THE STALKER

Ву

DALE MURRAY

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INT. BEN'S CAR - EVENING

JANICE, 20, wearing formal business wear is sitting in the passenger seat in Ben's Car while BEN, 25, wearing a business suit is driving.

Unknown to them a Car is following them, the driver is unseen.

JANICE

Again, thanks for giving me a lift home

BEN

And like I said it's no problem.

JANICE

I will be getting my car back really soon and when I do I'll have to give you a lift sometime.

Ben laughs.

BEN

You don't need to do that Janice, you saying thanks is good enough for me.

JANICE

Thank you Ben, it's better getting a lift from you than having to get a lift from Jamie.

BEN

Not a big fan of Jamie then?

JANICE

I'd be a bigger fan for Jamie if he would stop constantly hitting on me at work.

Ben smiles.

BEN

He does that with everyone, I'm sure he even tried it on with me at last years Christmas party.

Janice laughs.

JANICE

I guess... Maybe I'm just being uptight.

BEN

(sarcasm)

You uptight!

Ben laughs to himself and Janice just looks at him.

JANICE

Oh right you have had your little giggle.

BEN

So... What happened with your car anyway?

JANICE

All four tires punctured. Police think it was just teenagers or a drunk looking for some attention.

BEN

Sounds like someone doesn't want you going leaving home.

JANICE

Don't say that! Why would you say that?

BEN

I was just joking. I'm sure it was just kids.

Janice and Ben laugh uneasily and there is an awkward silence between them. This is cut when Ben pulls up outside Janice's house.

Janice exits the car but comes back to talk to Ben. The other car stops behind them.

BEN (CONT'D)

Well, I'll pick you up tomorrow morning?

JANICE

Sure Ben and again...

BEN

Thanks! I know you have said it enough now on you go. Janice smiles.

Janice smiles at Ben.

Bye Ben.

BEN

Bye.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE JANICE'S HOME - EVENING

Janice closes the car door and walks up her Garden Path, she turns behind her to see if anyones there. In the distance sirens can be heard.

THE FIGURE, a well built unknown man opens the door of his car and one foot steps out of the car and onto the path.

Janice reaches her door takes the keys out of her hand bag unlocks it.

INT. JANICE'S HOUSE - EVENING

The phone is ringing.

Janice pushes the door wide open.

She notices the phone, puts her keys down on the table and runs to get the phone.

The door begins to slowly swings shut but stops unexpectedly before it closes and begins to push open again. Janice has her back to the door.

JANICE

Hello? Oh Hey Laura.

Janice twirls the coil of the phone between her fingers.

JANICE

No. No. I'm exhausted theirs no way I'm going out tonight.

Janice giggles.

JANICE (cont'd)

I know but my plans for tonight are a hot shower, a nice book - actually skip the book, I really can't be bothered and a nice sleep in a comfy bed.

Janice smiles as she turns around with the phone to face the door. Its open.

I know... I know I work too hard. It's just I really can't be bothered tonight. That Jamie was being weird today again.

Janice straightens a vase on the hallway table.

JANICE (cont'd)
Alright well I will see you tomorrow then. Bye Laura.

Janice hangs up the phone and begins to move towards the door. She swings it shut before picking up the keys and locking the door.

She leans down and picks up some mail that's lying on the floor when she gets up The Figure is behind her watching her. Janice does not notice this and continues forward into the kitchen.

Janice puts the mail down at Kitchen counter and behind her we see The Figure stalking her at the front door. Janice moves to the window and looks out at the darkening evening sky. She sighs and switches on the kettle before moving to the a large walk in cupboard.

In the cupboard Janice looks at the shelves looking for some sugar. She reaches for the sugar and it falls from the shelf and hits the floor and rolls away to the end of the cupboard. Janice reaches down to grab the plastic container. Behind her The Figure walks past.

A floor board creaks.

Janice hears this and paused. She is too frightened to turn around. She slowly picks up the jar of Sugar before returning to the kitchen. The kettle whines signaling that the water is boiled.

Janice takes a cup out the cupboard next to her and pours the boiling water into it and adds one spoonful of sugar. Janice closes her eyes and sighs deeply reflecting on the previous days.

INT. STREETS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Janice is walking down a street carrying some groceries. She can hear the footsteps of someone behind her. She turns around quickly to catch them out.

No one is there.

Janice continues but her pace quickens. She begins looking behind herself again. Then moves slightly then checks again.

Then as she is turning the street she walks into JAMIE, 25, a work friend of Janice . Janice gets a shock.

JANICE

Fuck Jamie! You scared the shit of me.

Janice tries to get her breath back.

JAMIE

Sorry Janice! Man not allowed to down a street?

JANICE

No, it's not that it's just... I just got a fright.

JAMIE

No problem. What are you doing this weekend?

Jamie puts his hand on Janice's upper arm. Janice looks at his hand and then moves uncomfortably so he removes it.

JANICE

I've got work to do, sorry Jamie.

JAMIE

Now now Janice... we work together. Don't you think I would know when you were lying.

JANICE

It's not like I'm avoiding you Jamie, I'm not always doing stuff for work, I have other plans.

Jamie is getting a little frustrated.

JAMIE

Oh come on, just one drink.

JANICE

No Jamie, really I can't.

Janice tries to walk past Jamie but he steps in front of her.

JAMIE

Come on, just one drink.

Janice tries to do the same again but is stopped by Jamie.

JANICE

Jamie I said no! I'm busy.

JAMIE

Fine.

JANICE

Right well I need to get home. I'll see you in the office.

JAMIE

Bye.

Janice gets past Jamie and continues on.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The room is filled with a twilight glow from the television. Janice is sitting on the couch drinking the last of her tea.

Janice hears barking outside. She gets up and puts the cup down on the table. She wanders over to window and peaks through the blinds to see nothing as its pitch black outside.

Janice pulls back from the window before learning against the window again.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE JANICE'S HOME - DAY - FLASHBACK

Janice comes back to her home and notices that the door is left open. She pushes it gently and it creaks open.

JANICE

(curiously)

Hello...?

Janice enters her home dumping the groceries on the floor.

She cautiously looks around but there seems to be no one there. there is no one there.

INT. JANICE'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Janice is in her bathroom singing to herself. She is wearing a towel. She moves over to the sink and looks for her toothbrush. It is no where to be seen.

She opens a drawer to look but it's not there. She switched the shower on a it splatters in the empty tub. Janice pulls the plastic shower curtain around the tub.

Janice hears a noise and turns around quickly to face the door. Janice stops singing. Janice bites her lip for a second before letting it go and entering the shower.

Janice continues to sing to herself to raise her confidence.

The door of the bathroom swings open. Janice picks up the shampoo and squirts it on her hands and then runs it through her hair to a lather.

Through the shower curtain the shadow of The Figure can be seen, getting closer and closer. Janice hears another creak and her eyes dart and her hand clutches the shower curtain.

Shampoo runs down her head and hits her eyes. Janice yelps in pain, she clutches the clear shower curtain and the shadow of The Figure retreats out the room.

Eyes closed Janice exits the shower using the curtain as a guide and grabs her towel. She covers herself up and dabs her eyes with the towel.

She runs the tap of the sink and then dabs her eyes with the warm water. She sights with relief from the nipping pain.

Janice wipes the steamed mirror with her hand so she can see her face.

Janice sighs in disappointment.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Janice dries her hair in her bedroom wearing a short black night gown.

The Figure watches her through a crack in the bedroom cupboard.

Janice switches off the dryer and looks at herself in the mirror. She frowns running her fingers over her face.

She bites her lip before moving towards the light switch. She switches of the light and leans her head against one pillow and lies on top of the sheets while cuddling another pillow for comfort.

Janice drifts of to sleep.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

Janice is sleeping on her bed when the cupboard door slowly swing open. The Figure step out slowly, not to wake Janice and approaches the bed in which Janice is sleeping.

The floorboards creak but Janice does not move.

Janice wakes up slightly she half opens her eyes and sees the blurry shadow of The Figure clutching a large knife and screams.

The Figure raises his knife but Janice quickly rolls over but falls of the bed and falls onto all fours to the ground.

The Figure stabs deep into her pillow causing it to spew feathers.

Janice screams as she scrambles to the door on her knees. She uses the door handle to lift herself up and swings it open. The Figure calmly walks behind her.

JANICE (screaming) Somebody help me! Somebody please!

INT. JANICE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Janice runs down the stairs but looks back to see The Figure, she misplaces her foot and falls sliding down the rest of the stairs.

Janice rubs the bottom of her leg and her eyes fill up but she quickly realizes the situation and runs to the front door. She pulls the handle furiously. It's locked.

Her fingers fiddle with the key hole but there are no keys are insight. She looks at the table for her keys, knocking over a lamp but they are not there. She furiously pulls the table drawer open. Inside there are no keys but she does pull out a letter opener.

Janice bangs on the doors but turns to see The Figure at to the of the stairs. She holds the letter open out as a weapon to defend herself with.

What do you want with me!? Please... just take money and go!

Janice runs to the phone and picks it up but the coil has been cut. She screams and throws the phone clattering to the floor.

She continues to the kitchen and then tries the back-door. It is also locked. Janice bangs on the window of the door.

JANICE (cont'd)
Please... Somebody... Help...
Somebody!

Silence.

Janice turns around. Her face puffy from crying. She stops screaming and starts to whimper. She looks down the hallway and The Figure is no where to be seen.

Janice slowly moves through the kitchen and slowly opens a drawer door. She cringes as it squeaks. She then puts her hand into the drawer slowly to not rustle the other cutlery and then pulls out a large knife. She drops the letter opener on the counter.

Janice holds the knife, shaking, in two hands and moves backwards towards the other door leading to the dinning room.

She is sobbing and whimpering, her eyes barely open. As she is moving backwards her side is against the wall using it to hold her up.

Janice tries not to make a sound. Janice turns around a corner. As she does The Figure enters the kitchen. Janice bites her lip to stop her squeaking.

Janice opens the door to a coat closet slowly so it does not creak. Once open she jumps inside and closes it slowly so it does not make a sound.

As it closes The Figure turns around the corner.

INT. COAT CLOSET - NIGHT

Janice backs to the edge of the closet and keeps pushing as if trying to move the walls.

Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit. Shit.

Janice keeps the knife out and begins to crouch to the ground underneath all the coats. Janice looks up and then sharply tugs on a coat causing it to fall over her, covering her.

The handle of the closet slowly turns and then opens. The Figure stands in the open doorway of the closet. Janice shakes under the coat.

The Figure approaches the coat and reaches out as if to grab it. Suddenly Janice pushes forward and stabs the knife into The Figure's leg. She begins to crawl out the closet. The Figure looks down and slashes the knife against the back of Janice's leg cutting her.

Janice screams and uses the door to pull herself out of the closet. The Figure turns around and grabs Janice's leg. Janice screams and yelps.

JANICE (cont'd)

Let go of me you freak, let go! Help!

Janice kicks free and then begins limping to the window.

INT. JANICE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Janice limps back to the front door. She bangs furiously on the door screaming.

JANICE

Please! Somebody! Anybody! Help me!

Behind her The Figure approaches.

Janice steps back from the door and The Figure grabs her from behind stabbing her in the back. Janice moves up on to the tips of her toes, screaming in agony before being released and falls to the ground.

INT. OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Jamie is smiling at Janice, Janice smiles uneasily back at him.

INT. JANICE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Figure plunges the Knife into Janice's back screaming.

INT. JANICE'S BATHROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Jamie is stealing Janice's toothbrush

INT. JANICE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Figure is stabbing Janice repeatedly Janice screams, reaching out from the handle forming bloody prints on the door. Janice pulls the handle down to open it before her lifeless hand looses grip and falls to the ground.

INT. OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Janice and Jamie are talking in the office.

JANICE

I'm sorry Jamie but I can't go out this weekend.

JAMIE

What about the week after that?

JANICE

Jamie... I'm sorry.

Janice goes to turn around but Jamie grabs Janice's wrist.

JAMIE

You will regret this Janice, I mean it you will regret this.

JANICE

Let go off me Jamie.

JAMIE

Do you think your better than me, is that what this is? Is it?

JANICE

I said let go.

Janice tries to wrestles Jamie's grip when Ben enters.

BEN

Is everything alright in here?

Janice gets out of Jamie's grip and then turns to Ben.

Yes, I'm fine.

Janice looks at Jamie then to Ben.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Are you ready to go?

BEN

Yeah my cars in the car park.

Janice and Ben leave the office and Jamie watches them leave and smiles sinisterly.

INT. JANICE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Figure reveals himself to be Jamie and drops the blood drenched knife clattering to the ground. He gets on his knees beside Janice and gently strokes her lifeless face smiling.

JAMIE

I warned you... I told you I'd have you.

END