

ENDAGERED SPECIES

By

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EXT. HOUSE - DAY

It is a small, white house, just the perfect size for an average three-person family. The grass is neatly cut, hedges are perfectly shaved, and a small circular flower garden sits in the middle of the yard, with a fountain standing in the center of it.

A silver car sits in the driveway, all of its doors are open. Actually, the front door of the house is wide open as well.

A tall, thin man walks out of the house carrying a large, plastic box in his arms. He is wearing beige khaki shorts, which are held up by a black belt, and a light blue polo t-shirt. He wears stylish glasses on his face, which match well with his sandy hair. This is PATRICK FONTAINE.

He crosses over to the car and slides the box into the trunk. He looks back up at the house just to see another person walking out of it.

This is JOSH FONTAINE, his son. Josh is around 19 years old, in his first year of college. He is holding another large box, much like his fathers, in his arms. He is wearing blue jeans and a black t-shirt, with a red hoodie over it.

JOSH

Where d'you want this?

PATRICK

In the back seat, I don't think it'll fit in the trunk.

JOSH

Kay...

Josh moves towards the back seat and slides the box through the door just as his father re-enters the house and his mother comes through the door.

Her name is KAYLA FONTAINE, and is short and a bit plump. She is wearing a pink t-shirt and white shorts with sunglasses covering her eyes. She is holding nothing, and just looks at her son.

KAYLA

Getting everything okay?

Josh looks to his mother.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
Yeah, everything's fine...

PATRICK comes back out of the door holding two duffel bags in his arms.

PATRICK
Excuse me, honey...

KAYLA moves to the side and lets Patrick pass her. He reaches the car and puts the bags down on the ground. He looks quizzically into the trunk of the car, tilting his head to one side, looking from the trunk to the bags, and then back at the trunk.

PATRICK
How am I gonna do this?

Josh comes around and looks into the trunk.

JOSH
Maybe if you move it like this...

Josh reaches in and moves the first box and then proceeds to fit the rest of the luggage into the trunk.

JOSH
There! Easy as pie!

He gives his father a pat on the back, and then moves back towards the house. He passes by his mother and disappears through the front door.

Patrick is still staring at the trunk, only now he's looking at it as if saying "how the hell did he do that?"

INT. JOSH'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Josh enters his room and looks around. He spots one last duffel bag on the floor picks it up. He crosses back out of his room, and closes the door behind him.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Kayla and Patrick are trying to fit a Coleman stove into the trunk. Josh reappears through the front door and Patrick sighs as he sees Josh's bag.

JOSH
Don't worry, pops, it'll fit.

(CONTINUED)

PATRICK

I dunno...

Josh goes to the trunk and begins to fiddle around with more stuff, and then fits his bag into it.

JOSH

There. So when are we gonna go?

His mother eyes him questioningly.

KAYLA

Why are you so excited to go to the cottage all of a sudden.

JOSH

Jackie's got a bunch of friends at her cabin, and they're gonna be havin' a kick ass party, and they wanted me to come...Pete's gonna be there too, but who gives a shit about that when the place is gonna be swarming with hot babes who just wanna...

Josh suddenly stops dead, aware that he his talking to his mother, who looks horrified at the idea. His father, on the other hand, is beaming, and gives his son a great pat on the shoulder.

PATRICK

Adda boy!

Patrick moves towards the driver's side, closing the back door on his way. He stops just as he is about to open his door, and he looks back up at his wife.

PATRICK

Kayla, honey, why do you look as if someone just shit on your tulips? Josh clearly isn't a virgin! He's his father's son through and through! Isn't the right, Joshy, boy?

Josh looks a bit uncomfortable.

JOSH

Uh, sure...

He closes the trunk and makes his way to the back seat.

KAYLA

He still shouldn't talk that way in front of his mother...

PATRICK

Oh, Kayla, just *chill*. Is that what they say, Josh? *Chill*?

JOSH

Yeah, sure...

KAYLA

Don't tell me to *chill*!

PATRICK

You're overreacting now, honey.

Kayla's face distorts in disbelieving anger. Her voice comes out shrill.

KAYLA

Overreacting? OVERREACTING!?

PATRICK

Calm down? Hey! Tell ya what! On the way out of town, we can stop and get an ice cream! How does that sound? Let's go! Fun, here we come!

Patrick quickly gets into the car. Josh and his mother look at each other for a brief moment where Josh shrugs his shoulders, and he too gets into the car. He is followed by his mother.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Kayla is still fuming with overreacting rage, and Patrick is smiling.

KAYLA

How can you even say I was overreacting?

Patrick looks to his wife calmly.

PATRICK

This is a happy zone, honey. If you can't stay happy, then the driver might not be happy, and if the driver isn't happy, then the car won't be happy, and if the car

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PATRICK (cont'd)
isn't happy, we all won't be happy,
cause the car will drive us right
off the road and we'll all go to
hell 'cause we weren't happy in the
last moments of our life.

Kayla stares blankly at her husband.

KAYLA
What?

PATRICK
Are you happy?

KAYLA
Wh -

Patrick glares at her.

KAYLA
Fine! I'm happy! Let's just go.

PATRICK
Good!

In the back seat, Josh rolls his eyes.

Patrick puts the car into gear and begins to roll backwards.

PATRICK
Oops! Wrong way! See what happens
when the car senses unhappy waves?

KAYLA
Will you shut up?

Patrick puts the car in forward and begins to roll out of
the driveway. He looks into the mirror and gives Josh a
wink and a smile. Josh smiles sarcastically back.

EXT. CAR/ROAD - SAME TIME

The car rolls out of the driveway and makes its way up the
street.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR/HIGHWAY - LATER - DAY

The car speeds down the highway. A gas station begins to come into focus.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Everyone is now silent in the car. Patrick is focusing on the road, Kayla is reading "The Notebook", and Josh is listening to an iPod in the back seat.

PATRICK

Hey, there's a gas station up ahead. Anybody need a drink? I know I could settle for a nice Root Beer right now...

KAYLA

Yeah, sure.

Patrick stares into the mirror at Josh.

PATRICK

How about you, Josh?

Josh doesn't hear Patrick due to his iPod.

PATRICK

Josh? Josh? Hellllo?

KAYLA

JOSH!

Josh jumps and takes the headphones off of his ears.

JOSH

Yo! What's up?

PATRICK

You need anything to drink?

JOSH

Uh, sure.

PATRICK

What do you want?

JOSH

Mountain Dew, I guess...

(CONTINUED)

PATRICK

Alrighty!

Patrick pulls the car into the gas station and stops it beside a pump.

PATRICK

What do you want, honey?

KAYLA

Pepsi.

PATRICK

Kay.

Patrick gets out of the car and begins to fill up the car. Once he is done doing that, he leaves to go into the store. Josh and Kayla sit in silence until...

KAYLA

Are you a virgin?

Josh is caught totally off guard by this question.

JOSH

What?

KAYLA

You heard me. Are you a virgin? Tell me the truth.

JOSH

I don't really feel comf -

KAYLA

Just tell me.

JOSH

I'm 19, mom. I've had 2 girlfriends. I guess the answer would be no...

KAYLA

Oh my...

Kayla begins to cry.

JOSH

Mom, it's not that big of a deal. I mean, you had me when you were what? 17? I don't have any kids...I'm being safe. There's nothing to worry about!

(CONTINUED)

KAYLA

What were you planning to do this weekend? Be a gigolo?

JOSH

What gives you that idea?

KAYLA

Cottage full of girls...

JOSH

I was joking, Mom.

KAYLA

Don't joke about things like that!

Patrick is walking back to the car.

JOSH

Let's just not talk about it anymore, okay?

KAYLA

Fine.

Kayla brushes some tears back as Patrick enters the car and starts handing drinks around. He notices the tears on his wife's face and looks concerned.

PATRICK

What's wrong, honey?

KAYLA

He really isn't a virgin!

JOSH

Oh my God...

PATRICK

Are you still on about that? It was obvious, didn't I tell you? Just don't worry about it...think about the happy zone!

KAYLA

Fine! Fine. I'll try not to think about it.

PATRICK

Good. Shall we continue?

Kayla nods, and Josh puts his iPod back on.

Patrick pulls out of the gas station and heads on toward the cottage...

EXT. CAR/HIGHWAY - LATER - DUSK

The sun is going down, and Josh and Kayla are sleeping. Patrick is slightly nodding off, but all the same keeping control of the car.

The car hits a small bump and Josh and Kayla wake up, groggy eyed.

JOSH
Are we there yet?

PATRICK
Obviously not.

KAYLA
How much longer, would you say?

PATRICK
Maybe another 20 minutes.

Kayla and Josh settle back in their seats and are about to close their eyes again when...

A mysterious shape runs across the road, causing Patrick to lose control of the car.

The car swerves off of the road and hits a tree.

A large branch CRASHES through the windshield and plants itself in Patrick's head. Patrick dies instantly.

The front of the car is damaged so badly, that Kayla's legs are crushed between the dashboard and her seat, and another branch is planted into her shoulder.

Josh is left pretty much undamaged, narrowly missed by another branch that went between the two seats. He just gets a bit of whiplash.

Kayla begins to scream in pain. Josh begins to panic, and starts poking his father.

JOSH
Dad? Dad! DAD! Wake up! Come
on, Dad. Wake up! DAD!

(CONTINUED)

KAYLA

I need you...to go...get help...

JOSH

I think he's dead...

KAYLA

Please...get
help...call...911...something...

JOSH

Uh, yeah...yeah, I'll be right
back...

Josh shakily gets out of the car, and stumbles around to the back. Here, he hunches over and vomits onto the ground.

He gets up and wipes off his face, and then takes his cell phone out of his pocket.

He opens it and notices that the battery has died out.

JOSH

Fuck me...

Josh walks to his mother's side and looks into the window.

The entire scene looks worse from this angle. Blood covers his father's entire body, and something else is seeping from the wound, possibly part of his brain.

His mother's entire right arm is crushed, and the dashboard seems to have almost cut her in half. If she gets moved, it's likely she'll die.

JOSH

Mom...my cell's dead...do you have
yours?

KAYLA

I-I-I don't...maybe...let me...

Kayla begins to reach for her phone, but Josh stops her.

JOSH

No...where is it? I can get it.

KAYLA

My right pocket...

Josh looks down. It seems to be impossible to reach. But he tries. As he is reaching in, he accidentally moves the branch a small bit and sends a fresh wave of pain to his mother.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
I can't get it...

KAYLA
That's fine. Try finding the ice
cream store...we should be close to
that.

JOSH
Yeah, I'll do that. Listen,
Mom...if I don't make it in
time...I love you...

Kayla smiles a bit, although it is clearly filled with
sadness and pain.

KAYLA
I love you too, honey. Go.

JOSH
Yeah, right...I'll be right back.

Josh leans into the car and gives his mother a kiss on the
forehead.

He then sets off down the road, the sun setting ahead of
him, slowly plunging him into darkness.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

It has been some time now, and Josh still hasn't found
help. The night is cold. He is shivering, his breath
forming in front of him. And he is scared.

Then, suddenly, a noise in the woods around him sounds
out. He looks around, startled. But he doesn't say
anything. Because this noise doesn't sound friendly. It
sounds sneaky, but heavy. And a deep, raspy breathing.

Josh shakes it off and continues to walk on. But he is
interrupted by more sounds in the forest around him.

There is a faint rumble, and a growl. A shape moves in the
woods behind him, causing leaves to rustle. Josh turns
around to see nothing.

JOSH
Fuck...fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck...

Josh moves on, quicker now...almost running. He moves on
for what seems like hours, and the noises have stopped.

(CONTINUED)

Finally, he feels relaxed. He calms down, and lowers his pace.

JOSH
Where the hell is this place?

Josh continues on only to be halted once again by the noises. They sound closer now, and it sounds like there are more sources.

Josh stops and looks around him. He turn around, repeatedly, trying to determine the source.

He then breaks into a run, not knowing where he is going.

The noises get louder and louder as he runs. A new sounds breaks through it all: a high-pitched, hyena-like laughter.

Josh begins to panic and tries to run faster. He comes up to the accident and stops. When he stops, so do the voices.

JOSH
Shit...

Josh approaches the car, with everything silent. He comes up to it, slowly...and then he looks inside. His father is missing. And his mother's upper half is gone.

JOSH
What the fuck?

Josh turns around only to see something creeping by in the trees on the other side of the road.

This thing is unearthly...is it big and hairy, like a Sasquatch. But it is hunched over, and large, porcupine-like spikes stick out of its back. It has long claws, and a strange, snout-like face. The best way to describe it would be half werewolf, half porcupine.

Josh jumps in fright.

He then hears something directly behind him, and turns around slowly, only to come face to face with on of the creatures. The red eyes are the last thing he saw as he...

INT. CAR - SUNSET

...wakes up in the backseat of the car, perfectly fine. His father is still driving, now humming merrily, and his mother is snoozing in the front seat.

Josh takes a deep breath and pushes back his hair.

JOSH

Wow.

Suddenly, he sees something run across the road, something eerily similar to the things in his dream. And the car swerves off the road, resulting in the same accident that created a nightmare.

THE END