

IT MUST BE SOMETHING IN THE WATER

Written by

Haywood Jabolomey

*BODY OF WATER
*ITEM OF ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY
*SCIENCE FICTION

FADE IN:

EXT. FISHING BOAT - LAKE - DAY

A picturesque, serene day.

SAM (mid 30s, white suntan) sits across from his POP (mid 70s, scrappy and tough yet earnest) with their fishing poles propped up, lines in the water.

Sam cracks open a beer. Takes a nice gulp.

SAM
Ain't shit biting today.

POP
Only a matter of time.

Pop runs his fingers along his thick, shiny fishing rod.

POP (CONT'D)
In 30 years, old faithful has yet
to fail me.

SAM
Being a good fisherman takes skill,
not luck. You told me that.

POP
Even the most skilled fishermen
need a little luck sometimes.

The sun gleams off the surface of his majestic fishing rod.

POP (CONT'D)
About 15 years ago, I was out with
your Uncle Tony and Cousin Ricky
off the Jersey Coast, fishing for
striped bass. God damn fucking bull
shark comes outta nowhere, takes
old faithful right outta my hands,
into the water. Your grandmother,
God bless her soul, gave me that
fishing rod for my birthday. It was
all I had left of her. And I was
damned if I was just gonna let some
asshole shark take 'er away from
me.

Pop unsheathes a hunting knife, sun glistening off it.

POP (CONT'D)

So, I jumped right into the Atlantic...

(stabs at the air)

... Showed Mr. Bull shark who was boss. Got old faithful back.

SAM

Technically, wouldn't that make the knife good luck and not the fishing pole?

POP

Well, it's your pole, now. You better treat her good.

SAM

What do you mean?

POP

The cancer... it's spread.

SAM

(delayed)

Why didn't you tell me?

POP

I'm telling you now.

Sam sighs. Fights tears as he shares a somber silence with his father...

Something falls out of the sky with great speed and force until -- SPLASH! Water splashes about 20 feet into the air, making Sam and Pop jump in their seats.

SAM

What the fuck was that?

They stare at the splash area as the water bubbles.

Curious, Pop rows the boat over to the spot.

The water continues to bubble...

Until several dead fish float to the surface.

POP

Jesus Christ. You got that Go-Pro thingie?

Sam hands a water-proof Go-Pro to Pop, who hooks it to the end of his fishing line.

POP (CONT'D)

How do we see what's down there?

Sam brings up the app on his phone: Pop's image shows up on the cell phone screen as he holds the fishing pole with Go-Pro into the air.

Pop nods. Lowers the fishing line with the Go-Pro into the water... lets it sink further down.

Side by side, Pop and Sam look at the footage on the cell phone, only seeing bubbles and murky water...

Until a terrifying image of some THING stares directly into the Go-Pro with glowing eyes and sharp, jagged teeth. Unlike anything they've ever seen.

They both jump at the sight of it on Sam's phone.

POP (CONT'D)

What in the fuck is that?

Suddenly, Pop's fishing pole flies out of his hands!

Pop leans over the boat, trying to grab his beloved fishing pole, but it's taken under water.

SAM

Pop, just leave it!

POP

I can't!

Sam tries to grab Pop from behind as he dips his hands in the water, grabbing for his pole but coming up empty.

SAM

Pop, we need to go, okay? I don't know what that was, but we need to get the fuck outta here now!

But Pop is stubborn, still reaching under water.

Suddenly, the boat snaps in half at the center! Pop is taken under water!

SAM (CONT'D)

Pop!

Sitting on one half of the broken boat, Sam reaches into the water... but blood bubbles to the surface.

SAM (CONT'D)

Shit.

Suddenly, something slithers past underwater, making Sam jump. In a panic, Sam looks to shore -- he's about 40 yards away from land.

The broken half of boat he sits on submerges, Sam staring wide-eyed into the water at something slithering below.

Sam looks to shore again. The boat under him just about all the way under...

He jumps into the water, towards land--

And swims as fast as he can... but the MONSTER in the water gives chase, easily catching up with him... almost under him...

Sam picks up the pace... only about 10 yards away from land...

But the MONSTER splashes out of the water-- about 10 feet tall, it has otherworldly features, almost reptilian, it's massive jaws opening up, about to pounce on Sam--

But Pop jumps out of the water, onto the MONSTER'S back with his knife, plunging it several times into its neck! The MONSTER shrieks in pain, plunging under the water and taking Pop with him...

Sam reaches shore, watching the underwater struggle from his backside...

Until the struggle stops. Silence.

Devastated, Sam stands up. Searching the waters.

SAM (CONT'D)

Pop?

(tears in his eyes)

Pop!

But nothing. Sam falls to his knees, still catching his breath as tears flow down his face.

Suddenly, something bobs up above the water, just at shore... his father's lucky fishing pole.

FADE OUT:

THE END