

Joel Ramirez
Short story
Mr. Bye

Broken

Beep! Beep! His alarm clock went off, like a car honking behind you for stalling too long. He got so irritated he took the clock and smashed it to the ground to make it stop, like he had been doing for the past week. Thank god the clock was so sturdy or he would have been late to class that whole week. He was still mad at life since two Fridays ago, the break up with his girlfriend had ended badly, and his world went to misery. It was now Saturday, and still he wanted to die. He sat up in bed, and looked around his small, squared, shack like room that was dimly lit because it was only 7am. FUCK! It was too early to wake up in the weekend. He fell back on his bed hoping to go to sleep for another two hours before waking up again. His thoughts lingered on her, Rachel, his only reason to live in ^{the} world, now smashed like a priceless piece of art, a one of a kind. Three years gone, he couldn't remember how to live life before her. He started to think of all the good times he had with Rachel, now bitter sweet memories knowing he could never get them back. He fell asleep to the good times he had with her, wishing to have it all back.

Sad feelings

Ring! Ring! The phone would have been smashed to the ground thinking it was the alarm clock again. He stopped himself remembering it was the only thing he had for communicating with friends when he's stuck at home.

"Hello?" He asked in a confused voice.

"Ay! Wake up Ken. Its gonna be 9:30 soon and I'm ready to do something." It was his

friend Joo. Ken was still tired, and barely awake remembering he had just dreamt about running through alleys with his friend being chased by shadowed men. Remembering all this sent a shiver down his spine.

“Ay, you still there fool.” said Joo, forgetting he was on the phone.

“Yea. Sorry man Imma get changed, and drive to the park. I’ll call you when I’m there.”

“Alright. Imma be waiting don’t take long I’m dying of boredom.”

Ken hung up the phone, and looked around his room that was filled with light now. He remembered Rachel again, and he couldn’t help sigh in his sorrow. His dull brown colored room just made it worse, and he wished he’d picked a brighter color. He got up to take a look at himself in the mirror. His short brown hair was messy, he thought he lost weight but he was still heavily built not all muscle, and a little more fat than he wished he had. He caught a glance of a lonely picture at the corner of the mirror, it was of Rachel and him. He took it angrily in his hands and threw it out the window. “I’m done with you.” Ken mumbled to himself. He grabbed a fresh pair of jeans, shirt, and bounced out of his room to his equally small kitchen. He looked inside of the refrigerator, got some eggs, bacon, and some orange juice. It was a quick breakfast, he left the dish’s in the sink to do them later.

As he walked out of his apartment Ken couldn’t help but notice it was bright day, that made him feel better. The breeze outside was refreshing letting him know today

might be different then the past week. He took out the keys to his bucket car, a old beat up 95 Honda who's passenger door had to be forced open due to rust, he got for \$500. As old at it was he knew it was reliable, and fuel efficient knowing he didn't make a lot of money. He started it up, and took off to the park.

When Ken pulled up to the park there were only four kids playing on the basketball courts, and some toddlers with there parents. He waited on the black top of an empty court, and called Joo. "Ay, I'm out here already get your board ass out." then hung up. The apartment Joo lived was across from the park. It was as cruddy as ever and kind of depressing to bad the landlord was so cheap he refused to fix the place up.

"Ay, was up Ken!" said a familiar voice from behind him.

"Was up man, how you been?" Joo had went to visit his family for two weeks and now he was back.

"I've been good. Family was happy to see me. The real question is how you been? Sorry about what happened."

"It still hurts but its better if I get over it quickly, she was who left without a reason."

"With that being said lets get some drinks, drugs, and girls to get Rachel out of your mind, but I have to take care of some stuff first."

They got in the car, and drove off. Ken asked what the plan for today was. Joo said he had to go collect some money dudes owed him. This wasn't the first time he had

gone with Joo to go collect money, it didn't bother him, but most of the people Joo went to were gangsters. Ken had known Joo for almost half his life, and considered him family, he knew Joo wouldn't put him in a bad situation. Most of the time when they went to collect money the night ended in a house party getting smashed. Ken was hoping the day would end like that. Joo was a good person, but he gets himself in a lot of trouble from time to time. Like when he picked up a girl who was crying alone, offered her a ride to her house, the next morning he was being chased by the husband with a twelve gauge shotgun out the door. Joo says the trouble he gets into is all in good intention, Ken never argued with him. The place they were driving was in a bad area, already he could see the streets getting dirtier as time passed.

"So how much do these people owe you?" asked Ken

"small amount but I'm busy next week to go pick it up."

"Were not expecting any trouble right?"

"Of course not, I would have brought some more friends with me." he laughed

They finally arrived at a house that couldn't be considered anything less than a crack den, Joo laughed and said it was a good place to chill and far from being a crack den. They went inside where four grimy looking guys were sitting at the table conducting business. "Joo!" one of the guys bellowed "How you been man?"

"Hey Frankie, its all good. Just got back from the family you know."

"Good to hear, I suppose you're here for the money. Here you go, two grand." he said passing the stack of money.

After the job was done they all got acquainted with Ken, Joo telling them they were looking for a party, while passing two blunts around. The guys told us they were heading to a club, and invited us. The guys took off in a SUV that was perfect for their size, while Joo and Ken followed. It was dark when they got to the club that was outside abandoned docks, the bright neon lights read "FORGOTTEN". Ken stepped out into the chilling night and back into the building that played the latest songs. All six of them sat at the rear of the dance floor, each picking out a potential partner for the night except for Ken. Joo sensed his friends sadness and tried to push him into asking a girl for a dance.

"Come on man, you have to at least try to enjoy yourself." Joo said.

"I know but its hard when all I think about is Rachel" Ken said.

The night was wearing out and Ken had only danced with a few girls, but was getting more buzzed as time passed. As he was chilling at his seat watching every one enjoy themselves, his eyes caught the sight of a familiar body moving side to side dancing sexually. "I cant believe it!" he said in anger. It was Rachel on the dance floor with her hands groping all over a man. He went over to Joo, who was taking a shot, and pointed at her. "That's more of a reason for you to get laid tonight." he joked, Ken ignored it and glared at the couple.

Finally, he couldn't help it anymore, he needed answers from her for leaving him. When she left her dance partner he got behind her, snatched her to get themselves alone. Ken took her to the ally behind the colorful club, adrenaline going through his body.

"WHAT THE FUCK! Why you dancing with that creep in there!?" Ken said.

“We’re not together any more! I can dance with who ever I want to, got it!”

Rachel said more angrily. “Why are you here anyways?”

“I came with Joo and some other people. What about you, huh?”

“With my friends.”

“I bet you were gonna leave with guy, right? That’s not why I wanted to talk to you; why did you leave me?”

“Why do you ask, can’t we leave it in silence.”

“No.”

“Fine, I’ve been going behind your back for a long time and I decided it was best to stop lying to you,” she said in a pitiful tone.

Ken couldn’t believe it the girl he’d loved had been cheating on him the entire time. A surge of anger went throughout his body, and he felt like striking her where she stood. He was speechless on top of that, and the only thing he could say was the most obvious question. “With how many guys?”.

“I don’t know a few, I guess. But that’s why I left you, it was just too pitiful that you never suspected it.”

Hearing that, all the anger subsided, and he felt a cold sad feeling looking at her. Love had two faces and he’d just been bitten in the ass by it. He felt abandonment standing out in the cold facing Rachel. It felt worse than death being alone, he couldn’t shake it off.

“And by the way that guy in there, the creep, he’s my boyfriend. And he’s

probably looking for me. If he finds you with me, he's gona get his friends."

As soon as she finished with her sentence the door behind them swung open, and Rachel's boyfriend came out. His cheeks had a light red shade, and he was wobbling a little bit. When Ken met the confused mans eyes, his cheeks seemed to get redder with each passing second.

"Who the fuck is this asshole!?" he screamed

"Honey, babe, this guy is my ex, he took me out here to convince me ^{to} get back with him." she said in innocent voice. "Brad, babe, please I didn't want to, but he forced me."

unsubvory

Brad looked at him like he was going to rip his head off. He stared at ken trying to figure out just how to thrash him for trying to pick up his woman. Ken didn't try to explain himself, Brad looked like he wouldn't be reasoned with. The only way out was through force, and Ken was fully prepared to throw down. Behind Brad the door opened again, and ^{of} his three friends, medium sized, and who looked like they spent a lot of time in the gym, came to see what was happening. Ken hadn't a chance now. Despite the odds he felt angry again and was ready to stand his ground.

"Who's this little fuck head?" one of his friends asked.

"This is Rachel's ex. And he just tried to pick her up." Brad said in a mocking tone.

"Really and now that were here what do you want to do?" said another.

Brad put on a fiendish smile "Well lets rough him up a little bit and from there

we'll fuck him up so bad he'll never try this again."

Ken was ready to take the worst and hoped this would end quickly. Rachel laughed and headed towards the door to avoid seeing the frenzy about to happen. As she was leaving, she turned and winked at Ken. He was backed against the wall. Brad and his friends closing in on him. They got so serious Ken thought they had intention to actually kill him. He started to think about his family, and how he wouldn't be able to see them again because of a bitch. As one of Brad's friends was about to sock Ken a new hole a voice yelled "**Stop!**". It was Joo with the four big black guy, Frankie and his patnas, at his side!

"Who the ^{hell} you think you mother fuckers gona jump huh?! Na fuck that you got us now. Do something bitch!" Joo said courageously to Brad.

Brad was speechless, he didn't know what to do. Ken was just as shocked, he couldn't believe Joo was here to help him, and with reinforcements. He looked at Brad's friends that looked stunned to see they were out numbered. Joo's friends surrounded Brad, and were ready to start swinging. Ken got up, walked to his friends side. He didn't feel alone anymore, he had his friends. Now he could go back to his family that loved him deeply and cared for him.

"What do you want to do now Ken?" Joo asked anticipating he'd say jump them.

Ken didn't say anything, he stared at his attackers feeling the power he held on them. He smirked at Brad and said "Lets go inside and enjoy the rest of the night."

Joo smiled at the frightened group. "OK."

They went back inside, walking past the cowards of people. He walked past Rachel who was flirting with some guy. She saw Ken walk by, and demanded to know what happen to Brad. "He's outside shitting himself. You should go see him.". They went to their table, and had a round of shots, that lead to more, and eventually got drunk

Ken got home the next morning tired. He stumbled to his room, it looked different. It wasn't dark, the sad feeling was no longer in his room. He dropped to the bed feeling like a new man. He could smile now when closing his eyes knowing there is bigger world now. Then Rachel.