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ONE-WAY

Written by

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"Resistance is not a peripheral opponent. Resistance arises from within. It is self-generated and self-perpetuated. resistance is the enemy within."

- The War of Art

INT. CAR (GET READY FOR A LOT OF THESE) - NIGHT

A picture of a rat. On a phone screen.

JAMES

Okay, so in this scenario- For the rest of your life, right- You have to pick two to defend you and the rest are hunting you.

James M(21). Sitting shotgun right now. Opinionated. Wants others to perceive him as intelligent, genuine, and talented. Is perceived by others as intelligent, talented, genuine... and an asshole. Thinks of himself as a fighter- yet is more of a magician. He guides others through their enlightenment and transformation- but objectivity is his flaw- and oddly, his bias. Although knowledge is his fuel, this knowledge creates inherent opinions where emotion should be instead. Strangers are easy- yet only when one becomes a close friend does he become insecure in his ability to keep respect. His psychology is a constant dance between what can be and what is- reality is mundane and sickening to the magician. His logical mind is at constant war with his emotion.

FISHER

This is the rest of your life? So- not like a brawl scenario-

Fisher M(20). Backseat left. Quiet, reserved intelligence- where James is outwardly. The King archetype. A voice of reason, of fairness. Doesn't need others to see him as anything besides himself, though relationships affect him. Others see him as down to earth, and easy to connect to. He defends our own sense of inner order, our own integrity- of being and of purpose, without pushing his own ideals unless prompted. His traits let us see our own better and reflect on them, but his kind nature leaves him forgotten and unappreciated by those around him. A punching bag at times, he believes in a greater good. A greater good that will always prevail. Though- the jokes stick sometimes.

JAMES

Yes- we got- okay- 50 hawks. 10 alligators. 3 bears. 7 oxen. 1 dude with a rifle. 15 wolves. 10 thousand rats. 5 gorillas, or 4 lions.

DAY

(surprised)

Jesus- 10,000 rats?

Day. F(21). Experience is everything. Sitting backseat right. Normally wouldn't hangout with this group, if she wasn't heading to this party. Interpersonal relationships and affection in her life are of entire importance. Mutual respect is a must. For her, recognition of the beauty in life always comes before what that beauty means. Her life is often unconventional and "messy", yet she blossoms in it. Conquered trauma gives her emotional maturity beyond those around her. She experiences life with openness and happiness, yet is sometimes immobilized by her emotions because of it. Enlightened, yet unable to free herself from the feelings of being "not enough". Of being unimportant in the beauty.

JAMES

I feel like the rats might be my first choice-

TYLER

Lemme see the image.

Tyler M(22). Driving the group. A car he bought himself. A fighter. Concerns of ego have long passed, and hardened. The man possessed by this spirit is unable to defend his morals psychologically- not that he needs to. To anyone. He became aware of his mortality at early age- however, instead of immobilization, came fuel. Displays of emotion are foreign to him, and thus, he struggles to connect on a deeper level with those he loves. Though love- is second to fierce loyalty. Recognition of that loyalty garners respect- making him care little about strangers. This life path sees a deep seeded, chaotic injustice in the world, and chooses to do battle with it. To protect. But not to feel. Ever.

Okay, enough of the poetic shit.

The energy in the car is fun. The party is at 11.

FISHER

Rats and Hawks. For sure.

Tyler is blowing Juul smoke as he looks back and forth from the road to the phone.

JAMES

How the fuck did you reach that decision so quickly?

Day is peering over Tyler's shoulder.

James is eager and overjoyed to begin arguing.

FISHER

Okay, so- Okay, let me explain- you got 10 thousand rats. 10 thousand.

James cuts in.

JAMES

Nah. You gotta pick the dude with the gun.

FISHER

Dude- the rats-

JAMES

He's got a fucking gun.

FISHER

Okay? I've got 10 thousand rats.

Day has decided.

DAY

Yeah but the dude could just wait out the rats lifespan- like this is your whole life you're talking about.

FISHER

Oh my god. Don't bring lifespan into this-

DAY

It said it's your whole life. The guy could be anywhere-

JAMES

Yeah- and you'd see the gorillas and shit coming-

FISHER

You're underestimating the sheer number of rats.

DAY

I also just don't want to be surrounded by rats my whole life.

JAMES

Day- you have to pick the rats.

DAY

I feel like I could take ten thousand rats with the gun guy and the wolves.

JAMES

Day, it's ten thousand. Ten thousand. Ten thousand rats. That's like 800 rats a wolf.

DAY  
You're not counting lifespan. I'd  
just wait.

Tyler's interest has finally been peaked.

TYLER  
You could send the rats out to find  
you and the wolves.

DAY  
Hold up- no one said you could  
fucking, like- beast master the rats.

TYLER  
What, so they're just chilling, like  
in my house?

DAY  
Can you control the animals. James.

JAMES  
For the sake of the argument, yes.

DAY  
Okay. Then I pick the rats and the  
dude.

JAMES  
Thank you.

FISHER  
Why are you thanking her for picking  
the rats like it was your idea?

JAMES  
Motherfucker, you picked the hawks.

FISHER  
Am I wrong?

JAMES  
You're wrong if I go inside.

FISHER  
So you're never leaving your house  
for the next-

JAMES  
I'm leaving my house after me and the  
dude fucking pick all the hawks off  
from my windows.

TYLER  
Gotta pick the dude. And the rats.

FISHER  
Look, I'm for the rats-

JAMES  
Okay, so- rats are- rats are like D1  
draft pick commit- lock the rats in-  
But round 2 I'm taking the dude.

FISHER  
Who's the dude? Do you have to live  
with him now?

JAMES  
What? Like the guy with a gun? He's  
just a dude with a gun-

TYLER  
Is he trained with the gun?

JAMES  
No, he's not trained- The animals  
aren't trained-

TYLER  
Special ops.

JAMES  
No. He's not- no. He's a fucking  
average dude- he works at like-  
fucking staples and he had a messy  
divorce.

The group laughs-

TYLER  
And now he's defending me from hawks.

JAMES  
Yes.

TYLER  
If you can control the animals, then  
I can train the man.

JAMES  
Fair point. I concede.

DAY

What if you train the gorillas, then-boom, you got even more dudes with guns.

The group pauses.

JAMES

Oh, shit.

DAY

Yeah. That's right.

FISHER

It doesn't seem fair that it's like-your whole life. It defeats the purpose.

JAMES

Dude, even if it wasn't, the hawks are a shit pick.

FISHER

No they're fucking not. In a battle royale scenario, I'd wipe.

JAMES

No they wouldn't.

FISHER

Yes they would. I have entire sky control.

JAMES

None of the other animals are trying to take over the sky.

FISHER

They couldn't anyways, there's hawks.

JAMES

50 hawks couldn't kill one gorilla in the wild.

TYLER

Gorillas are tough motherfuckers.

DAY

I feel like 50 hawks could take a gorilla.

JAMES

No fucking way.

FISHER

Dude, fuck off. That gorilla would be eyeless, earless- and just swinging around.

JAMES

They're fucking- paper thin bird bones. It takes one hit.

FISHER

With razor claws!

JAMES

What if I cover my eyes? Huh? Uh-oh.

FISHER

Then they'd wait for you to not do that.

JAMES

Then my guy would shoot them while they're waiting.

FISHER

Then his eyes would be uncovered and he'd get destroyed!

JAMES

He's shooting a gun.

FISHER

There's 50 hawks! As soon as he fires, he's done!

JAMES

Except the ten thousand fucking rats that are in a armor mech formation on his chest!

TYLER

What the fuck-

FISHER

I have the fucking rats too bitch! They're armor on the hawks!

JAMES

Then they couldn't fly!

FISHER

They're dropping the rats like bombs, asshole!

JAMES

Hawks are a shit pick-

DAY  
Woah, woah. You can't do super armor  
made of rats- that changes the game.

FISHER  
Fine. Okay.

JAMES  
I could kill 50 hawks by myself. With  
my hands.

TYLER  
No you couldn't.

JAMES  
That's a separate discussion.

TYLER  
No it's not. You could not do that.

JAMES  
Don't turn on me now- you already  
chose rats and a dude.

FISHER  
Why am I not allowed to just have my  
pick.

JAMES  
(laughing)  
Because it's wrong.

FISHER  
Tyler? Day?

TYLER  
I'm still thinking about training the  
dude. Or hiring more dudes. I don't  
know.

DAY  
Can... the hawks... lift you up.

Fisher and James look at each other.

JAMES  
Yeah. Absolutely.

DAY  
Still would pick the rats and dude.

JAMES  
Ha!

FISHER  
That literally means nothing to me.

Tyler changes the subject.

TYLER  
Where's the turn?

DAY  
Coming up on your right.

Tyler turns, entering the road.

And so it begins.

FISHER  
We didn't even consider the oxen.

JAMES  
You say oxen like you're so glad you remembered the plural.

FISHER  
Why are you still coming at me?

JAMES  
Because you picked the hawks.

DAY  
I literally have to stop talking to remember those plurals. Octopus. Fish. Geese. Geeses.

TYLER  
Plural of cows is kine.

JAMES  
Shut the fuck up. No way.

TYLER  
I'm serious. Look it up. I used to work with cows.

James goes to his phone.

DAY  
You used to work with cows?

FISHER  
I fully see that happening.

James looks up from his phone.

JAMES  
Yeah. Yep. Kine.

Tyler makes a "I rest my case" arm movement. He rolls his window down.

JAMES (cont'd)  
Thought you were saying a racial slur.

Day laughs. Tyler rolls his eyes.

JAMES (cont'd)  
What? Aren't you like thirty words from a slur at all times?

DAY  
(laughing)  
Nah, Big T is woke now.

Tyler spits out the window.

TYLER  
Blame Hannah. She made me woke.

FISHER  
How long did that last?

TYLER  
A month. On and off. Where am I turning next?

DAY  
Being woke? Or your relationship?  
Next left.

JAMES  
Why did I not know about this? What happened with her?

Tyler rolls the window up.

TYLER  
I don't wanna get all personal-

FISHER  
Please.

DAY  
Please.

TYLER

Okay, so I'm on leave from base- and we met when I was there for basic- and it started fine, but I straight up told this chick- like, after my four years I'm going back to college. The corps is not a career for me-

James, Day, and Fisher are interested for different reasons.

TYLER (cont'd)

I don't know if you guys knew, but I got out two months ago-

DAY

What are you studying now?

TYLER

Haven't decided yet. But it's paid for.

JAMES

Hell yeah.

TYLER

Anyways, she lives 4 hours from me, near base. I hadn't talked to her for three weeks. I get out, and she wants to get serious...

JAMES

And?

TYLER

And she wanted to meet up to pick pumpkins.

Silence. Tyler isn't used to collective attention.

FISHER

What?

TYLER

I don't know! She wanted to meet up and pick pumpkins and go to a fucking apple yard or some shit. Called it "fall activities".

DAY

So??

TYLER  
So I didn't wanna go pick fucking pumpkins.

James bursts out laughing.

FISHER  
That's what did it in?

TYLER  
She started posting photos with another boot too- and I just wasn't going to play that high school shit.

DAY  
That's tough.

TYLER  
Look- she moved on quick. And that guy was a way bigger motherfucker than me.

Tyler takes a moment to realize how much he'd been talking.

JAMES  
(back from laughing)  
I'll tell you one thing though-

TYLER  
What?

Tyler looks back to James.

JAMES  
(trying not to laugh)  
That motherfucker she's with is definitely picking fucking pumpkins and shit.

James and Tyler laugh.

FISHER  
There's nothing wrong with that.

JAMES  
Fish, no offense but you're exactly the dude to be in a pumpkin patch apple vineyard whatever the fuck with your soulmate.

FISHER  
No I'm not- and how is that an insult?

DAY  
(mocking)  
Fisher, there's nothing wrong with  
that.

FISHER  
That's what I said.

JAMES  
Day, when we were dating-

Day rolls her eyes.

DAY  
Fuck me.

JAMES  
Day, what would you've said if I  
asked you to go to a pumpkin patch.

Tyler looks to Day.

She's in thought.

DAY  
It would've been a nice change in  
pace.

James throws his head back.

FISHER  
Thank you. Maybe if you were that  
motherfucker you would be happier.

JAMES  
That's ignorant happy bullshit.

FISHER  
Still happy.

DAY  
What if you're ignorant and unhappy?

JAMES  
(laughing)  
Then you'd be Tyler.

Tyler taps the breaks.

James is thrown into the back of Day's seat, smacking his  
face. Fisher and Day's seat belts catch them.

JAMES (cont'd)  
(rubbing his neck)  
Jesus Christ. Was a joke.

FISHER  
You deserved it.

Tyler scoffs.

TYLER  
So where's this turn?

The four peer out the windows, eyeing the road.