

Rachel's Song

by

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INT/EXT TENT - NIGHT

A tent sits in a moonlit clearing near a river in the middle of a temperate rainforest.

SUPER: Olympic Peninsula

It would be quite serene if it weren't for the laughter coming from inside the tent.

COLIN and RACHEL, both fit and in their twenties, both in the same sleeping bag, both laughing.

Rachel pulls away from Colin's malicious hands.

RACHEL
Stop tickling.

COLIN
Sing it again!

RACHEL
No! It's too sad. I...

The crack of a branch outside, Rachel turns to listen.

RACHEL
Did you hear that?

Colin shakes his head. They both listen.

Outside it finally is serene; the only sound or movement is coming from the water in the river.

Inside Colin catches on, he gets his tickle claws ready.

COLIN
Aha! Trying to distract me, are you?

And he laughs faux-evilily.

RACHEL
No. Really, I heard something.
Col, you need to go look.

Mood spoiled.

COLIN
Awww Rach, It's cold out there.

Rachel gives him The Stare.

COLIN
Okay, Okay, I'll go look. But when I get back you better sing it for me.

Rachel nods half-heartedly.

COLIN
Promise?

Colin's turn to give her The Stare.

RACHEL
Okay. I promise.

COLIN
I'm going to hold you to that.

Rachel pouts.

RACHEL
Just go look.

Colin opens the tent flap.

RACHEL
And be careful.

Colin rolls his eyes and exits.

Rachel watches him exit. She sits quietly for a moment. The wind shakes the tent and she hugs herself safe.

A noise outside, a grunt. And another.

COLIN (O.S.)
What the?

Then a shrill male scream. Rachel is alarmed.

RACHEL
Colin?!

She edges toward the flap and calls his name again but there is no answer. Her hand reaches toward the flap.

Heavy breathing. She can hear heavy breathing outside. She pulls her hand away.

The tent shakes and shimmies. She cries as she screams.

RACHEL
Go away!

Then the tent flap opens and Colin's head pops in.

COLIN
There was nothing out there.

Rachel kicks him in the groin. He doubles over.

RACHEL
You son of a bitch.

COLIN
You have no sense of humor.

RACHEL
I thought you were dead.

Colin has crawled next to her still holding his crotch.

COLIN
You owe me a song.

RACHEL
No way.

COLIN
You promised.

RACHEL
I'm too angry.

COLIN
I'll start.

Colin begins humming the introduction, the music starts.

RACHEL
But it's so sad.

COLIN
Just sing.

RACHEL
Why?

COLIN
Because I love you.

Rachel shrinks back, thoughtful. Colin continues humming. Then Rachel smiles at him and she sings.

RACHEL
*When the world had got me
down/There was no...*

Outside the tent the moon hides behind a cloud. Rachel's voice waft through the breeze.

RACHEL (O.S.)
*...one else around/I felt I could
not go on/A moment later...*

A copse of trees near the tent rustles.

RACHEL
...I'd be gone.

Inside the tent, Rachel stops.

RACHEL
There it is again.

COLIN
There's nothing out ...

The tent vibrates with unexpected intensity. Both Colin and Rachel watch as the canvas is ripped away from above their heads.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A shadowy large creature.
- Brown fur.
- Rachel's face full of terror.
- Colin's determined face coming to the rescue...
- Thwacked back by a furry fist.
- Claws rip Rachel's clothes.
- Colin's head hits a rock, he watches in helplessness.
- Rachel is lifted away.
- Colin's eyes close.
- Dark woods, Rachel's screams drift away with distance.
- Black.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. RUINED TENT - DAY

Colin's eyes open. The sun causes him to squint. He looks around, confused. Then he's alarmed. He stands, looks out at the deserted woods and shouts.

COLIN
Rachel?

He walks toward the woods and calls out her name again. There is no answer. He turns, anguished.

INT. CAVE

In a dim corner crouches Rachel, her face grimy and dirty, she sobs.

A hulking shadow, ape-like, hunched over crosses into a bright patch of wall. A GRUNT can be heard off screen.

RACHEL

Oh God!

A ROAR, the shadows arms fling out. Rachel turns her head away.

RACHEL

Oh God! Oh God!

The shadow grows filling the bright patch.

EXT. FLAT BED TRUCK

Colin stands outside the truck and speaks into a radio handset. On the other end, a RANGER.

COLIN

...it was dark and it happened so fast. I remember fur and a smell, like an animal, but...

RANGER (V.O.)

Was it a bear, sir?

COLIN

No, it wasn't a bear, it was...

RANGER (V.O.)

More ape-like?

COLIN

Yes, that's it! More ape-like. Big foot. Big foot took her!

RANGER (V.O.)

I see. Sir. May I remind you that this is the emergency frequency.

COLIN

This is an emergency!

RANGER (V.O.)

It is never an emergency to play a practical joke.

COLIN

But...

RANGER (V.O.)

As a matter of fact it is illegal to use this frequency for joking purposes.

COLIN

This isn't a joke. Big foot took Rachel!

RANGER (V.O.)

Do you have any idea how many calls we get about Big Foot in one day, sir?

COLIN

No. But..

RANGER (V.O.)

Too many. And you know what they all have in common, sir? They are all hoaxes. Now if that's all..

COLIN

This isn't a hoax! Rachel. Oh God! She needs help. You've got to send...

RANGER

I've already dispatched one of our patrols. He'll be there as soon as he finishes up at the fishing competition. Please wait by your vehicle until he arrives. And may I remind you, sir, perpetuating a hoax on the Olympic Peninsula Rangers is punishable by...

INT. CAVE

Rachel cowers back from the approaching creature we now know to be BIG FOOT. As it comes out of the shadows its features become apparent.

Brown fur covers its entire body, it has an ape-like stance, its hands hang low, it stands in a hunched-over posture. Its face is a cross between an ape, bear and human. Its fangs betray its carnivorous ancestry.

It stops and stares at Rachel for a moment, curious, quiet. Rachel cowers further, afraid to look.

Then the creature opens its mouth, almost like a yawn. It throws its claws out and makes a sound like a whining dog.

Rachel looks at the creature. She's the curious one now.

Once again it whines. Rachel cocks her head. Then her fear returns as she watches the creature's claws. It reaches out for her. Rachel screams.

The creature roars, turning as it does. It pauses for a moment to show her its mighty back. Rachel seizes the opportunity, she bolts.

She doesn't look back as she heads for the entrance of the cave.

EXT. CAVE

Rachel runs from the cave entrance and into the woods without a moments hesitation. Inside the creature still roars.

EXT. FLAT BED TRUCK

Colin sits part-way in the cab of the truck, part-way out. He looks at his watch. Then he looks down the empty road. Then he stares into the woods. Once again at the watch.

He curses under his breath then he stands. He walks out into the middle of the road and looks far into the distance. Nothing. He shakes his head.

COLIN

Fuck this.

With renewed determination he heads to the truck cab. He forages around for a moment and pulls out a double-barreled shotgun. He rushes off into the woods shouting.

COLIN

Rachel!

EXT. WOODS

As Rachel runs through the forest she call to Colin. She hears the creature in pursuit behind her.

A rustle in the brush before her catches her attention. Brown fur between the leaves. How? She stops.

A bear lunges from the leaves, its snarling snout dripping mucous - its extended claws ready to snag a salmon.

Rachel is too shocked to react. She stands there like a deer in headlights.

A moment before the bear connects with her, Big Foot crashes out of the trees and with a loud thunk, knocks the bear away.

Rachel faints. The bear lay beside her, just as unconscious, a bleeding claw mark on its side.

Big Foot reaches down and lifts Rachel onto his shoulder. He hurries off into the woods.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS

Colin fords a stream, holding his shotgun well above the waterline. He calls out to Rachel in an ever hoarser voice.

He stumbles and nearly falls.

INT. CAVE

Rachel's eyes open and she looks at her surroundings.

The creature sits next to her. It hangs its head low. Sadness? Then it notices her and its expression seems to cheer.

It grabs a handful of fruit from the ground and thrusts it at her with an open palm. She recoils. The creature grunts and moves its hand a bit closer.

Rachel inspects the creature hand.

RACHEL

You want me to eat?

The creature grunts.

Rachel cautiously plucks a berry from out of the creature's hand. She moves it to her mouth and takes a bite. The creature seems pleased. Rachel smiles.

RACHEL

It's good.

The creature jiggles with ape-like laughter.

EXT. WOODS

Colin trudges through the brush calling out for Rachel. He seems frustrated, tired.

The bushes rustle up ahead. Brown fur is visible through the leaves.

Colin stops. He carefully takes aim with his shotgun, his finger ready to pull the trigger. The leaves part.

BANG!

Followed by a mighty ROAR. A big brown bear bounds from the brush.

Colin stands perfectly still. The bear sniff the air then looks directly at him. Another ROAR, this one meant as a reproach. Colin recoils at the sound, ready to run.

Then the bear turns and bounces off in another direction. It limps, its side covered in dried blood.

Colin expels the breath he didn't know he was holding.

INT. CAVE

With a smile on her face Rachel plucks another berry from Big Foot's palm and pops it in her mouth. Then she becomes serious. She looks directly at him.

RACHEL
I don't think you can understand
me...

Big Foot cocks his head.

RACHEL
...But I wanted to thank you for
saving me.

Big Foot grunts. He looks at Rachel with a perplexed expression.

RACHEL
It's funny but no one's ever done
anything like that for me before.

Then he makes a sound, like a whine. He throws his arms out on either side. Rachel seems a bit nervous.

RACHEL
What's wrong? I don't
understand...

Big Foot becomes agitated. The whining grows more intense.

RACHEL
I...You want me to sing.

Big Foot growls, he comes closer, puts his face in hers. Rachel's frightened but she sings softly in a trembling voice.

RACHEL
*When the world had got me down/
There was no one else around*

Big Foot seems pleased and he backs away. Rachel calms down and her voice becomes more clear, more beautiful.

RACHEL
*I felt I could not go on/ A
moment later, I'd be gone.*

EXT. WOODS

Her voice echoes though the trees.

RACHEL
*Then you walked into my life/
 from my hand you knocked that
 knife*

Colin enters. He hears her voice. He calls out to her.

RACHEL
*And you took me in your arms/
 where I felt so safe and warm*

INT. CAVE

Rachel sings to the creature. He seems to delight in her voice.

RACHEL
*When I'm feeling sad or lonely/
 I just think of your love only*

The creature reaches out to her. He touches her face, she flinches.

RACHEL
Everything else melts away

Then she gives in. She presses her cheek gently against its palm.

RACHEL
In your love I want to stay

She looks into the creature's eyes and he moves closer.

COLIN (O.S.)
 Rachel!

Both the creature and Rachel turn. Colin has his shotgun raised. It points at the creature.

COLIN
 When I count to three, move away
 from it.

The creature ROARS a mighty one. It stands to show its full height to Colin. Rachel shakes her head unable yet to fully grasp the turn of events.

COLIN
 One...Two...

RACHEL
 You can't shoot it...

The creature edges forward. Colin looks nervous.

COLIN
Not with you so close. Now move
away!

Another ROAR. Colin's trigger finger twitches.

RACHEL
No!

COLIN
I'm not going to argue with you
Rachel, now...

Rachel sings.

RACHEL
Nothing, they say, lasts forever

And the creature calms.

RACHEL
but I really thought that never

It forgets about Colin and turns toward Rachel. It holds its hand out. Rachel takes it.

RACHEL
would our love come to an end

Colin lowers his gun a bit, amazed by what he sees. Rachel looks deep into the creature's eyes.

RACHEL
Never thought I'd lose a friend

BANG!

Blood spurts from the side of the creature's head. Its pained shocked eyes never leave Rachel as it crumples to the floor. Rachel screams.

Colin wipes his brow.

COLIN
I thought he was going to kill
you.

Rachel looks up at Colin with anger and hatred in her eyes.

The creature grunts. Colin fumbles with his gun.

Rachel hurries to the creature side. The creature whines. He wants her to sing. She does.

RACHEL

*When you died, thought I would
too/ broken-hearted, I missed you*

The creature seems to be smiling but blood drips from the corner of its mouth. Tears stream down Rachel's face.

RACHEL

*Then I found you still inside/
in a place you couldn't hide.*

The creature closes its eyes one final time and stops breathing. Rachel holds its hand.

RACHEL

*When I'm feeling sad or lonely/
I just think of your love only*

She closes her eyes. The corner of her mouth turns up into a smile.

RACHEL

*Everything else melts away/ In
your love I want to stay*

THE END