

RAY'S TRAVELS THROUGH HAPPINESS

by

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A feel good comedy about a boy trying to kill himself.

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FADE IN:

EXT. - HOLLAND, NEW YORK - SATAN'S PEAK - SUNSET

The sun sets over a cliff overlooking a fatal drop nearly 2,300 meters. Only a fool would want to jump off it.

RAY, 21, he's a fool. An average shaped short brown haired boy. He's dressed in an all black suit and a red tie. He looks like a young blossoming lawyer.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is a story about a boy named Ray. Today is Ray's twenty-first birthday. And every year Ray has a tradition he does on his birthday...He tries to kill himself.

He prepares for suicide.

RAY

You can do this. It's only 2,300 meters. This will definitely kill me. It has to. Don't think about it Ray, just do it.

Ray looks one last time at his hometown, Holland, New York. A charming small town with a population of about 3,401 according to the 2010 U.S.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Year after year, Ray has tried several dozen ways to die, but the universe will not let him achieve this goal.

He looks directly at the bottom of the cliff. Boulders, rocks, and pine trees await his fate.

RAY

Okay, I'm just gonna walk a little distance away, cover my eyes, and sprint right into it.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

See the universe has something else planned for Ray...and you can't fuck with the universe.

A girl is running up the hill. SUNNY, 24, a bohemian, flower child with long blonde hair, and always wears bright colors. She's adorable, but in the hot way.

SUNNY

Ray!! Don't do it...Don't jump!!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is Sunny. She is the only person who knows what Ray is dealing with. Ray has known Sunny for three years now, yet they have never actually met.

Ray covers his eyes and starts running as fast as he can, but he is FAR from the edge. Sunny reaches the top of the hill.

SUNNY

Raaaayyy!!!

Ray uncovers his eyes and looks towards Sunny. He can't believe she's really here and then HITS a PINE TREE. Ray FACE PLANTS into some bark and gets knocked unconscious.

Moments later - Ray begins to wake up. As he opens his eyes he sees a super cute girl.

RAY

Sunny? Is that really you?

SUNNY

Yeah, happy birthday Ray.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This is a story about first love...but this is not a love story. This is a story about happiness.

FADE TO:

"RAY'S 18TH BIRTHDAY"

INT. RAY'S LOFT - DAY

Ray is standing on a chair hanging a noose from his living room ceiling fan.

RAY

Alright, hanging myself. Noosin' it up. Here we go.

Ray places the noose over his neck then kicks the chair underneath him. Immediately Ray falls to the floor and the ceiling Fan CRASHES on top of him.

RAY (CONT'D)

Owwww. damn it that hurt.

EXT. RAY'S LOFT - DAY

Ray ties the noose to the gutter of the house. He jumps from the ledge of his window. As the rope grasps his neck, the hangers to the gutter RIP OFF the house one by one. Ray is CARESSED SAFELY down to the ground one motion at a time as the gutter tears off the house.

Ray's neighbor CHUCK, a middle aged drug dealer who hates his life yells from his second floor window.

CHUCK

Ray, what the hell are you doing up there?! Other people live here too you know! What's all this racket?!

RAY

I'm trying to hang myself, but I can't find anything to support me.

CHUCK

Well use something sturdy like a tree! Don't use the gutter you fucking moron! You're tearing the whole house apart!!

EXT. HOLLAND NATIONAL FOREST - AFTERNOON

Ray ties the noose to a tree branch. He jumps off and hangs. The branch is sturdy. Ray is so satisfied he got it right this time.

RAY

Yes, I did it.

Ray raises his hands and cheers. Ray starts to choke. He is so joyful to be choking.

Then a squirrel comes down from the tree and starts gnawing on the noose. Ray looks up.

RAY (CONT'D)

(choking)
Hey, get away from my noose.

The squirrel chews more and the noose tears apart. Ray falls to the ground.

RAY (CONT'D)

No. You fucking squirrel! Fuck! They sure don't make nooses like they used to.

Ray looks to the sky as he hears thunder.

RAY (CONT'D)
Now what am I gonna do?

A thunderstorm is about to hit Holland. A rain drop falls on his face. Ray finds his answer.

INT. RAY'S LOFT - BATHROOM

Ray runs a bubble bath and has a toaster on the sink. He gets in the tub and shuts the water off.

RAY
Okay Ray, this might hurt for a moment,
but then sweet sweet death.

He turns the toaster on and drops it in the tub.

Nothing.

RAY (CONT'D)
What the...?

Ray looks. It's plugged in. He sees the red burning inside. He drops it in the water again. Still nothing. He bombards the water with the toaster over and over again.

Nada.

RAY (CONT'D)
What do I have to actually toast
something? Do I really have to get a
fucking bagel?

Ray turns the toaster over to see the model.

RAY (CONT'D)
Black and Decker 2-slice Water Resistant
Toaster.
(beat)
When the fuck did they start making water
resistant toasters?

Moments later - Ray comes back eating a bagel and holding a George Foreman Grill.

He plugs the grill in and tries bringing it to the tub, but the cord won't stretch that far.

RAY (CONT'D)
Stretch, George, stretch. You call
yourself a lean mean grilling machine?!!

The cord is about a foot too short for the tub.

RAY (CONT'D)
Fucking Foreman!!

Moments later - Ray comes back into the bathroom with a
an extension cord and a 1980s boombox.

RAY (CONT'D)
George, you can go fuck yourself!

Ray plugs the extension cord into the boombox and the
radio plays The Bee-Gees.

BEE GEES
Oh Oh Oh Staying alive, Staying alive Oh--

RAY
Shut up Bee Gees!!

He changes the station to hear Tom Cochrane.

TOM COCHRANE
Life is a highway...I want to ride it All
Night Long...

RAY
I hate this song!

Ray changes it again to hear Deep Blue Something.

DEEP BLUE SOMETHING
"And I said what about *Breakfast At
Tiffany's*, she said I think I remember
the film line..."

RAY
Eh, this will work.

Ray gets in the tub. Outside the storm has come and
lightning STRIKES the electric poll on Ray's street
corner. He throws the boombox into the air, just as the
electricity GOES OUT. The radio DIES before it hits the
water. Ray sits in the dark, disappointed and naked.

EXT. CHUCK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ray knocks on Chuck's door and he answers it.

RAY
Chuck, can I borrow your metal ladder?

CHUCK
What for Ray?

RAY
I want to see if I can strike myself with lightning.

CHUCK
Yeah, just bring it back in the morning.

EXT. HOLLAND FOREST - NIGHT

Ray stands on the metal ladder in a large open field during a SEVERE THUNDER STORM.

RAY
Come on, HIT ME!!

Lightning HITS the nearest tree near Ray. Then it HITS several other trees, but nothing hits the ladder.

RAY (CONT'D)
I've been out here for an hour and half!
Why won't you hit me?! I'm getting tired
of standing on this thing!

Ray annoyed gets off the ladder. He walks away and immediately lightning HITS the ladder. Ray turns around and sees it smoking.

RAY (CONT'D)
AWWEEW DAMN IT!!!

INT. HOLLAND SUICIDE HOTLINE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Sunny answers a red phone. She's overly optimistic and energetic to everything. Ray is soaked and miserable looking outside his window.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED:

SUNNY
Holland suicide hotline, This is Sunny.

RAY
Hi, I could really use some help. There's a question I have and I know YOU have to know the answer to it.

SUNNY
Well, helping is why I'm here. What's the question?

RAY

Okay, I need to know, what's the most successful way to kill myself?

SUNNY

Excuse me.

RAY

I've tried several different ways and I'm still alive. I figured if anyone would know, the suicide hotline would know.

SUNNY

I can't tell you that. That's totally a contradiction of what I do.

RAY

Come on, just give me a hint. Is it shooting myself in the head? I bet that's it.

SUNNY

No, that's not it. Tell me why do you want to kill yourself?

RAY

I don't want to talk about that.

SUNNY

Come on, keeping all that negative karma inside of you is not good. If you bottle up your feelings, you might as well pickle them too.

RAY

Listen Dr. Drew. I don't want to talk about my feelings right now. I'm not depressed, I just need to know the best way to die.

SUNNY

What's your name?

RAY

It's Ray.

SUNNY

Ray, I'm Sunny. Tell me, why today? Can you postpone killing yourself for a few weeks?

RAY

No, I told myself six months ago that if I felt the same way I felt on that day...Then I would kill myself on my 18th birthday. And today is my 18th birthday.

SUNNY

Oh, Happy Birthday!

RAY

Thanks...you're actually the first person to say that today...Listen, I know what you're trying to do, but I really just want to know how to die.

SUNNY

So you're just trying to kill yourself, because you promised yourself that you would do it on this day?

RAY

Yeah, and I've been trying all day.

SUNNY

I'll make you a deal. I'll tell you the best way to die, if you promise me that you can't kill yourself if it's NOT your birthday.

RAY

Deal.

SUNNY

You promise?

RAY

I promise. I will not commit suicide if it's NOT my birthday. My father always taught me to be a man of my word. And I don't break promises. Just please tell me how to die.

SUNNY

Fine, the best way to die is old age.

RAY

What?

SUNNY

Old age. Doesn't that sound fantastic?

RAY

No! I want to die now! Not when I'm old.
That's not fair, you said you would tell
me how to kill myself.

SUNNY

I said, I'd tell you the best way to die,
not the best way to kill yourself.

RAY

You tricked me.

SUNNY

You can't break your promise. A Suicide
Hotline promise is stronger than a pinky
promise.

RAY

I won't...but is this what suicide
hotline operators are supposed to do?
Trick people into not killing themselves?

SUNNY

Sometimes...it really depends on the
caller.

RAY

So wait, if I can only die on my
birthday, that means I only have four
minutes left.

Ray sees his clock. It's 11:56 P.M.

SUNNY

Yeah, I guess so, but don't you want to
talk more? We've barely got to know each
other.

RAY

No, I don't want talk more. I'm gonna go
overdose on some sleeping pills while I
still have time. My downstairs neighbor
is a drug dealer. He can help me.

SUNNY

Well, if you survive, do me a favor, call
me again and let me know you're alright.

RAY

Fine, but let's hope that doesn't happen.
Good bye suicide hotline girl.

SUNNY

It's Sunny. Good bye Ray.

Ray quickly hangs up the phone.

FADE TO:

"RAY'S 19TH BIRTHDAY"

INT. KODIAK JACK'S FAMILY RESTAURANT - DAY

Ray sits at the counter. In the corner, a magician is performing for a kids birthday party. Ray takes out a list out of his pocket. It reads "WAYS TO KILL MYSELF THIS YEAR" by Raymond Winkleworm.

Ray crosses off the first thing on the list, Choking.

He takes a steak fry and swallows it whole. He waits, but he's not choking, the fry just causes throat discomfort. He stuffs another steak fry in his throat. It doesn't work. He takes a pile of steak fries and SHOVES them down his throat. Ray starts choking. He got it right and he fist bumps the air above him.

The waitress sees him.

WAITRESS

Oh my God, this kid is choking! Does any one know the Heimlich manoeuver?!!

Everyone in the restaurant turns around and raises their hand. Pretty much everyone knows the Heimlich manoeuver.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Oh Good. Somebody help him.

CUSTOMER

Let the magician do it,

MAGICIAN

Yeah, I'll do it.

A kid yells in front of him.

KID

No, let Joey do it. It's his birthday!

All the kids cheer and yell "Go Joey!" Joey runs after Ray and Ray runs around choking. JOEY, 6, is a big kid. Like twice the weight he should be BIG.

MAGICIAN

I'll help you Joey. I'll pin him, you give him the Heimlich.