

RAINBOW

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. TV STUDIO, ANCHOR DESK - DAY

We're inside the studio of a local television news station. This is KSOK TV (pro: "kay-sock") Channel 8. And their slogan: "News that knocks off your socks."

ALLEN JACK, a dignified journalist turns to his conceited co-anchor SARAH BARNES. They look at each other, embarrassed for their colleague, a weatherman:

LOGAN STERLING (40, dry, depressed, but likable). He's live on the air. Standing silently in front of a green screen, he stares into a studio camera. His suit is wrinkled and his neck tie loose. He's about to cry. He rubs his eyes.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

TIM, (30s, demanding), the producer, speaks into his headset.

TIM
Logan, can you hear me? Logan?
You're live on air!

INT. STUDIO GREEN SCREEN - DAY

Logan nods in response to Tim. Gives a nonchalant thumbs up.

INT. STUDIO ANCHOR DESK - DAY

Allen and Sarah grab their scripts, cover their mouths:

ALLEN
How embarrassing.

SARAH
Tim better take us to a commercial.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Tim in the control room:

TIM
Here we go again!

He rips off his headset and kicks his chair.

INT. STUDIO WEATHER WALL - DAY

LOGAN

So like. There's a tropical
depression on the east coast.
(verge of crying)
Probably not as depressed as me
right now though.

INT. NEWS DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

TONYA, (50s, humble, overly positive), the news director of
KSOK. She's nodding off to sleep at her desk. A television in
the corner of her office shows Logan.

ANGLE ON: TV SCREEN

LOGAN

My girlfriend. I mean ex-
girlfriend. We were like two
clashing weather systems.

Tim bursts in Tonya's office. She wakes up and starts typing
on her keyboard.

TIM

Are you seeing this? Logan is
cracking -- again!

TONYA

(false confidence)
Oh yep. Sure am.
(doubtful)
Is he?

Tonya looks at the tv in her office, grabs a remote and turns
up the volume.

ON THE TV: The image of a tropical storm behind Logan. The
image changes to a picture of Logan's EX-GIRLFRIEND. Logan
strokes the hair of the giant face behind him.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Tim, take us to commercial break.

TIM

No! I'm tired of taking us to
commercials whenever Logan cracks
on the air! Get his ass off my set
forever!

Tonya gets up from her desk. Then sits back down. She's
always been intimidated by Tim. He's always wanted her job.

INT. STUDIO GREEN SCREEN - DAY

Logan stands in front of a green screen. Two monitors on each side of him show the picture of his ex girlfriend:

LOGAN

She and I were just two weather systems, you know. I was the hot weather system for obvious reasons of course. And she was a cold one. A very, very cold weather system...

(emotional)

...who blew onto someone else's peninsula!

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Tonya sits behind her desk. Tim and Logan in chairs across from her:

TIM

You're fired Logan!

LOGAN

Not again.
Tonya, is this true?

Tim gives a harsh look to Tonya.

TONYA

Well, not exactly. Tim, you know you can't fire Logan. Only I can.

TIM

Tonya, please fire him.

TONYA

No, Tim.

Tonya tenderly reaches across her desk. Grabs Logan's hand.

TONYA (CONT'D)

Logan, my dear. You've gone through hell. But you've got to pull it together.

TIM

Enough of this motherly bullshit. Logan - you're an embarrassment to this station.

(MORE)

TIM (CONT'D)

KSOK was number one in ratings
until your stupid episodes scared
away our audience.

LOGAN

K-SUCK never had an audience.

Tonya laughs and bumps fists with Logan.

TIM

KSOK.

LOGAN

K-SUCK.

Tim gets up, leaves the office slamming the door.

TONYA

Why must he yell and slam doors?
Gives me a headache.

She opens a drawer to grab a bottle of pills.

LOGAN

Tonya, I'm sorry. I just can't get
over Katerina.

Tonya pops a handful of pills in her mouth. Drinks water.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

She and I... I mean... seven years
is such a long time.

TONYA

Logan you make it sound like your
break up was yesterday. It's been
seven years since you *broke up* with
Katerina. Perspective is
everything.

LOGAN

You're right.
(deep sigh)
So what's my punishment this time?

TONYA

None. Just promise me you'll get
better. Okay?

LOGAN

You say that after every on-air
meltdown. At least suspend me.

TONYA

No, no. I could never do that.

LOGAN

Come on. Suspend me.

TONYA

I'm not a cruel news director.

LOGAN

I deserve it. Come on. How about a week suspension with no pay. Tonya, I'm in no shape to be on air talking about the weather. Look at me, I've gone from predicting the weather's unpredictable behavior, to taking on that unpredictable behavior.

TONYA

Well, no body is perfect.

(beat)

However - you do deserve some type of consequence for today's actions.

LOGAN

Let me hear you say I'm suspended.

Logan leads her through the following sentences. Tonya, reluctantly echos Logan's words:

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Say...Logan...
Come on, say Logan...

TONYA

Logan.

LOGAN

You're suspended...

TONYA

You're suspended...

LOGAN

For a week without pay.

Katerina won't repeat it. She's being stubborn.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I believe in you. You can suspend me without pay. Come on.

TONYA
 (quick and forceful)
 For a week without pay.
 There I said it.

LOGAN
 Good job. Ok I'm out of here.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOME - DAY

Logan pulls up to his driveway and gets out of his car. He steps on dog crap. He's pissed. Across the yard, BUSTER, a beagle sprints back to his dog parent, DR. YASHAKITA (60s, widower, wise). Buster is fed a treat.

Logan rips his shoe off his foot. A clump of sticky shit on the bottom. Logan calls out:

LOGAN
 Doctor Yashakita! Do you see what
 Buster did? This is *my* driveway!

It's a helpless situation for Logan. He doesn't bother cleaning his shoe. Instead, he leans against his car, takes off the other shoe:

LOGAN (CONT'D)
 Another good reason why I don't buy
 expensive stuff.

He walks over to the curb. Logan tosses both shoes into a trash bin:

LOGAN (CONT'D)
 (calling out)
 Buster you owe me a pair of shoes!

Dr. Yashakita barely acknowledges such a ridiculous request.

LOGAN (CONT'D)
 Train him!

Dr. Yashakita waves off Logan and feeds Buster a treat.

INT. LOGAN'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Logan walks into his open concept home, no shoes on his feet, goes straight to the kitchen. The place is messy with dishes, wine bottles and a few clothes sprinkled across furniture.

THE KITCHEN

He sets his keys on the counter, goes to the fridge and grabs a beer, only to come back to the counter. Opening the bottle:

LOGAN

Katerina. Why did you leave?

He washes away his pain by guzzling beer. He glances over and sees a bottle of whiskey.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOME - NIGHT

Dr. Yashakita and Buster walk across Logan's front lawn in matching pajamas. Bright light reflects off he and Buster.

He's looking up, worried and annoyed about a bright light emanating from the sky. We don't see what he sees. Dr. Yashakita now on Logan's porch, bangs on the front door:

DR. YASHAKITA

Answer your door, Mr. Logan! I know you're in there! Stop playing games and turn off the spotlights!

INT. LOGAN'S HOME, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

A lamp on the nightstand reveals Logan passed out on his bed. Under his armpit, a bottle of whiskey. He rouses briefly to the sounds of Dr. Yashakita pounding on the door in the distant background. He can hear inaudible cuss words.

Logan comes to his senses long enough to deliberately ignore the knocking on the door. Distracted, as any drunk, he sees a little whiskey remaining in the bottle. Quick swig. Empty bottle. Logan passes out again.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Buster finishes taking a shit on Logan's porch. Dr. Yashakita gives him a treat.

DR. YASHAKITA

The light is keeping me awake!
Logan?

He gives up with a big waving gesture. He and Buster leave.

INT. LOGAN'S HOME, BEDROOM - MORNING

Logan in the same position as when we last saw him, except it's morning. A gradual moan to acknowledge a massive hangover. His hands clench his head.

After a moment, Logan inches to the edge of the bed. He's feeling nauseous. More moans. He jolts from the bed and trips to the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. LOGAN'S HOME, KITCHEN - MORNING

Logan, now wearing a robe, wobbles into the kitchen wiping his mouth with his sleeve and lands in front of the sink. The sink, in front of a giant window facing the street. Logan drinks water straight from the faucet. Turns his back on us.

Moving towards him from behind, we see crowds gathered on the lawn and street through a window. Logan finishes drinking. Stands back up with the back of his head now blocking the our view of the crowd outside. Logan is oblivious to what's happening out front.

He turns around and grabs a box of cereal on the counter, shoves his hand inside, sloppily eats one handful. Chewing on his cereal, the sounds from the street gradually get louder.

First we hear the low rumblings of conversing crowds and children, then photography flashes, then sounds of reporters giving live reports. All of it inaudible but understandable: there's something happening in the street.

Logan rushes to the kitchen window...

LOGAN'S VIEW: Crowds gathered on his lawn. Trucks with tv news logos parked along the street, reporters scrambling here and there. Mothers with children in strollers. Families and teenagers taking selfies with the house behind them...

EXT. LOGAN'S HOME, PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Logan bursts open through his front door. His robe opens and he's standing there in his boxers with the robe barely hanging onto his shoulders. Reporters and video cameras swarm at him. He quickly closes his robe as they circle him:

LOGAN
(calling out)
Listen people!
(MORE)

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Yesterday's meltdown wasn't all that. And to all my fans watching K-SUCK yesterday...

MAGGIE

We're not here because of your meltdown. We're here because of the *rainbow*.

This is MAGGIE ALBRIGHT (30s, curious, persuasive, ambitious).

LOGAN

What rainbow?

He takes a step forward and we hear the sound of him stepping on shit. He looks down. Disgusted. Then pissed.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOGAN'S HOME, LAWN - MOMENTS LATER

Logan hobbles and wipes his foot with his robe, just in his boxers, and he doesn't care.

LOGAN'S VIEW: Looking directly up into the blue sky...

...branches now blocking our view... then...

A rainbow -- positioned as if one end of it landed on the roof of Logan's home. The other end extending high into the stratosphere. A supernatural occurrence of preposterous proportions.

ANGLE ON: LOGAN

His robe wadded into a ball and tucked under his armpit. Squinting and realizing what Maggie meant:

LOGAN

So that's the rainbow.

Not amused. He starts walking to the trash. Maggie Albright along side him holds out her microphone:

MAGGIE

So what do you think of it?

Pointing her microphone at him. Then not. There's no use. She desperately glances the crowd for her camera person.

Logan walks to the street.

LOGAN
Did you lose your camera person?

MAGGIE
Yes.

LOGAN
You're Maggie Albright from
network, right?

She shakes his hand.

MAGGIE
Yes. Nice to meet you.

They press through a crowd, heading to the trash bin. Maggie
still searching for her camera person:

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Do you need a shirt or something?

LOGAN
I'll be okay.

MAGGIE
What do you think of the rainbow?

LOGAN
What's there to think about? I
guess the only surprising thing is
we have clear skies. Typically
rainbows only appear after or
before a rainstorm. Unusual - but
nothing surprises me these days.

By now, they're at the trash bin.

Logan looks around until he locks eyes on...

LOGAN'S VIEW: Dr. Yashakita taking a selfie with Buster.

LOGAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Dr. Yashakita!
Buster!

Dr. Yashakita turns to Logan. His phone still in a selfie
position.

LOGAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Buster! You owe me a robe!

The sound of a closing trash bin. Dr. Yashakita annoyed by Logan. He smiles for a selfie and takes a picture.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOME, LAWN - CONTINUOUS

At the trash bin, Maggie to Logan.

MAGGIE

Who's he?

LOGAN

My neighbor.

Logan and Maggie walk back to the home. Pressing through the crowd again:

LOGAN (CONT'D)

You ask a lot of questions.

MAGGIE

It's my job.

LOGAN

But do you ever really find the answer you're looking for?

Logan takes a moment. Looks up...

LOGAN'S VIEW: The rainbow, magnificent, powerful structure of piercing colors. Each color illuminating in a romantic sort of way. Today, it owns the sky and Logan's attention:

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I've never been this close to a rainbow. That's actually very lovely.

MAGGIE

They say it's been up since last night.

LOGAN

What has? The rainbow? Last night! Very unusual for rainbows. Really? Since last night.

They're interrupted by Maggie's camera person, JAMES, (20s, energetic, eager). He has an ENG camera on his shoulder and wears a baseball hat backwards:

JAMES

This place is nuts! I feel sorry for the owner of this house.

LOGAN
That would be me.

JAMES
Where are your clothes?

LOGAN
Long story.

We see exact images as Logan describes it in the following:

LOGAN (CONT'D)
But at least I'm blending in with
all the weirdos out here...
...like those hippies over there
putting on alien masks... and those
people... body painting?

JAMES
I guess you're right.

MAGGIE
James. Meet Logan Sterling.
(short beat)
Logan. James.

James, with a head nod saying: *nice to meet you.*

LOGAN
Maggie, you know my last name?

MAGGIE
I went to college here and watched
you all the time on KSOK. Say,
could we get an interview with you?

LOGAN
Why?

MAGGIE
This is an inspirational story.

LOGAN
A rainbow appears and suddenly I'm
inspirational? I don't think so.

MAGGIE
Well, you are. I was inspired to go
into broadcast news because of you.

LOGAN
Oh, when was that?

MAGGIE

When you use to smile on live tv.

LOGAN

Oh the good old days.

MAGGIE

So may we have that interview?

LOGAN

What the hell. I'm free all week.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOME, PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Logan, Maggie and James, now on the steps of the porch.

ON LOGAN:

LOGAN

Great. My favorite neighbors.

LOGAN'S VIEW: Dr. Yashakita and Buster.

DR. YASHAKITA

Mr. Logan, I think God is trying to get your attention with this rainbow.

LOGAN

I don't believe in God.

Dr. Yashakita steps forward:

DR. YASHAKITA

Then Nature is trying to get your attention.

LOGAN

Hmm. Rainbows are natural occurrences.

Dr. Yashakita steps closer:

DR. YASHAKITA

Fine, the Universe is trying to get your attention.

LOGAN

So when you say universe, do you mean, like, the planet Mars - a sphere of *red rocks* is trying to get my attention?

Dr. Yashakita, now a foot away from Logan:

DR. YASHAKITA

How about this -- there's a fucking rainbow on your *home*!

LOGAN

Hmm. Maybe God is trying to get my attention. Now get off my porch before I call the Rainbow Police.

DR. YASHAKITA

Yeah. Yeah.

He and Buster squeeze past Logan, Maggie and James.

LOGAN

(to Dr. Yashakita)

I appreciate your concern. *Concern* is how I'm going to categorize your creepy appearance on my porch. Again, this is my property. Boundaries, boundaries, boundaries.

We follow Dr. Yashakita and Buster off the steps and as they leave...

...Two POLICE OFFICERS, STEPHEN and DARYL approach the porch. They get close to Logan. Stand with crossed arms, ready to bust anyone who dares make the wrong move. Officer Stephen rips off his sunglasses:

OFFICER STEPHEN

Mr. Logan Sterling. May we have a word with you?

ON LOGAN:

He rolls his eyes: *now what have I done?*

CUT TO:

EXT. LOGAN'S HOME, ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

On the roof with Officer Stephen and Daryl, Logan stands encompassed in the rainbow's light. Logan now looking up, completely fixated on the rainbow.