

THEY TOOK THE PIGS!

by

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WGA Registered

FADE IN:

EXT. SHINE'S FAMILY HOME - MORNING

Hands rake fresh soil between blooming flowers.

RED (O.S.)

Shine! Can you run to the hardware store for me later?

The hands belong to a tall, muscular man with a football player build -- SHINE (30). He looks to his father standing in the doorway with a cane -- RED (60s).

SHINE

Yes, sir.

Red goes back inside. Shine sets down the rake and does pushups, popping up and CLAPPING.

EXT. ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATION - MORNING

A man performs squats beside a charging car -- HUNTER (29).

EXT. SHINE'S FAMILY HOME - MORNING

Shine is back to raking vigorously. He stops and wipes his brow to see Hunter park at the curb. Shine tosses the rake and walks toward him with a big smile --

SHINE

Hunter! My man!

Shine throws out his arms. Hunter approaches up the driveway.

HUNTER

Shine, you beautiful beast of a man. It has been too long!

SHINE

Well quit you're travelin' and come by more!

Shine and Hunter hug.

HUNTER

It's good to see you.

In the front window, Red gazes at his son's extended embrace. Shine grabs Hunter's face and tucks it into his neck.

Hunter looks at the pile of gravel --

HUNTER
Am I helping with this? Or are we
headed to Pig City?

SHINE
The latter.

HUNTER
Pig City, here we come!

Shine laughs.

INT. SHINE'S FAMILY HOME - MORNING

Through the window, Red watches them get in the pickup truck.

INT. HARDWOOD STORE - DAY

Shine pushes a shopping cart around a hardwood store, Hunter beside him. Shine scans rows of bolts in varying sizes.

HUNTER
Which one you lookin' for?

SHINE
Twenty-five by... Thirty-four.

HUNTER
Here!

Hunter grabs a bolt and hands it to Shine.

SHINE
How'd you find that so fast?

HUNTER
(shrugs)
Lucky. What else do we need?

INT. LUMBER SECTION - DAY

Shine grabs a ten-foot-long board and pushes it into the cart but it is too long.

SHINE
Put it through the front.

Hunter adjusts the board but it is too thick.

HUNTER
It won't fit.

SHINE
Spit on it.

They lock eyes and giggle.

INT. CASHIER LANE - DAY

Shine pushes the cart to a register where a poofy-haired CASHIER chews gum with slack-jawed freedom.

Shine and Hunter load the belt.

CASHIER
Together?

Shine looks at her like a deer in the headlights.

SHINE
No. We're not together.
(beat)
Wait, yes. Paying together. Yes.

The Cashier looks confused.

SHINE
All together. Paying.

CASHIER
Got it.

Hunter stares at his shoes. Shine notices. The Cashier scans. Hunter looks up and sees the locks on the conveyor belt.

HUNTER
Changing the locks?

SHINE
For the pig farm. My dad's all
paranoid and thinks they're gonna
get stolen.

HUNTER
The pigs?

The Cashier blows a gum bubble which POPS.

CUT TO:

EXT. PIG FARM - AFTERNOON

Large tires rumble over dirt potholes filling with water. It is raining now. The truck parks. Shine and Hunter jump out and run to a building with a sign that reads, *PIG FARM*.

INT. PIG FARM - AFTERNOON

The door opens and Shine flicks a light switch, bathing the entry room in orange. Hunter gracefully wipes the rain from his face and hair. Shine shakes off like a dog.

The room is both office and changing room. Past two outward facing desks are mud-crusts clothes hanging above rows of knee-high rubber boots.

Shine tosses boots and overalls to Hunter.

SHINE
You know the drill.

INT. PIG FARM - PIG PENS - MINUTES LATER

Pigs run in circles in their pens. Shine chases them, grabs a small one by its hind legs, and lifts it into the air. Hunter grimaces.

SHINE
Doesn't hurt 'em. We move the babies to other pens so they don't get trampled.

Shine walks to a nearby pen and places the pig down gently. The pig SQUEALS and runs to join other piglets.

HUNTER
Can I try?

Shine looks at him -- "Duh."

MOMENTS LATER

Shine and Hunter sidestep, circling with the pigs. Shine points to a small one --

SHINE
There! With the white spots!

Hunter sees, nods. Continuing to sidestep between pigs, he takes a deep breath.

SHINE

Grab it's hind legs and lift it in the air. Soft touch. You should be good at that.

Shine winks. Hunter is momentarily distracted and WHOOMP! A pig runs into Hunter's legs with a SQUEAL. He stumbles and falls. Pigs continue circling, stomping over him.

SHINE

Get up!

Hunter sees the piglet with white spots.

He rises, sidesteps, and weaves between pigs toward the piglet. With focused grace and ease, Hunter clutches her hind legs and lifts her into the air.

SHINE

Yes!

The piglet SQUEALS and kicks. Hunter holds on, waddles to the pen of smaller pigs and gently places her down.

SHINE

Good job!

The piglet scampers off.

HUNTER

Easy peasy!

SHINE

Can you keep movin' them while I change the lock?

HUNTER

How do I know which ones?

SHINE

If it's as small or smaller than the one you just moved, move that baby to Pig City Safety.

HUNTER

You got it, baby.

SHINE

Don't call me that.

HUNTER

Ok...

Shine walks away. Hunter checks him out, then runs to grab another piglet.

Shine looks back at Hunter.

EXT. PIG FARM - DUSK

The rain stopped. Droplets fall from the roof and branches. Shine and Hunter tromp out of the sheet metal building to SPLASH in a puddle.

SHINE

Do you remember the time we climbed that tree and freaked out the lady walking her dog?

HUNTER

I couldn't tell if she was confused or afraid.

SHINE

Probably both.

HUNTER

Makes sense considering what she was hearing.

They look around for a moment, avoiding each other's eyes.

SHINE

Well should we try it now? For old time's sake?

A knowing look between them.

EXT. TREE NEARBY - DUSK

Shine and Hunter climb a tree. Higher and higher. Hunter lets out a passionate but muted SEX NOISE.

SHINE

You can do better than that.

Shine MOANS very loudly. Hunter giggles and MOANS again.

SHINE

Better.

HUNTER

I try.

SHINE

Yes, I know.

Hunter looks away. The WIND picks up, shaking the tree. Shine and Hunter clutch each other amongst swaying branches.

The clouds above adopt a strange, iridescent rippling effect. The WIND grows even stronger!

SHINE

Hunter! I want you to know...

HUNTER

Yeah?

SHINE

I want you to know that-

The WIND stops. All goes silent and still. Shine looks around, breathing heavily. Deep in thought.

HUNTER

What...?

SHINE

Nothing... We should get back. I gotta feed the pup.

EXT. SHINE'S FAMILY HOME - EVENING

Drenched in sweat, Shine and Hunter walk up the driveway.

INT. SHINE'S FAMILY HOME - EVENING

Shine and Hunter remove their shoes in the entryway. Shine whistles and calls --

SHINE

Laelaps! Come here, girl!

RED (O.S.)

I let her out!

Shine goes to the living room where Red is sipping scotch on the couch in front of the flickering television.

SHINE

Did you tie her up?

RED

No.

SHINE

Dad, you can't do that! We've talked about this. She runs away!

RED

She'll come back, it's fine. Did you change the lock?

SHINE

Are you serious right now?!

Shine shakes his head and growls. He grabs Hunter's arm and pulls. They pick up their shoes as they go to the door. Shine grabs a flashlight from a hook.

RED

Well? Shine? Did you?

Shine and Hunter exit. Shine SLAMS the door behind him.

Red tilts his drink up until it's gone.

EXT. SHINE'S FAMILY HOME - EVENING

Shine leads Hunter along a stone path toward the dark woods. Lanterns illuminate the way. Hunter watches his friend angrily SMACK one of the lanterns.

SHINE

Laelaps!

Hunter WHISTLES.

SHINE

Laelaps! Come here, girl!

Shine CLICKS on a flashlight and leads Hunter into the woods. The beam of light bounces off newly wet trees.

Then, a ball of light appears, hovering.

SHINE

You seein' this?

The ball of light glides between the trees.

HUNTER

What is it?

Laelaps BARKS ferociously. Shine and Hunter spot her nearby.

SHINE

Laelaps, be quiet!

The dog continues BARKING wildly.

HUNTER

Hush!

The ball of light glides away farther into the woods toward a building silhouetted against the night sky.

SHINE

It's headed for Pig City...

HUNTER

Why?

Shine runs. Hunter and Laelaps follow.

EXT. PIG FARM - NIGHT

A glistening distortion appears above the pig farm. Below, Shine, Hunter, and Laelaps emerge from the woods into a field of flowers beside the glistening metal building.

Up close, Shine and Hunter see the distortion clearly --

SHINE

Whoa.

HUNTER

Is that...?

Right on cue, a bright light shines down onto the pig farm. It lasts three seconds and the ball of light joins with it, melding into the beam.

Then all goes dark and the distortion shrinks into the stars.

Laelaps WHINES. Shine and Hunter stare up in wonder.

EXT. PIG FARM - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Shine and Hunter clamor through the door to the pig pens, Laelaps in tow.

INT. PIG FARM - NIGHT

Looking around at the pig pens, Shine and Hunter's jaws drop. All of the pig pens are empty. It is eerily quiet.

SHINE

They took the pigs!

HUNTER
They took all the pigs...

Laelaps cowers between Shine's legs.

RED (O.S.)
Told you this was comin'.

Red appears in the door, wavering to and fro with his cane.

RED
Had a dream. Tell him, Shine.

SHINE
Kinda told him earlier.
(to Hunter)
That's why we changed the locks.

Hunter looks around.

HUNTER
Wowza.

SHINE
What do we do, Dad?

Red CLOPS down the aisle toward them --

RED
Well, no reason to call the cops.
You boys enjoy yourselves tonight.
I'll figure out what to do about
the pigs tomorrow. *Enjoy,*
understand?

Red turns to leave. Stops. Grabs Hunter's shoulders.

RED
I know you and my son are more than
friends.

Hunter is speechless.

SHINE
Dad, you don't-

Red makes a threatening face, silencing Shine, then slowly
turns back to Hunter and HICCUPS.

RED
I want you both to know, right here
right now, that I approve.

HUNTER

What?

RED

You heard me. I approve.

SHINE

Approve of what, Dad?

RED

Don't make me say it.

SHINE

Say *what*?

RED

I approve of you two *being together...*

SHINE

Dad, we're not-

RED

Sh- Sh- Shhhhh. A father knows.
It's okay, Shine. It's okay.

Red steps back, stumbles, Hunter catches him.

RED

(to Shine)

Don't let this one get away. He's a
sweetheart, I can tell.

Hunter blushes.

RED

Enjoy each other while you're
young. Ain't nothin' wrong with a
good cuddle.

Red winks and CLOPS away with his cane.

RED

And keep an eye out for the greys.
Lock the doors.

The pig pen door SLAMS shut behind him.

Hunter turns to Shine.

HUNTER

What's he talking about?

Silence. Shine looks around at the empty pig pens.

EXT. PIG FARM - NIGHT

Hunter follows Shine out of the sheet metal building. Laelaps trots along beside them. As they follow the flashlight beam back through the woods toward Shine's family home.

INT. SHINE'S FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Shine stokes a fire in the fireplace. Hunter shivers.

HUNTER

Do you have a blanket or something?

SHINE

Nope.

Hunter chuckles as he looks around.

SHINE

While I get the fire going, you
wanna grab the big, fluffy one from
my bed?

INT. SHINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hunter looks around Shine's bedroom at the football trophies, Air Force memorabilia, and affirmations handwritten on sheets of paper taped to the walls. An air of peace here. Hunter spots the fluffy blanket folded neatly on the bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

As Hunter returns, Shine smiles and blinks his eyes lovingly as Hunter passes and sits on the floor against the couch.

Shine spots something outside the glass doors.

SHINE

You see that?

HUNTER

What?

Shine looks through the window. Narrows his gaze.

SHINE

Nothing.

Shine returns the iron poker to its stand and sits beside Hunter, pulling the blanket over himself. Cuddles up close. Both watch the flickering flames in the fireplace.

SHINE

There's... Something magical about fire... Don't you think?

HUNTER

Definitely makes things seem simple.

SHINE

Yes. Simple. Hunter?

HUNTER

Yeah?

SHINE

Why did you say you just wanted to be friends?

HUNTER

I thought that's what you wanted.

SHINE

Well what do you want?

Hunter looks to the fire and takes a deep breath, absorbing courage from the dancing flames. He turns to Shine --

HUNTER

Shine, you know I love you. I've loved you since I met you. When I think about the future and I'm old and wrinkly and there's someone sitting beside me with their hand in mine, when I look over, it's you. It's always been you. And I've tried imagining others there. When you uninvited me to your home and said things felt weird, I tried imagining other faces but I just couldn't. I couldn't. Yours is the only face I see. So whatever I have to do to win your heart, I'm gonna do it. And if you don't want that, I will let you go. Because that's what love is.

(beat)

So what do you want, Shine?

Shine leans in and kisses Hunter! After a long, passionate kiss, they separate, keeping foreheads connected.

HUNTER

I hoped you'd say that.

Shine pulls Hunter in for another kiss.

EXT. SHINE'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Three-foot-tall GREY ALIENS watch Shine and Hunter through the glass doors. They WHOOP and pump their fists in the air as they run back to the ship.

EXT. PIG FARM - MORNING

Water drips from branches outside as Shine and Hunter enter the pig farm at sunrise.

INT. PIG FARM - MORNING

Shine and Hunter can barely believe what they see. The pigs are back in their pens.

SHINE

Well, look at that.

Hunter lifts a purple piece of paper off the ground. At the top is a triangle insignia and strange handwriting.

HUNTER

(reading)

We know we should have asked but
really needed to borrow them.
Thanks!

Hunter and Shine look at each other curiously.

The door opens and Red CLOPS in.

RED

Yes! YES! YESSS!!!

Red lets out a celebratory WHOOP! Hunter and Shine join in, WHOOPING and laughing.

FADE OUT.