

Homeless  
Episode 102: Strain

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Webseries

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BLACK SCREEN

TANYA (V.O.)  
What was that?

-Fade In-

INT. TANYA'S CAR- NIGHT

Tanya's Car is parked on 3rd Street.

Tanya and Maggie are parked and watching the David and Mark encounter. Maggie is leaning forward intently watching.

MAGGIE  
Oh, I don't know...

TANYA  
We followed him for over two hours  
and he came here to say "what's up"  
to that guy?

MAGGIE  
We don't know he said that... Do you  
think he knows him?

TANYA  
He waved to him is all I know... Oh,  
and now he's turning around... bet you,  
I bet you he goes back to the alley  
we found him at...

Maggie leans back in her seat and gives a look to Tanya.  
Tanya sighs and shrugs her shoulders as she realizes she is  
in the wrong.

MAGGIE  
Do you want this now?

Tanya rolls her eyes, she knows what's coming.

TANYA  
(through gritted teeth)  
...Yes...

Maggie reaches into her pocket and pulls out her hand giving  
Tanya the middle finger; she holds it.

MAGGIE

That's my brother out there. I want him to come home but he's got something wrong with him and instead of going to sleep at night, I worry about him...

TANYA

(attempting to interrupt)  
...I know, Maggie...

MAGGIE

(successfully interrupting)  
...Is the Volume Finger still up?

Maggie is still giving the finger; Tanya nods "yes" and then remains quiet.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

I told you this is what I was doing tonight, I said you didn't have to come, and I said you don't like to do this cause you get annoyed and bored and start complaining...

Maggie mockingly turns the finger down and waits for Tanya to start to open her mouth before she interrupts by raising the finger and continuing; Tanya's eyes go wide because she was messed with.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

...Now... I'm not trying to be a dickhead, Tanya, but we institutionalized the Volume Finger because this happens every time.

Maggie lowers her middle finger; Tanya waits a beat before she raises her hand and gives the middle finger and then looks to Maggie.

TANYA

...That's all I had to say.

Tanya starts the engine.

EXT. STREET- NIGHT

Tanya's Car comes to a stop at a stop sign.

INT. TANYA'S CAR- NIGHT

Tanya and Maggie both look about through their windows.

TANYA  
Sorry, Maggie...

Maggie continues looking but she comes to the same conclusion that David is gone. Maggie looks over to Tanya and gives her a smile.

MAGGIE  
(sincere)  
...I love you, Tanya. Thanks for coming out with me...

Tanya begins driving.

EXT. ALLEY- DAY

Karl, addict, is looking toward the ground.

David is sprawled out on his stomach on the ground; the fold of a dollar bill can be seen in his pocket and Karl is looking at it. Karl is debating if he should fight or sneak it from David.

Karl decides; he pulls his foot back and then kicks David in the face and then lunges down to David's pocket. Karl pulls the dollar bill from David's pocket, he is disappointed and then flips David over to go through his other pocket. Karl finds nothing and then glances up to David's face.

David's eyes are covered by a patch of Black; Karl falls back in fear.

KARL  
No, please...

David floats up to his feet; Karl is taking in every second of this moment of horrifying awe. David stands over Karl and reaches into another pocket and pulls out a few spare dollars. David hands them to Karl; Karl hesitantly takes the money.

DAVID  
(cold)  
I will find you.

Karl runs away as fast as he can without looking back; David stands and watches until Karl is out of sight.

David's eyes go normal; there is blood and a red mark on his face from the kick and he is instantly in a lot of pain as he holds his face.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Ow, Dammit... Did a car hit me?

David looks around as he rubs the side of his face; he begins walking out of the alley.

EXT. STREET- DAY

David walks out of the alley and enters the street.

David rubs his face continually as he walks the street. He gets close to a store and reaches into his pocket; he realizes he has no money, he's been robbed. David stomps his foot; Passerby is in earshot.

DAVID  
(outraged)  
Who would rob the poor!

PASSERBY  
(jokes)  
...Republicans.

Passerby continues walking; David starts to follow him instantly.

DAVID  
Is that supposed to be funny? I'm talking to you, clown!

Passerby is uncomfortable now and won't look back, he continues walking; David's ire is getting the better of him as he follows.

DAVID (cont'd)  
You're quick with the jokes but not with the sympathy! You keep walking, maybe I'll disappear like all the problems that are behind you or that you can turn off with a remote control or a light switch before you close your eyes and get your precious eight hours, cause you live in a world of denial!

Passerby stops and David nearly walks into him.

PASSERBY

(shouting)

You don't know me! You think I ignore the world's problems! I work for a charity that helps veterans! I do my part, asshole! You don't got a right to the World's pity just cause you're some cranky homeless guy!

DAVID

(shouting)

You're right, I don't! I'm just pissed off cause I got robbed and I didn't need your commentary!

PASSERBY

(shouting)

Fair enough! I'm sorry! I hope your day gets better!

DAVID

Thank you.

David extends his hand; Passerby extends his and the two shake hands. The two let go and storm off in opposite directions.

EXT. STREETS- DAY

Tanya is across the street; she had her phone up and recorded David and Passerby's encounter. She lowers the phone with a look of concern.

TANYA

(to herself)

...Damn David...

INT. MAGGIE'S APARTMENT- DAY

Maggie is pouring baking soda down her drain; she has a maniacal look as she raises the vinegar and begins pouring, she watches the reaction with gusto.

Maggie's phone vibrates and she picks it up; there are earbuds connected to the phone and she puts them in. She watches the exchange that Tanya has sent her. Maggie cracks up laughing.

MAGGIE

(laughing)

Oh David...

Maggie presses share on her phone.

INT. SQUAD CAR- DAY

Officer Bill pulls over and checks his phone; he presses play and watches with a stern look.

EXT. CHURCH- DAY

Janet is walking toward church while looking at her phone; her expression is saddened. She presses a button and enters the church.

INT. CHURCH: COUNSELOR'S OFFICE- DAY

Janet knocks on open door and looks inside. Pastor is watching something on his phone; Pastor glances over and waves her in, she enters.

PASTOR  
So this is David?

JANET  
What?

PASTOR  
The video you forwarded me. That's David?

Janet looks mortified.

PASTOR (cont'd)  
...you didn't mean to send this I take it?

Janet collapses into her chair; Pastor smiles to her.

PASTOR (cont'd)  
Well, at least I know what we'll be talking about today

EXT. ALLEY- DUSK

David is sniffing about as he comes to an overturned Slushy cup; he picks it up and sees the Vial with a note. He reads the note.

NOTE  
Take on an empty stomach.

David snorts.

DAVID  
That was fortunate then...

David drinks the vial; he immediately begins dry heaving and collapses to the ground. He curls up in a fetal position as the 'Blacteria' ripples sporadically across his face. David passes out.

A long beat passes.

Feet walk up to the unconscious David and stop. The feet belong to Kenneth who looks down on David for a beat before he reaches into his pocket and pulls out a five-dollar bill; he bends down and places it under David's arm.

Kenneth walks away.

David's eyes open suddenly and he gasps for breath; he rolls onto his back and continues to catch his breath, as he regains his composure he sees that a five-dollar bill is stuck to his arm. He stares at it as a smile slowly forms.

DAVID (cont'd)  
...That'll play.

David grabs the bill and sits up; he touches his stomach and vomits off to his side. He wipes his mouth and waits till he's settled before he cautiously gets to his feet. He reaches to the wall and uses it as a safeguard to walk to the end of the alley.

David lets go of the wall as he is about to enter the street; he quickly reaches out again as he feels weak. He leans against the wall and slowly sits down. He takes a few deep breaths and a voice becomes audible.

KARL (O.S.)  
...You don't get how this feels? I don't want it but I need it... If I had insurance I could go to treatment and come down while being monitored but the only thing I can do out here is ween myself off it... I just need some money to buy it, you can hold onto it for me, you know ration it out for me...

David peeks around the corner and sees Karl talking on a burner phone right around the corner; he isn't pleading but rather going through the motions, putting on a performance.



KARL

...Please Ma, I don't need a place to stay, I need someone I can trust... I'll swing by for the money and come back with the stuff, you can come with...

No, scratch that, I don't want to put you in a place like that... Just come pick me up and we can park like a block away, I'll walk and get it and you'll be safe in the car...

Karl's eyes go wide.

KARL (cont'd)

No, no, don't put Dad on the phone... Hi, Dad... Yes, sir... Yes, sir... Okay...

Karl hangs up the phone suddenly.

KARL (cont'd)

Asshole!

Karl leans back against the wall; David reaches his hand out with the five-dollar bill, Karl glances over and sees the hand and bill but not David.

KARL (cont'd)

(excited)

For real?

Karl stands up and widely edges around the corner; he finally sees David and his eyes go wide with terror, David is confused by the fright.

DAVID

You okay?

Karl doesn't answer.

DAVID (cont'd)

Something on my face?

Karl shakes his head to indicate "No".

DAVID (cont'd)

Do you really want to get clean?

Karl shakes his head to indicate "No".

DAVID (cont'd)

If you ever do, come find me.

David holds out the bill but Karl doesn't reach for it;  
David drops it and struggles to walk away.

-Fade to Black-

BLACK SCREEN

Two second beat

-Cut to-

EXT. TANYA'S CAR- NIGHT

Tanya's car is double parked outside Maggie's apartment building.

Tanya sits in car; her phone makes a beep, she picks it up and checks it, she sets it down. Maggie can be seen walking to the car; she opens the door.

MAGGIE  
...Don't be scared.

Tanya smiles and Maggie gets into the car.

TANYA  
So, where to tonight?

MAGGIE  
I'm not sure, he didn't come by today... You wanna just drive around?

Tanya's phone beeps. Maggie takes notice of Tanya not reaching for it.

MAGGIE (cont'd)  
You gonna check that?

TANYA  
Nope.

Maggie's eyes narrow as she reaches for Tanya's phone. Tanya puts her middle finger up first as Maggie is viewing the phone. Maggie looks over to Tanya's finger.

TANYA (cont'd)  
Your mother posted it, so I thought that meant I could... I have a lot more followers than your mama...

Tanya lowers her finger.

MAGGIE  
...So David's gone viral.

TANYA  
I know! Right!

Tanya drives away.

-End