

HATE CRIME

by

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INT. AUSTIN'S HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

AUSTIN, A lean man in his 30's wearing a full old school cowboy outfit, cooks eggs on a stove.

The old lady decorations in the house around him, clashes with his attire greatly.

Austin knocks on a door holding a plate of eggs and toast.

MARIE
(Faintly.)
Come in, Dear.

Austin enters, the spurs on his boots CLANK with each step.

Marie lays in bed. She has bandages wrapped around her eyes. Austin puts the plate on the bedside table.

MARIE
Thank you, sweetie.

AUSTIN
How's your head?

MARIE
The ringing has been getting quieter.

Austin looks at the ground, clenching his fist.

MARIE
But, Austie. You know, you don't have to keep helping me out. I can take care of myself.

AUSTIN
I hate to leave so soon, but I have somewhere I need to be. Love you, Mom.

Austin CLANKS away.

MARIE
When are you gonna take off that ridiculous outfit.

AUSTIN
How--

MARIE
I have ears, dumbass.

AUSTIN
The fit, stays on.

Austin dramatically turns around, and walks out of the room.

MARIE
Just be careful, please.

AUSTIN
I'm always careful.

EXT. BLINKER STREET - DAY

Austin stands outside of his car with his hands on his head staring at his car. He holds a phone up to his ear.

There's a fresh dent on the front of the car.

AUSTIN
Roger, you got any jobs that are a little more lucrative?

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jade lays belly down on her bed with her feet dangling back and forth. She's invested into her phone. Her cat walks over her back.

The screen shows she's texting an older fella.

Jade types in: "I'M ONLY 12, BUT I STILL WANNA SEE YOU."

A bubble pops up showing they're typing.

"I WANNA SEE YOU TOO BABY. DOES 4PM WORK?"

Jade jumps in excitement.

JADE
And that's the money shot.

Jade goes back to typing.

EXT. PARK - DAY

CUPID and VINNIE sit on a pair of swings at the park. Vinnie takes a big puff from a JOINT. Cupid stares at the ground. Vinnie starts coughing and holds the joint out to Cupid.

CUPID
Get that shit out of my face.

VINNIE
Get that sulking face out of my face. What are you so pressed about.

Cupid takes the joint and takes a big hit, he coughs.

CUPID
I've got an audition tomorrow, I'm going for the lead and it's about a bounty hunter.

VINNIE
So, you'd be playing the bounty hunter?

CUPID

Yes.

VINNIE

Hm... I don't see it.

CUPID

What?!

VINNIE

Sorry bud, you're just too uptight, aren't bounty hunters supposed to be cool and tough? You're... Timid.

CUPID

I am NOT timid... I can be tough.

VINNIE

Mmkay.

Vinnie sees someone, PREDATOR, suspicious in the distance.

VINNIE

Well, that guy looks out of place.

CUPID

No, don't change the subject, I'm tough! Remember last year when I told the grocery store worker I was mad at them.

VINNIE

Nope.

CUPID

Whatever, I'm tough. I'm tough.

Vinnie keeps looking at the person. Jade is seen in the distance walking towards the Predator.

VINNIE

And who is that sexy lady?

CUPID

Beats me.

As Jade is walking up, she hits a button on an audio recorder and puts it in her pocket.

She approaches the predator and starts talking to him. We don't know what they're saying though.

VINNIE

Shit, you think that's her boyfriend?

CUPID

I was thinking more of a cousin.

VINNIE

Your first guess is cousin? You really think they look related? I mean, I can kinda see it.

CUPID

Or maybe Uncle.

VINNIE

Yeah, definitely not her boyfriend though, right?

CUPID

Dude, I don't fucking know, maybe it's her Dad.

VINNIE

Well, if it's her Dad. I should go introduce myself.

CUPID

What the-- what is going through your head right now, sit the fuck down. We don't even know these people.

Predator pushes Jade to the ground. Cupid and Vinnie gasp.

Jade gets up quickly, she cracks her neck and fists, and puts her hands up, ready to fight.

VINNIE

Oh, shit. She's about to fight her Uncle.

CUPID

Wish we could hear what they're saying. I wonder why the writer made us the focus and not them.

Jade inches forward ready to strike. Predator goes in for a strike, Jade dodges and counters with a couple punches to the torso and backs up. The predator is unscathed.

CUPID

Holy moly, she's got moves.

VINNIE

(infatuated.)

I know...

Jade throws a couple kicks. Predator catches the second kick and elbows her leg. She screams in pain.

Vinnie stands up immediately. Cupid grabs his arm.

CUPID

Don't do it. This isn't our fight.

Jade still stands, she has a bit of a limp in her step now.

VINNIE

I can't just sit here.

Jade has her hands up still. Ready to defend. Predator inches forward. He throws a couple punches that Jade defends/dodges.

He throws a kick at the end though, nailing Jade right in the solar plexus. She falls to the ground.

Vinnie breaks away from Cupid's grasp, and starts running towards them.

CUPID

Vinnie! Ffffffffffuck. Every single time.

Cupid is very high right now, he stands up but struggles to balance.

Jade lays on the ground out of breathe. Predator walks over to her and stands over her body.

PREDATOR

You shouldn't have gotten involved.
This is bigger than you and me--

Vinnie tackles the predator out of nowhere. He rolls over the Predator to a stand. He looks over at Jade with a slick smile and a hand out to help her up.

VINNIE

Are you okay? Miss.

Jade stands up on her own, ignoring Vinnie's hand.

JADE

I don't need your help, druggie.

Vinnie's so high, his confidence is unfazed.

The predator stands up from the ground. He has a KNIFE in his hand.

PREDATOR

No witnesses.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Austin stands outside of his car pumping gas into it. He yawns and looks at the time.

AUSTIN

I got time.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Cupid stands next to the swings watching Vinnie, Jade and the Predator, who now has a knife in his hands.

CUPID

I am too high for this shit.

Cupid runs over there.

The predator lunges at Vinnie with the knife. Vinnie dodges the slices one after the other.

Vinnie backs up with each slice. The predator stops and slices at Jade who jumps back, she falls to the ground cause of her hurt leg.

The predator pounces towards Jade but Vinnie kicks him knocking him off balance and stopping his attack on her.

Jade kicks his leg. He almost falls to the ground but catches himself. He does a wild slice at Vinnie almost getting him. Vinnie steps back and so does the predator.

PREDATOR

Why are you getting in the way!
This has nothing to do with you.

VINNIE

You know, you're right. But, I
couldn't just sit back and watch.

A door slams in the distance. Austin stands outside of his car eyes locked on the scene. He starts running towards them.

PREDATOR

Shit. Shit.

Predator backs up quickly.

Cupid sees the bounty hunter and stares because of how odd it is to see someone in a full cowboy fit in this area--

He runs right into the predator. He tries to catch himself and grabs on to the predators TEAR AWAY PANTS, leaving the predator in his underwear.

The predator trips a little knocking his pants off more. He grabs Cupid quickly and holds him at knife point.

PREDATOR

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER... OR I'LL
KILL HIM RIGHT NOW!

Everyone freezes including Austin. Predator backs up quickly while holding onto a panicking Cupid.

PREDATOR

Shit. This wasn't supposed to happen. Don't follow me! I didn't wanna do this. He made me do this-- He made me! So, stay away! Just forget all of this happened. Forget it!

Predator pushes Cupid to the ground and runs full speed away from them. Cupid is hyperventilating on the ground.

Jade tries to run after him but falls again cause of her knee, she yells in frustrrtion, and hits the ground.

Vinnie is a little intimidated by Jade, and runs over to Cupid to check on him.

Cupid is scared, shaking on the ground.

VINNIE

Cupid, it's okay. Buddy, it's okay. He's gone now. You're okay. You're okay. I'm sorry.

Austin runs over to check on Jade.

AUSTIN

Are you okay? Do you need a--

JADE

He's getting away!

Austin looks over at him running. He snaps back into it, and starts running after him.

He runs past Cupid and Vinnie. Vinnie watches Austin run after him, he wants to follow. He clenches his fist, and looks back at Cupid.

VINNIE

I'm right here, it's gonna be okay.

He takes a joint out of his pocket. It's smushed. He sighs.

Cupid is still rapidly breathing, and shaking. Vinnie grabs Cupid and holds him close trying to comfort his friend.

VINNIE

It's gonna be okay buddy, it's gonna be okay. Deep breathes.

Cupid starts taking deep breaths. Vinnie looks back where Jade was, she's gone.

VINNIE

Fuck, I didn't even get her number.