

# THE TEDDY BEAR SONG

Script | Christophe Bettez

## INT. DARK BASEMENT - NIGHT

Footsteps are heard outside, then the metallic clang of a heavy door being opened and closed again. A small lantern is lit, then RED - woman, 64 - and JAN - boy, 17 - finally allow themselves a moment to rest.

RED

*(panting, her voice raspy)*

Breathe in the fresh air, kid.

JAN

Fresh air? Smells like you've got an entire family of dead lepers down...

Red chuckles quietly.

JAN

Oh, right.

He pauses and tries to slow his breathing.

JAN

So... You alright? No... wounds, anything?

RED

'Course I'm alright, kid. Been through worse. You?

JAN

I'm fine. Where are the others, you reckon?

RED

*(without hesitation)*  
Dead.

JAN

... Right.

A slight thud is heard as Jan sits on the concrete floor.

RED  
C'mon, kid, don't be sad now.  
They were assholes, all of  
'em. Just like you and I.

JAN  
(snapping)  
I'm not an...

RED  
Keep your voice down!

Jan immediately shuts up, terrified. Red sighs, then sits on the opposite end of the small room.

RED  
That was supposed to be your  
first hit, huh?

JAN  
Yeah.

RED  
(slightly softer)  
Well, I suppose you're not  
*that* much of an asshole then.  
Not yet.

She tries to give him a reassuring smile, but only manages to appear slightly menacing.

JAN  
So what happens now?

RED  
We stay here, wait for the  
storm to blow over.

JAN  
And if *they* find us...?

Red remains silent.

JAN  
(insistent)  
And if they find us?

RED

Hey. Happy thoughts, kid. No use frettin' over the idea of being tortured, dismembered, or thrown alive in an incinerator, right?

JAN

*(in a blank voice)*

R-right. No use at all, none whatsoever, yup.

Red smiles to herself.

RED

Relax, kid. You've still got your gun, right?

JAN

Right. Right. Err, I... I mean...

RED

*(sighing)*

You've fuckin' lost your gun.

JAN

Yeah, well, I- it all happened so fast- but you still have yours, so I...

Red glances down at her gun. The chamber is empty. Suddenly aware of their complete helplessness, she hesitates, but then she catches Jan's panicked glance and smiles at him again.

RED

Yeah, still got mine.

JAN

*(partially relieved)*

OK.

He fiddles with a silver ring on his finger. When Jan's restlessness becomes too obvious to ignore, Red shakes her head and laughs quietly to herself.

RED

Hey, kid. While we're here,  
ever told you how I got my  
name?

JAN

*(puzzled)*

Dunno. Something about blood  
or...?

RED

Yeah, yeah, they all believe  
that. But it's nothin' that...  
macho. Believe it or not,  
it's... Ever heard of Red  
Sovine?

The answer comes from Jan's mouth before he can even  
think about it.

JAN

*(in a sing-song  
voice)*

*I was on the outskirts of a  
little southern town...*

RED

No waaaaay, kid! Shit, you  
know the Teddy Bear song?

JAN

My grandpa's favorite, back  
in the day. He was a, see, he  
had his own truck...

RED

Yeah... So did I. Once.

Jan glances at her, waiting for more, but she seems  
absorbed in her thoughts.

JAN

So... Huh, how old are you  
again?

RED

*(amused)*

Still young enough to cut off  
your balls and shove 'em down  
your throat if you ask me one  
more time, kid.

JAN

Right. OK. No problem. Ma'am.

A short pause.

JAN

I'm 25, by the way.

RED

Ha! Bullshit, kid! I'll drink  
my own piss if you're older  
than 16.

JAN

*(embarrassed)*

... I'm 17.

RED

Well, well, pass me a fuckin'  
glass. So, who's the girl?

JAN

What?

Red points at the ring on his finger.

JAN

Oh. Right. I mean, I don't  
wanna bore you with...

RED

Well, what else you wanna do  
here all night, kid? Drink  
wine and make loooove?

JAN

*(flustered)*

Well... I... I mean, I...

RED

Teasin' you, kid.

Unheard by the audience, Jan starts telling Red about his girlfriend, then about his entire life. She listens intently, offering monosyllabic grunts and questions throughout the story. Soon, heavy footsteps are heard in the distance. Jan is too absorbed in his story to hear them, but Red straightens her posture, discards her useless gun, and lets out a final sigh.

JAN

... So we thought I'd gotten her pregnant, y'know? So we went to take a test and...

RED

Oh yeah? What'd it say?

The metal door is brutally opened and light floods the basement. Jan shrieks, but Red looks up at the barrel of a gun pointed at her head and smiles amicably.

RED

Can it wait? The kid was just 'bout to--

And then everything goes dark.