

Thing

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Final Draft

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FADE IN

1 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 1

TARA runs around the kitchen, she snipes a bagel and yells a goodbye to her mom. She grabs her bag and pets her cat on the head with a quick kiss.

2 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 2

A Tara is sitting in her desk frantically looking through papers and her book.

TEACHER

Ok, put all your notes away and take out something to write with.

TARA

Oh God! I'm going to fail.

She takes a deep breath and puts her head down on her desk.

TEACHER

Tara, pick your head up, please.

3 INT. CLASSROOM - SAME 3

The class is all writing diligently while Tara looks around nervously. She looks out the window there is a flash of something staring up at her. She blinks and it is gone

She looks away and shakes her head, seemingly convincing herself of the falsehood of what she saw.

4 INT. HALLWAY - DAY 4

Tara is at her locker retrieving her things which she will need for the weekend. She overhears some kids talking.

BOY 1

50 years since the murder of the Myers twins.

The boy holds a copy of the most recent Rebellion.

BOY 2

Yeah, they thought it was their stepfather. Everyone knows that it was no human.

BOY 1

Don't tell me you believe that crap!

BOY 2

I don't need to believe it if it's
real dude.

BOY 1

You're such a loser man.

Tara is finished at her locker and with an inquisitive look she walks away.

5 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

5

Tara is walking to her car holding hands with ADAM her boyfriend. They are talking about their plans for this Friday night, tonight.

ADAM

So I'll pick you up tonight
around...?

TARA

Sevenish?

ADAM

Sounds good. I'll see yea later
hun.

Adam gives Tara a kiss on the cheek. He opens his door and plops down into his car. He soon drives away while Tara goes to open her door. She looks up into the woods as if expecting to see the shadowy figure again. There is nothing there.

6 INT. CAR - SAME

6

Tara is adjusting the radio. She finally finds a station she likes and puts the car in reverse. She pulls out of her spot and begins to drive away from the school. She checks her rear view mirror and sees the figure running through the woods.

TARA

Alright, this isn't real. She stops
the car and gets out.

7 EXT. WOODS - SAME

7

Tara is searching for the figure. She looks bewildered and scared. She knows a simple explanation like a deer is simply impossible.

She hears a rustle in the bushes next to her. She makes a sudden movement in that direction as if to catch whatever it is by surprise, there is nothing there.

Tara looks disappointed but still frightened. Suddenly a hand falls on her shoulder. She turns around completely exasperated, she looks almost sick with fear.

ADAM
Wow, are you ok?

TARA
No, you scared the crap out of me.

She gives a sigh of relief.

ADAM
I'm sorry.

He goes to give her a hug but she is still searching the woods.

ADAM
Seriously what's going on? Why are you in the woods.

TARA
Why are you in the woods?

ADAM
I came back to tell you I couldn't make it 'till 7:30 I forgot I had an extended practice today.

Tara looks unconvinced.

ADAM
I saw you walking into the woods and I followed you, ok? I feel like I'm on trial or something. Now can I get an answer of why you're here?

Tara turns to walk back to her car. She starts slowly to explain what happened.

TARA
Well, I saw this thing.

ADAM
What kind of THING?

TARA
I didn't get a good view of it.

ADAM

Right. So you followed some strange creature that you barely saw into the woods?

8 EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

8

TARA

Adam, you know me. I'm not crazy, this is just freaking me out!

ADAM

No, you're freaking me out. I think you need to get some sleep. Let's go out tomorrow night after you sleep this off.

TARA

Maybe I am just tired. I'm not crazy Adam. You don't think I am do you?

ADAM

No, of course not. Just go home and get some sleep and I'll call you tomorrow. I love you.

TARA

I love you more. I'll see you later.

Adam gets in his car again to drive away. This time Tara goes at the same time. She looks physically exhausted.

The woods are behind her and the figure again runs by without Tara ever noticing it.

9 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

9

Tara is walking down the hallway slowly.

10 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

10

Teacher is rummaging through his bookshelves.

Tara walks in.

TARA

Excuse me, sir.

TEACHER

Oh, Hi Tara. How did that test go?

TARA
Not so good actually.

TEACHER
I'm sorry to hear that. You seem to be quite the scholar in my class.

TARA
Thanks.

TEACHER
So what do you need?

TARA
I actually wanted to talk to you about the Myers Twins.

Teacher stops with what he is doing and gives Tara a concerned and serious glare.

TEACHER
What do you want to know about that?

TARA
Well, everything kinda.

Teacher takes a seat at a near by desk.

TEACHER
Why don't you have a seat.

Tara has a seat. She says nothing.

TEACHER
Well, most people consider what happened that day to be a terrible accident. Others believe it has to do with a folklore about Indians and spirits.

TARA
What do you mean spirits?

TEACHER
Well, not a spirit exactly. As you know, Walpole was settled by Puritans. The Puritans were not known for a fair justice system, and were particularly harsh in their treatment of women. Legend has it there was a girl who was destined to be burned at the stake.

(MORE)

TEACHER (cont'd)

I don't know exactly what happened but somehow she escaped from the stake, still burning, and ran off into the woods. The settlers didn't think anything of it until a few days later people started to notice things going missing--cats, dogs, little things like that. They thought the disappearances were odd, but nobody took notice until...

TARA

Until what???

TEACHER

The children...

TARA

What do you mean children?

TEACHER

About a week after the date of the execution children of prominent families in the town started disappearing too. The settlers blamed the Indians, and thought they had performed some pagan ritual using their children as a sacrifice. The Indians believed it was the spirit of the woman coming back to seek revenge for the injustice that was done to her. No one really knows for sure...

TARA

Okay, but what does that have to do with the Meyers twins?

TEACHER

Oh I don't know, but before they disappeared, other things started to disappear as well. Cats and dogs, anything people left outside. That's when the folklore started to come back. When the twins disappeared, the folklore became real.

TARA

That's not actually true though, is it?

The teacher takes a breath and looks at Tara. For the first time he looks like a tired, old man.

TEACHER

Tara, no one knows what happened.
There was so much mystery
surrounding that day. I remember
what happened clearly though...

11 EXT. PATH IN WOODS - DUSK - FLASHBACK 11

We see the path that the teacher is talking about and the bridge.

TEACHER (V.O.)

I had spent the afternoon giving
the girls extra help for a test
they were having in my class the
next day. They lived on South
Street close to the entrance to the
Town Forest, so they usually walked
home through the short cut in the
woods. You know, the one that
goes down by the old mill and
across White's Bridge. Anyway, as
I was walking to my car I thought
that the woods looked different
that day...darker than usual...

12 BACK TO SCENE 12

The teacher looks down shaking his head. He has a look of guilt on his face.

TARA

What's the matter?

TEACHER

Nothing, it's just that every time
I think about that day I wish I had
done something. Instead I figured
I was just tired and seeing things.
So I walked to my car and continued
on my way home.

13 EXT. WOODS - DUSK - FLASHBACK 13

The back of two girls can be seen. They are running frantically. A red scarf falls to the ground. You can hear the teacher's voice over the flashback.

TEACHER (V.O.)

Later that night I received a phone call from the police. They had known that I was the last person to see the girls and were calling to see if I knew anything about their disappearance. I told them I knew the girls had gone home in the woods like they always did. The police began searching the woods that night. The only evidence they ever found was a red scarf hanging off the machinery down by the old mill. They thought maybe the bodies were inside there, but when they tried to open the door they found it was sealed shut. Nothing more was ever discovered. The case remains unsolved to this day. You can read about it in the papers down at the library.

TARA

Do you believe it?

TEACHER

I don't know Tara, but there seem to be a lot of coincidences between that day and what happened hundreds of years ago.

Tara gets up to leave and walks slowly out of the room. She seems to be thinking over everything the teacher just said.

14

EXT. HOUSE FRONT STAIRS - DAY

14

Adam rings the doorbell of the house. He looks worried and tired. A GIRL opens the door.

GIRL

Hey Adam! What's wrong? Are you ok?

ADAM

Hey Alicia, yeah I'm fine but, I think there's something wrong with Tara.

ALICIA

What's the matter?

ADAM

I don't know.

He looks desperate. He seems like he wants to speak but has no words to articulate his thoughts.

ALICIA

I can't help you if you don't tell me what's wrong!

ADAM

She thinks she's seeing things.

He takes a deep breath as if he is relieved to be clean of those dirty words.

ALICIA

Things? I don't understand what kind of things?

ADAM

Well, more like thing.

ALICIA

I'm sure she's not crazy. I'll go over tonight and talk to her about this.

ADAM

No! Don't let her know I told you this. She'd kill me. I don't want to upset her right now.

ALICIA

Ok, breathe! I won't tell her anything that you told me. I swear.

ADAM

Thanks so much. I've been bugging out. Actually I need to get home now. Give me a call later. Thanks again.

ALICIA

Don't worry, I'll figure out what's wrong. For all I know it's probably girl problems yea know.

He gives a big smile.

ADAM

Alright stop there.

Adam turns to walk down the stairs. He has a jump in his step he seems encouraged after his talk with Alicia. She too has a big smile on her face, and gives a laugh.

ALICIA

Later.

15 INT. CAR - NIGHT 15

Alicia in her car, she pulls up to a house and parks on the street. She turns off the car, takes a deep breath and gets out.

16 EXT. DOORSTEP - SAME 16

Alicia walks up the stairs meekly. She bravely rings the doorbell.

Tara quickly answers the door.

TARA

Hey, What are you doing here?

ALICIA

I was bored, at least now we can be bored together.

They hug quickly. They shiver from the cold and really want to get inside quickly.

17 INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 17

They walk in suspicious and silent. They walk over to the couch and plop themselves down. A few seconds pass before either one speaks.

TARA

So what do you want to do?

ALICIA

I don't know?

TARA

I'm really tired do you think we can do this some other time?

ALICIA

No I don't want to go home. If I'm going be bored I rather be bored with someone else.

TARA

Yeah and I rather be sleeping.

ALICIA

What's the matter with you?

Tara takes in a deep breathe. She looks at her friend with a long pause looking intent on finding words to articulate her thoughts.

TARA

I'm sorry for being a jerk. I've had a really long day.

She looks disappointed that she was unable to confide in her friend. She still looks weighted down by what she saw today.

TARA

I failed a test and I'm just stressed. I think I need to just get some sleep, really. I'm sorry that you came here and now I'm making you leave I'm just in a daze.

ALICIA

It's alright. Get some sleep we can hang out later. So yeah talk to you then. Bye.

They both get up and walk to the door.

18

INT. CAR - NIGHT

18

Alicia is driving home she looks relieved. She picks up her cell phone and dials as she continues driving.

ADAM (V.O.)

Hello.

ALICIA

Hey, she's fine.

Adam takes a deep sigh.

ADAM (V.O.)

Oh thank God!

ALICIA

She's just really, really stressed out. She failed a test or something. She just needs to go to sleep.

Suddenly there is a crash and the car sputters to a stop.

ALICIA

Crap!

ADAM

What's the matter?

ALICIA

My car just died.

ADAM

Do you need me to come get you?

ALICIA

Yes please I'm on Redmur Road by the woods.

ADAM

Ok, I'll be there in a few.

ALICIA

Thanks, bye.

She hangs up the phone. She climbs out of the car.

19

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

19

Alicia opens the hood. There is a huge cloud of smoke that plumbs out of the hood. Alicia waves at the smoke. She can't see anything.

There's rustling in the woods. Alicia turns around but can't see anything through the smoke. She walks to her door and finds that she has locked her keys in the car and herself out.

ALICIA

Oh, that's great!

There are audible footsteps now in the woods. She looks through the smoke which is beginning to clear and sees the underbrush moving.

A look of fear comes over her face as she reaches in her pocket for her cellphone. She picks it up and calls but as she walks she trips and it drops from her hands and shatters.

She is all alone now surrounded by woods. She hears rustling all around her now. She is overcome with fright and is turning in a circle looking for whatever it is in those woods.

In a final attempt to save herself she begins to run. Footsteps can be heard behind her, she runs faster.

The creature gets closer and closer to her. She turns and trips and screams.

20 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 20

Tara walks into her bedroom, holding her cat in her arms. She puts down the cat on her bed and she tucks herself into bed for another attempt at falling asleep.

Tara is jolted awake by her phone.

TARA

Hello.

There is static for a brief moment before changing to dial tone.

Tara hears the screen door being blown about in the wind. She goes down stairs to close it.

21 INT. STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS 21

Tara makes her way down the stairs. She looks frightened by the stormy wind. Shadows are dancing on the walls which are being projected there by the bright full moon shining through the tree branches.

22 INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 22

Tara picks up her speed and looking very uncomfortable and antsy. She takes a glance out the window. The branches of the trees are creaking and scratching across the walls of the house and the windows.

23 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 23

The cat is eating its food at its spot in the corner.

24 INT. FAMILY ROOM - CONTINUOUS 24

Tara walks to the door meekly. She slowly reaches her trembling hand towards the door handle seeming to muster the courage to open it. She quickly opens the door to make the task go faster but the second the door opens the cat escapes.

TARA

Loomis, come back here!

Tara looks up to see a glance of the beast, a little clearer and a lot closer. She screams.

TARA

Oh my God!

Tara grabs a flashlight and a coat before she ventures outside with the beast to save the cat.

25

EXT. FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

25

Tara grabbing hugging herself keeping herself warm and seeming to prevent some shaking.

TARA

Loomis! Here kitty.

She clicks her tongue as a call to the cat.

The cat meows which makes Tara jump. She immediately narrows in on the location of the meow and as she looks it is getting closer to the dark and haunting woods.

Tara begins to follow the cat but as she does she catches another glimpse of the creature leaving the woods but loses sight of it behind some bushes.

Tara lets out a meek sound in a pathetic attempt to scream.

TARA

LOOMIS!

She begins to breathe heavier to make up for her quickening pulse.

She shines her flashlight frantically trying to find the cat and to see the creature.

Footsteps can be heard closing in on Tara. Tara makes a frighteningly fast turn but there is nothing there.

She begins to run in a last ditch effort to save herself. She can hear panting now, but it is not hers. She runs to escape the beast. She falls down dropping the flashlight. Now she is in the dark being guided only by the moon.

The breathing gets closer and closer. The sound of footsteps and the wind mixed with gasps of horror escaping Tara's mouth becomes deafening.

Tara all of a sudden falls face down in the ground. She quickly turns around to get a face to face look at the beast.

FADE OUT