

Something in the Dark

written by

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EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Dust kicks up on the boots of ADAM (34) as he walks down the long and empty road. He pauses for a moment to remove his Blue army jacket and admire the harvested fields, prepped and ready for the upcoming winter.

TITLE CARD: PENNSYLVANIA SEPTEMBER, 1866

EXT. FARMHOUSE - AFTERNOON

Picturesque and desolate. The only house that can be seen across the horizon. Straight from an Andrew Wyeth painting; the grey sky almost complements the warped wood side panels and slowly rotating windmill.

Adam reaches the path to the house and can see through the kitchen window stands KATE (28), a naturally beautiful woman with brunette hair tied up in a tight bun.

INT. FARMHOUSE/KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Kate focuses on cutting a bloody piece of beef into cubes for a stew boiling next to her on the stove. She looks up, sees Adam and pauses. Kate slowly places the knife on the counter and walks to the front door.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - AFTERNOON

Kate Opens the door and steps out into the porch. Adam walks up the the porch and takes Kate into his arms.

ADAM
Oh, My love.

INT. FARMHOUSE/BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Adam and Kate make love on the bed. Adam Kisses Kate's breasts. Kate cries quiet tears of joy.

INT. FARMHOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kate lights a candle on the table. She pours out a ladle of stew into a bowl and passes it to Adam. He takes the pour and begins to slowly eat.

Kate watches Adam for a time. A smile appears on her face but then slowly fades as her eyes move around the room in thought.

KATE

They sent me a letter, back in '64.
They said you had been captured in
battle. They weren't sure if you'd
been killed. Colin Maysser and
other boys kept coming home and I
just... I assumed the worst.

ADAM

I'm sorry I worried you.

KATE

How long were you in the hospital?

ADAM

Got out around June. I wanted to
come home but something I had to do
took me out of the way.

KATE

Where'd you go?

ADAM

Junction City.

KATE

Where is that?

ADAM

Kansas.

Kate lets out a quick laugh of disbelief.

KATE

Why on earth would you go to
Kansas?

Adam shoots Kate a look.

KATE (CONT'D)

Well, i- I have the right to know!
I thought you were dead, Adam! Two
years of sitting and wondering!

Adam softly places his spoon down, folds his hands and puts
them on the table.

ADAM

We were somewhere in the bowls of
Georgia. Moving slowly from one
battle to the next. Each one looked
and felt exactly the same as the
last; The explosions, the screams,
thick, rusty blood in the air.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

In the battalion I became acquainted with a man, another private like me, Ryan was his name. We would camp next to each other, share stories and food if we had any. I told him all about you; your beautiful hair, your laugh that would put a chorus of angels to shame... Your loving eyes.

Kate reaches out and takes Adams hand.

ADAM (CONT'D)

We made steady progress until we hit Kennesaw. Men were just falling all around me. It was like the enemy was made of smoke. Ryan pushed me down and told me to be quiet. The gun shots stopped ringing and we looked up to see the rebels coming toward us. I closed my eyes and tried to make peace, but they tied our hands made us we march. This place they took us... I'd never wish that kind of hell on my worst enemy. Men sleeping in holes, covering themselves in whatever they could find to keep out of the sun. Some creek that had run through the camp had turned into sludge, making desperate men sick. All we could do was sit and rot. "Ain't no worse than basic right, Remton?". He called me Remton because I found a Remington rifle in one of the fields and took a liking to it and he- he spoke so fast, Kate...

Adam begins to laugh. Kate smiles.

ADAM (CONT'D)

He spoke so fast he didn't pronounce the whole word, "hey you like that old Remton, don't cha?" After a while he got the entire camp calling me that. There was never a day where Ryan wasn't cracking jokes. Soon, some boys got desperate enough that they started trying to run things; they stole from every man weaker than them, killing some.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

They stayed away from us for a while... One night, I had a dream that a warm rain was falling down on to me, washing all the dirt off my body, making me clean again. I opened my eyes and saw the warm rain was Ryan's blood hitting my face. Like a coward, I stayed still until they finished killing him... I just didn't want to die.

Adam looks down at the table.

ADAM (CONT'D)

The next day we gathered men and fought back against those bastards; beat them down and tied them up with whatever we could find. That night we held a trial and by morning we started hanging them. The confederates did nothing. They just watched and laughed. Not much longer after that we finally saw Blue jackets coming over the hills. Our men saved us. We had been in there for over a year, all of us skin and bones. That was May 1865.

Adam looks back up at Kate.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I spent the next year and some in a hospital, slowly gaining weight and fighting off every sickness you could imagine. Everything in my soul was leading me home to you, but I had one more thing to do. A couple weeks into the camp, Ryan asked me, in the case he ever died, to go to Junction City. He told me at the end of Chestnut Street there would be a small house with an old rocking chair that has white paint flaking off the sides... A rocking chair his grandma would hold him on when he was a child and sing him to sleep... and in that house would be his wife. I promised him, even though they would send a letter, that I would tell his wife what a brave man he was through everything. That he kept me alive.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)
That woman deserved to know what
happened to her husband. So... That's
why I was in Junction City.

Kate sits in the silence with Adam, contemplating the story.

INT. FARMHOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

A creaking floorboard wakes Adam from sleep. He sits up and looks over at Kate. His eyes move over to the slightly ajar door and just makes out a shadow moving down the hall.

Adam rubs his eyes and quietly gets out of bed.

INT. FARMHOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Adam walks into the living room. Another floor board creaks and Adam turns around to see the shadow enter the bedroom. Adam quickly walks back to the room.

INT. FARMHOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam looks into the room to see Kate sleeping alone in bed. He stands in the silence until a barely audible growl creeps up behind him.

In the distance a door unlocks and the sharp squeak of hinges cuts through the room.

Kate darts awake and sees Adam run back to the living room.

INT. FARMHOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Adam runs into the room and sees the front door swinging slowly shut.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Adam opens the large doors to reveal an empty barn. He walks in, examining the stables.

INT. FARMHOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Kate prepares a chicken for roasting. Adam enters from the front door.

ADAM
What happened?

KATE
What?

ADAM
The Livestock.

KATE
Oh... Times became tough last year. I
needed to sell them off.

ADAM
Kate...

KATE
I'm sorry, it had to be done.

ADAM
Jesus...

KATE
They stopped sending me your pay
when you were captured.

EXT. MAYSSER FARM - DAY

Adam embraces COLIN MAYSSER (29) a short, lean man with
premature wrinkles. They break their embrace and Colin holds
Adam out by his shoulders at arms length.

COLIN
I can't express how glad I am to
see you.

ADAM
Looks like the war treated you
well.

COLIN
Well enough. Lost my hearing on the
right side. You look like you've
been through the mill. How's Kate?

ADAM
Seems fine. That's partly why I
came over. Seems like the pension I
got didn't keep things afloat and
Kate had to sell the livestock. She
wont tell me to who, though.
Embarrassed, I guess.

Colin gives a confused look.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I was wondering if she might have sold any to your family while we were gone and if so, to sell it back... for a reasonable price.

The two men laugh.

CAIN

Sorry Adam, Kate never came by. When I got back everything was accounted for. Nothing new in the barn.

Adam chews the inside of his cheek.

CAIN (CONT'D)

She was so worried about you, after everyone else came home. She just held herself up in the house. No one's seen her around town for a while.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Kate watches the chicken roasting in the fireplace. As if she was in a trance, her face dons a dark complexion and she looks up and out the window. She stands up and walks to the window.

Kate takes in a quick breath, seeing something we can not.

KATE

Please... please don't hurt him.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Adam and Kate eat the roast chicken. A looming silence can be felt over them.

ADAM

I know you feel bad about the animals. I'm not mad. I just need you to tell me who bought them.

Kate's eyes search the table for an answer; none can be found.

ADAM (CONT'D)

This is ridiculous, Kate.

KATE
I'm sorry...

Adam stands up and walks away from the table.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adam jolts awake, looking around the dark room. He reaches over to feel Kate's side of the bed empty.

ADAM
Kate...

Adam gets out of bed and walks toward the door. As he reaches for the knob and hears Kate's muffled voice from the other side of the door. He presses his ear against the door.

KATE
(Muffled)
Please believe me, I still love
him...

There is a scratch at the window behind Adam. He turns around and walks to the window. He looks out, trying to see into the dark.

A clawed hand slams against the window, cracking the pane and causing Adam to jump back.

Adam reaches under the bed and pulls out a shotgun. He runs to the door and throws it open.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Adam bursts into the living room to see Kate standing against a window.

ADAM
Who are you talking to?!

KATE
Wha... Nobody. I came out to use the
outhouse.

ADAM
I heard you!

KATE
Maybe it was the wind.

ADAM
Get away from the door.

KATE

Why?

ADAM

There's something outside.

Adam puts two shells into the gun and walks out of the house.

KATE

Adam, wait!

EXT. FAMRHOUSE - NIGHT

Adam makes it out of the house three steps before stopping. His eyes are wide with fear.

The chirping crickets and other sounds of the night quiet down, leaving a dense and eerie silence. Adam's eyes dart around widely.

From the dark a heavy footstep can be heard from the distance. Adam aims the gun in the direction it came from. The gun shakes lightly in his hands.

A second step, this time closer, Adam cocks the hammer back on both barrels. A third step followed by a deep growl causes Adam to fire the shotgun.

The light from the blast reveals an ungodly figure for a split second, tall, bulky, covered in fur but with a skull for a head.

Adam yelps and falls over him self. A strange howl comes from the dark. Quickly, Adam scrambles up and over him self and runs into the house, slamming the door behind him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAWN

Adam sits in a chair in front of the door. He hasn't slept all night but he is alert.

INT. BEDROOM - DAWN

Adam walks into the bedroom and sits on the bed next to Kate. She is turned away from him and sleeping deeply. He places his hand on her shoulder, lightly as to not wake her.

Adam looks up and at the cracked window pane.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAWN

Adam steps outside the door, shotgun first. He walks down the steps and to where he was standing the night before. Looking around he finds a small pool of blood. He follows a trail of blood drops moving away from the farmhouse.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Adam tracks the blood trail through the field. The blood appears dark red on the golden wheat. As he walks the blood suddenly disappears. Adam looks around for another trail but comes up empty.

Something causes a stick to crack in the field. Adam perks up and aims his shotgun. He takes a breath to steady himself and walks toward the source of the noise.

Something makes a break for it, rustling through the field. Adam breaks into a sprint and chases after whatever is running.

As Adam runs he can see it is a deer jumping through the field.

Without warning Adam falls over and disappears. We hear a crash and cracking sound.

INT. BONE PIT - DAY

Adam holds his leg and screams in pain. A sharp animal bone sticks through his flesh. Adam breathes through his teeth as he grips the bone and rips it out, letting out a bellowing scream.

Adam lays down with his eyes tightly closed. After a moment he opens his eyes and realizes where he is; a pit full of animal bones.

Adam Looks around in fear at the hundreds of bones that line the floor of the pit.

ADAM
Jesus Christ...

Adam takes of his shirt and rips it up. He places folded pieces on the punctures and wraps a long piece around his leg.

Slowly, Adam pulls himself up and out of the hole. Covered in a thick layer of sweat, Adam begins walking back to the Farmhouse.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Adam slowly hobbles over to the porch and sits down, breathing heavy. Kate walks out and seeing his condition runs back into the house. She returns with a cup of water. He drinks the entire cup and drops it to the ground.

Kate leans over and hugs Adam from behind.

INT. FARMHOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Adam stitches the puncture in his leg. Thick blood flows from the wound. He grimaces in pain as he presses the needle into his flesh. Kate stands next to him, silently.

INT. BARN - DAY

Adam scavenges for boards of wood. Holding as many as he can, he makes his way back to the farmhouse.

INT. FARMHOUSE/LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Adam nails boards of wood to the front door.

ADAM

I don't know what's out there... But
It probably knows I'm wounded.

KATE

Adam...

Adam stops nailing and presses himself against the door. He looks over at Kate.

ADAM

What's happening? Didn't you notice
anything strange?

Tears fill Kate's eyes. She clasps her hands to her mouth. Adam moves closer to her. She begins to cry.

ADAM (CONT'D)

What is it?

KATE

(Through tears)
You had been gone for so long... I
was so scared. I-I thought you were
dead...

ADAM
What?... What!?

Adam holds Kate by the shoulders at arms length. Kate Breaks into more tears.

KATE
It just wants to protect me...

Adam freezes, His eyes wide with terror. His hands slide off of Kate's arms. In a daze, Adam stands up and goes back to nailing boards to the door.

KATE (CONT'D)
Adam... Adam! Please talk to me!

Kate covers her face with her hands. Adam finishes nailing a board. He looks over at Kate.

ADAM
I'm here now... Its my job to protect you... Even from this. It doesn't seem to have any intention of reaching an understanding. So were just going to have to finish it ourselves.

INT. FARMHOUSE/LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Adam sits with Kate on the couch, holding the cocked shotgun close to his body.

Outside the house comes a faint wail; like a coyote but distorted and demonic. Adam tenses for a moment and stands up, moving about the house and blowing out all the lights.

Adam walks to the boarded up window and looks out through a crack to the moon drenched fields. Another howl flows into the room, this time louder. After a long beat the tall, bulky figure from the night before emerges from the open field.

Another louder howl sends Adam back from the window. Kate stands up but Adam motions for her to sit back down, she complies.

Something heavy steps onto the porch, its claws scraping the boards as It walks up and down the porch, its shadow can be seen passing the boarded up windows.

Without warning Adam fires the shotgun, leaving a hole in the door. A howl of pain erupts from the porch. Kate covers her ears and cries out. Their cries seem to swirl together.

The creature cry's out again and rams itself against the front door, splintering from the shotgun hole. It rams the door again, this time almost breaking the door off it's hinges.

Adam aims the shotgun, Kate lunges at him.

KATE

NO!

Kate grabs the barrel of the shotgun and pushes it downward. The gun fires and a small portion of the floor explodes into the air.

Adam looks over at Kate who stares at her hands, burned red from the heat of the blast. They share a moment of shock.

Adam opens the shotgun and pulls out the shells, Kate jumps at him and slaps him in the face, knocking him over. The two wrestle on the ground.

ADAM

What the hell are you doing?!

KATE

Don't hurt him!

Adam punches Kate in the jaw and sends her to the floor. Kate quickly gets back up and pulls out a knife from her apron. She brings the knife down and it drags against Adams side causing him to let out a scream of pain.

Kate brings up the knife again and this time it goes clean through Adams palm. Adam yells out again and pulls away, knife still lodged in his hand.

Kate chases after him like a wild animal. Scratching and punching him. Adam pushes Kate away and as she makes her charge at him, Adam pulls the knife out of his hand and stabs her in the stomach.

Kate takes a quick breath in and a couple steps back. She holds her stomach and falls to the floor.

The door explodes off its hinges and silhouetted in the open frame is a giant BEAST. The Beast runs over and picks Adam up by his neck, throwing him across the room and over the dining table.

The Beast makes its way slowly toward Kate, blood trickling down its leg and onto the floor. It leans over and reaches out to Kate when Adam jumps up and stabs the Beast in the throat with the knife.

The Beast's cry becomes raspy. It just barely pushes Adam off as it falls to its knees.

Adam watches as the Beast moves closer to Kate, its breathing quick and shallow. Adam looks over at Kate who lays motionless on the floor.

Adam picks up the shotgun and loads a Bullet into it. He aims the gun at the Beast. The Beast takes no notice as Adam hesitates and finally lowers the gun.

Slowly, Adam walks out of the house and into the night.

Kate opens her eyes to see the skull-head of the Beast move closer to her face. She reaches out to it and just before she makes contact, the beast falls over, dead.

Kate places her hand back down; a tear falls down her cheek.

THE END.