

‘A ROSE IN ALABAMA’ by Andy McGowan

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EXT. ELIZABETH'S FRONT GARDEN. ALABAMA. DAY

ELIZABETH, a pretty brunette in her late 20s, enters her front garden to collect letters and a newspaper from her letterbox. She waves to KENNY, early 30s with dirty hair, stubble on face, paint on his hands. He is slimy and skinny, but has powerfully built arms. KENNY is up on a ladder, painting a window ledge on the house's exterior. He smiles back at ELIZABETH. ELIZABETH re-enters her house.

INT. HALL. DAY

ELIZABETH closes the front door behind her and sets the letters and newspaper on a small table by the door. On this table is also a framed picture of the sacred heart of Jesus. ELIZABETH then heads upstairs.

INT. BEDROOM. DAY

ELIZABETH enters her bedroom and goes to the wardrobe to fetch a jumper. She faces away from the window to put the jumper on... she doesn't notice KENNY in the background peering lecherously through the window. ELIZABETH exits.

INT. HALL. DAY

ELIZABETH walks downstairs to find the front door ajar. She becomes unnerved (didn't she close that?) A sudden creaking sound from upstairs. ELIZABETH starts. A dog barks outside. ELIZABETH turns abruptly to find KENNY standing in front of her holding a single red rose. ELIZABETH lets out a scream and jumps backwards. KENNY holds his hands up, as if surrendering, and speaks quickly in a thick Alabama accent.

KENNY

- Easy, easy. I didn't mean to startle you Miss Elizabeth, but this pretty little rose just caught my eye... and I thought to myself, 'isn't this just the colour of Miss Elizabeth's rosy red cheeks?' So I decided to give it to you, because every woman deserves a rose on St. Valentine's day.

ELIZABETH is taken aback and speaks nervously.

ELIZABETH

Oh... thank you...

She goes to take the rose from KENNY, but he withdraws it slightly.

KENNY

Careful now, it's a prickly little fella'

He then hands the rose over to ELIZABETH. ELIZABETH is a little freaked out now and wants to get away from KENNY as quickly as possible, but still wants to seem polite.

ELIZABETH

I'll go put this in water right away.

She exits to the kitchen, leaving KENNY alone in the hall. He notices the picture of the sacred heart of Jesus on the table and walks over to it. He picks it up slowly and looks into Jesus' face. He then kisses two fingers on his right hand and places them on Jesus' face.

KENNY

You can turn a blind eye just this once,
can't you?

He then places the picture back onto the table, but face down so that we can no longer see the picture.

INT. KITCHEN. DAY

ELIZABETH is filling a vase with water at the sink. KENNY creeps up behind her and rubs her hair tenderly, as he sniffs the back of her neck. ELIZABETH is frozen with fear. KENNY pulls a knife from his back-pocket and slowly and carefully slits her throat. The vase ELIZABETH was holding falls to the floor and smashes, the sound ringing for a moment. ELIZABETH falls slowly to the floor, still clutching the rose.

Fade to Black