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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. Gooses.

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.