Well I would probably do it even if he was not cute. But I thought it would make a difference for you.

ALEX

Why would it make a difference for me?

She gives him another look.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm not eating the candy bar with you.

SAM

Come on! Please? He's so hot. Why do you think I invited you over?

ALEX

You invited me over because you couldn't come to our last brunch before I leave for the city. No, it's so gross.

SAM

Do it for me? One last crazy memory before you leave me here all alone with the bodies and my dad?

ALEX

That's not funny, Sam. You know-

SAM

--I know, I know. Sorry.

ALEX

Like you know I feel bad...

SAM

Okay, sorry, sorry, I don' want to get into this again. But! One last memory? Come on, please?

ALEX

(beat) You're insane.

He sighs, she gives him a hopeful look.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Let's start by seeing if it's airtight.

Sam lights up and hurries to fill a glass of water.

SAM

Amazing! So, we'll hold it under the water for a bit and if it floats back to the top or whatever, it means it's airtight!

They test. It's airtight.

ALEX

Damn it. I really don't know how I feel about this.

SAM

I mean if we split it, it's only like one bite each.

ALEX

One bite of a candy bar that killed a boy.

SAM

A beautiful *man*.

They hear CANDYBAR's voice.

CANDYBAR

How about you let me decide?

ALEX

Did you just say that?

SAM

What? I can't do voices. I thought it was you?

ALEX

Is there an Alexa somewhere talking to us? Jeff? You listening?

CANDYBAR

No, it's just me.

Like in "Alien," CANDYBAR's puppet body breaks through the casket revealing itself.

CANDYBAR (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Candybar.
But you can call me Candy.

Beat. ALEX and SAM look at CANDYBAR, each other, and back at CANDYBAR.

ALEX

Did you give me DMT?

SAM

Are you kidding? I didn't even know it was a drug until Mr. Abs here came in the other day.

CANDYBAR

Just give into the delusion. You're clearly stuck in it.

SAM

But there's a talking candy bar
over there.

CANDYBAR

And I'm talking to you guys.

ALEX

So does this mean we shouldn't eat
it?

CANDYBAR

Finally, someone asking the
important questions.

SAM

I think wondering what the hell is
going on is an important question.

CANDYBAR

But does it matter? I'm here now
and you guys are going through this
together. Just succumb.

ALEX

Oh my gosh we're dying. We're dead.
I must have crashed my car driving
over here or something.

SAM

You're not dead because I'm sure
that I'm real. Are you real? Am I
dead? Finally....

ALEX

Of course I'm real!

CANDYBAR

That's what a fake person would say
too.

ALEX

Maybe you're dead and I'm fake?

CANDYBAR

What makes something fake? Am I
fake?!

SAM

Why are you here, really?

CANDYBAR

Why is anyone here? To experience
life!

ALEX
But we're dead?

SAM
We're not dead, Alex.

CANDYBAR
Maybe you were never alive.

SAM
Wait, how are *you* even alive?

CANDYBAR
The power of your love and
friendship brought me to life, duh.

ALEX
For real?

CANDYBAR
I don't know. I'm as lost as you. I
just got here.

SAM
So no one knows what's going on?

They all look at each other.

CANDYBAR
A moment ago there was nothing, and
now, I exist.

ALEX
Are you a ghost?

SAM
Are you *him*?

CANDYBAR
No, I'm Candy.

SAM
No, the guy in the box.

CANDYBAR
This box? The one I'm on?

They nod.

CANDYBAR (CONT'D)
Are you telling me there's a dead
guy in this box right below me and
you guys are just okay with that?

SAM

You're in a funeral home and morgue. It's very likely there are multiple dead bodies here. And I guess it was a matter of time before we got a haunting.

You know my friend, Cindy, at the Annual Mortician's Meetup, she says that spooky stuff happens all the--

CANDYBAR

--Hey! Uh I'm not a ghost. At least I don't think I'm a ghost. I feel like if I were a ghost I'd remember a life before this one but I can't say I remember anything from before a few minutes ago.

ALEX

So I guess he's not *him*. Who are you then?

CANDYBAR

How did he die? Maybe that will tell us why I'm here.

(beat)

SAM

Oh, uh. Well, he suffocated.

CANDYBAR

Oh my gosh that's terrible. What a scary way to go. Did he get his head stuck in a bag or something?

ALEX

Not a bag...

SAM

Well, Candy... He uh... He choked to death.

CANDYBAR

Oh man, it just gets worse and worse for this guy. What did he choke on?

(beat)

Guys? What did he choke on? Oh no don't tell me.

(MORE)

CANDYBAR (CONT'D)

Oh no...Oh no...I was so happy just like five seconds ago and now...and now...AND NOW I'M A MURDERER!

SAM and ALEX start shushing the puppet

ALEX

Geez, shh!! Oh my gosh calm down.

SAM

The official report blames some weed laced with DMT for causing him to uh...trip balls.

CANDYBAR

So now because he was a drug addict he deserved to die? Addiction is a sickness.

ALEX

I don't think anyone blames you for what happened.

CANDYBAR

I'm an angel of death. Cursed with sentience so I can suffer. What cruel God--

SAM

Woah, woah Holy cow, you gotta calm down man.

CANDYBAR

I killed someone! I only know three people and I *killed* one of them.

SAM

He did this to himself. While it's not, *not* your fault, no one blames you.

CANDYBAR

I still feel bad.

ALEX

So you can feel things? Feeling bad is a good sign... Is there anything we can do to make you feel better?

CANDYBAR

I guess all that's left is I need to be eaten?

SAM

So now you're *asking* us to eat you?

CANDYBAR

It seems like the next logical step? I exist, I killed a man, the only thing left is to serve my intended purpose: To be eaten and enjoyed.

ALEX

I'm jealous of your certainty.

SAM

What, so *now* you want to eat it?

ALEX

I don't know, you did say it's sanitized. And it's air tight.

SAM

So now we're really just giving into this delusion?

ALEX

You said you wanted one last memory together. We might as well just go for it.

SAM

Oh my gosh this is amazing! Yes! I love this delusion!

CANDYBAR

Well don't too excited. I *am* dying here.

ALEX

Sorry...sorry... but we should do it quickly before I lose the stomach for it. Candy, do you have anything you want to say?

CANDYBAR

Oh my gosh, this is all happening so fast. I guess I just want to say thank you? You guys have helped me find my purpose. I can only hope you enjoy my delicious chocolate exterior followed by my creamy caramel insides.

Bon voyage and Bon Appetit!

ALEX and SAM move to tear open the candy bar. Right as they are about to do it, CANDYBAR interrupts them.

CANDYBAR (CONT'D)

Wait! Wait! No! No! No! Not yet!

SAM

What? Why?

ALEX

Did it hurt?

CANDYBAR

Hurt? What? I didn't even think about it hurting. I just thought of a better last line than Bon Appetit! I wanted to say, "So long friends, it's been sweet..."

ALEX AND SAM

Aww!

CANDYBAR

But now you've got me thinking... Will getting eaten hurt?

SAM

(at the same time) Uhh....Well... You see...

ALEX

(at the same time) I don't think it'll not hurt?

CANDYBAR

Oh my gosh it's probably gonna hurt so bad. I don't think I want to do this anymore. I don't think I need this.

ALEX

But what about the guilt you felt?

SAM

And I'm really craving chocol--I mean yeah, the guilt. Your journey!

CANDYBAR

I mean you *did* say it wasn't my fault. Maybe I can stick around for a bit. Can I stay with one of you?

ALEX

Yeah!

SAM

Of course!

The look at each other and remember they are about to be moving apart.

ALEX

...I guess you'll have to choose.

CANDYBAR

Wow you guys just made this *so* dramatic. What are you not talking about?

SAM

Just pick one of us!

CANDYBAR

Well I can't just pick now. We'll have to make it a game.

ALEX

We should have just eaten it.

SAM

We still can!

CANDYBAR

Hey! That's not funny and I've got an idea.

ALEX

Which is?

CANDYBAR

Do you trust me?

ALEX AND SAM

No.

Dramatic gameshow host music starts.

CANDYBAR

Goooooooood evening! Ladies, Gentlemen, candyfolk...Welcome to tonight's show where our two lucky contestants will compete for the opportunity, no, the privilege... Wait! The *honor*, of taking me home.

Contestant number one is a beautiful mortician who lives in a little American suburb just like yours.

(MORE)

CANDYBAR (CONT'D)

Comfortable, content—is she worried that the life she built will collapse without her best friend at arms reach at all times?

Contestant number two is about to strike out on his own in a new place for the first time ever. Will he have the strength to succeed without someone else to lean on?

There's a beat where they all look at each other while the music still plays.

ALEX

Geez man, harsh.

SAM

Yeah, what the hell? Show, don't tell.

CANDYBAR

Hey, I'm just reading the room.

They exchange a look.

CANDYBAR (CONT'D)

So whoooooo's ready to play?

SAM

I don't think I'm loving this anymore.

CANDYBAR

I'll set the scene:

We're in a rom com, and it's right before our happily ever after. Everything has come to a head and you're delivering your final monologu-

SAM

I really don't want to do this anymo---

CANDYBAR

(over her)--You are delivering your final monologue at the end of a rom com and you need to convince me that you are in love with me.

ALEX

Are you serious?

CANDYBAR

Would you rather talk about your issues?

SAM

So a rom com, you say.

CANDYBAR

Yes! Give me your best "running towards each other in the rain" dramatic monologue about why I should choose you. Who wants to--

SAM

(angrily cutting him off) I don't want to do this anymore!

I don't...I don't want to do this anymore.

CANDYBAR and ALEX realize this is part of a scene and react like they are impressed and into it.

CANDYBAR

(Oh wow, she's really going for it...)

SAM

What we have is too much, it's too exhausting. You take all of me and that's okay but only when you're giving me all of you back. That's how we stay upright.

And now, it seems like you're pulling away but I still feel stuck to you. I keep waiting the tension to break and for you to snap back to my side but I just feel a push and I'm scared that if I keep pulling what we have will break for good.

I guess I have to let you go. But I can't help but feel if you move on, I might stay stuck here forever.

But if you're taking half of me with you, I guess that means a part of me is going on an adventure too. And I can't be mad because we both know this is what's right for us.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

No matter what, I know we'll always be in each other's lives.

(beat, back to CANDYBAR)

Because I'm just a girl, standing in front of a candy bar... asking it to love her.

CANDYBAR

Oh she's playing to *win*. But, somehow, I think this might not have just been about--

ALEX

(With an English accent)--I have to apologize, Lady Candy. For I cannot be a gentleman any longer. A gentleman waits, is respectful, and never burdens another with something so trivial as feelings... but I cannot hold mine in any longer...

(he begins to slip out of his accent, he's serious now) We are, perhaps, too focused on the sadness of being apart and not focused on the times we've spent together. But I too, I feel the pain of losing you with every single breath I take.

Without you, I feel torn in half. You are my confidence, my confidant. My lover, but also, my love.

I do love you. And I know you know that. Distance will not be the thing that tears us apart.

Jane Austen said it best, (back in an English accent) I come here with no expectations, only to profess, now that I am at liberty to do so, that my heart is and always will be...yours.

SAM and ALEX hug.

CANDYBAR

Wow, Notting Hill and Sense and Sensibility. Good choices guys.

(MORE)

CANDYBAR (CONT'D)

Ahem...

The points have been tallied! The final decision has been made! The judges have deliberated and the winner is---

We hear the sounds of a door opening and muffled conversations approaching.

SAM

Wait, shut up! Do you hear that?

CANDYBAR

Are you kidding me? This is what we've been-

SAM

Shh!! Someone is coming!

ALEX

Who? I thought the funeral was tonight?

The voices get louder.

SAM

I think it's his family, go! Go!

They hide under the table/exit stage. The lights go dark. We hear the sound of his parents coming into the room. We get snippets of their sad conversation.

MOM

Oh, look, his favorite (we hear the crinkle of the wrapper). How thoughtful of you to have these here. Are there more? Can I please eat this one?

Candybar Screams as we hear him torn open and eaten with a crunch.