

I CAN TURN MEN

Written by

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FADE IN

EXT. SYDNEY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The Sydney Gay Mardi Gras has just finished.

A foursome in their mid 20's, enter a restaurant. Paparazzi snap pictures as they stroll in dressed as the Village People. A white guy dressed as the AMERICAN INDIAN gives the BIKIE, a chubby fellow a playful pat on the bum.

BIKIE

Ooh...cheeky!

INT. SYDNEY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

With them are two ladies holding hands. One has a shaved head and is dressed like the CONSTRUCTION WORKER, while the other is dressed as the COP. They sit together at a table. The Bikie catches the attention of a waiter.

BIKIE

A margarita for me and a pomegranate Martini for my main man here, please.

WAITER

Certainly. And for you ladies?

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

A couple of Rat Tail Ales, thanks.

WAITER

No worries.

The Waiter exits and the Cop talks directly to the camera.

LOUISE (V.O.)

Sometimes people aren't really what they appear to be...Let me explain when I was three, my Mum died. To be honest, I don't really even remember her. After that, it was up to Dad to raise us, six kids.

INT. WEBSTERS KITCHEN - DAY

A dated kitchen, complete with orange laminate bench tops. Pots overflow and a man struggles to cook a meal. At a table, there are five boys and a six-year-old girl.

LOUISE (V.O.)  
My name is Louise, that's my Dad,  
his name is Jack, and he's a  
plumber, a real good one...

Dad bends over to retrieve a dish from the oven, accidentally revealing his butt crack. He then removes some boiling pasta off a hot plate. He has his hands full.

DAD  
Zac, can you get me the colander?

ZAC limps over, finds and holds the colander for his Dad.

LOUISE (V.O.)  
Zac's my oldest brother. He has  
two toes missing from his right  
foot. We'll get to how that screws  
up part of my childhood later. Then  
there's Brandon, the brains of the  
family.

BRANDON wears glasses and carefully sizes up the juice container and his cup. He pours juice into it, but it overflows.

LOUISE (V.O.)  
However, in our household, that  
might not be saying much. Then  
there's Roger who loves conspiracy  
theories and practical jokes.

ROGER reads a book on the JFK Conspiracy. He slips a fart cushion under his Dad's seat just before his Dad sits down, Dad sits on it, and everyone laughs.

LOUISE (V.O.)  
Finally, there's my two younger  
brothers, the twins, Cam and Josh.  
Josh loves Aussie Rules Football,  
and his favorite player is Matthew  
Lloyd.

JOSH wears an Essendon jumper while he reads a footy magazine that features Matthew Lloyd on the cover.

LOUISE (V.O.)  
Whereas, Cam is more into reading  
ghost stories.

CAM is wide-eyed in fright as he reads a Goosebumps book.

LOUISE (V.O.)

With Mum gone that meant, I was the only female in the house. Dad did his best to look after me and buy all the things a little girl wants. His intention was good, whereas his execution, well it sort of sucked.

INT. WEBSTER'S LOUNGE ROOM - DAY

Young Louise sits beside a cake with the number four on it. Dad gives a wrapped gift to Louise

DAD

There you go, Little Slugger. A new baseball bat for your fourth birthday.

EXT. WEBSTER'S BACKYARD - DAY

A year later and Dad gives another wrapped gift.

DAD

Happy fifth birthday Little Slugger. Here's a new football for you. Maybe now you'll be able to kick a torpedo punt?

INT. WEBSTER'S LOUNGE ROOM - DAY

Louise sits beside a cake with six candles on it and accepts a gift from her Dad.

DAD

You're growing up so fast. Here's what every girl wants for her sixth birthday - some boxing gloves. Happy birthday Little Slugger.

LOUISE (V.O.)

Being a single parent, Dad used to save hot water by having as many kids as possible use the same bath water.

INT. WEBSTER'S BATHROOM - EVENING

Louise exits the bathroom wrapped in a towel. Her brothers, stand in the hallway, waiting their turn. Roger whispers to Brandon.

ROGER

Why doesn't Louise have a wrinkle?

Louise overhears this, she stops and looks down to her groin region and then up at the camera with a confused look.

BRANDON

Maybe she stood too close to Zac when he accidentally cut off his toes with the ax? Maybe he cut off her wrinkle as well by mistake?

A perplexed Louise stares down towards her groin.

ROGER

Zac chopped off her willy! See Cam. I told you not to stand close to Zac when he's chopping wood.

Cam is frightened at just the thought and protectively covers his groin. Louise clenches, shakes her fist, then points at Zac who joins the line, she mouths the words "I HATE YOU."

ZAC

What'd I do?

Too late, Louise launches herself at the clueless Zac. Her arms flailing, she tries to hit him. The other boys pull her off him, but she gets in a kick to his groin, which drops him to the ground.

INT. WEBSTER'S SHARED BEDROOM - NIGHT

Josh and Cam share a lower double of a bunk bed. Above them is Zac. On the opposite side of the room is another bunk bed which is shared by Brandon and Roger. In the middle is a single bed for Louise. Dad sits on the edge of her bed.

DAD

Okay, Louise, it's your turn to choose a story tonight.

LOUISE

You know the one I want Daddy.

All the boys groan in misery.

ROGER

Not that one again!

BRANDON

How many times do we have to hear it? Can't we just skip her turn?

DAD

No boys that wouldn't be fair.  
Louise gets to choose a story just  
like you all do.

ZAC

But she sucks at it. Why don't you  
let one of us older and wiser  
children choose for her?

Dad shakes his head.

BRANDON

What about Cam?

DAD

Because each time Cam picks a story  
it's about a ghost and he ends up  
wetting the bed.

BRANDON

Is that so bad?

JOSH

It is when you have to share the  
bed with him!

BRANDON

How about Reg?

EVERYONE

(groans)

JFK and who really shot him.

DAD

No. The only fair method is to let  
her choose the story she wants to  
hear. Who knows she may want a  
different story tonight?

All the boys smile as they think of this possibility.

DAD (CONT'D)

So tell us, Little Slugger, what  
story will it be tonight?

LOUISE

You know the one I want Daddy.

All the boys groan. Dad sighs and reads.

DAD

Once upon a time, there was this  
beautiful princess...

The boys put their pillows over their face or wrap it around their ears to block out the noise, Louise clasps her hands together; her face is beaming.

LATER: All the boys are fast asleep, sprawled out and snoring. Louise is wide awake, listening enthralled.

DAD (CONT'D)

And then the beautiful princess  
kissed the frog, he turned into a  
handsome prince, and they married  
and lived happily ever after.

LOUISE

Daddy when did you know Mum was the  
one for you?

EXT. LOCAL PARK - DAY

Louise is with her brothers in a small suburban park.

LOUISE (V.O.)

Growing up with six brothers meant  
that I learned to play a lot of  
rough and tumble games like  
rugby...

Zac gets the ball and is immediately crunched by Louise in a fierce tackle that knocks him to the ground.

LOUISE (V.O.)

Aussie rules footy...

Louise has a free kick. Zac stands on the mark holding his arms up in the air. Louise aims, but instead of kicking the ball over his head she deliberately kicks the ball into his groin. Zac clutches his groin and collapses to the ground.

LOUISE (V.O.)

And professional wrestling.

Roger slams Zac's head with a garbage can lid. Zac falls to the ground, stunned.

Louise is tagged in, she holds Zac's legs up in the air, separates them and she's about to stomp on his groin. Zac comes too and the horror of what's going to happen dawns on Zac's face as she repeatedly mashes her foot down on him.

LOUISE (V.O.)

All the other kids in the  
neighborhood were boys.

(MORE)

LOUISE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 So they'd join in our games as  
 well. We played twenty man battle  
 royale...

Mayhem as twenty kids brawl, hit each other with trash can  
 lids and jump off tables onto others.

Amongst all of this is Louise, who attacks Zac's groin with a  
 baseball bat. Louise throws the baseball bat away and  
 reaches for an ax, but is restrained by her twin brothers.

LOUISE (V.O.)  
 One day, we had a new family shift  
 into the house next door, and they  
 had a daughter my age...

EXT. NEIGHBOUR'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

A vehicle pulls up, and the parents get out of the car.

LOUISE (V.O.)  
 Her clothes were a little unusual.

GRIZZELDA, 6, steps out of the car, and initially, only her  
 ankles are seen.

Then we see that she is dressed as the wicked witch of the  
 West and has a wand.

GRIZZELDA  
 Hi, I'm Grizzelda. Wanna play?

LOUISE (V.O.)  
 To be honest Grizzelda's games were  
 pretty boring.

INT. GRIZZELDA'S LOUNGE ROOM - DAY

Grizzelda reads a children's book 'WITCHES POTIONS.'

GRIZZELDA  
 Isn't this exciting?

Louise yawns and shakes her head no.

EXT. GRIZZELDA'S FRONT YARD - DAY

Grizzelda skips rope on the footpath, while Louise is almost  
 asleep, totally bored.

GRIZZELDA

Nine ninety-eight, nine ninety-nine, one thousand. Wanna go?

Louise rolls her eyes and shakes her head no.

INT. GRIZZELDA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Grizzelda tries to get Louise interested in the hand clapping game most girls love.

GRIZZELDA

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man. Bake me a cake as fast as you can--

LOUISE

Are these all the games you know?

Grizzelda nods her head.

LOUISE (CONT'D)

Wanna play some real games?

Grizzelda nods her head enthusiastically.

LOUISE (V.O.)

Only problem was she had no ideas about how to play anything fun. I thought she'd enjoy football...

EXT. LOCAL PARK - DAY

Grizzelda gets hit in the face with a football. She accidentally catches the ball and then is roughly tackled to the ground by Louise.

GRIZZELDA

Ow! My ribs.

LOUISE (V.O.)

Or wrestling...

Louise applies a wrestling hold called 'THE CHICKEN WING,' while Grizzelda screams for mercy.

LOUISE (V.O.)

I was surprised that even something as tame as boxing wasn't considered girly enough for her.

Both girls have boxing gloves on, and Louise punches Grizzelda in the nose. Blood spurts out.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Grizzelda has a super squashed nose. She still wears her witches hat and has a plaster cast wrapped around her chest as well as a steel rod that connects to her arm, which is also in a cast. The entire Webster family visits.

GRIZZELDA

Aaargggh! Get her away from me.  
She's going to hurt me again.

A very protective MRS. RIZZERI, 30's, steps in between Louise and Grizzelda, like a hen protecting her chick.

MRS. RIZZERI

Is this the hooligan? You should be ashamed of yourself.

(to Dad)

Do you have any idea what your daughter has done?

Louise's Dad shakes his head no.

MRS. RIZZERI (CONT'D)

A broken arm, a broken nose, and two broken ribs...As if one broken rib, wasn't good enough! If this is what your daughter can do in an afternoon, I dread to think what your boys are capable of.

GRIZZELDA

Mommy, I don't like living here.

MRS. RIZZERI

That's okay, Honey. We're shifting back to where we came from. And I'm going to sue you Mr. Webster for every penny you've got.

DAD

Louise, you'd better apologize.

LOUISE

I'm sorry you--

GRIZZELDA

Look at my nose. I look like a freak. I hate you! I HATE YOU! I--

DOCTOR

I'm afraid you're upsetting the patient. Could you please leave.

As Louise and family are ushered away, Louise stops to take a last look at Grizzelda.

LOUISE (V.O.)

It was that day my whole life changed. You see, until then I hadn't realized Grizzelda was into cursing. Not the F U type of cursing that my brothers liked...but the witch type of cursing.

Grizzelda grabs her wand, points at Louise and spits venom.

GRIZZELDA

I curse you, Louise Webster. I curse you to a life of misery. May you never, ever, find true love. And may you never ever learn how to kick a torpedo punt either!

The Nurse and Doctor try to calm Grizzelda down.

GRIZZELDA (CONT'D)

I curse you, Louise, I CURSE YOU, YOU HEAR?

LOUISE (V.O.)

Even at that young age, I was devastated at losing the only female friend I had ever had, and the harsh words she had said.

Louise cries while her brothers gather around her and try to console her.

ROGER

It's okay, Sis. I'm sure I can teach you to kick a torpedo punt.

EXT. NEIGHBOUR'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Grizzelda's family drives away.

IF YOU WANT TO READ THE ENTIRE SCREENPLAY SIMPLY EMAIL ME AT:  
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