

Paramedic

written by

The Amityville Vampire Witch Demon

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Address
Phone
E-mail

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

A towering majestic house of God - A cathedral all but in name.

A small figure in green uniform walks up the path towards the church doors.

INT. CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

The grand wooden doors open, in walks the man. The green uniform is that of a PARAMEDIC.

In his early 40's, he stands there and looks around, notably impassive.

The church appears empty, giving it that extra celestial ambiance.

He soon finds what he is looking for, heads in the direction.

As he walks down the grand church hall, he passes the numerous devout decor - Votive Candles. Stain glass windows. The Archangel Gabriel.

Something in particular catches his eye. He stops dead. Looks up in the direction of...

A statue of JESUS, perched high up, looking down with sorrowful eyes at all in his sanctuary.

They share a long stare...

The paramedic then hits a smug look.

THE PARAMEDIC

What?

Close on Jesus: His eyes seemingly denouncing.

The paramedic smiles and walks on.

Eyes now focussed on his destination: A CONFESSION BOOTH.

INT. CONFESSION BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

The paramedic enters the dark booth, sits down.

Takes a moment.

THE PARAMEDIC

Bless me father for I have sinned.

A moment. Then a voice responds. Old, wise, righteous.

THE PRIEST (O.S)

Welcome and worry not, this is the house of God, the house of the Holy Spirit. Have no fears my devout friend, please tell me of your sins so we can seek absolution.

THE PARAMEDIC

Sure.

(A moment)

I'm a paramedic. I recently lost a young girl. Attending an emergency dispatch.

EXT. FAIR GROUND - DAY

A traumatised crowd of people watch on as THE PARAMEDIC and a FEMALE PARAMEDIC (20's) attend to a young girl who lays on the grass unconscious.

The situation is urgent, the two paramedics share a quick look - The female paramedic begins to apply CPR on the child.

Behind the scene stands a GIANT SWING RIDE. One of those that lifts the swings high in the air and rotates up and down. Unsurprisingly, it's currently inactive.

To the right of incident, a FALLEN SWING. Unnaturally crashed to the ground. To the left, an onlooking frantic MOTHER.

Our grisly picture pulsates with blue flashing lights.

THE PARAMEDIC (V.O)

At the Oakdale fairground, last Thursday. We got there too late. We couldn't save her.

The female paramedic continues to compress the chest of the girl. Now harder and more desperate than she probably should.

She looks over at her male colleague. He shakes his head, eyes sombre. She persists with the CPR. She won't give up.

He then places his hand over her compressing arms. Shakes his head once again. She then stops. Draws back, demoralised. Looks back at him, eyes nearly giving way.

THE PRIEST (V.O)

I heard about that tragic fairground incident.

(MORE)

THE PRIEST (V.O) (CONT'D)
 Listen, these terribly sad moments
 are very difficult to understand,
 but this is the business of our
 holy father.

INT. CONFESSION BOOTH - DAY

The paramedic listens hard.

THE PRIEST (O.S)
 It is he that will shepherd the
 girl and her family to redemption.
 This is not your sin. You were just
 doing your job. Bless you my
 righteous servant of the people.

The paramedic takes a deep breath.

THE PARAMEDIC
 Thank you. Though I should tell you
 that that sad moment -- Went
 exactly how I'd hoped it would.

A short silence in the booth.

THE PRIEST (O.S)
 Parden me?

EXT. FAIR GROUND - NIGHT

The fair ground is closed. All lights are off. It's dark and empty.

The paramedic (In casual cloths) sneaks into shot. Looks about covertly. Looks up at GIANT SWING RIDE with ill will.

THE PARAMEDIC (V.O)
 My job is so much more fun when you
 create your own 911's. You see I
 paid that fairground ride a visit
 the night before.

LITTLE LATER:

The paramedic sits in a SWING, with a SCREWDRIVER, meticulously loosening a screw. A rather twisted excitement on his face.

THE PARAMEDIC (V.O) (CONT'D)
 Unscrewed some screws in the
 completely unsupervised
 fairground...

EXT. AMBULANCE - ON THE MOVE - DAY

The paramedic is at the wheel. His female colleague the passenger, they appear to chat casually.

THE PARAMEDIC (V.O)
Then you just wait. Wait for that call. The anticipation. The buzz.

Their causal chat gets interrupted by a DISPATCH.

The female paramedic grabs the radio receiver, answers. Turns to her driver, he switches on the emergency lights. Hits the accelerator.

A trace of sadistic excitement creeping into his face.

THE PARAMEDIC (V.O) (CONT'D)
Then it comes -- Better than sex.

INT. CONFESSION BOOTH - DAY

The paramedic waits for some kind of response from the priest. Kinda knowing it's not gonna come. And it doesn't.

THE PARAMEDIC
You see father, I'm not here for absolution. I'm here to boast. Make the most of your confidentiality. Yeah I'm a fan of serial killers, but they all miss a trick. They don't stick around. They miss the aftermath. They don't get to feel the pure horror of their actions.

INSERT: Shot of the traumatised onlookers at the fairground incident.

THE PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)
They don't get a hug from the mother of the daughter they just murdered.

INSERT: Shot of the distraught MOTHER sobbing into the shoulder of the paramedic at the fairground.

THE PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)
Thank God my trainee stopped the resuscitation when I pulled the experience card, otherwise that little brat might have pulled through. She's was my number 7.
(MORE)

THE PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)
I'm on a roll. I'm unique. A new
breed of killer.

A silence in the booth.

THE PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)
You see father, I use to save life
after life. That was all great.
Then one day, get a call -- Kid
gets hit on his bike.

EXT. STREET - DAY

An ambulance pulls up to an incident where a teenage boy lays
hurt next to a bike and the bumper of a car.

Two paramedics dart out of the ambulance. Our paramedic
(slightly younger) and an OLDER MALE COLLEAGUE. They
immediately attend to the boy.

THE PARAMEDIC (V.O)
He seemed ok -- But then the little
fucker went into cardiac.

The kid loses consciousness. The paramedics get urgent.

OLDER MALE COLLEAGUE
(To the paramedic)
Quick, the AED!

THE PARAMEDIC's face sinks. He knows.

THE PARAMEDIC (V.O)
That was the day I forgot to check
the battery.

MOMENTS LATER:

The paramedic hands his older colleague the defibrillator
pads who immediately slaps them on the boys chest.

They wait for the sound...

OLDER MALE COLLEAGUE
Where's the shock?

The paramedic looks back with culpable dread.

THE PARAMEDIC
The batteries dead.

The male colleague shoots a piercing reprimand. Then
frantically starts manual CPR on the boy.

INT. CONFESSION BOOTH - DAY

THE PARAMEDIC

The little fucker survived in the end. But I still got chewed up in a big way.

(Mulls over it)

But that wasn't it -- It was the guilt -- The pure terror I felt when he was laying there, seemingly dead. Never again. Never do I wanna feel like that. That's when I realised I needed to be in control. I decide when they die now.

The paramedic folds his arms, nods, reinforces his new ethics.

Then looks through the other side of the booth - Is the priest still there?

THE PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)

Ok that's nearly all from me. But before I go -- You seen the film Halloween 3?

No response from the priest.

THE PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)

Yes that's right, the one with that wonderfully annoying tune...

(Sings)

Happy-happy halloween, halloween, halloween... Happy-happy halloween, silver shamrock...

(Stops singing)

That old mask maker guy, Cochran -- Wants to kill all the kids in America with his badass face-melting halloween masks. All on halloween night. I've been watching the film over and over again. What I would say is -- I won't hit those numbers. And certainly not in one night. But I promise you -- By the time this dumbass country stops me -- I'll be USA's number 1 serial killer. They won't forget this paramedic. You have my word on that. Amen.

He nods to himself.

Then gets up and leaves the booth.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

The paramedic calmly walks towards his parked ambulance.

His cell phone rings. He pulls it out his trouser pocket, checks the caller id and puts phone to ear.

THE PARAMEDIC

Hi sweetie, how was school?

(Beat)

That's great. Daddy will be home soon, jus a couple more jobs.

(beat)

Love you too hunny, Bye.

He slips the phone back into his pocket and enters the ambulance.

INT. AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

He switches on the ignition, gear into drive. Then checks his wrist watch.

Then just waits for a moment.

A BEEPING Noise. Then a female voice from the dispatch box -

EMERGENCY DISPATCHER (O.S)

912, All units to Bayhead Elementary school on crosspatch road, fire in progress. Repeating all units to Bayhead Elementary school on crosspatch road, fire in progress, 14:25, 5632.

The paramedic picks up his receiver.

THE PARAMEDIC

1032 to dispatch.

Puts the receiver down, switches on his emergency lights.

Then hits a sadistic smile like he's the devil incarnate.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lights flashing, siren blaring, The ambulance speeds off.

FADE OUT.