NIGHT CALL

Ву

Jack Coleman

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OVER BLACK.

Knock. Knock.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY / APARTMENT ENTRANCE

Room 8C. We don't see who is knocking on the door. The hallway is dark with neon lights.

The DOOR KNOCKER checks the time on his Apple Watch: 1:48am.

He knocks again, this time harder.

DOOR KNOCKER (O.C.)

Uber Eats!

He's about to knock again, when -

The door suddenly swings open. A PALE WOMAN, strung out, and in her pajamas is struck by Jimmy's looks.

JIMMY (30's) holds a red smoothie in his hand. He's dresses like an 80's punk rocker - jean jacket, long wet hair and tight leather pants. Despite the hard looks, he's a sensitive soul and would do anything for anyone, anytime.

She snatches the smoothie out of his hand and sticks the straw in her mouth. Sucks it.

PALE WOMAN

Thanks.

She closes the door with her foot.

INT. CAR/EXT. CHICAGO - NIGHT

JIMMY drives to his next delivery drop off. A call starts coming through. His phone is docked next to him on the dashboard.

The name reads 'CASSANDRA'

He answers.

JIMMY

Hey. Good morning.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Just a sec, let me get Evie.

She calls out to Jimmy and Cassandra's only child. We hear EVIE (6) in the room coming to the phone. She's mumbling something but Jimmy can't hear it.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Here she is.

EVIE (V.O.)

Hi dad.

JIMMY

Happy Birthday, Evie.

Evie yawns.

A deep sadness comes over Jimmy.

Cassandra yells in the background.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Sing to her Jimmy! It's her birthday!

JIMMY

Evie. Do you want me to sing to you?

EVIE (V.O.)

Not really.

We hear CASSANDRA next her.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Tell daddy how old you are.

EVIE (V.O.)

No.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Fine then. If you want to be like that, you can go to your room.

JIMMY

Cut her some slack, will you?

No response.

EVIE (V.O.)

Jimmy?

JIMMY

Yeah sweetie?

EVIE (V.O.)

Love you.

JIMMY

I love you too. I'll pick you up next weekend and we can do whatever you want.

EVIE (V.O.)

Promise?

JIMMY

Sure.

Jimmy comes to a stop light.

We hear muffling, and shifting on the speaker phone.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Nice. Real nice.

JIMMY

She's not six years old Cassandra. How many times do I need to tell you this.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Not knowing your daughters own Birthday is a new low.

JIMMY

Are you taking the medication that new doctor...

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Matheson.

We hear in Cassandra's voice she is coming down.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

And yes. I am. Thanks for asking.

JIMMY

I'll be there next Friday to pick her up.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Sounds good.

BEAT.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Talk to you later.

Jimmy cuts the line. Notably upset by that call.

Jimmy drives faster. Following the map on his phone.

It starts to sprinkle rain. Jimmy turns on the windshield wipers.

Jimmy comes to a red light.

EXT. THE LOOP - CHICAGO

Jimmy looks out his window at the mass of people shopping, eating, laughing - most wearing dark sunglasses. Something is off about the people, but we can't quite put our finger on it.

The neon lights bleed into the outdoor shopping center. The rain falls around everyone.

They are so happy and blissful.

Living their best lives. Full.

Proud.

In the moment.

INT. CAR/EXT. CHICAGO

HONK!!! A car behind Jimmy gives him the wet whistle.

The light has been green.

Jimmy drives.

WAZE VOICE

Your destination is on the right.

Jimmy pulls up to a dingy burger joint.

WAZE VOICE (cont'd)

Arrived. Dead End Burgers.

Jimmy puts the car in park, rolls down the window to get a clear view of the joint through the rain.

A hole in the wall. Dying neon lights. Dark inside. Why anyone would order food here is beyond us.

Jimmy clocks the pick up window in the front so he doesn't have to go in.

Jimmy rolls up the window. He opens the glove compartment revealing BLACK SUNGLASSES.

He puts them on, and hurries out of the car, quickly grabbing the food and getting back in the car.

He drops the paper bag with food onto the passenger seat. It lands with a thud, heavy, with grease protruding.

Jimmy runs his hands through his wet long hair, dries his hands off on his pants.

His phone lights up.

MICAH, Jimmy's new lover, name glows.

Jimmy taps "ACCEPT CALL"

JIMMY

Mornin'.

MICAH (V.O.)

There's not enough coffee in the world. At least for us.

Micah's voice is sensual and deep, it would be a good voice for an erotic audio book.

JIMMY

Yeah.

Jimmy taps the phone screen, distracted. Food delivery destination is 3 miles away. He drags his fingers on the screen, looking at the route.

MICAH (V.O.)

Should I call back?

JIMMY

No, no, no. Just looking at the next delivery location. One sec.

He taps the screen again.

WAZE VOICE

Route confirmed. 8348 N Larrabee St.

MICAH (V.O.)

Mmmm. I love breakfast in bed. Wish you were here to enjoy it with me.

Micah is chewing on food in the background. Sensually. Jimmy drives, following the route.

JIMMY

I haven't eaten yet.

MICAH (V.O.)

What's wrong boo?

JIMMY

It's Evie's birthday today.

MICAH lets out a tired sigh.

MICAH (V.O.)

Fuck. That's right.

JIMMY

Yeah.

JIMMY drives.

MICAH (V.O.)

So that's why you're out driving and delivering today. Clearing your head?

JIMMY

That, and other things. I don't know. Everything in this damned world makes me want to kill myself truthfully.

MICAH (V.O.)

I like it when you talk dirty to me.

JIMMY drives.

JIMMY

Mmm, yeah. Sure.

MICAH (V.O.)

We both have different opinions. It's okay. Nobody is alike. We're all just unique, individual specimens.

JIMMY

Horny specimens.

Micah laughs.

We hear a device turn ON like a buzzer through the speaker. Micah moans.

JIMMY (cont'd)

I'll let you get to it.

MICAH (V.O.)

Come to me Jimmy.

JIMMY

I gotta get going. Bye Micah. Bye.

She's moaning and lost masturbating.

Jimmy cuts the line.

He taps on "Music" and rock music plays through the speakers.

JIMMY drives.

Outside the car:

The City of Chicago. The Last City.

JIMMY see's a sign for Lakeshore Drive.

JIMMY turns up the music.

JIMMY drives.

The rain taps the windshield.

WAZE VOICE

Turn right onto N Larrabee St.

INT. CAR/EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE

It is lone dark, empty road. A large, ABANDONED WAREHOUSE is the only standing structure.

WAZE VOICE

You have arrived at your destination.

JIMMY pulls up to the warehouse and parks.

He peers through the windshield.

The rain claps the tin roofing of the warehouse. No lights are on.

Jimmy stares at it almost in a trance. It's a place that existed in a dream of his long ago, and now surfaced to his reality - a dark intersection of his mind.

Jimmy focuses back to his phone. He taps into "Delivery Details" and on the screen it says:

"\$150 tip to drop off in warehouse thx"

Jimmy sniffles reading that message.

JIMMY

Sure, dude. Whatever.

On that, Jimmy grabs the greasy bag of burgers and is out of the car, closing the door.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - SAME

Jimmy walks to the main entrance of the warehouse. A single door. He grips the handle, and shoves the door open and walks inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME

The door creaks, and closes with a thud behind Jimmy, startling him.

JIMMY

Uber Eats!

Its quiet. Hundreds of Amazon boxes, all sizes are stacked up and spilling to the floor. No movement.

Suddenly -- Jimmy smells something. His nose flickers. He sniffs again. A deep, long, heavy sniff. Uncomfortably long. His eyes roll to the back of his head from the sniff.

Jimmy's eyes snap back open. His pupils are dilated with veiny strings of red.

He starts breathing heavy, going into a state of shock.

He drops the greasy burger bag and it splats on the ground, spilling BLOODY burger mush.

Jimmy sees something dangling from the ceiling in the distance. There is a dim light there too. He hunches down, and moves closer.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jimmy moves through the darkness.

He sees a blotch of red light near the hanging object.

He hears the hanging object swaying - metallic friction, like a see-saw.

He turns a corner around a tall set of boxes, and sees everything now.

A DEAD BODY HANGS FROM THE CEILING BY A HOOK.

BLOOD DRIPS FROM THE THROAT ONTO A --

TABLE FULL OF BLOOD.

A lantern at the center of the table is covered in the blood, emitting a red glow.

Jimmy sees this. He can't believe it. Everything he's ever wanted. Right there. In front of him.

He stumbles toward it.

INT. WAREHOUSE - TABLE - SAME

Jimmy lays his face on the table. He lets the blood absorb on his skin for a moment. He closes his eyes and mouth.

He opens his mouth revealing a LARGE PAIR OF FANGS.

Jimmy suddenly begins ripping his clothes off.

He licks the blood off the table. Again. And again.

He's animalistic, crazy, unhinged and barbaric.

Lick. Lick. Lick.

Heavy breathing. Moaning.

Jimmy, about to climax from the excitement, throwing the blood in the air...

TWO DARTS PUNCTURE HIS CHEST.

Jimmy falls unconscious.

INT. JIMMY & CASSANDRA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - 109 YEARS AGO - FLASHBACK

A large fire burns in the backyard. Cassandra is crying and screaming on their bed. Jimmy is consoling her. He looks at the fire out the window. Tears form in his eyes.

A loud and consistent BANG! BANG! splinters into the bedroom.

INT. JIMMY & CASSANDRA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - SAME

The LOUD BANGING comes from the hallway. The bathroom door. Someone is throwing all their weight into a door. Trying to break out.

The hinges loosen with every BANG.

INT. JIMMY & CASSANDRA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME

The TV is on in the room. ON THE TV:

A NEWS ANCHOR talks over images we hope to never see in our lifetime.

NEWS ANCHOR

Breaking news. Sources tell us that Governments in Sweden, Poland, Ukraine, Germany, and France have fallen. We are in the midst of Judgement Day, or as Christians are deeming The Second Coming of Christ. Stay locked in your homes, don't attempt to leave.

Images:

Churches collapsing into rubbles of fire.

Bodies burned in streets.

Atomic bombs exploding in cities.

Screaming. Fire. Blood.

Human suffering.

Evie, 6 years old, walks in the bedroom in her pajamas.

EVIE

Why is Grandpa locked in the bathroom?

Jimmy puts his index finger to his lips.

JIMMY

Ssshhh. Come here.

Evie crawls on to the bed and hugs her mom and dad.

They hold each other for a somber moment.

Cassandra releases herself from Evie and Jimmy, and stands up. Frantic, but coming to a moment of clarity.

CASSANDRA

We're all going to be like them. There's nothing we can do. We don't have anything to defend ourselves. Nothing. Jimmy... we can't just sit here.

Jimmy knows what Cassandra is alluding to.

JIMMY

I know what you're thinking. We can fight this. We can survive.

CASSANDRA

I don't know about you, but I want Evie to live, damnit. <u>Live.</u>

Jimmy is quiet, avoiding eye contact. Evie looks at the ground.

The bathroom door continues to rattle.

JIMMY

You open that door. You'll need to live with that forever. Forever, Cassandra.

CASSANDRA

I'm sorry Jimmy.

She leans down and kisses Jimmy. A slow kiss. Their lips lock for a passionate second.

Cassandra tries to embrace Evie, but she avoids Cassandra.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

We'll do this together. As a family.

Jimmy squeezes Evie close.

INT. WAREHOUSE - ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Jimmy wakes up. His eyes are back to normal, but still covered in dry blood.

He moves his head, looking at his surroundings. A bright room with no windows. He feels his teeth -- fangs are gone.

Pain suddenly wallows through his body.

JIMMY IS BOUND TO A STRETCHER.

Tubes filled with blood extend toward blood bags.

IV's are penetrated all over his arms.

He takes one out, slowly. He feels the pain and screams.

The door bursts open and THREE MEN run in and forcefully hold Jimmy down.

Jimmy has no strength, and stops struggling.

NICO, 64, a muscular older man with a kind face, has his big hands tight around Jimmy's wrists.

NICO

Are you done!?

NICO (cont'd)

Answer me!

Jimmy nods.

NICO (cont'd)

Good. Go back to sleep.

Jimmy struggles to respond or form his words.

JIMMY

You're...human.

Nico snorts.

NICO

So are you. Get some rest.

Jimmy closes his eyes.

INT. CAR/EXT. ILLINOIS COUNTRYSIDE - 10 DAYS LATER

A sunny day in the countryside of Illinois. Not a car on the road or cloud in the sky.

Jimmy drives an SUV. He's telling a story, but we don't know who he's talking to. His phone is not docked. As he talks, he looks out the window at the old barns and sun soaked vistas.

JTMMY

And then I jumped in the lake completely ass naked, on god knows how many drugs. Almost slipped on my way down too.

As Jimmy continues to talk, and recollect a time of his life, we see in the backseat there is a BLACK BODY BAG.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Anyways, what am I talking about.
It's about the future now. New
beginnings. We can write our own
story.

EXT. FARM - DAY - SAME

A quiet, run down farm. A few cows mingle about.

The sun is hot in this beautiful country.

A single asphalt road runs alongside the farm.

INT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT DOOR

Nico sips a coffee, looking down the road. Waiting for someone.

Jimmy's SUV appears in the distance. Nico quickly goes back into the house.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DRIVEWAY - SAME

An SUV pulls into the drive way. Jimmy steps out. He opens the backdoor, pulling out the black body bag.

He carefully puts the body over his shoulder.

He closes the backdoor, and starts walking carefully toward the front door.

He's about to knock, but the door opens to see Nico.

NICO

That's her?

JIMMY

Glad you two can finally meet.

Nico gives him a warm smile.

INT. FARMHOUSE - MINUTES LATER

Jimmy sets the body bag down on the floor. Nico comes in and hands Jimmy a coffee.

The farmhouse is minimalistic. Definitely not lived in, as there is no furniture and just random supplies laying on the floor. The entire place is dark. The windows have large drapes covering them.

Jimmy unzips the body bag, revealing Evie. She opens her eyes.

JIMMY

Hey, there.

EVIE

Hi.

JIMMY

You made it. It's safe to come out.

She steps out of the body bag. Immediately notices Nico.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Evie, this is Nico. He saved my life. Now he's going to save yours.

NICO

Cuff her.

Jimmy takes the handcuffs from his belt and puts them on Evie. He takes a mouthguard from a bag nearby, and asks her to put them in.

She takes it, opens her mouth - revealing her FANGS. She puts the mouth guard in. Closing her mouth.

NICO (cont'd)

Human blood makes them go crazy.

JIMMY

I know, and I'm sorry, I didn't prep her before...

NICO

It's cool. Lets get this done.

INT. FARMHOUSE - MINUTES LATER

Evie is on the floor. Her eyes dart in nervousness.

Nico injects a syringe into her arm.

Jimmy is sitting next to her, consoling her.

JIMMY

Everything is going to be so much better. Aging is a good thing. It's a part of life. Your new life.

Evie is expressionless, staring into her dads eyes - cold.

NICO

You got her?

JIMMY

Yeah.

NICO

Last one.

He injects the last syringe. He mops his forehead with a rag nearby.

NICO (cont'd)

I dunno man.

Jimmy runs his hands over Evie's head.

JIMMY

You're doing so good.

Jimmy leans down, whispers in Evie's ear.

Something we cannot hear.

It moves Evie. We see it in her eyes.

A CELL PHONE RING breaking the moment. It's coming from Jimmy's pocket.

He takes it out, looks at the screen: "Cassandra Calling"

He hesitates. Nico gives him a nod as Evie is asleep.

INT. FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME

Jimmy steps into a separate room, and quietly shuts the door. He answers the call.

JIMMY

Hi.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

Sorry for calling so late. Can you talk?

BEAT.

JTMMY

Not...really. Why, what's up? I don't want to talk long since Evie is asleep.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

I want to give us another chance. I've been doing a lot thinking lately...and....

A BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM from outside the room.

CASSANDRA (V.O.)

What the...

Jimmy drops the phone.

He opens the door and sees --

Evie has Nico pinned to the corner of the wall. Biting, and sucking his blood. Blood flies everywhere from Nico's throat.

NICO

GAAAAAAHHHHHHDDDDDD!!!!

She rips his throat out, disconnecting his head from his body.

His head slaps to the floor in a bloody heap.

Evie turns, viciously eying Jimmy.

JIMMY

No, no, no, no. No! No! Oh God!!

Jimmy covers his mouth in shock and fright.

Evie's eyes shift to the back screen door. She sees the light coming through.

She runs toward the screen door - Jimmy immediately comes after her.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Stop! You can have me too.

Evie pauses at the back door. Considers it.

JIMMY (cont'd)

Please. Take me. Take my blood. Don't go out there.

She runs outside into the light.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - BACKYARD

Evie is running through the yard, with Jimmy close behind her. Nothing has happened to her yet, and Jimmy is surprised and maybe sees hope.

JIMMY

Stop. Just stop. For one second.

Evie turns and looks at him.

ON JIMMY:

Ash suddenly blows all over his face.

IN FRONT OF JIMMY:

A small burning hole in the ground where Evie once was.

Jimmy stares at it blankly.

CUT TO

END CREDITS

"BLUE SKIES" by Frank Sinatra