

SOLO

by

Marshall Ross

ACT I

1. OPENING

EXT. APARTMENT

Grant's car pulls into his parking spot and GRANT, a man in his 20s, exits the vehicle.

The door of Grant's apartment, the number 4 is prominently in the middle of the door. The sound of Gov. Whitmer's announcement of the "stay-at-home" order is heard.

INT. MAIN ROOM

The AC unit is on, it makes a whirring noise that will continue in every other shot. (WN)

INT. KITCHEN

The empty kitchen. A box of colorful children's cereal is on the counter. There are a number of dishes in the sink.

INT. BATHROOM

The empty bathroom. Toothbrush on the counter. the shower curtain is closed and the toilet seat is up.

INT. BEDROOM

Grant's bedroom is sparse, the bed makes up the majority of the space. His sheets are covering the bed, but it would be a stretch to call it "made." The blinds are closed.

2. MEETING GRANT

INT. MAIN ROOM

Grant is sat at his small dining table. He is watching his laptop, it is playing Gov. Whitmer's announcement. Grant eats a bowl of his favorite cereal.

GRANT

Hm.

3. THE FIRST MORNING

INT. BEDROOM

Grant opens his eyes naturally without the aid of an alarm. Birds chirp. Grant checks his phone to see the time. It is

12:00pm. His bed is disheveled, he appears to be a restless sleeper. Grant begins to get out of bed.

4. CLOTHES OR NOT?

Grant approaches his closet. He is wearing only boxers. As he approaches, he stretches out the morning. In front of his closet, Grant contemplates the meaning of clothes.

5. MAKING BREAKFAST

INT. KITCHEN

Grant enters the kitchen wearing only his boxers and a tank top. He grabs a bowl and pours himself some of his favorite cereal.

6. THE BREAKFAST EXPERIENCE

INT. MAIN ROOM

Grant is sat at his dining table eating his cereal. His laptop is now playing his favorite TV show. As he eats, his phone, which is face-down on the opposite side of the laptop, begins to vibrate. He is receiving a call. Grant acknowledges this but chooses not to answer(WN up). Once the vibrating ceases, he tilts his phone to check who called. It was his mother. Rejoining his show, grant goes for another bite of cereal. There is a loud thud heard through the walls followed by some incoherent sounds of voices arguing(WN up). This startles Grant and makes him spill his cereal on himself.

7. DROWNING OUT THE NOISE

INT. KITCHEN

Grant walks his bowl to the kitchen to put it in the sink. The sound of the neighbors is still heard, they appear to be two "douchey" sounding boys about Grant's age.

Grant puts in a pair of cheap looking Bluetooth earbuds. A song starts playing (WN down). Grant very much enjoys this song. He begins to feel the groove of the music as he washes his bowl. This lifts his mood and he decides to clean the rest of the dishes and kitchen.

8. CLEANING MONTAGE

Feeling the motion of the music through (bad) dancing.

INT. MAIN ROOM

Grant vacuums the floor.

INT. BEDROOM

Grant is making his bed with a grand flick of his comforter.

9. BROKEN BUDS

INT. BATHROOM

Grant is using a rag to wipe down the bathroom counter and mirror. As he cleans the music from his earbuds begins to cut in and out becoming very choppy (WN up). He notices this and attempts to fix the problem by tapping on the earbuds, hitting them, switching ears, all to no avail. Giving up out of frustration, Grant throws the earbuds in the trash. This put quite a damper on his mood as he continues to clean the bathroom.

10. WHAT TO DO?

INT. MAIN ROOM

Grant sits at his laptop. On screen grant begins to type a "to do" list. This list first consists of some simple tasks such as: laundry, dusting and change bathroom light bulb. Next he adds "call back mom" (WN up). He then starts to type out some longer term projects, he has some trouble deciding what sort of project he wants to tackle. He stats with writing then deleting: write a book, travel, start running. Grant has some minor audible reactions to these ideas. Then he stumbles across an idea he likes: learn guitar.

11. THE GUITAR

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

Grant is on his bed, acoustic guitar in hand. He has a chord sheet of the song he was listening to earlier pulled up on his phone next to him on the bed. With much struggle he attempts to strum out the chords of the song while mumble singing the lyrics. He does not have much confidence in doing this, he also does not have much success (WN up). After some time Grant becomes discouraged and sets his guitar to the side of his bed, where it will live for every other shot. Grant flops on his back in his bed, defeated.

BLACKOUT

ACT II

12. NEXT WEEK

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Birds chirp. Grant's room is more disheveled than before. Laundry piles up near his closet, mostly boxers and shirts. Grant is wrapped up in a mess of sheets and blankets. His phone begins vibrating, he is getting a call (WN up). The buzzing wakes him, but he chooses to ignore the call. Once his phone quots, he rolls over to check. It was his mom again, he has four missed calls.

13. OUT OF CEREAL

INT. KITCHEN

Grant walks into the kitchen, he wears only boxers and a tank top. His hair is greasy and looks rather unclean. He grabs a bowl and the box of his favorite cereal. The box is very light. He pour what is left into his bowl, there is not enough to justify eating it (WN up). Grant throws the box in the trash.

14. BREAD FOR BREAKFAST

INT. MAIN ROOM

Grant sits at his table with his laptop nearby. He eats a single slice of whole wheat bread. Grant edits his "to do" list. The list has not changed much, nothing has yet been crossed off. However, "call back mom" now has a multiplier by in "X4" and a new "call back James" note. Grant changes the multiplier to "X5". (WN up). Grant doesn't know what to do today, he sits bored/frustrated/in his thoughts.

15. BORED MONTAGE

INT. BEDROOM

Grant sits on his bed.

INT. BATHROOM

Grant sits on the toilet.

INT. BEDROOM

Grant sits on the floor. Neighbors are heard muffled yelling.

INT. KITCHEN

Grant sits on the kitchen counter.

INT. MAIN ROOM

Grant lays on the floor.

16. GRANT SMELLS

Grant is frustrated about wasting his time, his phone vibrated but he ignores it fully (WN up). He sits up and runs his hands through his hair. He notices how greasy his hair is. This prompts him to check his BO by sniffing his armpit. Grant smells. Time to shower (WN down).

17. SINGING IN THE SHOWER

INT. BATHROOM

The shower is running and Grant is behind the curtain. He starts softly singing the song he was listening to earlier. Gradually as he begins to enjoy himself, he sings louder and with more confidence. A loud banging is heard from the apartment overhead, accompanied by a muffled

NEIGHBOR
Shut the fuck up!

(WN up) Grant stops singing and continues to shower in silence.

18. PARTY NEXT DOOR

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grant lays in his bed under the covers prepared for sleep. Music and loud bass is heard muffled from the apartment overhead (WN up). The sound of stomping footsteps and greetings adds to this. The neighbors are having a party. Grant hates this. He tries to ignore it, but he can't seem to rest. He is angry. He tries to cover his ears with pillows. He tosses and turns, but he can still hear them. He covers his head and screams into the pillow.

BLACKOUT

ACT III

19. HUNGER SETS IN

Grant wakes to his stomach growling. (WN up) He tosses and turns to try to ignore the pain. His room is in a sorry state.

20. EMPTY MONTAGE

INT. KITCHEN

The lifeless kitchen is dirty, dishes fill the sink, however there is no food in sight.

INT. MAIN ROOM

The main room is empty and lifeless.

INT. BATHROOM

The bathroom is empty and lifeless.

21. IN BED ALL DAY

INT. BEDROOM

Grant is laying in bed, his laptop sitting on his stomach playing his favorite TV show. Grant is able to recite some of the lines as they are being said. While he watches, his phone begins to vibrate. Without checking, he switches over to his to do list. The "call back" section has grown: call back mom X12, call back James X3, call back Dad X5, Call back Marcy. He guesses and adds a multiplier to Dad "X6". Once the vibrating he checks to see if he was right, it was his mom. He changes "X6" back to "X5" and "X12" to "X13". His stomach growls again (WN up). Grant decides to get up this time. He is clearly weak and fatigued, movement is struggle.

22. STARVATION

INT. KITCHEN

Grant makes his way into the kitchen. He opens the fridge to check for any scraps of food still edible. The interior of the fridge is scarce and it would be a stretch to call what is there edible. Grant closes the fridge and grabs a nearly empty bag of rice crackers from the on top of the fridge. He removes the last rice cracker from its packaging. Grant munches.

After some munching, Grant tries to stand up. His iron is low and he blacks out.

Grant wakes up face-down on the floor to the muffled sounds of bass-y music and general ruckus from the apartment above. Grant stands himself up slowly this time, he is still dizzy/woozy. As he gets up and moves he speaks under his breath repeatedly.

GRANT
Shut the fuck up.

He slowly starts to make his way back to his bedroom.

23. CONFRONTATION

INT. BEDROOM

Grant is back in his bedroom and the noise from above persists. Fighting with an internal struggle of social anxiety vs confrontation, he grabs his guitar. He positions it with intent to bang on the ceiling (this is a moment of high turmoil, the decision to hit the ceiling or not should be made in the moment.) In reaction to either decision, as a result of anger/frustration/unclear thinking, Grant smashes his guitar on the floor.

24. BREAKDOWN

This action pushes Grant beyond the point where he can protect himself and causes an anxiety attack. Grant submits himself to the floor in a fit of heavy, choppy breathing, possibly hyperventilating as he cradles the remains of his beloved guitar. In the midst of this, Grants phone begins to vibrate. Once he notices that he is receiving a call, it seems to ground him slightly. This lessens his hysteria and allows him to gain control over his breathing. Recognizing this grounding force, Grant picks up the phone to answer.

BLACKOUT

GRANT
Hi mom.

END.