

DISTORTED STATE

Written by

Mark Heflin

December 2020

OVER BLACK

The sound of a WOMAN breathing heavy and whimpering, and a heart rapidly beating abnormally.

FADE IN:

1

INT. PADDED CELL

1

From a POV --

TWO ORDERLIES enter a slickly, bright padded cell, almost washed-out, and stare straight ahead. Both don't seem too happy to be there and are annoyed.

The First Orderly steps forward and intently looks with slight concern but still irritated. He speaks -- barely audible. As he continues to, his voice slowly becomes intelligible, but still muffled.

FIRST ORDERLY
Ma'am, are you alright?

No response.

He speaks again. His voice is clear now --

FIRST ORDERLY (CONT'D)
Ma'am.

He snaps his fingers in front of whoever he's talking to, trying to get their attention --

FIRST ORDERLY (CONT'D)
You alright?

SECOND ORDERLY
We may need to administer.

The Second Orderly prepares a needle and hands it over to the First Orderly.

SECOND ORDERLY (CONT'D)
Your turn.

He grabs the needle and administers it. Whoever they are staring at, hyperventilates and the sound of the heartbeat races faster.

FIRST ORDERLY
Is she going into shock?

SECOND ORDERLY

Nah! Probably just reacting to the
needle being stuck in her. She'll
pass out in a moment or so.

The both observe for a moment. The breathing goes back to
normal.

SECOND ORDERLY (CONT'D)

See, there you go.

POV blurs.

CUT TO BLACK.

The breathing persists. The paced heartbeat slows down and
proceeds to beat normally.

Then...

Loud Thunder.

CUT TO:

2 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 2

STEPHANIE jolts her eyes open and sits up from the bed in a
sweat. She stares out the window. The light from outside
brightens the room casting shadows from the tree branches
over the walls.

Thunder erupts again and rain pierces the glass of the
window.

Stephanie gets up and heads for the --

3 INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 3

She blasts the faucet on and drenches her face. She stares at
herself in the mirror with the water dripping down her worn
down skin.

A sudden THUD crashes right above her.

Stephanie jumps back and hits her head against the wall.

STEPHANIE

Shit!

4 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 4

She rubs the back of her as she goes back to the bed. A LOOMING SHADOW on the wall watches her from the corner of the room. It wasn't there before.

Stephanie stops and looks up at it. It seems odd to her. She slants her head, confused.

Another LOUD THUD from above.

Stephanie flinches and glances up at the ceiling.

A third, more significant THUD.

Stephanie runs to the door. The looming shadow suddenly moves like a creature. A revving CROAK sounds.

5 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 5

The door opens ajar and Stephanie peeks through. She then swings it wide and steps into the hallway -- dark and silent. Nothing out of the ordinary.

She ventures and ends up at a side table with various pictures displayed on them. One gives Stephanie her undivided attention -- a picture of a young boy about ten-years old.

She gently picks it up and stares longingly at it. Her eyes well up and she strokes her fingers across the frame.

Suddenly, a deafening CRASH sounds behind a door next to the table. Stephanie stands back in fear -- she doesn't want to open the door and is unable to move.

A moment goes by as a bead of sweat trickles down her face.

Then...

She opens the door with caution.

6 INT. KID'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 6

The door swings and Stephanie frightening looks beyond the frame -- a shelf on the other side of the room with dolls, Barbie's, pink stuffed animals, and a giant dollhouse displayed on it.

The entire room is covered in dust. No one has set foot in it for years.

She makes her way to the middle of the room. She stands for a moment and waits -- nothing. As she turns, she hears something rolling on the floor -- a BASEBALL. She kneels down and grabs it, ponders with interest.

A glint glistens underneath the bed. Stephanie crawls to it. She reaches down and pulls out a LOCKBOX with a thick layer of dust covering it. She drags her finger across the top and makes a clean streak.

She squeaks it open. Inside -- stacks of BASEBALL CARDS. She cracks a smile, then turns disdainful. She grips one of the cards and vigorously eyes it with scorn.

Suddenly, she drops it -- a RED FINGERPRINT smudged on the upper left. Stephanie looks down at her fingers and sees they are covered in thick red. She sees something in the corner of her eye -- RED STREAKS smeared across the floor.

The baseball also covered in red.

Suddenly --

GIRL (O.S.)

Hi, mommy.

Stephanie screams and whips around only to see a ten-year old GIRL standing right in front of her wearing a nightgown, with an odd, fresh appearance and an all-to-clean look. A giant grin graces her face.

STEPHANIE

Who are you?

GIRL

It's me, mommy. Don't you recognize me?

STEPHANIE

I don't know you.

GIRL

But mommy, I'm the way you always wanted me to be.

The Girl reaches out but Stephanie slaps her hand hard.

STEPHANIE

Get the fuck away from me.

The Girl is hurt -- rejected. Tears roll down her face.

GIRL
 Mommy, don't you love me this way?
 This is what you wanted.

She takes a step forward. Stephanie crawls back.

STEPHANIE
 I told you to get away from me.

More tears cascade down.

GIRL
 Mommy.

STEPHANIE
 Go away.

She bolts and knocks the Girl to the floor, and hurdles over her.

7 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

7

Stephanie lunges through the door. Trips and falls, crash-lands on the hard, wooden floor. She cries, overwhelmed with emotion.

A slow, rumbling SNARL hovers in the darkness. Stephanie stops grieving, hesitantly lifts her head wide-eyed. She is alarmed by the noise. A fearful gaze.

Suddenly, something moves across the floor, in between the shadows, crawling out of the darkness like a spider with glowing yellow eyes.

The Girl calls out from the kid's bedroom --

GIRL (O.S.)
 Mommy.

Her voice is slurred and slow.

She calls out again. With a demonic tone --

GIRL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Mommy. Mommy. Mommy.

She repeatedly calls out to her.

The snarl turns to a shrieking HISS, piercing Stephanie's ear as she covers them. The Girl's voice blends in with it as one.

Stephanie pressed her back against the wall and presses her hands harder on her ears.

STEPHANIE
Stop. Leave me alone.

The noises don't let up. She buries her face into her knees.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Stop. Please. Leave me alone.

They get even louder.

She screams --

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Stop.

Her scream trails out --

CUT TO BLACK.

The cry of a Woman shrieking in horror sounds. The heartbeat races.

CUT TO:

8

INT. PADDED CELL

8

From a POV --

The Orderlies stare indifferently. They don't seem to care and are aggravated.

The First Orderly is noticeably disappointed --

FIRST ORDERLY
I guess that didn't work.

The Second Orderly prepares another needle. A dark, red liquid sloshes inside the syringe, slightly thick, staining the glass.

SECOND ORDERLY
Maybe this will calm her down.

Hands it to the First Orderly.

FIRST ORDERLY
Looks like blood.

SECOND ORDERLY
No, but its potent.

FIRST ORDERLY
You sure about that?

The Second Orderly becomes irritated --

SECOND ORDERLY
Man, I'm not sure of anything
anymore. I just want this fucking
bitch to shut the fuck up before a
ring her damn neck.

The First Orderly administers the second syringe. The
screaming stops.

POV blurs.

CUT TO BLACK.

The breathing persists. The heartbeat slows down and
continues to beat normally.

CUT TO:

9

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

9

Stephanie convulses on the bed. Her face saturated with sweat
and her nightgown completely soaked. She chokes and hisses,
trying to grasp for air.

From the other side of the room, a SICKLY pair of YELLOW EYES
stare. A slow croak emanates from them. Stephanie still
convulses. More violent now.

The croak morphs to a blood-curdling bellow.

Thunder roars from outside. A flash of lightning reveals who
the eyes belong to but the rest still in shadow -- some type
of CREATURE that appears to have RED, CRACKLING SKIN.

Suddenly, the scream of a young boy, louder than the
creature.

Stephanie shoots her eyes open and rushes off up from the
bed. Everything is silent. Nothing there. She slicks her wet
hair back, catching her breathe.

A barrage of HEAVY THUMPS shake the ceiling. Two muffled
voices from above -- they seem to be from a young girl and a
young boy, having a conversation.

Stephanie is all ears.

The boy then cries. The girl laughs.

The boy screams. A high-pitched screech. An unimaginable horror.

The girl laughs harder. Hysterically and maniacally.

Stephanie stands with unease.

10 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 10

She darts out of the room and runs to the attic door. The boy screams again. She grabs the dangling string and pulls the door latch open. The ladder crashes down straight towards her face.

Stephanie jumps out of the way at the last minute. She sprints up --

11 INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS 11

-- and pops her head up through the hatch -- nothing. The attic is dark and dusty. A single shaft of light comes through the rose window.

Scatters of stacked boxes and old furniture, all engulfed in shadow by the light with layers of cobwebs.

Stephanie leaps up and moves her way through. She searches -- there is nothing.

She stops at the sound of something rolling on the floor again -- another baseball coming from a dark corner of the attic.

She doesn't pick it up this time. She follows where it came from. Suddenly, something moves along side with her. She jumps -- just her reflection in an old, cracked mirror.

Next to it, a WOODEN TRUNK. She seems to recognize it. She unlatches and opens it up. Inside -- clothing belonging to a boy, ACTION FIGURES, random BASEBALL CARDS scattered throughout, and a torn BASEBALL GLOVE.

She recognizes them all.

She nestles the glove and caresses it with her fingertips, as of its significant to her in some way.

BLOOD suddenly appears on her fingers. She's surprised and caught off guard.

She inspects the glove -- no blood. She grabs the baseball and checks it -- also no blood.

She looks further inside the trunk -- a light reflects. Stephanie reaches in and grabs whatever is reflecting -- a pair of DULL SCISSORS, sticky with blood trickling down the blades.

Stephanie's disturbingly bulges her eyes wide. She puts her hand over mouth in shock.

The trunk SLAMS shut and a BOY appears out of nowhere, same one in the picture. Pale, ragged clothes, blood sputtering out of his mouth like a fluid waterfall. Empty, white eyes blaring at her with rage.

And a very noticeable BLOODSTAIN on his genital area.

He lets out an ear-piercing screech and shoots his arms out, attempting to grab Stephanie.

She cries out in terror. She drops the scissors and tumbles back. The Boy disappears. In his place -- the Girl with a lavishly big smile painting her face.

GIRL

Hi, mommy.

Stephanie starts to crawl backwards. The Girl advances towards her.

STEPHANIE

Who are you? Why are you stalking me?

Her smile fades --

GIRL

Mommy, it's me.

STEPHANIE

I don't know you. Stay away from me.

GIRL

But mommy, I'm the way you want me to be now. Don't you want that anymore.

STEPHANIE

I said get away from me.

She eyes tear up. A single one cascades down her cheek.

GIRL

Mommy.

STEPHANIE

No.

Stephanie edges the hatch. Her hand goes through.

12 INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 12

She tumbles down the ladder and her head slams hard, bouncing off the wooden floor. Her body tenses up and convulses sporadically.

Her limbs are spastically firing off the floor. Foam spews from her mouth and her eyes are rolling in the back of her head. Her entire body looks like a rag doll.

The creature looms over her, hidden in shadow. It slants its head upon the sight of Stephanie's convulsing body. Saliva drips down from its mouth, onto her contorted face.

13 INT. PADDED CELL 13

From a POV --

The Orderlies exchange glances as shrieks of terror sound from whoever they are attending to.

FIRST ORDERLY

Shit, what the fuck is wrong with this woman?

The Second Orderly takes out a bottle of clear liquid and injects it in another syringe. He administers it. The shrieks subside. A calming sense of relief from the Orderlies.

FIRST ORDERLY (CONT'D)

Finally.

SECOND ORDERLY

Problem is she's going to start drooling everywhere.

FIRST ORDERLY

I'm sure as hell not cleaning that up.

SECOND ORDERLY

No one is going to check up on her anytime soon, and she won't notice because she's too out of it. Besides...

He sniffs the air and is immediately disgusted --

SECOND ORDERLY (CONT'D)
...smells like she's been stewing
in her own piss and shit.

FIRST ORDERLY
Again, I'm not cleaning this bitch
up.

The Second Orderly leans in and slaps the Attended in the face a couple of times. He waits for a moment and doesn't get a response.

SECOND ORDERLY
She's out.

The First Orderly gives a look. He steps outside the cell, into the hallway and looks in both directions.

FIRST ORDERLY
No one's around. You want to...

He gives a rather sexual gesture --

FIRST ORDERLY (CONT'D)
...you know.

The Second Orderly is appalled --

SECOND ORDERLY
Fuck no. I don't fell like getting
shit stains on me. Let's just wait
until we get to C-block. The girls
are much younger over there...

He glimpses forward and gives another disgusted look --

SECOND ORDERLY (CONT'D)
...and certainly fresher.

FIRST ORDERLY
And prettier too.

The Second Orderly then takes a step back --

SECOND ORDERLY
Fuck. She's starting to drool now.

FIRST ORDERLY
(sarcastically)
Sexy.

They observingly stand.

POV blurs.

14 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

14

Spume and scum gushes out of Stephanie's mouth as she rests on the side of her face. She inhales and foam sucks into her mouth. She chokes and coughs, and flies up trying to take a deep breathe of air.

Her face is covered in something thick. She wipes the gunk off and on to her soaked nightgown.

Then, a HEAVY STOMP of FOOTSTEPS sound, coming from the other side of the hallway. A MOAN of agony. The pale face of the Boy glows in the dark. The faint moan coming from his blue, lifeless lips, trudging towards Stephanie.

Hovering over her, a SLUDGING CROAK sounding right in her ear. Stephanie slowly and carefully shift her eyes up without moving her head. She sees the fevering yellow eyes of the creature, still covered in shadow.

Then the creature steps into the light. Stephanie gasps in fright, not quite believing what she is seeing in front of her.

She is staring into the eyes of a woman that looks exactly like her with thick, leather, red skin, with cracked, black lines all over.

Stephanie's eyes widen with dread, still not grasping nor comprehending what she is seeing. Her body shivers in fear as she slowly inches back.

Suddenly, the Boy swipes at her, grabbing her hair. Stephanie jerks back up against the wall. The Boy pulls out a chunk with blood at the roots.

Both the Boy and the creature surround. Stephanie drags along the wall towards the door of the kid's bedroom. At the last second, they charge and Stephanie bursts through --

15 INT. KID'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

15

-- and slams the door shut. An eerie silence fills the room as Stephanie rests on the side of her face on the door, taking a moment.

Suddenly, the door violently BOOMS and the wood bulges outward. For a short brief moment, the door bounces off its frame.

It hits Stephanie and knocks her back. Blood pours from her cheek with thin slivers of splinters stuck in the gushing wound.

Something is banging on the door. It cracks and fractures from behind. The hinges squeal. Then, an arm shatters through, grotesque and red just like the creature.

Stephanie hastily crawls to the closet. Then, the bedroom door blows open and the creature flies out, and tackles her. They roll and the creature ends up on top.

It swipes its sharp talons at Stephanie. Her face rips and lacerates with cuts. She screams and tries to desperately shimmy away from under the creatures but it grabs her wrist and has a tight grip on her.

It mesmerizingly stares at Stephanie with its yellowish, fever induced eyes. Stephanie has hers closed, not wanting to give it a glimpse back.

But she does anyway and immediately regrets it. She's met with the yellow eyes from the corner of hers and she screams in horror. The creature responds with a harrowing screech matching her scream.

In one last attempt to get away, Stephanie suddenly kicks the creature between the legs and it stumbles back. She darts up like a bat out of hell and bolts to the closet door.

16

INT. CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

16

She attempts to close it but as she does, the creature's arm blasts through the opening, trying to grab her. Stephanie slams it with the door repeatedly until the creature finally retracts it.

Stephanie slams the door shut and locks it. She puts her back against it with fainted breathe. The creature strikes on the door while bellowing its harrowing call. She hears it clawing at the door, trying to get to her.

Then, it stops.

Another eerie silence. Only the sound of Stephanie breathing in the dark closet fills the air.

She feels up the wall, searching with her hands. She then finds what she's looking for -- a light switch. She turns the light on.

Standing behind her, the Girl, grinning big.

GIRL

Hi, mommy.

Stephanie screams and pins her back against the door again. In a sudden surge of shock, she reaches for the handle and turns but hears the creature chuckle maniacally.

She's trapped.

STEPHANIE

What do you want from me?

GIRL

What do you mean, mommy? We all belong together. It is your will. It's what you wanted.

Her smile cracks even bigger. She goes to a bedsheet that is splayed across the carpet with something obviously underneath it. She pulls it back revealing an old, crusted, and dirty SHOEBOX.

The Girl gently picks it up and presents it to Stephanie. It scares her. The bottom of the box is caked in blood, DRIPPING at the bottom, onto her legs, staining her pale skin.

GIRL (CONT'D)

What's wrong, mommy? Don't you want to open it?

Tears obscure Stephanie's eyes. She trembles and quivers --

STEPHANIE

No, I...

The Girl gets closer. The box is right in front of Stephanie's face.

GIRL

It's what you wanted, mommy. It's what you always dreamed about.

They give each other a look. Stephanie is hesitant but the Girl is determined as she stands over her.

Stephanie takes the box from the Girl and hesitantly lifts up the lid. Inside -- something beyond her comprehension as she lets out a cry of sorrow and a burst of tears.

The Girl giggles.

STEPHANIE

Oh, god no.

She drops the box.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Please forgive me. I didn't know.
I'm sorry.

She buries her face into her knees. The Girl consoles her and pats her on the back, sympathetic.

GIRL
Don't worry, mommy. We can spend as
much time together as we need.
We'll be here forever.

Stephanie lets out an agonizing cry of defeat and anguish as the creature's terrorizing laughter echoes as if its mocking her.

No where to go. Trapped forever.

17 INT. PADDED CELL

17

Stephanie twist and turns on the floor in a straight jacket, yelling out.

STEPHANIE
No. Get her away from me. Get her
away. No.

From the observation window, the two Orderlies just observe.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
Someone help me. Keep her away from
me. Help me.

She suddenly acts as if someone else is in the room --

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)
No, get away. Go Away. Help.
Someone help.

She is dirty looking like she hadn't bathed in months. Her face completely pale, barely any color to her skin, and drench in her own filth. Her hair, unkempt and disheveled.

18 INT. MENTAL WARD CORRIDOR

18

The Orderlies stand back and sigh with indifference --

FIRST ORDERLY
Well...

SECOND ORDERLY
Guess that didn't work either.

He shakes his head and puts the bottle of clear liquid back into his pocket.

FIRST ORDERLY

Should we try something else?

SECOND ORDERLY

What's the point. Besides, I don't want to spend anymore time with this bitch than I need to. Especially not after what she did.

The First Orderly agrees then smiles --

FIRST ORDERLY

Want to head to C-block?

The Second Orderly smiles back --

SECOND ORDERLY

Hell, yeah.

They high-five each other and go down the corridor through a barrage of random shrieks, screams, and cries coming from the other padded cells.

Stephanie's voices echoes throughout along with the other patients. They get louder and she gets drowned out until she's barely heard.

She is just another voice in the crowd.

Suddenly, Stephanie's voice comes through. This time, calm and in control, but sounds slightly drugged, singing.

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

Hush, little Baby, don't say a word, Mama's gonna buy you a Mockingbird. And if that mockingbird don't sing, Mama's gonna buy you a diamond ring. And if that diamond ring turns brass, Mama's gonna buy you a looking glass. And if that looking glass gets broke, Mama's gonna buy you a billy goat, And if that billy goat won't pull, Mama's gonna buy you a cart and bull, And if that cart and bull turn over, Mama's gonna buy you a dog named Rover. And if that dog named Rover won't bark, Mama's gonna buy you a horse and a cart.

(MORE)

STEPHANIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*And if that horse and cart fall
down, You'll still be the sweetest
little baby in town.*

Stephanie stops singing and chuckles.

STEPHANIE (V.O.)
Don't worry, baby. Mama is going to
make everything right. I'll make
you the way you were suppose to be.

She chuckles again, more depraved than before.

Then...

The sound of a cell door being slammed.

FADE OUT.

THE END.