

Tom, Dick & Harry

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FADE IN:

BLACK

The sound of heavy breathing coming from a man (JAVEEV). Panting. Sounds like sex.

JAVEEV
(v/o)
Oh yeah baby... oh yeah...

More panting. Starts to get breathless.

JAVEEV
(v/o)
Almost there... just a bit harder...
one more tug...

As the pace gets faster, JAVEEV explodes. Sounds like he has come.

QUICK CUT TO:

EXT. ALLOTMENT – DAY

JAVEEV, mid twenties, Asian, a looker, lays on the ground sweating. He has just pulled out a very old, decaying marrow that has a very long root.

He picks up the marrow and looks at the root.

JAVEEV
Prehistoric or what?!

As he begins to stand, neighbouring allotment holders TOM, DICK and HARRY approach.

TOM
Aye, aye, what *do* we have here?

DICK
Must be the new 'un.

JAVEEV
Gentlemen, hello. Javeev.

JAVEEV wipes his hand on his jeans and offers it to shake with TOM, DICK and HARRY.

HARRY
P-p-leased to meet you.

DICK
Good on you. Diversity an' all.

JAVEEV frowns.

TOM
We're very open minded.
(beat)
And the wife does a lovely chicken Korma.

JAVEEV reacts – 'I see . . . going to be like this.'

TOM
I'm Tom.

DICK
Richard – but you can call me Dick.

HARRY
Harry.
(beat)
It is a b-b-bit of a shock to see
someone so da-dar-dar-darn young
taking Pete's place . . .

DICK
Bless his soul.

HARRY
. . . but b-b-be-be . . . good luck.

JAVEEV smiles.

TOM
(re: marrow)
Looks like you'll have quite a bit of
work on your hands.

JAVEEV
Nearly killed me.

HARRY nearly chokes. DICK pats him on the back.

DICK
That's how they found Pete.
Just there. Marrow in one hand,
tissue in the other.

TOM
Never did work out who called the
ambulance.

JAVEEV seems quite disturbed; awkward. Then...

JAVEEV
Come inside.

They all head to JAVEEV's shed.

TOM
It'll be good to get some fresh
blood around here.

DICK
Out with the old, in with the new.

JAVEEV
My sentiments exactly.

INT. JAVEEV'S SHED – DAY

A swish looking, large, green compost bin stands in the corner.

TOM, DICK, HARRY and JAVEEV are enjoying a cup of tea.

TOM
We've never had any Indians around
here before.

JAVEEV
I'm not Indian.

DICK
No blacks at all, actually.

JAVEEV reacts – 'Here we go again...'

TOM

Bringing in new ways of growing things . . . new smells . . . I think it's marvellous.

JAVEEV stands. He pats the large green compost bin.

JAVEEV

This is the only new thing to watch around here.

They all look, baffled.

JAVEEV

It's got super powers. A special recipe.

(taps his nose)

Sworn to secrecy.

HARRY

Bit of a t-t-to-tos-tease, aren't you?

JAVEEV

(smirking)

That's what my boyfriend says.

HARRY drops his cup.

DICK

Come on, we're not going to . . .
[copy.] Sorry, did you just say . . .
[boyfriend]?

TOM

What did he say?

DICK

I think he said boyfriend.

HARRY

He d-d-d . . . [did.]

JAVEEV

I did.

Stunned silence. TOM, DICK and HARRY don't know what to say or where to look. Suddenly . . .

TOM

Best be off then.

DICK

Million and one things to do.

They dash out of the shed. HARRY tries to smile but he can't.

JAVEEV

Hang on a minute.

DICK

(remote)

I've changed my mind – you can
call me Richard.

And they're gone. JAVEEV is defeated, deflated. He looks at the
compost bin.

EXT. ALLOTMENT – DAY (a few days later)

JAVEEV is looking at a poster advertising the annual marrow competition. On
the poster, images of giant, green, ripe marrows.

JAVEEV lowers the poster to reveal the allotment as it is: decaying, brown, in
need of much work.

Over on their plots, TOM, DICK and HARRY try to keep their heads down and
ignore JAVEEV.

DICK

Poofs. Bloody poofs. Not even
English poofs.

TOM

They don't know how to work
the land.

JAVEEV calls over from his plot, friendly.

JAVEEV

I take it you've got the ad for
the competition?

Silence. Then . . .

JAVEEV

Stand a good chance, I reckon.

TOM and DICK seethe as they continue to ignore him. HARRY seems stuck in the middle.

TOM

Trust it to be a marrow. Of all
the bloody vegetables. Poof. Marrow.
I ask you.

DICK

Even radishes would be rubbing
salt into t' wounds.

HARRY frowns – he doesn't see the allusion.

Over on his plot, JAVEEV is again defeated. He sighs; has made a decision.

JAVEEV

(to himself)

It didn't have to be like this.

Back over on their plots . . .

DICK

It's not on.

TOM stops his work and looks over to JAVEEV, who is turning over the soil, making a real effort.

TOM

No, it's not.
(beat)
Something's got to be done.

EXT. ALLOTMENT – NIGHT

It is dark. TOM is wearing all black. He has a torch and scurries cautiously over to JAVEEV's shed.

TOM holds up a bottle – the label reads 'X – extremely poisonous.'
He smirks.

He opens the shed door and tiptoes inside.

The shed door slowly creeks shut after him.

EXT. ALLOTMENT – DAY (a week later)

JAVEEV's plot is now looking a lot healthier. He smiles as he shovels compost from the large green bin onto the soil.

TOM's plot is starting to overgrow. DICK and HARRY look concerned.

DICK

I don't know where the hell he
could have got to.

HARRY

It's not like him. Puts his l-l-life
and s-s-soul into this plot.

DICK

Probably put off by yond over there.

As DICK and HARRY look over, JAVEEV waves, cheery.

JAVEEV

Still no sign of Tommy boy?

DICK

(sharp)

He's biding his time.

JAVEEV

He'd better put a spurt on if he
wants to win this competition. My
marrows are growing faster than
you can say . . . well, marrow!

JAVEEV laughs.

DICK and HARRY turn away, sneeringly, picking up their spades.

DICK

It's all a put on.

HARRY

I don't know, they are q-q-quite
big already.

DICK

We'll soon see to that.

He slams his spade into the soil.

EXT. ALLOTMENT – EVENING

It is dusk. The allotments are still. DICK comes out of his shed with a crowbar
and a bottle of insecticide.

He cautiously makes his way over to JAVEEV's shed and crowbars the lock open. He takes one last look around before he enters the shed.

INT. JAVEEV'S SHED – EVENING

DICK goes over to the large green compost bin and opens the lid.

DICK

Special recipe indeed.

He unscrews the lid from the bottle of insecticide. Just as he is about to pour it into the compost bin, a noise behind startles him.

He turns. His eyes widen – fear.

EXT. ALLOTMENT – DAY (a month later)

JAVEEV's marrows are now growing big and juicy.

Opposite, both TOM and DICK's plots are very brown, decaying and overgrown.

HARRY is alone, tending to his marrows, polishing them with a cloth. JAVEEV approaches, startling HARRY.

JAVEEV

It's really strange you know,
letting their plots go like that.

HARRY

(suspicious)

Very strange.

JAVEEV

I hope they weren't put off by the
success I'm having.

HARRY

Tom and Dick don't give in to
competition. They th-th-thrive on it.
Keeps 'em g-g-going.

JAVEEV

Well where are they?

HARRY

Good question. A very g-g-good
question indeed.

JAVEEV shrugs his shoulders – ‘oh well.’ He heads back to his plot, happily, but HARRY hasn’t finished . . .

HARRY

Like playing games, do you?

JAVEEV

Harry, darling, the only game I’m interested in is the marrow competition. You know that.

HARRY

Funny, d-d-don’t you think, them going missing?

JAVEEV

I’m certainly not laughing.

(beat)

Call it Karma. You reap what you sow.

(beat, smiles)

So to speak.

HARRY puts down his cloth and hoists himself up.

HARRY

That soil was almost dead. Look at it now. M-m-marrows like Pete could only dream of.

JAVEEV

It’s my special compost, I did warn you. Come and have a look.

(whispering)

If you’re a good boy I might even give you a shovel full.

HARRY

I’m not going anywhere near your sordid shed!

JAVEEV

Suit yourself.

He wanders off happily, singing ‘I Am What I Am.’

HARRY is left feeling very suspicious.

EXT. ALLOTMENT – NIGHT

HARRY is sitting on his plot, drinking whiskey, and with a small fire burning. He is looking at a picture of him, TOM and DICK all holding their spades in the allotment.

HARRY
(sad, to himself)
Where are you?

There is suddenly a soft noise of what sounds like bells. HARRY looks around but sees nothing.

Again, a sound of bells and a whispered 'Harry.'

HARRY stands to investigate, suddenly noticing the mystic figure of a lady in a sari wearing lots of jewellery (it is JAVEEV dressed up).

The figure beckons HARRY over. At first he appears frightened, but then contemplates the idea of going over.

The figure continues to beckon and HARRY begins to amble over.

The figure opens JAVEEV's shed door and glides in. HARRY stops, but continues when 'Harry' is whispered once more.

HARRY enters the shed, the door creaking shut behind him.

A moment, then HARRY lets out a shriek of shock and fear.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALLOTMENT – DAY (a few weeks later)

JAVEEV stands proud with a gold medal around his neck, and a giant marrow beside him.

Behind, TOM, DICK and HARRY's plots are all overgrown and decaying.

A PHOTOGRAPHER takes pictures of JAVEEV. A REPORTER scribbles in her notebook.

REPORTER
Tell me, Javeev, what's your secret?

JAVEEV
Don't know if there is one. Just a very good gardener.

REPORTER

Come on, even the best have their
secrets caches.

JAVEEV

Well . . . let's just say it may be to
do with the compost I use.
Special formula. But that's all
I'm saying.

REPORTER

There must be something. Word of
wisdom? Where did you get the
formula?

JAVEEV

(smiling)

Oh, nowhere special. Bits and
bobs, here and there.

REPORTER

Any name you think you should
give thanks to?

JAVEEV

Again, no-one special. Perhaps
the usual old Tom, Dick or Harry.

JAVEEV smiles, beaming with the knowledge that he has won.

As the interview continues, we slowly go up to the shed and to the window.

Through the window we see, standing proud, the large, green compost bin.

END