

The Dark

©2010

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN

DARCY(O.S)
The light, the eternal radiance
that shines. Man has delved
into the inner light, hoping___

MR.CORNETTO(OS.)
Cut! Jesus...cut it!
(beat)
Darcy, this script is about the
dark. Not the fucking light!

DARCY(O.S)
Oh. I thought we were doing the
light one first.

MR.CORNETTO(O.S)
No. You're standing in a pitch
black room. There is no fucking
light.

DARCY(O.S)
Sorry...

MR.CORNETTO(O.S)
(mutters)
Why do I always get the ones
from Cleveland? Ready?
And...action!

DARCY(O.S)
The dark, the eternal blackness.
What mysteries lie beneath the...

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The door opens. DARCY(30), tall, medium build, enters.
He's agitated. Flings his EMPTY BRIEFCASE onto the sofa.
He paces up and down.

DARCY
Honey? We need to talk!
Something's happened...

LEILA(30), pretty brunette, comes in from the kitchen.

LEILA
Hi, darling. What's wrong?

DARCY
Today, I...what's that?

Leila looks down. She's holding a SPORTSBAG FULL OF DRUGS.

LEILA

For the party Saturday night,
remember? We were going to try
some new stuff.

DARCY

Oh...but, honey, I'm really
worried! Today I saw...

Leila sits on the sofa, pats the cushions.

LEILA

No, first, sit right here.
Relax and tell me all about,
well, whatever's bothering you.

Darcy nods, quickly sits. He squirms, fretting. Leila
produces a KNIFE, starts whittling a piece of wood.

DARCY

Can you...can you do another
PDA? God, they're so good.

LEILA

Sure, honey. Now, what happened
today that's got you so worked up?

Darcy takes some calming BREATHS.

DARCY

Ok, I was in the subway, on my
way home. There's a homeless
black guy always there, same
spot. Every day, I drop a
dollar in his tin.

LEILA

You're so sweet. Helping the
less fortunate.

DARCY

Yes, well, anyway...normally
the guy never says anything.
Just nods and plays his
harmonica. But today...

(beat)

Today was different.

LEILA

He thanked you?

DARCY

Well...no. He produced a
MEGAPHONE, and
started...announcing.

LEILA
 Wonderful! He thanked you
 loudly so everyone could see
 what a great person you are.

Darcy rises, shakes his head. He's really flipping out now...

DARCY
 He said...'beware of the dark'.

Silence. Leila waits patiently for more. Nothing. Finally...

LEILA
 That's it? 'Beware of the dark'?

DARCY
 (shudders)
 Yes.

LEILA
 Well...the dark what? The Dark
 Knight? Sauron, the Dark Lord
 of Mordor?

She GIGGLES.

DARCY
 It's not funny! His voice
 freaked me out. I didn't__

A KNOCK on the door. Leila gets up.

DARCY(CONT'D)
 Don't answer it. It'll be my doom.

LEILA
 Oh, don't be so silly, dear.

She opens the door. BRIAN(22)stands there, cleancut, cheery.

BRIAN
 Um, hi. I just moved into
 number six. I found this on the
 stairs before.

He holds out a BADGEM WALLET.

LEILA
 Why...that's my husband's!
 Darcy, you must've dropped it.
 This nice young man has
 returned it.

Darcy moves to the door. Leila hands him the WALLET.

DARCY
 Uh, thank you.

BRIAN

No problem. Glad to help. I'll see you around then.

LEILA

Thank you very much, um...?

BRIAN

The name's Brian. Brian Dark.

He smiles, continues along the hallway. Darcy MOANS, SLAMS the door shut. He rushes towards the bedroom. The SOUND of rummaging...

LEILA

Darcy, come on. You're being silly. It's just a coincidence, nothing more.

Darcy comes back, holding a SHOTGUN.

DARCY

Dark...his name was Dark.

LEILA

Oh, put that away. It's not even loaded.

DARCY

I...it's not?

LEILA

No. Remember the drummer we had next door, keeping us awake? I blasted his kit, MICROPHONE and DRUMSTICKS.

Darcy stands, head bowed.

DARCY

What about my GLOCK?

LEILA

Pawned it to buy the drugs. Look, you don't need any weapons! No one, or nothing pertaining to 'the dark', is going to hurt you.

DARCY

I...maybe you're right. I have been working hard lately.

LEILA

Exactly. So sit down and relax. Actually, you can call Jake and Tash while I have a shower.

DARCY

Why?

LEILA

Because I'm dirty.

DARCY

Huh? No, why do I have to call Jake and Tash?

LEILA

They're coming over for dinner. Tell them I got that wine I was after. They don't need to bring anything.

DARCY

Ok. I can do that.

Leila heads off to the bathroom. Darcy takes out his MOBILE, sits on the sofa.

TEN MINUTES LATER

LEILA(O.S)

Darcy? Could you get me a fresh towel, please?

DARCY

Sure, babe.

He heads down the hallway. A door opens, then SHUTS.

LEILA(O.S)

Thanks, honey. I__

DARCY(O.S)

Aargh! Aargh! It's here!

LEILA(O.S)

Jesus, Darcy, you scared me! What's wrong now?

DARCY(O.S)

The dark...I see it!

(beat)

It's on you.

Silence.

LEILA(O.S)

Darcy, that's my pubic hair.

DARCY(O.S)

No, it's...it's the dark. It's after me.

LEILA(O.S)
Darcy, you stupid prick, it's
my pussy.

DARCY(O.S)
I...but...

LEILA(O.S)
I stopped shaving last month,
remember?

DARCY(O.S)
I...oh, yeah...sorry.

LEILA(O.S)
You're acting childish. Now,
get out of here, and sit
quietly till Jake and Tash arrive.

LATER

Leila sets the table, a WINEGLASS next to each plate, A
KNOCK on the door. Darcy opens it. JAKE(29), solid, and
TASH(30), petite blonde, enter. Jake carries an ELECTRIC
GUITAR.

JAKE
Hey guys. Thanks for the
invitation. Brought my axe over
for a sing-song.

LEILA
Cool! Hi, Tash.

TASH
Hey, Leila. Oh, here's that
BOOK I borrowed from you. Great
read!

DARCY
Well, this is nice and comfy,
isn't it? Good friends, good
food, some home grown music.

Jake claps him on the shoulder.

JAKE
You're a great host, Darce.

LATER

The four sit around the table, empty plates in the middle.
Darcy is cheerful, snapping his fingers at forgotten worries.

DARCY
...and he said, 'beware of the
dark'. Ooh, I was really scared...

He laughs. Leila frowns, joins in. Jake and Tash crack up.

JAKE

That's my Darce meister! Gives
the finger to the unknown!

(beat)

Hey, I learned a new song.
Springsteen...'Dancing In The
Dark'. Wanna hear it?

Darcy falls silent, grins macabrely.

LEILA

Uh, maybe later. Coffee anyone?

LATER

The four relax in the sofa and chairs. Each has a steaming
COFFEE MUG.

TASH

Is your mom looking after the
kids, Leila?

LEILA

Ah, no.

(beat)

They're locked in their rooms.

JAKE

What? But why?

DARCY

Budget restraints. No children
allowed in this script.

LEILA

Or animals.

TASH

So...Fido?

LEILA

Dumped at the Shelter this
morning.

Silence.

DARCY

Hey, I have a great idea. Let's
have a Christmas party! Right
here, right now! I found all
this stuff in the cupboard on
the weekend.

JAKE

Christmas in April? Yeah, what
the hell!

Darcy rushes out. Tash looks dubious.

LEILA
I know...it's silly. But it'll
keep his mind of this 'dark'
rubbish.

Darcy comes back in, with a cardboard box.

DARCY
Ok, cool. We got MISTLETOE -
kissy kissy, Tash - a CAROL
SHEET...let's see...even a
SNOWBALL!

Suddenly, the lights go out! Utter darkness. Darcy SCREAMS.

DARCY
The dark! Aargh, we're all dead!

JAKE
Calm down, man. It's just a
blackout.

The SOUND of rummaging again. A cigarette lighter FLICKS,
igniting a fiery TORCH. Leila holds it aloft.

TASH
Wow, nice illumination. Creates
a real jungle theme.

LEILA
Thanks! I got it from__

Darcy SCREAMS again! He points to the wall. THE DARK is
written in huge, black letters. A SPRAY CAN sits on the
table.

JAKE
Fuck me...now what?

DARCY
We're doomed! It's here! In the
room with us.

He grabs the TORCH from Leila, waves it around.

LEILA
Darcy, be careful with that.

Tash searches in the Christmas box, pulls out a SPARKLER.
She lights it from the TORCH.

JAKE
You know, I've just realised
something.

TASH
What's that, dear?

JAKE
Darcy's name...it means 'dark'
in Irish Gaelic.

The others look at him. Even Darcy halts his craziness.

JAKE(CONT'D)
And Leila? Your name is Arabic.
It means 'dark as night'.

Silence.

DARCY
I didn't know that.

LEILA
Me neither.

TASH
Wow...but what can all this mean?

Jake stands up, produces a MAGIC WAND from his arse. He CHANTS, waves the WAND. A blinding FLASH. The lights come back on.

DARCY
Jake? Have you gone mad too?

Jake is now an old black man in rags.

TASH
Where did you come from?
Where's Jake?

JAKE
Oh, I'm still Jake. I get
around, is all.

DARCY
You're...you're the homeless
guy. From the subway.

LEILA
'Beware of the dark'...it's you.
You're the dark. The dark man...

A moment of impending climax.

JAKE
(sighs)
No, I'm just a lowly beggar.
They gave me this MAGIC WAND
to wrap things up. This script
was going nowhere.

TASH

True.

LEILA

Wait! Isn't the script meant
to be twelve pages?

JAKE

Too bad. I'm over it.

DARCY

Yeah, put the fucker out of
it's misery.

Jake waves the WAND. Everything goes totally BLACK.

CAMERA MAN(O.S)

You're sure that shower scene
can't be a visual?

MR.CORNETTO(O.S)

No. Bathroom tiles are out, I'm
afraid.

(beat)

How about a meteor shower?

CAMERA MAN(O.S)

That's a start.

(beat)

Over a nudie beach?

THE END.