

GOODBYE

by

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INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The ticking of a grandfather clock echoes throughout the modest country house. TICK, TICK, TICK...

A faint animal ROAR can be heard from outside.

A pot boils on the stove next to a cast iron frying pan.

An egg carton sits opened on the counter top.

EARL, 50s, dressed in camouflage clothes and sporting a multi-use vest, slams his coffee cup down on the kitchen table, cracking the mug which read WORLDS BEST HUSBAND AND HUNTER.

EARL

Jesus Christ, how many times I
gotta tell you, Earl don't drink
boiling hot coffee.

MARY-SUE, 30s, hair in a bun, worn clothing, rushes to clean up the mess when SLAP --

Earl strikes her across the face.

Mary-Sue hits the floor hard.

EARL (CONT'D)

Get up! I don't have all damn day.
(beat)
You seen my bear trap?

Trembling, Mary-Sue shakes her head no.

EARL (CONT'D)

Goddamnit.

Mary-Sue clenches a towel as blood runs down her soft black and blue skin.

EARL (CONT'D)

Need another lesson? Earl can
teach you.

MARY-SUE

(weakly)
No.

EARL

What?

MARY-SUE

No, sweetie.

Mary-Sue wipes the blood from her face, then cleans up the mess as Earl leaves the kitchen.

A PHONE BUZZES. INSERT ON PHONE SCREEN:

CALLER: I'm here for you hun, it's set. Follow the path.

MARY-SUE: What if he goes off the path?

CALLER: Got backup, don't worry.

Earl rushes into the kitchen wielding a shotgun.

EARL
Who was that? Who you talking to,
girly?

Earl points the shotgun at Mary-Sue.

EARL (CONT'D)
Answer Earl, goddamnit!

Mary-Sue trembles.

MARY-SUE
(quietly)
My sister--

EARL
Sister!? How you be talkin' when
she's in jail?

MARY-SUE
(quietly)
Betty from down the road, I mean. I
was thinking of my--

EARL
--speak up girl, I ain't got all
day.

A KNOCK at the door.

MARY-SUE
Betty. It's Betty.

EARL
You know Earl don't like guests.
What's she doing here?

MARY-SUE
Just borrowing some clothes.

Mary-Sue slowly rises from the floor and heads to the door, hiding part of her face with the towel.

EARL
You have stuff you can just give
away now! Huh!

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mary-Sue trembles as she picks up a small bag.

She opens the door to reveal BETTY, 30s, hair pulled tightly in a bun, rubber boots.

Betty takes the bag.

BETTY
Thank you, dear.

Mary-Sue glances back over her shoulder towards Earl.

Betty smiles.

EARL (O.S.)
Get rid of her, I'm going hunting.
You have chores.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mary-Sue is on her knees, cleaning the broken coffee cup.

A PHONE BUZZES. INSERT ON PHONE SCREEN:

CALLER: All set here.

Earl rushes back into the kitchen, shotgun still in hand.

EARL
Goddamnit woman!

Mary-Sue drops the phone. She turns to face Earl.

He cocks the shotgun.

Mary-Sue slowly slides backwards until she's up against the kitchen counter.

Earl bends down to pick up the phone.

Mary-Sue grabs the cast iron pan and CRACK! She delivers a devastating blow to Earl's head. Down he goes --

The shotgun FIRES, shattering the grandfather clock.

The clock stops ticking.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

The morning mist drifts across the forest floor.

Mary-Sue breaks through the mist, running along a small path.

A SHOTGUN BLAST TEARS THE BARK FROM A TREE TRUNK, JUST MISSING HER.

Mary-Sue screams.

She quickly regains her bearings and continues running.

She reaches a small ravine. She stops, turns around...

Behind her, a SHADOWY FIGURE approaches.

Mary-Sue carefully traverses the edge of the ravine, oddly careful not to disturb the foliage.

The Shadowy Figure emerges from the fog.

IT'S EARL. He loads his shotgun.

Mary-Sue, frozen in fear, stares at him.

Earl raises his shotgun --

A RUSTLING noise from another direction.

Earl spins, scanning for the source of the sound.

He turns back to face Mary-Sue but she's disappeared in a blanket of thick fog.

Her silhouette leans backwards, then falls into the river.

Earl squeezes the trigger!

The shotgun blast reverberates throughout the woods.

Birds scatter.

SPLASH.

Earl lowers his shotgun.

Mist gently rolls across the small river.

EARL
What have I done?

Earl runs towards the riverbank.

EARL (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ Earl, what have you
done!

He peers over the edge.

He scans the riverbed, but there's no sign of Mary-Sue.

MARY-SUE (O.S.)
Earl...Oh Earl...You've been bad,
Earl...You've been very bad, Earl.

Earl snaps his head around, scans the forest for the voice.
Nothing.

EARL
Mary-Sue? How? You just...

MARY-SUE (O.S.)
Earl needs to learn a lesson.

Earl cocks the shotgun.

EARL
Stop playing bitch and get out
here.

ANOTHER SHADOWY FIGURE EMERGES FROM BEHIND A TREE.

IT'S MARY-SUE.

Earl stares at her in shock.

EARL (CONT'D)
Goddamnit bitch, I teach you, you
don't teach me. Earl is the
teacher!

Earl squeezes the trigger --

THE BARK ON THE TREE NEXT TO MARY-SUE EXPLODES.

MARY-SUE (O.S.)
Earl needs to learn.
(singing)
Roses are red, violets are blue,
little old Earl has nothing on
you...

A scratching noise from another direction.

MARY-SUE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 ...Nothing.

Earl turns abruptly to see Mary-Sue now stands next to a different tree. Baffled, he glances back to the first tree.

EARL
 What kinda crazy witchcraft you pulling?

Earl looks back and forth between the two Mary-Sues.

MARY-SUE (O.S.)
 (singing)
 Rose are red, violets are black,
 what do you say Earl, should we
 pick up the slack?

Earl reloads, takes a step forward.

The forest floor crinkles under his feet.

He looks down at the odd sound.

MARY-SUE (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 Roses are red, violets are green,
 not everything appears as it would
 seem.

Earl casts his glare on Mary-Sue.

Another step forward --

His foot trips a thin wire --

EARL FALLS HEAD FIRST INTO A BEAR TRAP.

CLANG!

The trap closes.

Blood cascades down Earl's half-severed head onto the PLASTIC FOREST FLOOR.

CRINKLE CRINKLE CRINKLE.

Earl tries to talk, but air rushes into his exposed throat.

MARY-SUE (CONT'D)
Good night, sweetie.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Mary-Sue, dirty, shaking, holds a match.

We now see that Mary-Sue has an identical TWIN SISTER!

TWIN SISTER
It had to be done, sis. Only way.

MARY-SUE
I know.

Betty emerges from the misty tree-line, soaking wet and holding a towel. She's dressed the same as the Mary-Sues.

The two women lock eyes. They share a comforting nod.

Mary-Sue strikes the match. She throws it to the ground, igniting a stack of wood on top of Earl's tarp-wrapped body.

The flames raise high into the morning sky.

A branch twig SNAPS behind them --

Quickly they turn.

A BEAR CUB emerges from the trees.

TWIN SISTER
Oh, so cute!

MARY-SUE
A cub, that means...

CUT TO BLACK.

A DEAFENING ROAR.

THE END.