

Pit Stop

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Heavy autumn leaves blow in the air from the soft wind that flows from the north. A car pulls over on the road that's straight ahead and put in park.

A candle lit lantern is being held at the handle by a wrinkled old hand with the wax dripping on the orange leaves.

The lantern is brought up closer to the person's mouth. They're wearing a mask that's riddled with scars and a wide red painted smile.

A swift blow from the mouth of the person holding the lantern puts out the flame of the lantern and echoes in the background of the forest, haunting birds away with loud chirping.

BLACK SCREEN:

SUPER:

"PIT STOP"

INT. OUTSIDE - DUSK

The dark road is illuminated by streetlights that beams to light. The car pulls over on the side of the road.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The driver, LUKE, uses the stick shift into park. He looks over at TIM, who is bouncing up and down in the passenger seat.

LUKE

Alright hurry up mister bed
wetter.

TIM

OH THANK GOD!

Tim opens the car door and makes a run for it to the forest with a heavy SLAM of the passenger seat door.

Luke turns back to the back seats of the car to see JOHN and EDDIE playing a game of rock paper scissors.

John throws down a rock while looking at his phone and Eddie uses paper. John throws his hands up in annoyance after seeing Eddie has won.

Eddie fist pumps the air in celebration.

LUKE

Eddie, did you win again?

JOHN

I don't know how he's so good at a game so simple.

EDDIE

Got lucky I guess.

JOHN

For the 22nd time in a row?

LUKE

Wow. You're terrible.

The two chuckle out loud, but Luke shush them down.

LUKE

Dude. That forest right there is haunted. I swear to God. Toby had to pee the last time I went down this road and he came back crying.

EDDIE

I find that not really believable.

LUKE

I put it on my mom. Watch him not come back.

John and Eddie nod their heads in approval and pull out their phones.

BLACK SCREEN:

SUPER:

"5 MINUTES LATER"

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Eddie is slumped down in his seat looking out the window faced at the road with his head resting on his palm, eyes closed.

John is endlessly scrolling through his phone while drooling from his mouth.

Luke has his arms folded across his chest. He lets out a heavy sigh.

LUKE

(frustrated)

It's been like an hour I swear.
Where is he? We're gonna miss
dinner.

JOHN

Pizza rolls...

Luke snatches John's phone out of his hand and John sits up in attention like a soldier following commands from his drill sergeant.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What was that for?

LUKE

For you to be productive for
once and see if Tim is that dire
for a bathroom break five
minutes from getting home and
eating pizza rolls.

JOHN

Fine.

John opens the car door and gets out.

JOHN

(outside of car)

Tim!!! Tim?! Tim?

LUKE

Eddie, did you catch the game
last night--

Luke turns to see Eddie fast asleep on the car door. Luke turns back around slowly.

He looks outside of his car window to see John standing right outside right next to the door staring at Luke.

Luke jumps in the air. He rolls down his window.

LUKE

At least knock!!

JOHN

My bad.

LUKE

Did you find him?

JOHN

He's not out there.

Luke is in shock.

LUKE

What do you mean he's not out there?! This isn't a David Copperfield magic trick.

JOHN

Look for yourself...

INT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Luke gets out of the car methodically to look at the forest ahead. He opens Eddie's car door that he's slouched on with his face rested on the palm of his hand.

Eddie falls out of the car. Luke closes his door and locks the car door with the keys.

EDDIE

(tired)

What was that for?

LUKE

Dude, Tim is gone apparently.

Eddie gets up from the asphalt road and follows Luke while scratching his head from the lingering fatigue of a nap.

EDDIE

(yawning)

What are you talking about?

Tim is no where to be seen... No trace of his footsteps or signs of life other than the rustling of thick autumn leaves in the air...

John comes around the car and leans on the door to stare at the dark and mysterious forest with the other two.

LUKE

Stay here guys.

JOHN

Where are you going?

LUKE

To find Tim.

Luke gives back John's phone and hesitantly approaches the forest leaving behind John and Eddie.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Luke takes out his portable flashlight on his phone and starts waving it around while patrolling through various trees.

Leaves swirl violently to his right and he turns slowly to face them.

More leaves churn to the left of Luke and his body turns quicker than his head... He fears for the worst...

Luke starts to shiver as his breath comes out of his mouth loudly with huffs and puffs while still looking at the leaves blowing in the air...

Luke bends down and picks up a leaf off the ground to inspect it carefully... A person approaches behind him with the crunch of leaves...

The sound of a lighter sparks and a candle lantern casts light upon the surrounding area...

Luke SPRAWLS to the ground and SCREAMS at the top of his lungs as the man with the lantern bends down next to him...

MAN

You had to disturb my peace,
huh?

The man blows out the candle light on his lantern...

EXT. OUTSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Luke's scream vibrates the forest as birds fly away from their homes to scurry from the noise.

John and Eddie jolt back in fear. They book it into the woods in search of the two allied members of the car.

JOHN

Tim!

EDDIE

Luke!

They both try to turn on their flashlights while running into the woods, but John's phone displays a no battery message across the screen.

He tosses his phone into the ground with frustration and stays close to Eddie, who has his flashlight shining bright.

A loud BANG of a tree branch echoes high in the night sky, sending more birds flying in the distance. John and Eddie look back in the air to see the birds flying.

Silence settles in the realm of the forest while John and Eddie look back. The man with the lantern sparks his candle with his lighter inside the metal contraption and faces the two.

John and Eddie steadily turn to face the man with the lantern with dread and horror smeared across their faces.

The man walks closer to the two with louder crunches of leaves on each step closer. The autumn leaves blow with the man on all sides except where he's walking.

Eddie, who's anxiety is through the roof, runs back towards the car and takes the phone flashlight with him.

John tries to follow with him, but his footsteps are unmatched as he falls to the ground, losing sight of his flashlight. The man with the lantern bends down next to John.

MAN

Looks like you needed a light.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

John's scream reverberates through the forest as Eddie exits the forest and continues to run towards the car.

Eddie fumbles on the road and tries to open the driver's seat of the car.

He jams the handle back and forth to try and open the locked car door but nothing works. Eddie looks at the car door window and sees the man with the lantern, who's cloak is visible through the glaring streetlights.

Eddie looks back at the man after he sees him in the window and ditches the car. The man's light of the lantern fades away in the distance.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Eddie dashes into the forest and crunching leaves fly in the air with the speed displayed. Eddie takes cover behind a tree and presses his back against the heavy oak log.

A cold frosty deep breath lights the air as Eddie recovers from the fatigue of running away from the man with the lantern.

The man with the lantern turns to face Eddie from around the tree. The lantern shines bright at his face and Eddie shrieks as loud as his soul will let him.

BLACK SCREEN:

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Police sirens are flashing in the distance with cops carrying notepads and flashlights shining into the car looking for evidence.

The man with the lantern stands in the back of the forest with his candle lit lantern. He blows out the light with a swift blow from the mouth that echoes in the darkness of the forest.

FADE OUT.