

Figures United Around A Body

written by

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INT. MATTHEWS FAMILY HOUSE (BATHROOM) - EVENING

Tiffany and LeBron finish off some lines of coke, she films him on a camcorder.

LEBRON POPE

I just need to work on my free-throw and then I'll be ready for the drafts

TIFFANY JONES

You've missed the drafts LeBron

LEBRON POPE

For next year

TIFFANY JONES

I think this is bad coke

LEBRON POPE

They'll have stuff at the party

Pause.

LEBRON POPE (CONT'D)

(reflective)

Douglas Matthews was always the stronger player, never crossed my mind he'd die on us like this

TIFFANY JONES

He didn't die on us, he got alcohol poisoning and none of us did anything, we should have done something

James and Amanda break through the badly locked door.

JAMES BATES

But we didn't

AMANDA LOVECRAFT

But we didn't

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

It is revealed that a funeral is taking place, a number of students are sat in rows near the back of the building and the far older President Hoffman (University Chancellor) and Mrs. Matthews (Mother) are based up front.

PRESIDENT HOFFMAN

"Death, therefore, the most awful
of evils, is nothing to us, seeing
that, when we are, death is not
come, and, when death is come, we
are not."

Mrs. Matthews begins crying to herself and President Hoffman
leaves the altar to offer comfort.

MRS. MATTHEWS

(crying)
Oh Lord! Why?

Amongst some of the students there is a look of confusion,
they talk quietly between each other.

LEBRON POPE

Huh?

JAMES BATES

(irritated)
Epicurus
Don't you go to any of our
lectures?

LEBRON POPE

Didn't realise it would be a test
James

LeBron Pope turns to his right to have a different
conversation.

LEBRON POPE (CONT'D)

Coach really isn't going to be
happy with me tomorrow

TIFFANY JONES

(suggestive)
I'll make it worthwhile after this
has wrapped

LEBRON POPE

Jesus!

At the front processions continue as President Hoffman
returns to the altar to read a eulogy.

JAMES BATES

(to himself)

Let's see what magic trick
President Hoffman's got up his
sleeve

PRESIDENT HOFFMAN

Douglas Matthews was a student with
so much potential, he had already
achieved many things, but it was
evident he was going to achieve
even more

LEBRON POPE

(looking across)

I feel so bad for Amanda

PRESIDENT HOFFMAN

It is often believed that everyone
has their time to leave this world
behind, and I'm sure Douglas will
be quickly welcomed... into the
next

AMANDA LOVECRAFT

(calling out)

HE WAS 22!

PRESIDENT HOFFMAN

Yes, like I said, everyone has
their time and that is not always
something that we as mortals can
understand

President Hoffman returns to his seat, the students take it
in turn to walk up to the open casket and say goodbye to the
body in the coffin.

LEBRON POPE

You'll be missed amigo

JAMES BATES

I'll look after her, don't worry

After passing by the coffin and gesturing their condolences
to Mrs. Matthews the two head outside, Amanda walks up to the
coffin and gently kisses the body on the forehead but says
nothing, she is followed by Tiffany who awkwardly passes
through.

TIFFANY JONES

It all happens so quick, your
watching cartoons before school and
then your dead

President Hoffman and Mrs. Matthews stay seated as the room empties.

EXT. CEMETERY - AFTERNOON

As James comforts Amanda by wrapping his arm around her, Tiffany lights up a cigarette.

LEBRON POPE

What the hell, don't be smoking
that poison around me

JAMES BATES

You don't seem to have the same
issue if it comes to downing beer
LeBron

AMANDA LOVECRAFT

Not here, of all places, not here

TIFFANY JONES

You need to calm down baby, I've
got some Xanax in my bag

JAMES BATES

I could do with one

Tiffany searches in her bag and then hands a Xanax to James, he breaks it in two and gives the other half to Amanda.

AMANDA LOVECRAFT

Thanks

President Hoffman signals to begin lowering the coffin.

LEBRON POPE

Anyone going to the event at the
Alpha House tonight?

TIFFANY JONES

I'm going to get medicated!

LEBRON POPE

Your wrong in the head Tiffany,
really wrong

JAMES BATES

Don't you get it?
Douglas is dead, gone, never coming
back!
And you just want to get high?

(MORE)

JAMES BATES (CONT'D)

As you do every night of the week
anyway, instead of maybe learning
something and justifying the
ridiculous fees

LEBRON POPE

(insincere)

I second that

AMANDA LOVECRAFT

Your no better, you could be a
great athlete but you use the frat
life as an excuse to miss training

LEBRON POPE

As if you aren't also trying to
climb the social ladder Amanda

TIFFANY JONES

(bullying)

Nerd

JAMES BATES

Enough, everyone is obviously very
upset and therefore letting their
emotions get the better of them

Although unhinged Mrs. Matthews addresses the group to invite
them to a luncheon at the family manor.

MRS. MATTHEWS

For those that can make it, I would
like to invite you all back to the
family home for a late lunch and
drinks

PRESIDENT HOFFMAN

How kind Mrs. Matthews, and I have
arranged transport

Each student looks at each other for confirmation of their
next action.

LEBRON POPE

You all going?

AMANDA LOVECRAFT

We have to

TIFFANY JONES

Why not, free alcohol

INT. MATTHEWS FAMILY HOUSE (LUNCH HALL) - EVENING

LeBron is on the phone with his coach, explaining his poor attendance, James is in conversation with President Hoffman about 'the glory years'.

LEBRON POPE

(on the phone)

It's a funeral Phil, surely that's an exception

Pause.

LEBRON POPE (CONT'D)

(on the phone)

I know it seems like I have a funeral every day of the week

PRESIDENT HOFFMAN

You see, before the internet and all these viral challenges, being part of a fraternity was like being part of a family, it was about having fun

JAMES BATES

Also breeding under-qualified leaders of the free world

Tiffany passes through on her way outdoors and adds a comment.

TIFFANY JONES

Not ignoring all the rape cases President Hoffman

PRESIDENT HOFFMAN

Oh my dear, none of that language here please

Tiffany picks up a glass of wine and leaves.

EXT. MATTHEWS FAMILY HOUSE (GARDEN) - EVENING

Tiffany enjoys her glass of wine outside the luncheon hall and talks with a memorial that has been set for Douglas Matthews.

TIFFANY JONES

I never thought it would end like this

Tiffany puts down her drink.

TIFFANY JONES (CONT'D)

You were the hard worker, the
charming guy with the perfect girl,
the athlete, the comedian, the
academic all in one

Tiffany looks into the house and sees Amanda and Mrs.
Matthews crying in the kitchen, an audio plays from the
fraternity initiation ceremony.

FRATERNITY GROUP

Drink. Drink. Drink.

DOUGLAS MATTHEWS

(burping)

I... can't...

FRATERNITY GROUP

Drink. Douglas. Drink.

Suddenly the audio ends.

TIFFANY JONES

Anyone can be corrupted these days

INT. MATTHEWS FAMILY HOUSE (KITCHEN) - EVENING

Amanda and Mrs. Matthews comfort each other in the kitchen.

MRS. MATTHEWS

(crying)

I didn't want Douglas to be like
his father, and he really wasn't,
until college

AMANDA LOVECRAFT

(defensive)

He was never like that, he just got
in with the wrong crowd, everything
becomes so competitive and nothing
actually is what it seems, its
simply a question of keeping up
appearances

MRS. MATTHEWS

I know, I know

INT. MATTHEWS FAMILY HOUSE (KITCHEN) - EVENING

Mrs. Matthews and President Hoffman, both rather drunk by now, sing old folk songs to try and lighten the mood downstairs.

MRS. MATTHEWS/PRESIDENT HOFFMAN
"THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND,
THIS LAND IS MY LAND"

EXT. FRATERNITY HOUSE - NIGHT

As LeBron scrabbles onto a beer keg and addresses college students he gives a speech in honour of Douglas Matthews, Tiffany records on a camcorder.

LEBRON POPE
Nobody could have predicted what
occurred here all those months
back, we lost a legendary figure,
Douglas Matthews is irreplaceable
in every way, so tonight we shall
drink in his honour!

END.