

BELFAST BOYS

Written by

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INT. HOSPITAL HALLS - EMERGENCY ROOM - IRELAND - NIGHT

A beat up pair of wet sneakers squeak through the quiet ward. They turn a corner and stop abruptly.

NURSES roll medical equipment from a private room.

DOCTOR steps into the doorway. He signs a document and hands the clipboard to a NURSE. He looks up and sees...

JOHN, 30s, rain-soaked and pale, wipes the water off his face as he and Doctor make eye contact. John nods then crosses to him.

DOCTOR  
He's asking for you.

JOHN  
How long?

Doctor places a hand on John's shoulder, but John pulls away.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Don't placate me, Ron.

DOCTOR  
An hour... maybe.

JOHN  
Sarah?

DOCTOR  
No one's been able to reach her. We left a message.

Doctor reaches for his shoulder again, but thinks differently. He nods, grim, then walks away. John enters the open doorway into...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

WHEEZING and the steady BEEP of the heart monitor fill the room.

NICK, 30s, Irish, lays in the hospital bed - he's a mess, barely recognizable: one side of his body charred with 3rd degree burns and deep wounds bleed through the bandages on his body.

Nick glances at John as he crosses to the bed.

NICK  
You look like shit.

JOHN  
Yeah, well, you were always the  
good looking one.

NICK  
Ah, well, that's true.

JOHN  
What the fuck, Nicky? I told you to  
stay out of it. Why couldn't you,  
just for once, listen to me?

NICK  
Not my thing.

JOHN  
I didn't need your help!

NICK  
Didn't mean to push in on your  
"Superman" turf?

JOHN  
It's called obstruction of justice.

NICK  
Arrest me then.

John stares at Nick - silent.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Did you sleep with her?

JOHN  
What?

NICK  
Did you sleep with my wife, John?

After a moment, John rubs his brow then turns back to Nick.  
He nods.

JOHN  
Yeah... I... uh --

NICK  
Do you love her?

John stares at Nick - he can't hide.

Nick closes his eyes as he focuses on breathing. Then...

NICK (CONT'D)  
Since when?

John sits in the chair beside the bed.

JOHN

From the moment you first brought  
her home to meet us.

Nick stares at John, his eyes fill with tears.

NICK

Does she love you?

John shakes his head.

JOHN

I don't know. I think she was just  
lonely.

NICK

Lonely?

JOHN

She ate dinner by herself six  
nights a week, Nicky.

NICK

I never cheated on her.

JOHN

But you weren't there for her  
either, were you?

NICK

So, you're the expert on my  
marriage now, are you?

JOHN

I just understand her. A person can  
only be alone for so long.

Nick closes his eyes. A tear rolls down his cheek. John leans  
in close.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Where were you, then? If you  
weren't cheating on her?

Nick looks at him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I need you to explain why it is  
that every stone I turn over in  
this case has your name on it?

Nick smiles.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you have connections to the New IRA, Nicky?

Nick's WHEEZING intensifies.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Will you have us bury you believing you make bombs in your bathroom and hurt innocent people to make a political point?

Nick stares at him, unwavering.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Come on, Nicky, it's obvious they did this to you. I can put 'em away... just give me a name.

NICK

I'll tell you, but, I need you to promise me something.

John raises a brow.

NICK (CONT'D)

No matter what happens, you'll protect Sarah.

JOHN

Of course.

NICK

With your life, John. I mean it.

JOHN

You've my word.

Nick studies him, then...

NICK

In the box.

He indicates toward a plastic box full of his belongings.

John crosses over and looks through it: wallet, keys, wedding ring, and an envelope. He picks up the envelope.

Nick watches as he opens it and pulls out a stack of photos.

John flips through the photos.

INSERT: images of NEW IRA LEADERS meeting.

John turns back to Nick, shocked.

JOHN  
Where'd you get these?

NICK  
I took... them... myself.

John flips through a couple more images then... SARAH, shaking hands with the leaders. He stares at the photo, stunned.

BEEEEEEEEPPPPPPPP.

He turns back to Nick -- He's gone.

JOHN  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Nicky.

SARAH (O.S.)  
John?

John turns to see SARAH, tear-stained, in the doorway.