

TATTOO

Written By

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Based on A True Story

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FADE IN

1 INT. TATTOO PARLOR/BARBERSHOP-MORNING

Adlain Cooper, is flanked across a wooden, makeshift table, located in a tattoo parlor/barbershop on Kline Street: the heart of the district where locals engage in every kind of business imaginable.

Swift, is bent over Adlain administering a tattoo and looking at his dog lying on the dizzy, black and white linoleum covered floor.

ADLAIN

How much longer we got?

SWIFF

He's on his way now. Boozer playing he sleeping sleep.

ADLAIN

That's one smart dog eh!

Like clockwork, Bigman the Barber enters the "shop", as the Radio DJ says "It's another super Saturday. Just 'hailing' all my Boys down on 'Kline'. Have a sensational Saturday"

My Day by Taurus Riley plays on the radio.

BIGMAN

How tings?

SWIFF

Cool

ADLAIN

I Safe man

Bigman turns his attention towards Boozer as he prepares his area in anticipation of customers.

BIGMAN

Dog! get up, come go out of in here!

He then turns his attention to Adlain.

BIGMAN

So Addy what's that now? You marking you territory again?

CLOSE UP:ON BIGMAN- WINKS HIS EYE

(CONTINUED)

Bigman throws back his head and laughs raucously.

ADLAIN

Go ahead! laugh! I gone to a next level now. I about to be known-BIG!

CLOSE UP: on Swiff's hands.

He pricks and blots, limiting his involvement in the conversation.

BIGMAN

How many names is that now?
Jacinth? Jennifer? Liniqua?

ADLAIN

This is the real thing now. Got a good permanent job and a darling of a Boss!

Bigman laughs heartily.

BIGMAN

Swiff, your boy Addy in the big leagues now. He making the big money. How much job you going lose cause you would not cut them hair? Big league and long hair dont mix. My offer still open come sit down let me fix you up.

ADLAIN

You see what happen to Samson when he cut his hair?

BIGMAN

You not Samson me boy! What Samson you telling me bout. STRRRRPPPS

Another client enters the shop and sits down.

CLIENT

What's Good? What happen Addy the hotel close today?

ADLAIN

Hotel? Ha! Big camera man I am now. Cleaning Days done!

Bigman rolls his eyes and shakes his head as he seats the new client.

BIGMAN

Yes and your chef days done, you
bartender days done, you
construction days finish, you
security days vanish! How much job
you done hold for the year boy?

ADLAIN

All who fired me will soon wish
they had me. I have an angel
looking over me now.

BIGMAN

Is that angel you putting on your
back? I hope it whisper in
your ear. Keep you outta trouble!

The new client speaks as the buzz of the shaver competes
with other "shop" sounds.

CLIENT

Glad for you Addy!. Dem boys used
to really beat you down. Couldn't
catch a break!

CLOSE UP OF ADLAIN'S FACE AS HE REMEMBERS....

DISSOLVE TO:

2 EXT.SCHOOL YARD: WHEN ADLAIN WAS A BOY

Three uniformed boys pushing Adlain make fun of and push
Adlain to the ground; holding him down as one of them uses
a knife to cut the long braid from the back of his head.

DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT. TATTOO PARLOR/BARBERSHOP- SAME
MORNING

CLOSE UP: Adlain grits his teeth.

SWIFF

Feeling pain?

ADLAIN

No Man! Things Change Now. I good.

Bigman refocuses his attention again

(CONTINUED)

BIGMAN

Dog! you still in here? Get up! Go
Out!

4 INT. JULIANA FIELDSSEN'S OFFICE RECEPTION AREA- NEXT MORNING

A flustered Juliana Fieldsen enters her office carrying a huge purse, laptop bag, tablet and a lunch bag.

JULIANA

Morning Adlain, Good weekend? Where
are my keys? Geez

Adlain rushes to assist her as she hunts through the various sections of her purse.

ADLAIN

Why don't you put your keys the
same place every time?

JULIANA

Oh if only life were that simple

The keys drop. Adlain picks them up and opens the door.

ADLAIN

How can you lose keys with such a
big key ring and your name?

5 INT. JULIANA FIELDSSEN'S OFFICE-MORNING

Adlain follows Juliana into the office.

JULIANA

Meeting in fifteen minutes and look
at this place. Did anyone else
arrive as yet? OK stupid question!

Adlain voluntarily assists in tidying the office.

ADLAIN

Boss these have been the best four
months of my life. I just want to
thank you again. I will do Anything
for you! Anytime.

Juliana laughs as she pats Adlain on the shoulder

JULIANA

I told you from the start I did not
bring you here to clean my

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JULIANA (cont'd)
messes. My report is due by 11:30.
Need you to be the lead camera when
the team goes out today...

ADLAIN
Sure boss but you still the
greatest.

JULIANA
Yeah Yeah Jesus Came to save the
world. I didn't!!!

Juliana sees something run across the floor. She shrieks

JULIANA
Is that a mouse? Didn't it eat the
bait?

ADLAIN
Smart mice these days. Look the
bait is still in the glue trap.

Listen to this music...calm down.

Adlain turns on the computer and puts on a playlist of
calming music.

6 JULIANA FIELDSSEN'S OFFICE INTERIOR - CLOSE TO MIDDAY

JULIANA
Is it so late already oh no!
Saroya!

ADLAIN
Let me go get her.

JULIANA
ummm. No! That's OK.

ADLAIN
Done your report?

JULIANA
OK OK I will call the school.

Juliana gets back into her work seated at her desk and in no
time.

SAROYA
Mommiiiiiiiiieeeeeee

JULIANA
That was quick!

ADLAIN
It's only a few minutes away

JULIANA
Gimme five minutes. I'll have your
food ready.

SAROYA
Spaghetti O's?

JULIANA
Rice and Peas, Chicken and
Vegetaboos!

SAROYA
Yuck!

Adlain appears with both Saroya's and Juliana's lunches.

JULIANA
You shouldn't have!

SAROYA
Wow Thanks Uncle!

JULIANA
Uncle?

ADLAIN
The children at school thought I
was her daddy.

Juliana laughs.

JULIANA
Oh did they now? Well don't get any
ideas. Eat up Saroya!!!

7 INT. ADLAIN'S STUDIO APT- EVENING

Adlain sings along and whistles as Richie Spice' Brown Skin
plays in the back ground. He prints a picture of Juliana and
Saroya which he places it on a wall next to several others.
He looks at her picture as he hangs her keys on a nail.

ADLAIN
Tomorrow is a big day Juliana. Yes
it's our Big Day!The day I tell
you!

8 INT. ADLAIN'S STUDIO APT- MORNING

Adlain dances as he gets ready for work. "Cheerleader" by OMI - Felix Jaehn Remix- is on the air. He chooses his best outfit, looks at himself disapprovingly, makes call, kisses Juliana's pic and leaves home.

9 EXT. KLINE STREET- MORNING

Adlain enters the tattoo parlor/barbershop. This time he goes directly to the barber chair.

ADLAIN

Set Me Up.

He walks out with a new image; heads to the flower shop across the road.

10 INT. JULIANA FIELDSSEN'S OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Juliana stands at her office door, this time with a male visitor, frantically searching through her purse. She sighs. Adlain arrives, key in hand.

ADLAIN

Sorry. I took it by mistake yesterday.

JULIANA

Really Adlain?

11 INT. JULIANA FIELDSSEN'S OFFICE-MORNING

She observes that it is arranged differently. She looks at Adlain, does the introductions.

JULIANA

Adlain --- Spencer; Spencer ---- My videographer and office assistant Adlain.

Spencer holds out his hand. Adlain does not return the gesture. He walks to the oomputer and turns on music. Juliana fidgets awkwardly.

ADLAIN

I will pick up Saroya for lunch 'as usual'.

(CONTINUED)

JULIANA

Sure!

Adlain walks out of the door backwards. The door closes behind him.

12 INT. ADLAIN'S CUBICLE-MORNING

Adlain sits playing with a rose and looks at the clock until he can take it no more.

13 INT. JULIANA'S OFFICE DOORWAY- MORNING

ADLAIN

You have not given me any assignments

JULIANA

Do you mind running a few small errands for me?

ADLAIN

No problem! Check your schedule I think I have some major shoots tomorrow.

Juliana hands him an envelope. Adlain walks away leaving the door slightly ajar.

14 INT. ADLAIN'S CUBICLE-MORNING

He mumbles under his breath.

ADLAIN

Oh now I am errand boy!

He sits there staring at the rose breathing heavily. He positions himself to peek and listen to their conversation.

Jealous by nick Jonas plays in the background

15 INT. JULIANA'S OFFICE - MORNING

SPENCER

So what's really up with him?

JULIANA

Who?

(CONTINUED)

SPENCER

Your personal assistant and body guard?

JULIANA

Oh you noticed?

Spencer imitates Adlain's blatant attempts to show dominance.

JULIANA

No he is OK. Just a little overly grateful.

SPENCER

That's how you're thinking! Question is how does he see it?

JULIANA

Come on! NEVER!!! He is my colleague. That's it! He knows that is all he ever will be.

SPENCER

Well be careful!

JULIANA

He's harmless.

Close UP: Spencer's facial expression of uncertainty.

SPENCER

I can't believe so much time has passed. Have a lot to do this trip. Got to go

SPENCER

Dinner at eight?

JULIANA

See you then!

They embrace.

16

EXT. OUTSIDE JULIANNA'S DOOR-CLOSE TO MIDDAY

Adlain takes the rose and crushes it. He ignores the thorn penetrating and the blood dripping from his thumb.

17 INT. JULIANA'S OFFICE - CLOSE TO MIDDAY

Adlain bursts through Juliana's door angrily.

ADLAIN
Who is that man?

JULIANA
Excuse me?

ADLAIN
Who is he? After all I have done
for you! I saw him hug you! Why?
Why?

JULIANA
All you have done for me? Get it
straight. You are not in a position
to question me. Further more from
today ...you will do only what your
job description states.

ADLAIN
No Please! Boss I did not mean..

JULIANA
I will overlook it this time but
don't you ever show that kind of
attitude and aggression with me!
You are this close to being fired!

Adlain slams his hand on the desk. Juliana sees the blood
from his hand.

JULIANA
What's that?

ADLAIN
Had an accident this morning
shaving making my self look nice
for you. You have not even noticed.

JULIANA
Adlain this is all very freaky

Adlain leaves the room slamming the door behind him.

Juliana leaves right behind him

18 INT. IN FRONT ADLAIN'S CUBICLE- MIDDAY

JULIANA
I will be back

ADLAIN
I am about to leave for Saroya.

JULIANA
It's OK I will take care of it
from this point.

19 INT. JULIANA'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Juliana and Saroya return from the school. As they arrive Adlain is there with the food. She looks at Soroya's face and takes the food without protest. After a few bites. She observes something unusual.

JULIANA
What's this on my broccoli?

ADLAIN
What you mean? Nothing!

Saroya takes up her fork to eat. Adlain knocks it from her hand.

JULIANA
Why did you do that?

ADLAIN
You said something is in the food.
It has been in the kitchenette all
day anyone has access.

JULIANA
Yes but.... why would you?

Juliana leans in a little closer

JULIANA
... oh no! The rat bait!

Juliana calls 911.

JULIANA
I think I may have ingested rat
bait.

20 INT. JULIANA'S HOME - MORNING

Detective comes to Juliana's home.

DETECTIVE
Working today?

JULIANA
Trying to keep myself occupied

DETECTIVE
You know you are one lucky woman.
You and your little one. How is
she?

JULIANA
Having our stomach's flushed was
hard on her but we had to take the
necessary precautions.

DETECTIVE
Something or someone protected you.

JULIANA
Yes am giving thanks.

DETECTIVE
Went looking for Adlain Cooper
before I came here. I was told its
likely he can be found on Kline
Street. You do know he is the prime
suspect?

JULIANA
I know it appears that way but the
food was left unattended all
morning. Are you absolutely sure?

DETECTIVE
I have to question him further

JULIANA
I don't believe he would do
something like this. He has had a
hard life detective. He is not only
a coworker. He goes to my church.
He's a family friend.

DETECTIVE
As much as I would like to reassure
you. From my point of view he looks
guilty and furthermore it's not my
job to assess his history or work
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE (cont'd)
out his personal problems. I am
here to solve a crime.

JULIANA
I understand but...

DETECTIVE
Hear This
1. Every single act of crime
committed is done with some
degree of insanity or mental
distress. Are we to release
them all?
2. Most murders are
committed by unlikely persons.
Most people are killed by people
they know. Not strangers. Motives
are usually deep seated.

Juliana buries her face in her hands.

DETECTIVE
The sooner you disconnect
your good intentions and empathy
towards him from the incident that
nearly took your life, the easier
it will be for you to heal. Am
sorry Ms Fieldsen.

Detective gets up to leave for

21 INT.TATTOO PARLOR/BARBERSHOP- AFTERNOON

DETECTIVE
I am looking for ADLAIN COOPER

BIGMAN
He left minutes ago

DETECTIVE
Did he say where he was going?

BIGMAN
Yes he just did some extra work on
a TATTOO he had. It would be
painful. ' believe he would be
headed home.

DETECTIVE
The Tattoo, What was it?

(CONTINUED)

BIGMAN
Wifey!... But he did something else
this morning not sure what it was
and Swiff is out.

DETECTIVE
How well do you know this guy?

BIGMAN
Have a seat

22 INT. ADLAIN'S STUDIO APT- AFTERNOON

Detective enters Adlain's apartment.

DETECTIVE
Cooper...I want to talk to you for
a bit!

ADLAIN
Sure.

DETECTIVE
Not working today?

ADLAIN
No. Headache.

The detective leans in to look at Juliana's pics lining the
wall

DETECTIVE
you don't mind do you?

ADLAIN
My Family

The detective makes a phone call.

DETECTIVE
Hello Roberts. I think I am going
to need some assistance at the
Cooper residence.

He makes another phone call.

DETECTIVE
Hello Ms. Fieldsen How soon can you
get to Mr. Cooper's House.

JULIANA

Strange you should ask, I am about
a minute away. I have a few things
I need to ask him.

Juliana finds the door ajar. Her legs collapse beneath her as she enters and falls to her knees. In the background Taylor Swift's "Blank Space" plays in the background. ('Is it gonna be forever or is it gonna go up in flames... I'll write your name). The Room appears to 'spin' as she observes all the signs of his obsession including including a cake and banner reading CONGRATS Julie & ADDY. She looks up to see Adlain shirtless with his back turned to her. She sees the Tattoo.

"Juli Wifey"

Till Death

Do Us

Part!