

DUMMY

Written by

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INT. STRIP MALL STOREFRONT - MORNING

Wood paneling and drab carpeting fill a sparse retail space.

A bald man, BILL (50s) sits at a folding table with his lanky co-worker DUANE (40s). They sip weak coffee from paper cups.

Seated between them is a rubber CPR DUMMY. The lifeless Dummy has a soft adult male face with an open mouth, but no arms or legs. It has its own coffee cup, for show.

INT. INVENTORY CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

Bill pulls the chain for an overhead bulb. The light reveals a deep closet with racks of different dummies.

Duane stands at the door with a clipboard.

DUANE

Anne?

Bill counts dummies made to look like adult females.

BILL

Twelve.

DUANE

Randy?

Bill counts adult male dummies.

BILL

Twelve.

Bill squats down to a row of child and dog dummies.

BILL (CONT'D)

Ten Andys, four Caspers.

DUANE

Gang's all here. Showtime.

INT. STRIP MALL STOREFRONT - MINUTES LATER

A group of business casual adults stand with dummies at their feet. Bill and Duane energetically address the group like they're motivational speakers.

BILL

Welcome to CPR training course
A45J. Ready to save some lives!?

Duane and Bill start clapping. The group claps along.

DUANE
Look alive people!

BILL
If you remember one thing today,
remember CAB - What's that Duane?

DUANE
Bill, that'd be compression,
airway, breathing.

BILL
Remember CAB and you won't need a
hearse.

The crowd chuckles more for the effort than the joke.

EXT. OUTSIDE BILL'S HOUSE - QUITTING TIME

Bill parks in the driveway of his two story house. A suburban nightmare.

His neighbor's MINIVAN pulls up and a swarm of kids unload.
Bill gives their MOTHER a wave.

INT. BILL'S KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Bill takes the plastic off a TV DINNER and puts it in the microwave. While it cooks, he watches through the window as his neighbors pray before diving into their home-cooked meal.

INT. BILL'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Bill lies awake on one side of a large bed.

INT. INVENTORY CLOSET - NEXT MORNING

Duane stands with the clipboard, as Bill counts the Annes.

BILL
We're missing an Anne.

DUANE
Hmm. She couldn't have gone far.

INT. BILL'S LIVING ROOM - AFTER WORK

Bill enters his house. As he takes off his tie he notices the missing ANNE DUMMY sitting on his couch, the TV on.

Bill looks at Anne in confusion and turns off the TV.

INT. BILL'S CAR - NEXT MORNING

Bill drives with a concerned look on his face. Anne sits in the passenger seat, seatbelt buckled.

INT. STRIP MALL STOREFRONT - LATER THAT DAY

Bill sits next to a STUDENT pumping away on the chest of an Anne dummy, which creates a clicking noise.

BILL

Push harder. Can't hurt them worse than death.

The student finishes pumping, then goes to put her mouth to the dummy, but Bill stops her.

Bill puts a plastic liner over the dummy's mouth.

BILL (CONT'D)

Don't want to be too friendly.

INT. BILL'S LIVING ROOM - AFTER WORK

Bill walks in carrying groceries but drops the bag when, again, ANNE sits watching TV.

INT. BILL'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Sitting on the edge of his bed, Bill fumbles through the contents of his nightstand drawer while holding his phone.

BILL

Yeah, Duane... hoping it's just a 24-hour thing... Bye.

Bill hangs up and pulls a RING out of the drawer, slipping it onto the ring finger of his left hand.

Bill turns to Anne, who occupies the other side of the bed, and slips a plastic cover over her mouth.

INT. BILL'S KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

Bill shuffles into his kitchen to find Anne and a child dummy, ANDY, sitting at the table with cereal bowls.

EXT. OUTSIDE BILL'S HOUSE - THAT MORNING

Bill walks over to his NEIGHBOR'S TRASHCAN. He checks if anyone is looking, but the block is empty.

INT. BILL'S KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Bill tapes a piece of paper to the fridge. It's a crumpled and stained HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT with a "B-" at the top.

Bill looks to the ANDY dummy. Bill gives a thumbs up.

BILL
Proud of you.

INT. STRIP MALL STOREFRONT - NEXT MORNING

Duane sips coffee at the table with a dummy, but no Bill.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - SAME TIME

Bill excitedly pulls SHIRTS from a clothing rack, catching the attention of a SHOPPER.

BILL
Buying clothes for my son.

SHOPPER
How old is he?

BILL
Ages eight and up.

The Shopper's face goes from friendly to confused.

INT. STRIP MALL STOREFRONT - SAME DAY

Duane stands before a bored group of students.

DUANE
Remember to call a CAB so you
don't... feel so drab!

The joke DOES NOT land.

INT. BILL'S HOUSE - LATER THAT DAY

Bill looks at a PHOTO FRAME that contains pictures of Bill with a WOMAN and TWO TEEN BOYS, all humans.

Bill takes the frame off the wall, and replaces it with photos of him with Anne and Andy, who now wear clothing.

INT. INVENTORY CLOSET - NEXT MORNING

Duane pulls the chain. His dead-eyed morning gaze turns to exhausted horror when the light reveals that the closet is now completely absent of dummies.

INT. BILL'S LIVING ROOM - THAT DAY

Bill sits on the couch watching TV with Anne, Andy, some RANDYS, a few CASPERS, and a handful of other dummies.

BRRRRING...BRRRRING...CLICK

DUANE

(Over Answering Machine)

Hi Bill... just wanted to check in.

Been worried about you, buddy.

Also, more dummies keep walking off-

Bill picks the phone up and puts it back down on the receiver. Bill flexes his hand, in some discomfort.

INT. BILL'S KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Bill sits at the head of the table, surrounded by his family of dummies, a complete turkey dinner laid out like a Norman Rockwell painting. Bill wipes sweat from his head.

BILL

Let us say grace.

Bill puts his hand on Anne's shoulder. His fingers start to twitch. Bill can't catch his breath. Something's wrong.

Bill falls out of his chair, grabbing at the tablecloth on his way down. Out of frame, Bill takes short breaths.

The dummies remain still in their places at the table.

Anne turns slightly towards Bill.

FADE TO BLACK.