

What Friends Are For

Sally McGinnis & Philip D. Irving

1 INT. SADIE'S BASEMENT NIGHT

In SADIE'S basement, see TRACY, Sadie, and JON. They have drug paraphernalia around them as they are having an indistinct conversation. Jon takes a pill and continues to talk. We see Jon slump over to the ground. Tracy and Sadie do not notice.

2 INT. SADIE'S BASEMENT NIGHT - A YEAR LATER

Tracy, Sadie, ERIC, and MILLIE are all sitting around a TABLE in front of a CHEESECAKE.

ERIC

Remember when we went to that driving range and Sadie broke that golf club.

Eric gets up from his chair and grabs some plates and forks for everyone.

SADIE

Oh my god. That was so terrible. Remember how I made Jon give the broken club back to the cashier because I was too embarrassed.

Everyone laughs. Eric comes back with the plates and forks.

TRACY

(Still laughing)  
Hey that's what friends are for.

ERIC

(Sitting down)  
Thanks for getting the cheesecake man. It's been too long since we've had one together.

Eric plunges his fork into the cheesecake and scoops up a huge bite. Everyone watches in horror as he does this.

TRACY

Dude. What the fuck?

SADIE

Eric, what?

Eric shrugs and finishes his bite. Tracy shakes his head, then looks at Millie.

TRACY

Hey Sadie. It's been a long time since I've seen you.

SADIE

Yeah I think it's been since last year.

TRACY

Yeah. How have you been?

SADIE

I've been pretty good. It's been a little hard being away from home, but at least I get to go to school with MILLIE.

Millie looks lovingly at Sadie and Sadie gives a look back. Tracy tries to hold back his disappointment. Sadie starts to cut everyone a slice of cake.

MILLIE

Hey, Sadie and I made these if you guys want some?

Millie pulls out a bag filled with some pot brownies.

SADIE

Yeah we just have to be careful though. My parents would probably kill me if they knew I had these.

ERIC

You sure?

SADIE

Yeah, why not? Tracy got us the cake; it's the least I could do.

ERIC

No I mean...We're in the exact spot.

TRACY

Yeah I don't really know if that's right.

SADIE

It's just a brownie. Nothing serious. It's not that big a deal.

Millie takes the first brownie and begins eating it. She

passes the bag to Eric.

ERIC  
(Somewhat irritated)  
Naw, I'm good.

Eric passes the bag to Tracy.

TRACY  
Thanks.

Tracy takes a brownie and stares at it. After a moment, he decides to eat it, and takes one bite, then another. He continues to eat it.

SADIE  
Hey Trace. Pass it over.

Tracy gets up and hands it to Sadie. He sits back on the floor. Sadie takes a brownie and hands the bag back to Millie. Millie sets the bag down.

An hour passes by.

TRACY  
How 'bout you Eric. How's this year  
been for you?

ERIC  
Busy as hell. I'm still trying to  
graduate next year so I'm taking as  
many hours as possible and I'm working  
at the student center there too.

SADIE  
How about you Tracy?

TRACY  
I don't know. It's been kind of weird.

SADIE  
(Now somber)  
I get it. I think it's kind of weird  
for everybody.

ERIC  
Yeah I guess it's been almost a year,  
huh?

TRACY  
In two days it will be. I don't know.

It's just so weird not really talking to him. Like, I know he went so far away for college, but at least I could text him or something.

MILLIE

(sympathetically)

I can't imagine how hard this is for you guys. I'm really sorry.

ERIC

Yeah. (Beat) Remember when you and I would go to his house after school and he would basically re-teach us geometry?

TRACY

Ha. Yeah. It was unreal how he could just understand literally anything even the crappiest of teachers would try to teach us.

SADIE

Well, yeah. That's why his parents were pushing so hard for him to go Ivy League.

ERIC

I mean... and to kind of get him as far away from us as possible.

SADIE

What do you mean?

ERIC

C'mon. They never thought we were good influences on him. Maybe me, because we did some homework together. (beat) They caught us smoking that one time and almost literally kicked our asses. We didn't see him for a couple weeks.

SADIE

Yeah they were so weird about that. We could just do whatever at my house.

ERIC

I mean don't you think it was kind of smart though?

TRACY

His parents were crushing him with all those dumb rules, like his curfew and not being able to leave the house most weekends.

ERIC

I'm not talking about curfews. I'm talking about them trying to prevent exactly what happened.

SADIE

So you think driving your kid away from you is smart and will help them live a long life?

ERIC

Obviously not, but there was some merit to what they were saying.

SADIE

Maybe you shouldn't keep commenting on something you didn't even experience.

ERIC

Maybe you shouldn't have brought all those pills to him that night.

They look over at Tracy who has taken another brownie and is eating it.

SADIE

Hey man. You're done. You just had way too much.

TRACY

No I'm fine.

SADIE

Give it to Millie.

Tracy surrenders the rest of his brownie to Millie.

TRACY

(beat) You weren't there. You barely even knew him.

SADIE

Hey. Calm down Trace. Don't take it out on Millie just because your upset.

MILLIE

It's fine. I get it.

TRACY

Why is she here though. I mean-

SADIE

(Cutting Tracy off)

Maybe I needed her here.

TRACY

It's hard for everyone, but I didn't  
bring my girlfriend.

Tracy slumps over, then tries to get back up. Everyone else stands up immediately. Eric and Sadie sit him against the wall.

ERIC

Hey, are you alright?

TRACY

I'm fine. I just think I had too much  
too fast. I really feel it.

ERIC

It's ok just sit here. Millie can you  
get him some water?

Millie goes and grabs her bottle of water she had next to her and hands it to Eric. Eric gives the bottle to Tracy who begins to drink it.

TRACY

I'm fine I swear. Everybody just sit  
back down.

Everyone sits back down.

SADIE

Ok. We are right here, so just say  
something if you don't feel fine.

TRACY

Yeah ok.

Eric, Sadie, and Millie continue to talk, but Tracy can no longer hear them. Tracy starts hallucinating and sees his memories with his friends in high school and eventually college like a projector on the opposite wall. He sees the group at the driving range.

ERIC

Great. We really can't go more than one time without someone going too far, huh?

SADIE

Jesus, Eric. Can you calm down?

Tracy sees Eric, Tracy, Sadie, and Jon, at a bowling alley.

ERIC

When has that ever actually calmed someone down. We always find ourselves here, even though its pretty easy to avoid this.

SADIE

Whatever. You don't even know-

He sees the group goofing off at a playground.

ERIC

(cutting Sadie off)

Really? You're mad at me? Not at yourself when you and Tracy were the only ones with him and you didn't do anything to help him.

SADIE

What the fuck?

Eventually, we see the night that happened almost a year ago. Sadie, Tracy and Jon are sitting together with drug paraphernalia around them. Jon slumps over.

ERIC

You gave him all that shit and you couldn't even look over to see if he was ok?

SADIE

My God.

Cut to a funeral. A large picture of Jon's face is next to the casket.

ERIC

What? Are you upset that that I'm right?



SADIE

Maybe if you didn't blow us off again  
you could have "saved him" or  
whatever.

ERIC

Fuck this. I'm leaving.

Eric starts to get up to go. Tracy's hallucination freezes  
memory of looking at Jon's parents. The memory of Jon's  
father stares back at him.

TRACY

(Interrupting the conversation)  
Do you remember his eyes?

Eric stops.

SADIE

(Sighs)  
Whose eyes, Trace? Jon's?

TRACY

No his dad's. At the funeral. (Beat).  
I thought he would have pressed  
charges by now.

SADIE

Trace...

TRACY

Why did it take almost a year for us  
to see each other after he died?

ERIC

I just haven't had time.

TRACY

You're never that busy!

Beat

TRACY (CONTINUED)

I'm serious Sadie, why is she here?

MILLIE

(Standing up to leave)  
Look, I can just le...

SADIE

Stop! Tracy, that's none of your

bus...

TRACY  
(Cutting off Sadie)  
She's sitting where he died!

SADIE  
Tracy stop!

TRACY  
Why is she here?!

SADIE  
Because she wasn't there! Fuck! She  
doesn't constantly remind me of what  
happened!

TRACY  
So you're just trying to pretend it  
never happened.

SADIE  
I relive what happened every day. He  
died in my house! It's not like you  
gave him the drugs!

MILLIE  
Babe...

SADIE  
I killed him Tracy! OK! That's what  
you wanted to hear this whole time,  
right?

ERIC  
(Standing up and approaching Sadie  
in tears)  
Nobody's saying...

SADIE  
(Cutting off Eric)  
He's been thinking this whole time!

TRACY  
No, Sadie, I...

SADIE  
(Cutting Tracy off)  
Don't lie.

Beat

TRACY

I just want my friends back.

SADIE

I told you not to lie.

TRACY

Jon was my best friend. If I had known...do you know how much more time I would have spent. I don't want that to happen again with you.

Beat

TRACY (CONTINUED)

All I know is that when Jon fell over, it wasn't me who called the police. I just sat there. It was you, Sadie.

SADIE

What are you trying to say Trace?

TRACY

I'm trying to say, that superhero movie is still in theaters right now. And I want to go with you all tomorrow night.

Beat

SADIE

Can Millie come?

TRACY

Of course...I'm sorry.

SADIE

Then hell yeah.

ERIC

I saw it...It was shit.

Everyone bursts out into laughter.

TRACY

Then burgers?

ERIC

Your treat dude, I'm broke.

TRACY  
(Smiling)  
Burgers it is.

**THE END**