

THE TRIALS

Written by

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FADE IN.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

It is a normal bathroom with a SHOWER, TOILET and two DOORS. The only thing abnormal is unconscious JENN, a 21 year old college student, tied up with ROPE. She wakes up to find she has been tied up and left alone in a bathroom.

JENN
(Confused)
Hello?

A noise starts coming from the door. Jenn sharply turns her head.

JENN (CONT'D)
(Frightened)
Who's there?

The doorknob to one of the doors starts to turn. Jenn is visibly frightened. The door opens to reveal CHAD, a 21 year old frat guy. He is holding a SOLO CUP.

CHAD
Sup bro, what's the vibe?

Chad goes in for the dab. Jenn is visibly confused because her hands are still tied behind her back.

JENN
Chad? From algebra? What are you doing here?

CHAD
Dudeee... I was at my frat's party and we ran out of drinks. Soooo... I went to go get some more when I ran into this hot chick. She said that she had some drinks back at her place, so I went with her. Next thing I knew, I was tied up in that room over here.

JENN
How the hell did you get untied?

CHAD
(Nonchalant)
Oh I looked up a YouTube video on how to untie yourself. I think the title of the video was "how to free yourself after you've
(MORE)

CHAD (CONT'D)
 been kidnapped and locked in a
 room ... or something like that

Jenn is taken aback but doesn't question Chad any further.

JENN
 Okkkk... well... don't just stand
 there, help me out!

Chad unties Jenn, they open the other door, and walk into the next room.

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

The dorm room is very modern in style. It is nice and neat with nothing seemly out of the ordinary.

JENN
 Woah, what is this?

CHAD
 It looks like a dorm

JENN
 Well yeah, but why are we here and
 whose dorm is it?

A CELL PHONE starts to ring. Jenn and Chad look over to see it is coming from a cell phone on the desk. Jenn picks it up and puts it on speaker.

JENN (CONT'D)
 Hello?

An UNKNOWN VOICE comes from the other end of the line. The voice is deep and mysterious.

UNKNOWN VOICE
 Hello Jenn, I've been waiting for
 you

JENN
 (Startled)
 Who are you and how the hell do you
 know my name?

While Jenn speaks to the voice, Chad is in the background, clearly bored and playing with RANDOM OBJECTS in the dorm.

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)
 I'm glad you asked. You see I've
 been following you for quite some
 time now, you just haven't noticed.

Chad, now intrigued, walks over and stands next to Jenn

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)

My dear, sweet Jenn you have done something quite awful and i've decided to make you PAY for your sin.

Jenn looks at Chad. Chad shrugs

JENN

Something awful? I have no idea what you're going on about.

UNKNOWN VOICE

It's really a shame that you are so arrogant that you don't consider the consequences your actions have on others.

JENN

(Angry)

Hey! What give you the right to call me arrog-

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)

(Shouting)

ENOUGH! I'm done with your backtalking shit.... Here's what's gonna happen. In order to find out why you are really here, you'll have to put up with three grueling trials that I have set up myself... I'd wish you good luck but honestly, I couldn't care less if you survive or not. Oh and say hi to Chad for me!

JENN

Hey wait!

Unknown voice hangs up.

JENN (CONT'D)

Damn it!

She slams the phone down on the desk.

CHAD

Whoa that's fucking trippy bro.

JENN

I guess you could put it that way...

(MORE)

JENN (CONT'D)

But throughout that whole conversation, that voice only mentioned me doing something terrible. Have you done anything recently to piss anyone off?

CHAD

Nah brah, everyone loves the Chadster

Chad points finger guns towards Jenn. She rolls her eyes

CHAD (CONT'D)

Well I guess there was this one time where I was at a party and this dude was all like "dude you trying to square up?" and I was like "whatttt?" And he was all like "yeah you wanna go bro? Square up square-

JENN

(Pleading)

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT I GET IT...geez dude.

Chad stops talking and shrugs.

JENN (CONT'D)

(sighs)

I don't think that getting into a random fight with some dude at a party is grounds for being tied up and thrown into this fucked up situation.

CHAD

I don't know bro. Usually I'd bail on something like this, but I was promised drinks, there are no drinks, so we got a problem.

JENN

Well I guess our only option is to figure out-

Jenn crosses the room to the exit

JENN (CONT'D)

how to solve these trials...

Jenn pulls on the door handle, only to find it's locked.

JENN (CONT'D)

Shit...

She turns back around to face Chad.

CHAD

Well there's got to be a key around here somewhere.

Jenn and Chad start searching for a KEY. They tear up the dorm but the key is nowhere to be found.

JENN

UGH, how hard is it to find a damn key? Hang on-

Jenn spots a FISH TANK with the KEY at the bottom.

JENN (CONT'D)

I found it!

Chad walks over to the fish tank.

CHAD

Ooo... a note!

He pulls a note off the side of the tank.

CHAD (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Be careful of these trials or you might end up swimming with the fishes". This person really likes fish. You think they are a marine bio major?

Jenn grabs the key from the bottom of the tank and snatches the note away from Chad.

JENN

No you idiot, it's a death threat.

CHAD

Ohhh...yeah that makes a lot more sense. What could you have possibly done for someone to want you dead.

Jenn walks over to the door.

JENN

No clue. Come on, we got the key, let go figure this shit out.

She unlocks the door and her and Chad leave.

CUT TO:

INT. SECOND DORM ROOM - DAY

This dorm room is connected to the previous one. This room is not as neat and there is a giant stack of RAMEN PACKAGES in the middle of the room.

JENN

Ugh, it's another room. What is all this?

She points towards the stack of ramen.

CHAD

DUDE... I LOVE RAMEN!

Jenn has to physically hold Chad back from the ramen.

JENN

Well don't eat it! It could be poisoned or something.

She spots another note. She picks it up and starts to read it.

JENN (CONT'D)

"Inside one of these ramen packets is a room number. This room is where I am located. Have fun with your sodium!"

Jenn lowers the note and begins pacing back and forth, staring at the ground in thought.

JENN (CONT'D)

Ok, so technically we don't need to eat the ramen, we just have to open them all up, dump them out and find the room num

Jenn looks up to find Chad on the floor surrounded by a pile of EMPTY RAMEN PACKAGES.

CHAD

Burps Found it!

Jenn is at a loss for words

JENN

How did you...Why did you...How Are you not dead from sodium poisoning?

CHAD

Seasoned broke college student my friend. I basically live off this stuff.

Jenn shakes her head and grabs the room number from Chad.

JENN

Whatever, we have the room number. It looks like the asshole is in room 428, let's go!

CHAD

Uhhhh i'm so full...

Chad gets up slowly and when he finally stands up, Jenn grabs him and yanks him out into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is empty with dorm rooms lining the hall. There is an elevator at the end of the hall.

JENN

There's an elevator around the corner!

They turn the corner to find all the elevators are marked with an OUT OF ORDER SIGN.

CHAD

Man, we gotta take the stairs? But I just ate so much ramen.

Chad pouts his lip

JENN

(Sighs)

And why you did, I still don't understand, let's find the stairs.

They round another corner and find the stairwell. Jenn is fine climbing up two flights but Chad is seen visibly struggling.

They make it to the 4th floor and find room 428. They stand outside the door.

CHAD

Was climbing the stairs really the third and final trial?

JENN

I think so. You know when I imagined three grueling trials that I would have to survive, I didn't think they would include finding a key, eating ramen and climbing up two flights of stairs.

CHAD

Well I thought climbing those stairs was pretty tough.

Jenn rolls her eyes

JENN

Anyway, let's find out who's behind all this.

They open the door to find a dorm room with the lights turned off.

INT. CARLY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Jenn and Chad turn on the lights to find a chair in the middle of the room with an UNKNOWN PERSON sitting in the chair. The person's back turned to them.

UNKNOWN PERSON

Ah so you finally made it...i've been expecting you.

The unknown person turns around to reveal CARLY, a 21 college student who is also one of Jenn and Chad's algebra classmates.

JENN

(Confused)
Carly?

CHAD

Wait you know her?

JENN

Yeah, so do you. We are all in the same algebra class...then again you barely show up to that class anyway

CHAD
 (Chuckles)
 Haha...yeah...

JENN
 What the hell is all this Carly?

Jenn and Chad start walking towards Carly.

CARLY
 It's pathetic you don't know what
 you did to me.

Carly gets up from the chair and walks towards Jenn and Chad.
 They all meet and stop inches from one another.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 Since you survived my trials-

Jenn turns to Chad

JENN
 Ha "Trials"

CARLY
 Ahem

JENN
 (Sarcastically)
 Sorry, please continue

CARLY
 As I was saying, I'll let you know
 what you did... October 20th, 2019,
 I didn't sleep all night because I
 had an exam in the morning. I
 accidentally fell asleep while
 studying and woke up late for my
 class! So, I rushed out the door
 and headed to the elevator. You
 were just stepping into one and I
 yelled "hold the door" but you
 didn't do anything and let it close
 right in my face. I was late to my
 class and almost failed my exam.

JENN
 I didn't ignore you on purpose! I
 had headphones in and didn't hear
 you. It was an honest mistake! Also
 this all doesn't explain why Chad
 is here.

Jenn points towards Chad. Carly turns to Chad.

CARLY

Oh I thought that being stuck with
a frat guy would make you suffer a
bit more.

CHAD

(Hurt)

Hey!

Carly turns back to Jenn

CARLY

But none of this really matters.
Jenn you still need to pay for what
you did!

Carly sprints towards Jenn. Jenn sticks her leg out and trips
her. She falls on the floor, passed out.

Chad and Jenn look over her, wondering what to do.

CHAD

What now?

JENN

I have an idea.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

This is the same bathroom that Jenn woke up in. Now Carly is
in her place tied up and alone. She wakes up.

CARLY

Hello? This isn't fucking funny!

The doorknob starts turning. Carly is visibly frightened. The
door opens and Chad enters with a huge bottle of KOMBUCHA.

CHAD

Sup bro, I brought the bucha!

CARLY

Screams

FADE TO BLACK.