

DON'T LOOK

FADE IN:

EXT. BACKROAD - NIGHT

Rural Indiana. A white SUV travels down a desolate backroad with vast cornfields on either side.

Lightning flashes in the sky and thunder RUMBLES in the distance.

INT. JESSIE'S SUV - NIGHT

A dreamcatcher hangs from the rearview mirror and a pair of EYES stare in the reflection.

JESSIE (26) looks away from the mirror and turns back to the road. She wears nurse scrubs and her blonde hair in a ponytail. A natural beauty with no make-up on.

Jessie yawns and reaches for the stereo.

The clock reads: 1:15 a.m.

She turns it on and "Seein' Red" by Dustin Lynch plays on the country station. She turns the volume up and TAPS the steering wheel to the beat of the song.

Her cell phone in the console BEEPS. Low battery.

Jessie looks around for the charger as she unknowingly gravitates toward a DEER on the side of the road.

She looks back up and cries out. She serves out of the way as the frightened deer dashes into the cornfield.

Jessie glances back in the mirror and the weather service alert BLARES on the radio. She jolts and quickly turns the volume down.

Another DEER leaps in front of her SUV and she panics.

She slams her foot on the breaks and tries to swerve out of the way, but is unable to avoid the sickening THUD of the deer's body.

EXT. BACKROAD - NIGHT

Jessie gets out of her SUV and notices smoke rising from under the hood.

JESSIE

Shit.

She goes to the front and covers her mouth with her hand.

The deer, split in half, clings to life in a pool of blood as it convulses and struggles for breaths.

JESSIE

Oh, God...

Lightning flashes and illuminates the horror Jessie's face. Thunder BOOMS around her and she rushes back to her SUV.

INT. JESSIE'S SUV - NIGHT

Jessie hops inside and turns the key in the ignition. The engine cranks, but won't start.

JESSIE

Come on.

She tries again. Nothing.

JESSIE

Come on, come on. Please start.

She tries one more time. Still nothing.

JESSIE

Fuck!

Jessie POUNDS her fist on the steering wheel.

She grabs her cell from the console and tries to turn it on, but it's dead. She cries out and tosses it back down.

Tears fill her eyes and she looks out the window. Something captures her attention and she jumps back out.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Cornstalks tousle as Jessie emerges from the cornfield.

She stops and observes the old, neglected brick farmhouse in front of her.

She takes a deep breath and trudges through the knee-high grass as she makes her way to the front door. She KNOCKS and the door slowly CREAKS open.

ROBIN (40s) stands at the doorway and eyes Jessie suspiciously. Her long, thinning hair hangs unkempt over her red flannel nightgown. Gaunt, frail, and enduring an illness.

JESSIE

Hi... Do you have a phone I can use to call for help? My car won't start.

Robin shakes her head 'no' as she HACKS into a tissue.

Jessie raises an eyebrow.

JESSIE

You don't?

Robin shakes her head 'no' again.

ROBIN

Got no use for one. No one to call and no one to call me... Where you headin'?

JESSIE

Home... I was, anyway.

ROBIN

How much farther?

JESSIE

Probably a good ten miles.

ROBIN

You can stay here tonight, if you'd like. Least 'til you can get you some help in the mornin'.

JESSIE

Thank you, but I really need to try and get back home. Is there anyone else close by?

ROBIN

Not in walkin' distance, honey. And with the storm comin', it's not a good idea to be outside.

Jessie ponders.

ROBIN

Like I said, you're more than welcome to stay here tonight. Got plenty of extra room.

JESSIE

I don't want to bother you, though.

ROBIN

Oh, honey, you wouldn't be a bother at all. To be honest, I actually wouldn't mind the company... Don't get too many visitors 'round here.

Jessie gives Robin a heartbroken smile.

JESSIE

Thank you... I don't know what to say. This is so nice of you.

Robin smiles back.

ROBIN

You don't have to say anything, honey. It's no trouble at all... Come on in.

Robin moves out of the doorway and Jessie steps inside.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Spacious, but cluttered with junk. A small, outdated loveseat is the only piece of furniture to sit on.

Robin and Jessie walk in.

ROBIN

Please forgive my mess... Like I said, no one ever comes over and I haven't had much energy to clean up 'round here.

JESSIE

Oh, you're fine. If it makes you feel any better, I haven't cleaned my house in awhile, either.

Robin HACKS into another tissue. She sits down on the loveseat and catches her breath.

Jessie surveys her.

JESSIE

Can I help you with anything?

Robin shakes her head 'no'.

ROBIN
Nothin' you can do, honey.

JESSIE
What's wrong? If you don't mind me asking.

ROBIN
Cancer. Stage four.

Jessie lowers her head.

JESSIE
I'm so sorry.

ROBIN
Oh, don't be honey. It's all just a part of God's big plan.

Robin observes Jessie's nurse scrubs.

ROBIN
You a nurse?

JESSIE
Assistant. I'm Jessie, by the way.

ROBIN
Nice to meet you, Jessie. I'm Robin... Can I get you somethin' to eat? Drink?

JESSIE
No, I'm ok. Thank you, though... I'm just really tired.

ROBIN
Oh, honey, go ahead and get you some rest, then. Don't let me keep you up... There's a spare room at the far right end of the hall upstairs.

Jessie smiles.

JESSIE
Thanks again for everything. I really appreciate it.

ROBIN
You're welcome, honey... You may hear a little noise. If you do, don't worry. It's just my daughter, Scarlet.

Jessie nods.

ROBIN

She's different. Not social at all. She stays in her room all the time and doesn't like people lookin' at her... So whatever you do, don't look through the keyhole at her.

JESSIE

I won't bother her. I promise.

ROBIN

Oh, I trust you, honey. I'm just a little worried 'bout her botherin' you.

JESSIE

There shouldn't be a problem. I'll probably crash as soon as I lay down.

ROBIN

Well get you some rest, honey. Have a good night.

JESSIE

Thanks. You too.

Jessie smiles at Robin and makes her way up the stairs.

INT. FARMHOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jessie slowly makes her way down the long, narrow hallway.

She goes to the door at the far right end and stops. She turns around and looks at the door across the hall.

Light shows through underneath. Scarlet's room.

Jessie briefly smiles to herself, then turns back around and opens the door. She enters the guest room and closes the door behind her.

INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Small and outdated. Complete with bed, dresser, and tacky wallpaper.

Jessie stands at the window and looks outside.

Lightning strikes a nearby tree and illuminates the entire cornfield. Thunder BOOMS the earth.

Jessie shivers and closes the curtains.

She scurries across the room and turns the light off.

Then goes to the bed and lays down.

Silence.

Lightning flashes and thunder BOOMS again.

Silence again.

Then a THUMP.

Jessie sits up and listens. THUMP.

She slowly gets out of the bed. THUMP.

She heads toward the door. THUMP.

INT. FARMHOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

The guest room door opens and Jessie slowly steps out into the hall. THUMP.

She tiptoes across. THUMP.

She stops in front of Scarlet's door. THUMP.

She slowly reaches for the doorknob. THUMP.

She hesitates. THUMP.

She bends down instead and peaks through the keyhole in the door.

SCARLET (12) sits Indian-style in the corner of her room. She wears a white nightgown and has long black hair. She purposely bangs her head on the wall. THUMP. And again. THUMP.

Jessie stands up and shakes her head. She listens.

Silence.

Jessie hesitates.

She takes a deep breath, then bends back down and peaks through the keyhole again.

Something bright RED covers the entire hole now.

Jessie stands back up and listens.

Still silence.

She bends down once more and peaks through the keyhole again.

The mysterious red still covers the entire hole.

Jessie stands back up and shrugs.

She sighs and sneaks across the hall to the guest room.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jessie enters the living room. She sees Robin slouched over on the loveseat and she panics.

JESSIE

Robin?

Jessie rushes over to Robin and gently lifts her up.

Robin stares up at her with icy eyes and an empty expression.

JESSIE

Oh, no...

Tears fill Jessie's eyes and she rushes up the stairs.

INT. FARMHOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Jessie rushes down the hallway to Scarlet's door. She tries to open it, but it's locked.

JESSIE

Shit.

She KNOCKS on the door.

JESSIE

Scarlet, can you hear me?

No answer.

She POUNDS this time.

JESSIE

Scarlet, open the door!

Still no answer.

Jessie bends down and looks through the keyhole.

Scarlet's black hair covers her face as she hangs lifelessly from the ceiling fan.

Jessie quickly stands up and covers her mouth with her hand. She stumbles backwards, then catches herself and scrambles down the hall.

EXT. BACKROAD - DAY

Jessie bolts down the deserted backroad toward her untouched SUV and notices a red sports car approaching. She stands out in the road and waves the car down.

The car stops in front of her and the passenger window rolls down. Jessie rushes over to the window and faces the DRIVER, a businessman with glasses.

DRIVER

Car troubles?

JESSIE

Yes... And I need to call the police to report a dead body.

DRIVER

Someone died?

The Driver's eyes dart around.

JESSIE

Not here.

Jessie points to the cornfield.

JESSIE

In the house right over there.

The Driver's eyes follow Jessie's direction.

DRIVER

That old farmhouse?

JESSIE

Yes. Can I please use your phone?

DRIVER

That place has been vacant for years.

JESSIE

Look, I know what I'm talking about. I was just there. I really need to use your phone.

The Driver shakes his head in confusion.

DRIVER

What do you mean you were just there?

JESSIE

Are you not listening to me?

DRIVER

I am, but I'm telling you, that place is vacant. I work for the housing department that ordered it to be condemned.

JESSIE

But I was there last night. I went there for help after I wrecked. A lady let me in.

DRIVER

A lady?

JESSIE

Yeah. Robin. She told me she had cancer. When I went to leave this morning, I found her on the couch...

The Driver's face turns white as a ghost.

JESSIE

And her daughter's dead, too. I think she killed herself.

The Driver shakes his head in disbelief.

DRIVER

I don't know who you saw in there, but Robin and Scarlet Thorne both died years ago. They were the last ones to live in that house before it was ordered to be condemned.

Jessie's mouth opens and her eyes go big...

FADE OUT.

THE END