

The Mother
By
Julio Ollarvia

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1203 W Oak St.
Floor 1
Norristown Pa 19401
njameskirk@aol.com

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD NIGHT

A woman wearing a yellow shirt (MOMMY, 30's) and a small boy (DANNY, 4-5) travel down a winding mountain road in a subcompact car. The child is sleeping in the front seat, but stirs a little. The child wears a seat belt; the mother does not. A bunch of stuff loaded in the back.

MOMMY

Hey, sleepy.

DANNY

Hmm. Hi Mommy.

MOMMY

We'll be home in an hour, honey. What did you think about the mountains?

DANNY

Fun. I like the snow tubes.

MOMMY

Think you'd want to go back some time?

DANNY

Yes.

Danny falls back asleep. Mommy yawns and brushes his hair with her free hand. They drive along this road, which has no signs of life otherwise.

Mommy turns on the radio, low so not to disturb her child.

Endless trees pass by on both sides of the road, a big lonely road sign far up ahead. Mommy lowers her head. Fade to black. Scene screeches back abruptly as we see them blow right through that yellow sign and off the road.

A rocky descent down a woody hill, just missing tree after tree until boom. They hit the thickest tree around. Mommy is thrown through the windshield, past the tree.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

She awakes at what may be minutes or hours later. She wills herself from the ground, through pain and stiffness and looks around, seeing the car 20 feet back. She limps to the vehicle in haste, seeing her son move in the car. The world seems a bit more blue than it did.

MOMMY

Danny! Danny, I'm
coming! Everything's gonna be
okay!

She attempts to open the car door. The handle doesn't even budge under her efforts. She puts her foot on the car for leverage and gives it one last great pull. The handle moves an inch before becoming unbearable for her.

MOMMY

Danny.

She knocks on the glass.

MOMMY

Danny, baby. This door won't
open. Try my door on the other
side... Danny! Look at Mommy!

Danny, sobbing gently, seems to become preoccupied with the driver side window of the car as she speaks on the passenger side.

MOMMY

Danny!

Danny leans over to the driver seat and puts a limp, bruised arm over his shoulder. Mommy is taken aback as she realizes her body is still in the driver seat.

DANNY

Mommy, please wake up.

MOMMY

(Backing away)

Oh, God. I'm so sorry.

Mommy falls to her knees. She wretches with sorrow on her hands and knees. A strange and ominous shadow envelops the area beyond the car, unnoticed by all.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE DAWN

Mommy sits at the base of a nearby tree. Her son sleeps in the car. She watches.

Suddenly it sounds like an engine in the distance. She looks up towards the road. She starts with a fevered rush up to the road.

Sure enough, a car is passing as she gets there, and she tries to wave it down.

MOMMY

Help! Please, my boy needs
help! Hey!

The car passes by, seemingly unfettered. But it screeches to a halt 40 yards away and just sits there for a moment.

EXT. ACCIDENT CONTINUOUS

The blue hue of the world is gone as the car continues to wait. Looking back, Mommy is nowhere to be found. The car's break lights brighten and we hear the sound of it changing gears. We hear the same thing a second time, the lights dim, and the car takes off in its previous trajectory.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE CONTINUOUS

The blue hue is back. Mommy runs after the fleeing car, in futility.

MOMMY

Wait, dammit! Wait! He's gonna
die!

She hears another vehicle, but nothing like the last. The sound is sharp and high pitched, like what you hear when you try to start an engine when it's already running. The sound draws her back to the accident, where she sees a tall, shadowy ENTITY tinkering under the hood of the mangled car.

MOMMY

Danny!

She hears the muffled scream of her son. The entity looks up the hill and smiles inhumanly at her.

MOMMY

Get your hands off of him you son
of a--

She runs headlong down the hill and straight into the Entity. It disappears as she hits the ground.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE AFTERNOON

Mommy lays in the back seat of the car, staring out of the window. Danny remains in the front seat. His mother's body in the seat next to him.

MOMMY

I know you probably don't understand what's happened to me. And I know it's scary without me but you have to leave me, Danny. I can't think of any other way this is gonna work out... You don't hear a word I'm saying do you?

Danny rubs his eyes, looks to the back of the car. Hopeful, Mommy raises her head, then sits up.

MOMMY

Danny?

Danny reaches in the back of the car to the floor. Grabs a cooler and looks into it. He lets the empty cooler drop to his feet.

MOMMY

(sighing)

You're hungry? I should've got something for the trip home... There's gotta be something I can do.

She exits the car, without opening the door, of course. She looks every which way. Then up towards the tree canopy. She walks to one of the thicker trees and starts climbing.

EXT. ACCIDENT AFTERNOON

A harmless tree limb falls on the roof of the car.

After resting on the roof for a moment the limb starts to slip down the passenger side window. It somehow gets stuck between the window pane and the car door. Raspberries adorn the limb.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE AFTERNOON

Mommy struggles to hold the tiny limb up to the window, as if it weighed a hundred pounds.

MOMMY

(through clenched teeth)

You see that, buddy? Take it. It's good.

Pensively, Danny rolls down the window and grasps the berry branch.

MOMMY
 (Relieved)
 There you go.

She gets back in the back seat of the car. Danny starts eating.

MOMMY
 That's what me and your uncle
 Steven would eat all the time, when
 we were outside. Grandma used to
 say "stop eating those
 berries. You'll ruin your dinner!"

Mommy chuckles at the memory. Danny ignores her, eating voraciously. She looks at Danny with longing.

MOMMY
 We're gonna make it, buddy. You
 and me against the world.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

The woods are alive with creepy sounds. Insects, an occasional distant cry of a fox. Most creepy of all is the sound of dead leaves crackling all around as branches/nuts fall, and/or animals amble around. Mommy sits behind her son who's sleeping with a blanket around him. She startles at every sound.

MOMMY
 I should've known not to go the
 road less traveled. Twenty-four
 hours, not a single car passes
 us. I won't let you die, Danny-I
 simply won't.

The Entity appears out of the dark woods. He walks towards the car, stops, stares for a moment and unleashes his deadly grin before turning and disappearing into the woods as calmly as he arrived.

MOMMY
 Yeah, that's right, bitch! Turn
 the other way!

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

Something is hitting Danny's window. Danny wakes to see what it is. They're berries, but not the same berries as before. They're small and smooth, and black. Pokeweed berries.

Mommy finds the Entity chucking these berries from a tree branch. Danny motions to roll down his window.

MOMMY

NOOO!

Mommy reaches around her dead body and attacks the car horn. It beeps, scaring the Entity off into the blackness and upsetting Danny.

DANNY

Mommy!

MOMMY

Don't eat those, Danny. Don't you get any ideas. Mommy did NOT give those to you.

She tries to hold her son. She is reduced to tears.

MOMMY

Leave him ALONE! DAMN YOU!

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE DAY

Mommy whispers into her sons ear as he sits there, terrified. Her voice raises with her frustration.

MOMMY

Danny. Go. Get out of the car. Danny. Nobody can help because they can't see us. Mommy'll be okay right here, I promise. Danny... GET THE HELL OUT!

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

Establishing shot shows the Entity crawling around the car like a hyena. The Entity is completely silent as it moves.

Mommy lays in the back seat as usual. Danny sits up front. Mommy watches the entity pace.

MOMMY

He gets bolder by the night,
Danny. We've done well up until
now but...I don't know what he's
capable of. I'm failing you
again. He gets stronger. I get
weaker... No, I can still save you,
Danny. We can still get out of
this but I need your help. You
hear me, Danny?

Danny doesn't respond.

MOMMY

I need you...to play your CD. Just
like you always do. Okay? Don't
worry, Mommy won't be mad. Turn it
up as loud as you want.

She exits the car. She stares down the Entity which now
slouches into a ball several yards away, alert.

MOMMY

You want a piece of my son, huh?

No response from the Entity. She walks cautiously towards
it.

MOMMY

Not even over my dead body. You
got that? Not happening!

Just then, the faint sound of a car in the distance. She
looks up to the road and as she does the Entity seizes the
opportunity to attack, ravaging her with shadowy, unseen
claws and a mouthful of sharp teeth.

She screams, but stands steadfast, bludgeoning the Entity
with lady fists. It retreats into the shadows. Mommy runs
up to the road and attempts to pull the broken yellow sign
upright again. She nearly manages it when suddenly attacked
by the Entity again. It swarms around her like a force.

The sign falls back down. Mommy steps into the middle of
the road as she is attacked. The entity grabs her by the
hair, and goads over it's prey as the headlights of the
oncoming car engulf them. The Entity is banished by the
light as the car screeches to a stop. The sound of a loud
concussive thud is heard.

EXT. ACCIDENT NIGHT

The Driver and several Passengers are searching the road. One has a flash light.

DRIVER

Oh, shit. Oh shit, please tell me I didn't hit anyone.

PASSENGER 1

There's nothing out here, dude.

DRIVER

You saw it, right? It was right THERE!

PASSENGER 2

Maybe it was a deer, and it just ran off.

DRIVER

What d'you think I'm makin' this up? I know what I saw, I was probably the only one paying attention. It was a woman with a yellow shirt on. And some jeans, I think.

FEMALE PASSENGER 3

Don't spook me out can we go already? Sooner we get outta these boonies the better.

PASSENGER 1

Hey look at that! Is that what you saw?

Passenger 1 refers to the yellow sign on the side of the road, that seems to be jutting out the ground at a very acute angle.

DRIVER

How the hell did I hit that?

The Driver walks up to the sign. It falls flat to the ground making him jump. The driver inventories the area, lighting the hill with the flashlight. Sees the car.

DRIVER

HEY THERE'S SOMETHING DOWN THERE! A CAR!

The driver rushes down the hill. His light illuminating the canopy.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

Mommy lays belly down next to the sign, exhausted, huffing.

PASSENGER 2 (O.S.)
No kiddin' someone down there?

DRIVER (O.S.)
Uh, a woman. And her kid.

Several footsteps pass her by as Mommy crawls along the highway toward a towering beam of light at the other side of the road. She crawls, without the use of her legs.

The Entity snakes out of a shadow beside her and stands next to her. She looks up at him, turns around and lays on her back. She is beaten. The entity picks her up by the waist like she was weightless and carries her away from the light.

Pan back to reveal the writing on the sign: Slow down, Save a life. Yours. A message from your LIMMBO CTY Sheriff's Dept.

Fade to Black