

NO BIG DEAL

By

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1 INT. KITCHEN DAY

Scene opens at kitchen table over breakfast as wife CHERYL and young daughter EMILY are engaged in conversation with KEVIN about today, his 40th birthday.

CHERYL

If that's what you want honey (kisses KEVIN).

EMILY

Hey, I want cake. And ice cream too!

CHERYL

EMILY your daddy is not saying he doesn't want to have cake and ice cream on his birthday. He just doesn't want a party.

KEVIN

God no! Jeez turning 40 is no big deal. (pats EMILY on head) What kind of cake would you like kiddo?

EMILY

Daddy it's your birthday!

KEVIN

Makes no difference to me. You guys make the call. (looks at watch) Hey gotta go. Beyond late for work.

KEVIN rushes out of frame and then returns to kiss both CHERYL and EMILY goodbye.

EMILY

Bye-Bye Daddy, Happy Birthday!

2 EXT. ROADWAY DAY

KEVIN is in car on his drive to work.

KEVIN

(On cell phone) Yeah, (coughs twice) I don't know what the hell I got. I think the kid passed something on she caught at pre-school. Yeah I know about the deadline on that job. Nah, I don't think I'll be out long. Probably be back tomorrow. Right. Thanks. Bye. (CLOSE UP of detached and depressed expression)

3 INT. KITCHEN

CHERYL is on phone in kitchen. She is putting away dishes.

CHERYL

Oh you know how much KEVIN loves surprises. He will get such a kick out of this. No. He doesn't suspect a thing. Yes I played right along with him. Like anyone would actually buy it when he says no party. Yeah, for sure. Uh huh. Absolutely.

4 EXT. ROADWAY

KEVIN is in his car on his cell phone.

KEVIN

What's up? Yeah, today's the day. Forty big ones. Yep. No I'm not bummed. No really. It's no big deal. Anyway, can't make the handball game at noon. Something at, work came up. Yeah buddy, maybe next week. Same time. Yeah. Right. Later.

KEVIN'S car pulls into Liquor Store parking lot. He is seen entering and exiting store with multiple bottles in brown bag

5 INT. KITCHEN

CHERYL is on phone in kitchen. She is putting away dishes.

CHERYL

So if I had to guess I would say something in an earth tone. No mother, he doesn't have a turtleneck in beige. It will look great on him!

6 EXT. ROADWAY

KEVIN exits topless bar, opens wallet and takes a close look before re-entering his car and driving away. He is trying to sing the song Satisfaction but mostly mumbling while taking a swig from bottle of Jim Beam.

KEVIN

dah, dah dee dahh, mmmm, daa mmmm. I CAN'T GET NO, I CAN'T GET NO, SATISSSSSSFACTION! YEAH!

KEVIN takes another long swig.

7 INT. KITCHEN

CHERYL is on phone in kitchen. She is leaning against the counter.

CHERYL

Hi Aunt Loretta, CHERYL here. Okay the plan is for everyone to be here before 6:30, KEVIN always rolls in at around 6:50. Yes, park in back. No, a fifth of Tequila wouldn't be such a great idea. You probably didn't know that KEVIN quit drinking two years ago. No, not a DUI or anything he just thought it was time. Actually he's on a real health kick these days.

8 EXT. ROADSIDE

KEVIN as he is seen on the roadside, outside his car speaking to a BIKER who is attempting to fix his motorcycle that has broken down.

KEVIN

(slightly slurring speech) You need a hand here?

The BIKER gives no response as he continues to work on bike.

KEVIN

I used to own a Honda 350 in my college years. Had a lot of carburetor problems with it. You checked the carburetor?

BIKER

Just rebuilt the carburetor last week man. Any other bright ideas Sherlock?

KEVIN

Ahhh, how about the battery? You need a jump?

9 INT. LIVING ROOM

CHERYL is on phone in living room of her house. She is seated in a recliner.

CHERYL

We're trying to keep it small, just the immediate family. No, KEVIN would love to see you too but... Sure, maybe we could all catch a movie in the next couple weeks. You bet. Sorry about this, thanks for calling and I will tell KEVIN you and Greg wish him a happy 40th. Bye.

EMILY walks up to her mother with a worried look on her face.

EMILY

Sorry Mom but I couldn't lie to Mrs. Simmons. I got spanked yesterday for lying about Timmy

CHERYL

EMILY lying to Mrs. Simmons about me not being home is different than you not telling the truth about putting your hamster in the dryer.

EMILY

I miss TIMMY!

10 EXT. ROADSIDE

KEVIN is still in a discussion with BIKER.

KEVIN

You know where a guy can score some shit?

BIKER

Excuse me?

KEVIN

You know, some cheeba, horse, SMACK?

BIKER puts his wrench down and turns to KEVIN.

BIKER

What the fuck are you mumbling about?

KEVIN

Okay, how about Meth? I know for a fact about you guys. (holds out bottle of Jim Beam) Want a hit?

BIKER

(no response but incredulous look)

KEVIN

I know where you hide it man. It's in your crankcase. Right? I don't need much. Just enough to get me through the day. I'm really starting to drag. Turned 40 today. Can you believe it? Most people think I'm maybe 32, 33. Hey what's Meth like?

BIKER

If you do not get out of my face within the next few seconds I'll not only kick your fucking little Kiwanis Club member ass, I will then take every item of any value on your body and in your piece of shit Yuppie Jeep and have myself a hell of an evening. The meter is running!

KEVIN

Have a nice day.

KEVIN exits quickly.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM

CHERYL is on phone in living room of her house. She is seated in a recliner with a Rolodex in her lap.

CHERYL

Bakery Department please. This is CHERYL Lansing and I'm checking to see if the cake I ordered is ready? Yes, a black sheet cakes with Happy 40th on it. It's ready?Great I'm on my way to pick it up!

12 EXT. ROADSIDE EVENING

CUT to shot of KEVIN driving while he attempts to light bong and take long hit.

CUT to shot of HITCHHIKER from KEVIN's view inside car.

CUT to shot of HITCHHIKER with thumb out as KEVIN is seen driving by.

CUT to shot of KEVIN pulling over a short distance beyond HITCHHIKER.

CUT to shot of KEVIN awkwardly attempting to put down bong before opening car door as HITCHHIKER gets in car.

KEVIN

Where you heading?

HITCHHIKER

Doesn't matter.

KEVIN

I hear that.

13 INT. LIVING ROOM EVENING

The family has gathered in his living room awaiting the arrival of KEVIN.

CHERYL

He's usually not late. (She looks at the CLOCK and it shows 6:30 PM.) Maybe he had to work a little late.

EMILY

Is daddy having another affair?

CHERYL

EMILY why don't you go let Rocky out to go potty?

EMILY

But I just let him in.

CHERYL

EMILY MARIE LANSING let the damn dog out, okay!

14 EXT. ROADWAY

KEVIN is seen in discussion with HITCHHIKER inside his car.

KEVIN

(seen munching on mushroom) So this is a shroom huh?

HITCHHIKER

Just picked them at that dairy farm back there.

KEVIN

So they give you a buzz?

HITCHHIKER

That's what I've read. Never tried them myself  
Allergic to mushrooms.

KEVIN tries to take swig of Jim Beam but bottle is empty and then grabs for bottle of wine in bag on seat.

KEVIN

Was going to bring this home for the wife. She  
loves a good bottle of wine. Makes her horny.  
Got a corkscrew?

15 INT. LIVING ROOM NIGHT

The family members are seen in restless state. The CLOCK is now showing 9:15.

FAMILY MEMBER

CHERYL I have to get up really early tomorrow morning. Could you just tell KEVIN we wish him a happy birthday? We really should be...

CHERYL

No, really, he will be here any second! Does anybody want some more punch?

EMILY

Mommy we're out of punch. Should I get out my juice-pops?

A knock is heard at the door and CHERYL is seen rushing there to open it. As she opens it HITCHHIKER is seen at door propping up KEVIN.

HITCHHIKER

Are you sure this is where you live guy?

CUT to shot of family's look of horror.

CUT to shot of KEVIN vomiting forward on the feet of family.

EMILY

(seen covered partially with vomit and wiping off her face) Happy 40th birthday daddy!

KEVIN

(smiling weakly) Seriously, I told you guys, it's no big deal. (turns to HITCHHIKER) You up for some cake?

FADE TO BLACK