ENDAGERED SPECIES

By

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EXT. HOUSE - DAY

It is a small, white house, just the perfect size for an average three-person family. The grass is neatly cut, hedges are perfectly shaved, and a small circular flower garden sits in the middle of the yard, with a fountain standing in the center of it.

A silver car sits in the driveway, all of its doors are open. Actually, the front door of the house is wide open as well.

A tall, thin man walks out of the house carrying a large, plastic box in his arms. He is wearing beige khaki shorts, which are held up by a black belt, and a light blue polo t-shirt. He wears stylish glasses on his face, which match well with his sandy hair. This is PATRICK FONTAINE.

He crosses over to the car and slides the box into the trunk. He looks back up at the house just to see another person walking out of it.

This is JOSH FONTAINE, his son. Josh is around 19 years old, in his first year of college. He is holding another large box, much like his fathers, in his arms. He is wearing blue jeans and a black t-shirt, with a red hoodie over it.

JOSH
Where d’you want this?

PATRICK
In the back seat, I don’t think it’ll fit in the trunk.

JOSH
Kay...

Josh moves towards the back seat and slides the box through the door just as his father re-enters the house and his mother comes though the door.

Her name is KAYLA FONTAINE, and is short and a bit plump. She is wearing a pink t-shirt and white shorts with sunglasses covering her eyes. She is holding nothing, and just looks at her son.

KAYLA
Getting everything okay?

Josh looks to his mother.

(CONTINUED)
JOSH
Yeah, everything’s fine...

PATRICK comes back out of the door holding two duffel bags in his arms.

PATRICK
Excuse me, honey...

KAYLA moves to the side and lets Patrick pass her. He reaches the car and puts the bags down on the ground. He looks quizzically into the trunk of the car, tilting his head to one side, looking from the trunk to the bags, and then back at the trunk.

PATRICK
How am I gonna do this?

Josh comes around and looks into the trunk.

JOSH
Maybe if you move it like this...

Josh reaches in and moves the first box and then proceeds to fit the rest of the luggage into the trunk.

JOSH
There! Easy as pie!

He gives his father a pat on the back, and then moves back towards the house. He passes by his mother and disappears through the front door.

Patrick is still staring at the trunk, only now he’s looking at it as if saying "how the hell did he do that?"

INT. JOSH’S ROOM - SAME TIME

Josh enters his room and looks around. He spots one last duffel bag on he floor picks it up. He crosses back out of his room, and closes the door behind him.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Kayla and Patrick are trying to fit a Coleman stove into the trunk. Josh reappears though the front door and Patrick sighs as he sees Josh’s bag.

JOSH
Don’t worry, pops, it’ll fit.
PATRICK

I dunno...

Josh goes to the trunk and begins to fiddle around with more stuff, and then fits his bag into it.

JOSH

There. So when are we gonna go?

His mother eyes him questioningly.

KAYLA

Why are you so excited to go to the cottage all of a sudden.

JOSH

Jackie’s got a bunch of friends at her cabin, and they’re gonna be havin’ a kick ass party, and they wanted me to come...Pete’s gonna be there too, but who gives a shit about that when the place is gonna be swarming with hot babes who just wanna...

Josh suddenly stops dead, aware that he his talking to his mother, who looks horrified at the idea. His father, on the other hand, is beaming, and gives his son a great pat on the shoulder.

PATRICK

Adda boy!

Patrick moves towards the driver’s side, closing the back door on his way. He stops just as he is about to open his door, and he looks back up at his wife.

PATRICK

Kayla, honey, why do you look as if someone just shit on your tulips? Josh clearly isn’t a virgin! He’s his father’s son through and through! Isn’t the right, Joshy, boy?

Josh looks a bit uncomfortable.

JOSH

Uh, sure...

He closes the trunk and makes his way to the back seat.

(continued)
KAYLA
He still shouldn’t talk that way in front of his mother...

PATRICK
Oh, Kayla, just *chill*. Is that what they say, Josh? *Chill*?

JOSH
Yeah, sure...

KAYLA
Don’t tell me to *chill*!

PATRICK
You’re overreacting now, honey.

Kayla’s face distorts in disbelieving anger. Her voice comes out shrill.

KAYLA
Overreacting? OVERREACTING!?

PATRICK
Calm down? Hey! Tell ya what! On the way out of town, we can stop and get an ice cream! How does that sound? Let’s go! Fun, here we come!

Patrick quickly gets into the car. Josh and his mother look at each other for a brief moment where Josh shrugs his shoulders, and he too gets into the car. He is followed by his mother.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Kayla is still fuming with overreacting rage, and Patrick is smiling.

KAYLA
How can you even say I was overreacting?

Patrick looks to his wife calmly.

PATRICK
This is a happy zone, honey. If you can’t stay happy, then the driver might not be happy, and if the driver isn’t happy, then the car won’t be happy, and if the car

(CONTINUED)
PATRICK (cont’d)
  isn’t happy, we all won’t be happy,
  cause the car will drive us right
  off the road and we’ll all go to
  hell ’cause we weren’t happy in the
  last moments of our life.

Kayla stares blankly at her husband.

  KAYLA
  What?

  PATRICK
  Are you happy?

  KAYLA
  Wh -

Patrick glares at her.

  KAYLA
  Fine! I’m happy! Let’s just go.

  PATRICK
  Good!

In the back seat, Josh rolls his eyes.

Patrick puts the car into gear and begins to roll backwards.

  PATRICK
  Oops! Wrong way! See what happens
  when the car senses unhappy waves?

  KAYLA
  Will you shut up?

Patrick puts the car in forward and begins to roll out of
the driveway. He looks into the mirror and gives Josh a
wink and a smile. Josh smiles sarcastically back.

EXT. CAR/ROAD - SAME TIME

The car rolls out of the driveway and makes its way up the
street.

CUT TO:
EXT. CAR/HIGHWAY - LATER - DAY

The car speeds own the highway. A gas station begins to come into focus.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Everyone is now silent in the car. Patrick is focusing on he road, Kayla is reading "The Notebook", and Josh is listening to an iPod in the back seat.

    PATRICK
    Hey, there’s a gas station up ahead. Anybody need a drink? I know I could settle for a nice Root Beer right now...

    KAYLA
    Yeah, sure.

Patrick stares into the mirror at Josh.

    PATRICK
    How about you, Josh?

Josh doesn’t hear Patrick due to his iPod.

    PATRICK
    Josh? Josh? Hellllo?

    KAYLA
    JOSH!

Josh jumps and takes the headphones off of his ears.

    JOSH
    Yo! What’s up?

    PATRICK
    You need anything to drink?

    JOSH
    Uh, sure.

    PATRICK
    What do you want?

    JOSH
    Mountain Dew, I guess...

(CONTINUED)
PATRICK
Alrighty!

Patrick pulls the car into the gas station and stops it beside a pump.

PATRICK
What do you want, honey?

KAYLA
Pepsi.

PATRICK
Kay.

Patrick gets out of the car and begins to fill up the car. Once he is done doing that, he leaves to go into the store. Josh and Kayla sit in silence until...

KAYLA
Are you a virgin?

Josh is caught totally off guard by this question.

JOSH
What?

KAYLA
You heard me. Are you a virgin? Tell me the truth.

JOSH
I don’t really feel comf -

KAYLA
Just tell me.

JOSH
I’m 19, mom. I’ve had 2 girlfriends. I guess the answer would be no...

KAYLA
Oh my...

Kayla begins to cry.

JOSH
Mom, it’s not that big of a deal. I mean, you had me when you were what? 17? I don’t have any kids...I’m being safe. There’s nothing to worry about!
CONTINUED:

KAYLA
What were you planning to do this weekend? Be a gigolo?

JOSH
What gives you that idea?

KAYLA
Cottage full of girls...

JOSH
I was joking, Mom.

KAYLA
Don’t joke about things like that!

Patrick is walking back to the car.

JOSH
Let’s just not talk about it anymore, okay?

KAYLA
Fine.

Kayla brushes some tears back as Patrick enters the car and starts handing drinks around. He notices the tears on his wifes face and looks concerned.

PATRICK
What’s wrong, honey?

KAYLA
He really isn’t a virgin!

JOSH
Oh my God...

PATRICK
Are you still on about that? It was obvious, didn’t I tell you? Just don’t worry about it...think about the happy zone!

KAYLA
Fine! Fine. I’ll try not to think about it.

PATRICK
Good. Shall we continue?

Kayla nods, and Josh puts his iPod back on.
Patrick pulls out of the gas station and heads on toward the cottage...

EXT. CAR/HIGHWAY - LATER - DUSK

The sun is going down, and Josh and Kayla are sleeping. Patrick is slightly nodding off, but all the same keeping control of the car.

The car hits a small bump and Josh and Kayla wake up, groggy eyed.

    JOSH
    Are we there yet?

    PATRICK
    Obviously not.

    KAYLA
    How much longer, would you say?

    PATRICK
    Maybe another 20 minutes.

Kayla and Josh settle back in their seats and are about to close their eyes again when...

A mysterious shape runs across the road, causing Patrick to lose control of the car.

The car swerves off of the road and hits a tree.

A large branch CRASHES through the windshield and plants itself in Patrick’s head. Patrick dies instantly.

The front of the car is damaged so badly, that Kayla’s legs are crushed between the dashboard and her seat, and another branch is planted into her shoulder.

Josh is left pretty much undamaged, narrowly missed by another branch that went between the two seats. He just gets a bit of whiplash.

Kayla begins to scream in pain. Josh begins to panic, and starts poking his father.

    JOSH
    Dad? Dad! DAD! Wake up! Come on, Dad. Wake up! DAD!

(CONTINUED)
KAYLA
I need you...to go...get help...

JOSH
I think he’s dead...

KAYLA
Please...get help...call...911...something...

JOSH
Uh, yeah...yeah, I’ll be right back...

Josh shakily gets out of the car, and stumbles around to the back. Here, he hunches over and vomits onto the ground.

He gets up and wipes off his face, and then takes his cell phone out of his pocket.

He opens it and notices that the battery has died out.

JOSH
Fuck me...

Josh walks to his mother’s side and looks into the window.

The entire scene looks worse from this angle. Blood covers his father’s entire body, and something else is seeping from the wound, possibly part of his brain.

His mother’s entire right arm is crushed, and the dashboard seems to have almost cut her in half. If she gets moved, it’s likely she’ll die.

JOSH
Mom...my cell’s dead...do you have yours?

KAYLA
I-I-I don’t...maybe...let me...

Kayla begins to reach for her phone, but Josh stops her.

JOSH
No...where is it? I can get it.

KAYLA
My right pocket...

Josh looks down. It seems to be impossible to reach. But he tries. As he is reaching in, he accidentally moves the branch a small bit and sends a fresh wave of pain to his mother.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JOSH
I can’t get it...

KAYLA
That’s fine. Try finding the ice cream store...we should be close to that.

JOSH
Yeah, I’ll do that. Listen, Mom...if I don’t make it in time...I love you...

Kayla smiles a bit, although it is clearly filled with sadness and pain.

KAYLA
I love you too, honey. Go.

JOSH
Yeah, right...I’ll be right back.

Josh leans into the car and gives his mother a kiss on the forehead.

He then sets off down the road, the sun setting ahead of him, slowly plunging him into darkness.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

It has been some time now, and Josh still hasn’t found help. The night is cold. He is shivering, his breath forming in front of him. And he is scared.

Then, suddenly, a noise in the woods around him sounds out. He looks around, startled. But he doesn’t say anything. Because this noise doesn’t sound friendly. It sounds sneaky, but heavy. And a deep, raspy breathing.

Josh shakes it off and continues to walk on. But he is interrupted by more sounds in the forest around him.

There is a faint rumble, and a growl. A shape moves in the woods behind him, causing leaves to rustle. Josh turns around to see nothing.

JOSH
Fuck...fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck... 

Josh moves on, quicker now...almost running. He moves on for what seems like hours, and the noises have stopped.

(CONTINUED)
Finally, he feels relaxed. He calms down, and lowers his pace.

JOSH
Where the hell is this place?

Josh continues on only to be halted once again by the noises. They sound closer now, and it sounds like there are more sources.

Josh stops and looks around him. He turns around, repeatedly, trying to determine the source.

He then breaks into a run, not knowing where he is going.

The noises get louder and louder as he runs. A new sound breaks through it all: a high-pitched, hyena-like laughter.

Josh begins to panic and tries to run faster. He comes up to the accident and stops. When he stops, so do the voices.

JOSH
Shit...

Josh approaches the car, with everything silent. He comes up to it, slowly...and then he looks inside. His father is missing. And his mother’s upper half is gone.

JOSH
What the fuck?

Josh turns around only to see something creeping by in the trees on the other side of the road.

This thing is unearthly...is it big and hairy, like a Sasquatch. But it is hunched over, and large, porcupine-like spikes stick out of its back. It has long claws, and a strange, snout-like face. The best way to describe it would be half werewolf, half porcupine.

Josh jumps in fright.

He then hears something directly behind him, and turns around slowly, only to come face to face with one of the creatures. The red eyes are the last thing he saw as he...
INT. CAR - SUNSET

...wakes up in the backseat of the car, perfectly fine. His father is still driving, now humming merrily, and his mother is snoozing in the front seat.

Josh takes a deep breath and pushes back his hair.

JOSH

Wow.

Suddenly, he sees something run across the road, something eerily similar to the things in his dream. And the car swerves off the road, resulting in the same accident that created a nightmare.

THE END