

Stayin' Alive

Written by

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Logline: A man who lost his husband to cardiac arrest has to confront his guilt when his CPR dummy comes to life.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

DANIEL, 40s, thrusts his torso rhythmically up and down but we do not know what towards. We hear HEAVY BREATHING and SQUEAKING noises. He opens his mouth and brings it down upon something unseen. He then repeats the thrusting.

He opens his mouth again and brings it down upon what is revealed to be a full body CPR DUMMY. He breathes into its mouth twice and then stops and catches his breath. He makes half of his bed, leaving one half messy and walks out.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Daniel sits at a table eating toast. On the table is a vase with shriveled stems and leaves. Across from him is a plate with black and fuzzy food on it that is swarming with flies.

Daniels gets up, shoves the remaining toast in his mouth, grabs a briefcase, and begins to walk out the front door. He has to avoid shards of broken glass the surrounds the table.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING (FLASHBACK)(BLACK AND WHITE)

JAMES, 40s, sits at the table and blows a kiss at Daniel.

END FLASHBACK.

Daniel freezes, drops his briefcase, and runs to his bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Daniel finishes performing CPR on the dummy once again. He takes a deep breath of relief and walks back out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Daniel picks up his briefcase and walks to his front door. He pauses and waves bye at the table as he walks out the door.

DANIEL
Bye bye, love you.

EXT. DANIEL'S HOME - ESTABLISHING - EVENING

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Daniel walks in his house and turns on the lights. He goes to the kitchen, makes a bowl of cereal, and eats at the table.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (FLASHBACK)(BLACK AND WHITE)

Daniel walks into the house, presenting a bouquet of flowers to a beaming James. James puts them in a vase on the table and serves a nice dinner. They talk and laugh as they eat.

END FLASHBACK.

Daniel holds his spoon halfway to his mouth, breathing hard. A fly lands on it. He drops it and runs to his bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Daniel does CPR on the CPR dummy.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (FLASHBACK)(BLACK AND WHITE)

James lies on the ground surrounded by glass. Daniel tries an messy CPR on him, punching at his chest with abandon.

END FLASHBACK.

Daniel continues to give expert CPR to the dummy but quicker and more frantically. He begins mouth to mouth.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Daniel cries over James's body and kisses his forehead.

END FLASHBACK.

The mouth to mouth turns into passionate kissing. Daniel stops, horrified. He pushes the dummy away. He gets into bed, not disturbing the messier half. The dummies eyes jolt open.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Daniel gets out of bed and starts CPR. The dummy grabs Daniel, pulling him into a hug. He scrambles away in terror.

CPR DUMMY
Surprise! You did it!

Daniel rubs his eyes. Upon still seeing the dummy he shrieks.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

You resuscitated me! Yay!

Daniel, still shrieking, grabs his bedside lamp and starts swinging it at the dummy. The dummy grabs the lamp mid-swing.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

I knew I shouldn't have surprised you! What's wrong with me! I'm so stupid! Just hit me, I deserve it!

The dummy dramatically falls onto the untouched side of the bed, and sobs. Daniel forces the dummy off of the bed.

DANIEL

Stop, Get up! You're messing it up!

CPR DUMMY

I can't do anything right! You hate me, don't you! I hate me too!!

The dummy starts hitting itself. Daniel grabs its hands to stop it. The dummy smiles but returns to exaggerated sobbing.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

You hate me! You don't try to hit someone you don't hate with a lamp!

DANIEL

I don't hate you, you don't exist. You are just the result of only eating Fruit Loops for dinner.

CPR DUMMY

So what I'm hearing is you love me! Oh Danny, I knew it! We're in love!

Daniel quickly lets go of the dummies hands.

DANIEL

No. We're not. I love my husband
(To self)
Why am I trying to reason with it!?

CPR DUMMY

Well, does your husband know you fondle me every morning?

Daniel gets dressed, keeping his distance from the dummy.

DANIEL

Great, a new level of crazy! May as well switch from Fruit Loops to Coco Puffs because I'm cuckoo.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

People said I was crazy when I got
that tattoo. I was just warming up!

Daniel exits his room and the dummy follows.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

CPR DUMMY

You're not cuckoo! Everyday you
worked to resuscitate me because
you love me! And you finally did
it! Now we can be together!

Daniel ignores the dummy and sits at the table with his
newspaper. The dummy sits across the table from him.

DANIEL

I should probably ask my therapist
about this but he'd just say:
(high pitched voice)
You need healthy ways to grieve...
Throw away the food... Blah blah.

CPR DUMMY

Don't ignore me! It's like you want
me to go back to being dead!

Daniel gets up, grabs his bag, and walks to the door.

DANIEL

That would actually be great. Now I
am going to work, eating lunch,
napping, and regaining my sanity.
You better be gone when I get back.

Daniel walks out the door. The dummy falls to the floor.

CPR DUMMY

I'm gonna do it, I'm gonna kill
myself because you don't love me!

Daniel opens the door again and the dummy perks up.

DANIEL

Bye, bye, love you.

CPR DUMMY

I knew it!

DANIEL

Not you.

He closes the door and the CPR dummy sobs on the floor.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Daniel walks in and sighs with relief when doesn't see the dummy. He walks into his kitchen and opens the fridge.

CPR DUMMY

Daniel, you came back!

The dummy pops up off the ground from the position it was in when he left, out of sight. Daniel shrieks.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

I waited perfectly still for you!

Daniel grabs his chest and hyperventilates.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

I know CPR!

DANIEL

I took a nap! You shouldn't be here anymore. I can't do this right now.

Daniel collects himself and walks to the door.

CPR DUMMY

Don't go, I figured it out!

Daniel opens the door.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

I'm your dead husband!

Daniel stops. The CPR dummy grabs his hand. Daniel swats it.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

Each time you did CPR on me you breathed all of your love for him into me. And here I stand, revived, holding all of your love.

DANIEL

No! My husband is gone and it's my fault. I have to live with that.

CPR DUMMY

But you brought him back to life. You resuscitated him through me.

DANIEL

No. I didn't. I didn't know how to resuscitate him so he died.

CPR DUMMY

But your love for him kept him
alive! You put all that love in me!

DANIEL

No. I'm in denial. Thats all.

Daniel tries to leave again and the dummy grabs him.

CPR DUMMY

You have to listen to me! Or do you
still want me to go back to being
dead. Go ahead, grab the lamp and
put me out of my misery. Just know
you would be hitting your husband.

Daniel loses all of his fight and looks lost. The dummy leads
him to sit at the kitchen table.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

I have his memories. OUR memories.
I remember our first kiss! It was
raining so softly. I remember our
wedding day. You were so handsome
in your suit! You hated the band...

DANIEL

Do you even know his name?

CPR DUMMY

I remember when we bought this
house! I loved the natural light!

DANIEL

I don't care if you have his
memories! You are not James!

CPR DUMMY

Daniel. Stop this nonsense! I am
James and you love me.

DANIEL

I do not love you!

CPR DUMMY

You do! Say you love me! Say it!

Daniel stays silent.

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

You know what else I remember? I
remember asking you to take those
CPR classes. I remember telling you
I had a genetic heart condition.

(MORE)

CPR DUMMY (CONT'D)

I remember you putting it off. I
remember dying as you did nothing.
It was all your fault. And now that
you finally brought me back to life
you won't tell me you love me.

The dummy throws a glass from the counter onto the ground.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING (FLASHBACK) (BLACK AND WHITE)

James and Daniel eat at the table. James drops his glass to
the floor, grabs his chest, and falls writhing to the floor.

END FLASHBACK.

CPR DUMMY

How dare you fill me with your love
just to break my heart. Again!

DANIEL

I didn't fill you with my love. I
filled you with my guilt.

CPR DUMMY

No, that's not true you love me.

The CPR dummy clutches its chest.

DANIEL

No I don't. And I don't have to
keep torturing myself with you to
prove to myself I loved James.

The CPR dummy falls to the ground writhing.

CPR DUMMY

You love me, I know you do! Say it!

DANIEL

No.

The CPR dummy gasps for breath and then stops moving. STAYIN'
ALIVE by the Bee Gees plays. Daniel throws the dummy in the
trash along with the withered flowers, moldy food, and glass.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Daniel lays in bed. He reaches under it and pulls out a sex
doll. He takes off his shirt revealing a tattoo of James's
face. He kisses his finger and brings it to the lips of the
tattoo. He pulls the sex doll closer to him smiling.