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Rites of Spring

By Padraig Reynolds

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...3.64 inches
of rainfall this month
and we're expecting
another inch over the next 24 hours.

And that means we'll be
at 4.5 inches, somewhere
in the 4-1/2-inch range,
and that's marvelous
for our crops as we continue
with bumper crops across
our area when our neighbors
are not getting much rain, so it
seems like perhaps our farmers
have done a deal with the devil.
Well, maybe I could've
done something.

What, get yourself fired, too?
Trust me, you did
the right thing.

You cannot be responsible
for the welfare of everybody.

It's better to just
keep your mouth shut.

That was my mistake,
and I cost the company
over \$10 million.

Trust me, Ryan Hayden
can afford it.

Besides, you're still there
because you're smarter
than he is.

And a harder worker.

I know... But I
still feel guilty.

Hmm... Sweetie, we've got to go.

It's after midnight and
I've got to get up early.

Ladies, do you need
anything else?

No, we're good.

We're gonna take off.

Thank you.

Thank you.

I'm gonna tell him.
Tell who?
I'm gonna tell Ryan
Hayden it was my fault.
I can't let someone else
take the fall for my mistake.
You know you're gonna get
fired if you do that, right?
Probably... but I have to.
Rachel, this is your dream job.
I mean, do you want to
throw it away just like that?
Look, the guy's gonna get
fired sooner or later anyway.
You know that.
You're doing him a favor.
No, tomorrow morning I'm
going into his office
and I'm telling him.
You're too nice, Rachel.
What was that?
I don't know.
Uh...
I'm gonna get out and
see what happened.
Fuck!
We have a flat!
Of course we have
a fucking flat.
Hey, but you know what?
This gives us an excuse
to go back to the...
Alyssa?
Alyssa?
No, no...
[..., echoey chorus humming
bluesy, hymn-like tune...]
I looked for
him in everywhere,
in everywhere I found him not
exhausted, I sleep in steppe
in the dream, the gray
horse spoke to me
"find me 'neath

the killing cliff
find me 'neath the
killing cliff."
You ready?
Yeah.
You better be.
You better hope nothing goes wrong...
Understand?
And you better make
sure your brother
does what he's told.
Tommy's gonna be fine.
We have two hours.
OK.
Don't be late.
You ready to go?
Everything's gonna be OK.
I promise.
We're \$300,000 in debt.
I don't trust Paul.
It was your idea to involve him.
I know.
This is not how I thought
things would be.
You know?
I know.
Nobody's gonna get hurt, right?
Nobody's gonna get hurt.
Oh, no, oh, no... No...!
No, no... No...
Are you clean?
What?
Are you clean?
I, I don't know what
you're talking about.
I have to make sure.
So, you gonna be OK.
With this?
Yeah.
You know you don't have to
do this if you don't want to.
No, I want to do this.
Tommy...
I'll call you when it's done.

What's wrong?
Nothing.
It's all good.
Alyssa, Alyssa, wake up!
Thank God...
What happened?
Where are we?
What's going on?
I don't know!
Oh, God...
What are you doing?
What's that?
No, leave her alone!
It must be done.
No, no, no, no,
no, please don't!
Oh, my God!
Stop! Stop!
Please... please... Please,
please don't hurt me.
Please don't hurt me.
Please don't hurt us!
No, no, no, no...
I, I have to be sure.
No!
No...!
Let me do the talking.
Are you sure they're home?
No dogs, no security guards?
I told you, I know someone
who used to work for the family.
The kid gets home from school

at exactly 3:

I know everything there is
to know about this house.
You never told us who
your inside source was.
'Cause it's not your concern.
Everything's gonna be OK., Ben.
\$2 million goes a long way.
10 minutes in and out.
Just be ready.
Ben!

Come on, let's go!

Go.

Kelly, you need to do
your homework before you play.

What time is the Mitchells'
party on Friday?

We need to be there by seven.

I'm not gonna be
home till eight.

Ryan, you've known about
this party for three months.

Well, I don't know what
you want me to do.

You know, we lost
the Dubai account.

No, I didn't know that.

What happened?

Somebody screwed up.

Well, that's a
pretty big screw-up.

Tell me about it.

I had to let some people go.

Kelly, where's your homework?

Is that gonna affect the...?

I don't know.

That's what we're having
the meeting about.

Well, I didn't know.

I'm sorry.

I have a deal for you.

You go get your book
bag and I'll help you
with your book report.

Promise?

I promise.

Now go get your bag.

Jessica, will you go see
what she's doing up there?

Kelly?

Kelly?

What the hell was that?

I don't know.

Down on the
fucking ground now!

Oh, my God!
I told you, down on
the fucking ground!
I am not gonna fucking
tell you again!
Grab 'em.
Tie 'em up.
Let's go!
Plea-please, take
anything you want.
Just don't hurt my family.
Don't talk.
Arms behind your head.
Ow, ow...!
She's done.
Good, now go up and get the kid.
Where is she?
Upstairs in the hall.
I don't have any
money in the house.
You don't think I know that?
It's gonna be OK.
No, it's not gonna be OK.
If you don't
give us what we want.
Yeah?
Let's go!
Time to hurry!
I'm taking your daughter.
Do I have your attention?
I want \$2 million in fifties,
twenties and tens in two hours.
I can't get...
Do not call the police or use
chemicals on the bills
or mark them in any way.
If you do, your daughter dies.
No.
Are you listening to me?
Well, I sure the fuck hope
you are paying attention.
I'm listening.
You will be watched
all the time.

When you get the call, you do
exactly as we say and no tricks.
You have two hours.
If I smell a cop...
That kid's dead.
And just to show you I'm
not fucking around.
Oh, God no!
God, no! No!
Come on!
Open the door!
Throw her in the back seat.
Cop car drove past just a
couple of minutes ago.
What? Where did it go?
Open the fucking trunk!
Let's go, move!
Who's she?
She saw my face.
Fuck!
- Let's go!
What took you so long?
Just tidying up some loose ends.
What do you mean?
Don't worry about it.
You got a problem with that?
Yeah, I got a big fucking
problem with that.
Oh, yeah?
What are you gonna do?
What the fuck are you doing?
Stop it!
- Will you just calm the fuck down?
Everything's going as planned.
What about the girl?
She wasn't part of the plan.
She saw my face.
I can't have her telling the
cops what I look like.
So what are you gonna do with her?
- Don't worry.
I'll deal with her.
Call your brother,
tell him to get ready.

Why is this happening?
I don't know.
But we're gonna get
out of here, OK.?
OK.
- OK.
Promise me... You
won't leave me.
Promise me.
I promise I won't leave you.
I think I can get free.
It has started again.
I ask you for forgiveness.
I ask that you will see
us through these days...
And that I will be strong.
I will not let you down.
Please...
Please let us go.
We'll do anything you want.
Please.
Shh...
Soon.
What is it?
What is it?
What are you doing?
- No... What are you doing?
Leave her alone!
No, no... No!
No, no... No!
What are you doing to her?
Stop it... Stop it...
Wh-why?
Please, I don't understand!
What are you doing?!
Alyssa... Alyssa...
I'm still here, OK.?
I'm still here, OK.?
Why are you doing this?
It has started.
Get away from me.
The days of rain.
Hello?
Tommy.

In two hours.

At 6:

Is everything cool?

Just be ready.

The pickup is at our old grain silo where dad used to work.

Just like we talked about.

Tommy, you there?

Yeah.

If anything seems weird, you bust out of there, all right?

Yeah. Yeah, I will.

We'll call you if there are any changes.

Can you do that for me, Philip?

No, no, I'll, I'll come pick it up myself.

Give me the keys.

You know, I think

I'll hold onto them.

Then drive the car around back.

I don't want it in front.

Take the kid in the back.

I'm calling for the money.

Hello?

Did you call the cops?

No.

Good.

Did you get what I asked for?

Yes.

The gray mill on canton road in half an hour.

Put all the money in a duffle bag and leave it in silo number one.

I want my daughter there.

That's not gonna happen.

My money's not there in half an hour, she's dead.

Everything's gonna be OK.

Nobody's gonna hurt you.

Are you thirsty?

Yeah?

Yeah?

Now I just need
you to stay here.

I'll come back to check
on you later, I promise.

Everything's gonna be OK.

Nothing is gonna happen to you.

I'm sorry.

Is she all good back there?

Yeah, she's not going anywhere.

What are we gonna do with them?

Take them out to the
woods and let them go.

Just like we planned.

When we get the money.

It's almost six.

It's time to get ready.

I have given you a lifetime.

And you have rewarded us again
with an early harvest.

The blood is clean.

The

sacrifice has begun.

Let him rise.

Let him rise.

And protect us from his wrath.

You answer that.

Hold the phone out
so I can hear.

Hello?

Tommy, where the fuck are you?

It's been an hour.

I'm on my way.

Did you get the money?

Yeah.

So how close are you?

I'm almost there.

Is everything OK?

Yeah, everything's great.

They took my daughter.

I didn't.

Shut up!

And drive.

Where are we going?
I told you, I'm taking you
to where your daughter is.
You think you can just come
into my house and
violate my family?
You think I would just take it
and not do anything about it?
You don't know
anything about me!
I started with nothing.
You and your friends
underestimated me.
What are you doing?
If you cooperate and don't do
anything stupid, I promise
you'll be released soon.
Tommy's on his way.
So?
He's got the money.
I told you everything
was gonna be OK.
So once the money gets here
we split it up four ways,
we all go our
separate ways, right?
After we split, we split.
No further contact,
no loose ends.
Are you happy now?
I don't know if you
would call it happy.
Why?
All of our problems are solved.
You know what?
I don't think it's that easy.
Ben, you worked for his
company for seven years,
and he fired you for something
that wasn't your fault.
Do you think that's fair?
No.
We deserve this.
Do we?

...oh, my God.
Alyssa...
Alyssa, it's OK., it's OK.
I'm just gonna get
you down, OK.?
I'm so sorry.
Oh, God...
He likes
to take their heads.
He must not get out.
Don't let it out.
Don't let what out?
You, you can't stop it.
I don't understand.
Stop what?
The rites of spring.
Ben? Amy?
Tommy.
Well, look who it is.
Now, this is what
I'm talking about.
Nobody move!
I knew you would fuck this up!
Ben, he had a gun on me.
Shut up.
You, move away from the others.
Listen...
You killed my wife.
You're the reason
your wife is dead.
Shut up!
You.
Now!
I, I don't have a gun on me.
You don't even who
this is, do you?
He worked for your
company for seven years.
Amy... Don't.
Untie her... Now!
Jessica...
Grab the gun.
Now... Where is my daughter?
She's in the back

room, over there.
Is there anybody else here?
I don't think so.
You watch 'em.
I'm gonna go get Kelly.
Christ, she shot him.
Don't move, Ben.
What are you doing?
If you move, she'll
shoot you too.
Nobody move.
Paul, what the fuck is going on?
We're taking the money.
What are you talking about?
Paul, what are you doing?
No!
Are you fucking insane?
He...
Don't you even fucking
think about it.
Don't.
He'll just shoot us.
He's just gonna kill us anyway.
I told you, your brother
better not make a mistake.
Paul, let's just kill them,
take the money, and go.
Sorry.
This is just the
way it has to end.
Please, please!
What the fuck?
You have to help me.
You don't understand.
Who is she?
Oh, my God.
What?
I know her.
Ben?
What the hell is going on here?
Paul, let's go.
Grab the money.
We have to go...
we have to go.

Seriously.
We have to go.
Oh, my God!
Run!
Ben, come on!
Run!
Oh, my God.
Kelly!
Kelly!
Fuck...
What the fuck was that?
It killed my friend.
What did?
What killed your friend?
I don't know.
What is she talking about?
I'm going downstairs
for the money.
I'm getting out of here.
You're not going anywhere!
Ben, what are you doing?
That was his plan
the whole time.
Kill us all, take the money.
What were you gonna do
with the girl? Kill her too?
Put the gun down.
Your brother made the mistake.
Where's the kid?
She's gone.
We have to keep moving.
Come on, Paul, it's over.
I am not gonna ask you again.
That's why you never told us
who your inside man was.
It was all a setup.
I'm calling the cops.
You put that fucking phone
down or I will shoot her...
It's over, Paul.
Drop the phone, Ben!
Fuck you!
Just give him the phone.
Come on.

Nobody's calling anyone.
Come on, Paul.
Just put the gun down.
Ben, please don't let
him take me down there.
Paul!
If you don't follow
us, I'll let her go.
Please, please just let me go.
Shut up.
Don't move.
Come on.
We have to get out of here.
We can't leave Rachel.
What are you doing?
Forget about her.
I'm not listening
to you anymore.
I'm not leaving her to die.
Ben...
Paul?
Paul?
Paul?
Fuck! Go!
What the hell is that thing?
I don't know.
We gotta get out!
Go, Amy.
Oh, my God!
It's stuck!
Get out of the way!
Go!
There's a house up there.
Yeah, come on.
Hello?
Hello?
Is anyone home?
Let's go.
No, no.
We have to find a phone.
We need to call for help.
There's the phone.
Hello?
There's a light on in there.

What is this place?
Who are all these people?
All these newspapers have the
March 21st.
That's the first day of spring.
That's Rachel.
Come on, Amy.
We should, we should go.
Are you clean?
What are you doing?
It has to be fed.
For the harvest.
Why are you doing this?
Tradition.
It's the family way.
Where are you taking her?
Where are you taking her?
Where are you taking her?
You should feel special.
Do you have keys to a car?
Yeah.
- OK.
We have to find Amy.
Where does he take 'em?
I don't know.
He has to take 'em somewhere.
There?
I gotta see if she's down there.
Are you sure?
If she's down there,
I can't leave her.
It's some kind of nest.
What could do this?
I don't know.
She's not down here.
Let's go.
No... Oh, my God.
Paul, we have to go.
Wait a minute.
No, let's go.
No, no, no, wait.
Amy?
Is that her?
Hold onto her.

Hold on, Amy.
I got you, I got you.
We need to get her some help.
Amy, it's gonna be OK.
Ben!
Amy, get out of here!
Ben!
Oh, God... Ben, no...
I'm so... I'm so sorry.
Oh, God...
Fuck!
OK., OK.
No... Please help me, anybody!
Hello!
Please, somebody!
Come on!
Somebody, please!
Please... Oh... Oh, thank God.
Please help me.
Oh, thank you.
Please let me in.
Please.
Oh, oh, please, you have to
help me, everybody's dead.
Please let me in.
Thank you.
Thank you.
Oh, thank you.
No... Where are you going?!
Come back!
Please!
Please!