# No Tatt-Two Ways About It

By

Ben Goldsmith
Arienne Annati
Jeremey Dyches

Created for the 48 Hour Film Project 2023
Boston MA

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

The COWBOY is leaning against a truck, pulls his hat down off his head slowly, sniffing the air. He wipes his forehead and we see his Cowboy tattoo as he does this. He walks offscreen as the voiceover starts.

COWBOY (V.O.)
It ain't easy bein' an old-fashioned kinda guy in a new-fangled kinda world.

Jeremey walks by and rips a fat vape cloud, Cowboy wafts it away with his hat and coughs loudly/dramatically

COWBOY (V.O.)
Time keeps runnin' like a stallion loose - with burs in his spurs...and I just stay the same

INT. APT - DAY

Apartment door opens and we see a close up shot of Cowboy's face. Cowboy comes into the kitchen, laying his hat on the counter next to him.

COWBOY (V.O.)
They say anywhere you lay your hat is home....

He places his hands on the counter and looks tired, deep breath in and out. He opens the cabinets and sees all 3 shelves completely filled with cans of Busch's Baked Beans. He opens up one can, pulls an old wooden spoon from his back pocket, and goes to take a spoonful of beans, when he sees the other people in his living room.

COWBOY (V.O.)
but now I'm seein' about 30 gallons extra 'round these parts.

Cowboy stops the beans right before they get into his mouth.

COWBOY
(gestures with the spoonful of beans)
I wasn't expectin' to feed the cavalry today.

Audience sees Brennan, Arienne and Nina approach Cowboy, all dressed in Western gear (background western song, offkey).

The girls flank either side of Brennan who stands opposite Cowboy in a western-style pose.

BRENNAN (COWBOY)
Corral...corral.....corl....CARL!

Brennan is now dressed in normal clothing

BRENNAN.
(gesturing with his finger to Cowboy)
THIS... has got to stop. Every month it's something new, I can't with this.

NINA
Yeah, we're worried about you Carl.

Cut back to Carl, still in cowboy outfit.

COWBOY
Funny way to welcome a man into his own homestead.

BRENNAN.
APARTMENT carl, it's an Apartment.

we follow Brennan around the apartment as he points out

BRENNAN.
(points to sink)
SINK. it's a sink, not a watering hole. Bathroom, not an outhouse. and Carl,
(opens the bean cabinet)
THIS? I just can't, I can't

Brennan walks off, frustrated.

BRENNAN.
(to Nina)
You deal with this

Brennan grabs a bottle off an exposed shelf, shaking his head and opens the bottle and drinks from it as he sits on the couch.

BRENNAN.
This is supposed to be an intervention for you but I might be the one who needs it, after all this

COWBOY
Intervention? What kinda yuppie-fied city-slicker nonsense is that? What in the name of Billy Crystal is goin' on here?

Nina guides Cowboy to the couch and gestures for him to sit down. Cowboy ignores Nina and walks past Brennan drinking as he sits down in the chair, puts feet up on crate, picks up guitar and starts to strum. Nina sits down between Brennan and the chair. She looks frustrated and looks at Arienne. Arienne gestures toward Cowboy (like "do something"). Nina stands up and puts her hand on the guitar to stop the noise.

NINA
(taking guitar out of his hands)
This is getting out of hand.

COWBOY
Hey! be careful with that, i got that from my pappy

BRENNAN.(O.S.)
PAWN SHOP, carl! it's from a pawn shop.

Brennan gets up, and walks around Cowboy to the next room

BRENNAN.
(walking away)
our dad didn't even PLAY guitar.

COWBOY
What in the sam hell is goin on back there? What is all this?

NINA
You're a tattoo chameleon, Carl. ......Getting a tattoo isn't a personality trait.

Brennan comes into the room from behind Carl, holding Navy uniform.

BRENNAN.
Remember all the navy shit?

Cut to flashback (smash pan) of Cowboy entering the apartment dressed in sailor gear, shouting "AHOY!"

Cut back to current day. Cowboy stands up and rips the jacket

out of Brennan's hand.

COWBOY
(shaking his fist in Brennans face)
I swear to god if we wasn't blood
you'd be down a set of teeth right now

Brennan bitch slaps the Cowboy's fist.

NINA (O.S.)
It wasn't as bad as the Geisha tattoo

Cut black, Cut back, see Cowboy holding geisha robe and throwing it away quickly.

COWBOY
Y'all are crazier than a dingo in a
hay bale

BRENNAN.
and that. What is that? Why are you
talking like that? We're from
Worcester. You've never even BEEN to
Texas -- they shoot people like us
down there Carl.

Carl sits on the couch with everyone else.

NINA
(touching Cowboy's arm)
We love you. You don't have to hide
behind all these different personas.
and YES, no one would come so I had to
bring my girlfriend to pad the numbers
BUT we can get through this, together!

COWBOY
It's really tough to figure out who
you are you know? Sometimes im a
cowboy and that feels good, sometimes
I'm a geisha and that feels good too,
but I just don't know who I am

Brennan puts his hand on Carl's shoulder.

BRENNAN.
You're my brother

NINA
and you're my friend.

ARIENNE
and I took a day off from the tattoo parlor to support my girlfriend, who WILL be paying me back for all this nonsense.

NINA
(turns to Arienne)
Yeah, no more tattooing this guy.

ARIENNE
I didn't tattoo him.

COWBOY
She didn't tattoo me.

NINA
I thought you got tattooed by Alexandra Green?

COWBOY
Yeah I did. Alexander Green!

NINA
No, ALEXANDRA Green, my girlfriend... who the hell is Alexander Green?

COWBOY
A nice classy guy tattooing outta Billarica, sweet basement for it being his moms. Met him on facebook marketplace.

All three look at each other, Arienne shrugs at them and grabs Carls arm.

ARIENNE
(gesturing to Cowboy's arm)
Can I see that?

Cowboy extends his arm to her.

ARIENNE
Yeah that's infected as hell. We gotta take you to the doctor.

Cowboy picks up his hat and begins in his cowboy voice

COWBOY
Sometimes you ride the horse, and other times the horse rides you

Cowboy stops when seeing everyone staring at him, he drops the voice and puts the hat back down.

COWBOY
lets... go to the hospital.

Freeze frame on Cowboy.

COWBOY (V.O.)
after that, I never got another tattoo. Piercings and brandings are whole nother thing all together

Freeze frame on Brennan looking angrily at the beans

COWBOY (V.O.)
Brennan donated many cans of beans to the local food pantry and subsequently finished his bottle of wine.

Freeze frame on Arienne and Nina,

COWBOY (V.O.)
Alexandra and Nina moved in together after 4 weeks of dating, broke up after 5, and finally moved out at the ripe time of 2 years.

BRENNAN.(O.S.)
Seriously?! AGAIN?!!

END CREDITS