

TOAST

Written by

Andrew Apple

Andrewdapple@gmail.com

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

GREY (mid-30s) stands in his kitchen. He reaches into an upper cabinet and plops a loaf of BREAD onto the counter. He twists the bread tie off, opens the bag, and grabs two slices.

He drops the slices into the TOASTER, turns the knob, and shoves down the lever.

As the lever CLICKS into place we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Grey sits at a desk in a CUBICLE-stuffed bullpen. The fluorescent lights highlight how pale and bloated he is.

He looks at a stack of FORMS to his left.

He looks up at his computer and starts typing.

He glances at the form every few seconds.

He types what he sees on the form.

He hits "ENTER" and the screen reloads.

He grabs the form and places it in a folder to his right.

He turns to the next form on the stack and types it.

He finishes the form and hits "ENTER". The button press is loud as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DUSK / NIGHT

Grey sits in his car in a parking lot eating a FAST FOOD cheeseburger while a podcast plays. (Probably Gary Vee or some other fortune-cookie self-help mash up.)

He takes a bite. He reaches in the bag for a fry. He grabs the soda to take a hit.

He throws back the last of the cheeseburger.

He tosses the burger wrapper into the fast food bag and does the two handed BAG CRUMPLE as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Grey mops the tile floors on the far side of the room.

He lifts the mop into the yellow bucket, squeezes the dirty water out, and puts the mop back onto the floor to swipe again.

A few seconds later, Grey wipes down tables and chairs halfway across the room.

A few seconds after that, Grey moves the mop bucket out the door and out of sight.

He flips the light switch off as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - NIGHT

Grey, on his knees, pulls clothes out of the dryer. As he folds them, he touches the screen of his phone.

"11:32 PM"

He leans back and pulls his legs out from under him. He leans forward and does a little stretch.

Holding the stretch position, he reaches into the dryer to grab more clothes to fold.

He slams the dryer door shut as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Grey rinses dishes in the sink.

He unloads the dishwasher.

He sweeps the floor. He scoops the swept dirt into the garbage can.

He stares at the full garbage like it's art and he's in a museum. There are empty cereal, yogurt, and snack boxes next to it.

He breaks down a cereal box.

He uses the broken down cereal box as a SHIELD to smash the trash into the can to make more room.

As he gives the trash another hit we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Grey sits in the BATHTUB as **[it fills with water]**.

But he is not bathing.

He leans forward and shuts the water off.

As he leans back, we see the TOASTER on the tub's edge. It's plugged into an ORANGE EXTENSION CORD that runs out of the bathroom.

He reaches over, shoves the toaster levers down, picks it up and holds it in front of him..

In quick succession he: closes his eyes, lets the toaster go, and slides down to get his whole head under water.

SLOW MOTION:

The toaster takes ten seconds to fall ten inches.

All sound is muffled while Grey is under the water.

A drawn out "aaaah-eeee" sound interrupts the quiet.

Grey ignores the sound, but it comes back louder. "AAAAH-DEEEE".

END SLOW MOTION.

As the toaster hits the water, there's a loud "POP" as we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The "POP" sound is the toast **[popping]** up from the toaster.

This startles Grey.

He winces as the [smell of BURNT TOAST reaches his nose].

[The sound of little feet can be heard a second before BLUE (girl, 4-7 yrs old) walks into the kitchen.]

BLUE

Daddy! What's that smell?

Blue walks up right next to Grey to study the burnt toast.

BLUE (CONT'D)

Ohh. You burned the toast daddy!

Grey looks at Blue. His eyes water. She doesn't notice. She's consumed by the charred toast.

GREY

I'm sorry.

Grey gets on one knee and hugs her. His eyes go from damp to full blown teary.

GREY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I love you.

Grey sneaks a hand swipe over his eyes to gather himself. He lets Blue go and stands up.

GREY (CONT'D)

Wanna help me make some more?

BLUE

Yes! Can I put the bread in?

GREY

Of course.

BLUE

Yay!

Grey opens the bread bag and Blue reaches in to grab two slices. While she does this, Grey moves the toaster dial back to 2 or 1.

Blue drops the two slices in and shoves down the lever.

BACKGROUND MUSIC CUE: "Grey Skies Turn Blue" by MxPx

BLUE (CONT'D)

Can I do the butter?

GREY
Of course! Do you want strawberry
or grape jelly?

BLUE
Both!

GREY
Both!

Blue laughs.

MUSIC CUE: The song goes from background to volume up.

FADE OUT