

Bright

By

Tom Peterson

Divinity Films

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

THE SOUND OF OBJECTS SLIDING AGAINST WOOD OUTSIDE. METAL LOCKS BEING UNDONE. The door knob turns.

The light from the hallway beams into the once pitch black room. A SILHOUETTED FIGURE stands in the entrance staring inside.

A tall, built man. The CAPTOR.

He takes several steps into the room and immediately halts. He stares down.

CAPTOR

Why are you on the floor? I gave you a bed to sleep in.

THE SOUNDS OF SOFT SLIDING AGAINST THE WOOD FLOOR.

In the faint light, a young girl, ANNA moves as she lays on the floor. She slowly sits up. Her eyes squinting tightly as they adjust to the intense light.

CAPTOR

I give you things, and you don't use them. Why won't you take my gifts to you?

ANNA

(soft)

Thank you.

Anna's voice is dry and slightly hoarse.

ANNA

But I don't need anything.

The captor is still as he stares at her.

ANNA

You need to eat.

He turns and heads into the hallway. Anna partially enters the light. Her skin pale. She appears weak.

The captor returns with a tray. He sets it on the bed. Bread, an apple, and water.

ANNA

After you eat, you can tell me why you won't sleep in your bed. It's more comfortable to eat up here.

Anna stares at the light on the floor.

The captor turns away. Appearing dissatisfied. He stands and moves toward the entrance. As he stands in the doorway, he looks down at Anna.

CAPTOR

Eat up and get some sleep, Anna.
See you soon.

As he closes the door, the ray of light decreases and fades. Anna watches it until it leaves her sight.

THE SOUND OF LOCKS PUT IN PLACE AND OBJECTS SLID ACROSS THE FLOOR.

Anna stares at same spot in the darkness and silence. She turns to face her bed. Slowly crawls toward it.

She reaches the middle and pats around the thin carpet mats meant to be her bed covers. She finds the nearly empty tray at the corner of the bed.

In the dark, the sound of water being drank and a bite into an apple.

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

THE FAMILIAR SOUND OF OBJECTS AND LOCKS REMOVED.

As the door opens, Anna is laying in the same place on the floor. The light extends over her. She moves closer into it.

The captor stands in the doorway looking upon her.

He shuts off the light in the hallway. Anna stares at the same spot. He turns the light back on.

The captor sighs and enters the room. He lifts the tray of an apple core and an empty glass. Sets it back on the bed.

He pulls a chair from the corner and slides it into the light. He sits before Anna.

CAPTOR

Have I ever hurt you? Did I ever
put you in chains like a dog? Or
ever hit you or touch you? Have I
ever crossed the line?

Anna continues to stare at the light on the floor.

ANNA
(softly)

No.

CAPTOR
Then why?

He leans forward in the chair.

CAPTOR
Why won't you show me the same appreciation I have for you? Why do you not accept my hospitality? Why aren't you more excited for the things I do for you?

Anna remains silent. He stares at her for a moment. He recedes back against his chair. He looks around the room.

CAPTOR
You know you're lucky. Most men that find girls like you aren't so nice. They're very cruel. But I've never been cruel to you have I, Anna?

Anna slides her hand into the light.

CAPTOR
It's been over three months. You and I have become good friends haven't we?

He glances down at Anna. She offers no response.

The captor tilts his head back. He stares at the ceiling. He sighs and returns. He stares at Anna as he leans closer.

CAPTOR
What if... I let you go then?

Anna's hand becomes still in the light. The captor watches intently. Anna is still. Her eyes don't blink.

CAPTOR
How would you like that? Would that make you happy? Make you excited?

Anna slowly lowers her head to the floor with her hand in the light. Her eyes longing.

CAPTOR

That's what you want isn't it? You want to go? You want to leave your room. Leave... me.

Anna doesn't respond.

CAPTOR

If that's what you want... then go.

She remains in the same place.

CAPTOR

Go ahead. Isn't that what you want?

ANNA

(softly)

No.

The captor freezes. His eyes wide.

CAPTOR

W-What? You don't want to leave? You can go right now.

ANNA

I'll stay.

He appears at a loss for words.

CAPTOR

But I thought you wanted freedom?

She is silent for a moment.

ANNA

(softly)

I'm always free.

The captor stares at her with trembling eyes.

A LOUD SNAP IS HEARD FROM UPSTAIRS. The captor jumps in his chair. Anna remains still.

OFFICERS

Police!

Loud boot steps are heard throughout the house above. The captor stairs up with his mouth open.

ANOTHER LOUD SNAP AND A CRASH. Boot steps heard coming down a wooden stairs.

The captor slowly looks down at Anna. In the doorway flashlight beams are visible. An officer steps in the light followed by others and a detective.

OFFICER

Let me see your hands. Now!

The captor slowly raises his hands. A completely bewildered expression in his face. TIME FLOWS SLOWLY.

The officer moves to him and pulls him off the chair onto the floor. They tighten hand-cuffs on his wrists and frisk him.

The detective kneels beside Anna. He looks at her softly.

DETECTIVE

Anna.

She slowly looks up to his calm eyes.

DETECTIVE

My name is Detective Hanson. Are you hurt?

ANNA

(softly)

No.

DETECTIVE HANSON

We've been looking for you for a long time. It's time to go home.

The detective holds out his hand to Anna. She looks at it. Slowly raises her hand and places it in his. He helps her up as an officer places a blanket around her.

As they escort Anna out of the room, she stares up at the light from the hallway. The captor strains to look up at her as she passes by him.

Anna moves past the light bulb in the hallway. The light overtakes all sight.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A woman and a man stand on the patio with the detective as they watch Anna step onto the grass. She slowly reaches down and brushes her hands through it. The gentle breeze flows around her.

Anna looks up at the soft, sun-light streaming down on her through the treetop. She closes her eyes and smiles.