

STITCHED

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EXT. QUIET STREET – DAY

Two teenagers in school uniform, CAMERON and DANIELA, stand at a quiet bus stop, chatting inaudibly. CAMERON drags on a cigarette, every drag cautious as he looks around for adults.

DANIELA
Today's the day then?

CAMERON laughs to himself.

CAMERON
Yeah.

A third teenager, KYLE, approaches, rucksack slung over one shoulder, shirt untucked. He walks hunched shoulders, an obvious lack of confidence.

CAMERON
Here he comes..

CAMERON tosses away his cigarette as KYLE appears.

KYLE
Hey guys-

CAMERON
Alright mate.

CAMERON begins walking.

KYLE
Where's Lee?

CAMERON
He's not walking home with us today.

KYLE nods and the trio begin walking.

FADE TO:

EXT. ROAD JUNCTION – EXT

The trio laugh and slow down at the end of the road. DANIELA turns to go the other way.

DANIELA
I guess I'll see you guys on Monday.

KYLE
You're not home yet?

CAMERON
We're going a different way home today mate.

KYLE
A different way?

CAMERON
Yeah, I found a short cut back to your house yesterday.
Thought we could try it out.

KYLE
Oh, Ok.

DANIELA
No adventures for me, enjoy boys.

KYLE
See you Monday, Daniela.

CAMERON
Later.

KYLE and CAMERON walk in the opposite direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST – LATE AFTERNOON

Dreary woodland, overgrown and unmaintained, the wind wailing through its twisted branches.

Two schoolboys negotiate the forest together. CAMERON, a confident lad leading the way, bag slung over one shoulder, gallops ahead, much to the annoyance of the second boy, KYLE.

KYLE
Wait for me!

CAMERON
Come on! Keep up!

KYLE looks uneasy, dragging his feet.

CAMERON
What's the matter? Scared?

KYLE
No.

The abruptness of KYLE's reply exposes the lie, he pauses, looking around, imagining evil lurking behind every tree trunk.

CAMERON
Well keep up then! Or I'll tell everyone at school how you cried because you were scared of the woods.

The threat forces KYLE into action, he stomps past CAMERON in false bravado.

KYLE

I'm not scared of the woods.

CAMERON
Good. You big girl.

CAMERON follows with a smirk, looking around for a few moments.

CAMERON
Creepy isn't it.

KYLE
I suppose.

CAMERON
Even more creepy when you know what's happened here.
KYLE tries to conceal the unease in his voice.

KYLE
What do you mean?

CAMERON
Oh come on, you know.

KYLE
No I don't or I wouldn't be asking
would I?

CAMERON
Well. The people that have gone missing..

KYLE
Missing?

CAMERON seems surprised KYLE doesn't know, studying his friends face for a moment.

CAMERON
Don't worry about it. I don't want to creep you out.

CAMERON stomps off this time, much to KYLE's annoyance.

KYLE
No, wait, what people disappearing?

CAMERON
Well it's just a story-

KYLE
Spit it out, Cameron.

CAMERON
Have you ever heard of the stitcher? Its like a local
myth. Well, they say it's a myth.

KYLE

No.

CAMERON

Well, there's this urban legend, gone on for generations.

Apparently some kind of monster lives in these woods.

They call him the stitcher.. he just sits and waits for people to unwittingly stumble onto his path, and when they do, he takes them.

KYLE

Takes them where?

CAMERON

No-one knows for sure, I mean, it's supposed to just be a story. But people have disappeared. Makes you wonder if it's real.

KYLE

And this is the shortcut you decided to take home?!

CAMERON

It's just a story.

(pause)

Although..

KYLE

Although what?!

KYLE becomes increasingly more agitated.

CAMERON

Do you remember Reggie Taylor?

KYLE

That kid that went missing last year?

CAMERON

The stitcher got him.

KYLE

No he didn't. He got hit by a car..

CAMERON

Took a while to find him though didn't it?

KYLE

It took so long to find him because he fell down the embankment into the woods.

CAMERON

That's what they say-

KYLE

That's what happened.

CAMERON

Found near here though wasn't he?

The seeds of doubt plant into KYLE's mind.

CAMERON

My dad's mate works for the local paper in town and is quite tight with the local police. *He says they were paid to not print what really happened.*

KYLE

What really happened?

CAMERON

He was found in these woods with his mouth stitched up.

KYLE

Shut up.

CAMERON

For real. In fact, I think it was *right here..*

They turn into a partial clearing, still overgrown but the trees now less thick and precarious to move through.

CAMERON

Horrible to think something so awful happened *right here.*

A twig snaps out in the distance.

KYLE

What was that?

CAMERON

What?

KYLE

That noise.

CAMERON

I didn't hear anything.

A lull as KYLE looks around to see if he can see the source of the noise.

Another rustle in the undergrowth, this time behind them. KYLE spins.

KYLE

There it is again! What is it?

CAMERON

I don't know

The noise again.

KYLE

It's the stitcher!

CAMERON
Oh shut up-

KYLE
Is someone there?! Hello?

CAMERON
Hello?!

A figure creeps up behind the boys, hand out stretched.. before grabbing KYLE's shoulder.

He lets out an intense shriek, turning and facing another boy, Halloween mask on, who lets out a deep growl.. before bursting into laughter.

CAMERON joins him, the pair slapping each others backs and high-fiving.

The mask comes off, another school boy, LEE.

LEE
You should've seen your face!

CAMERON (mocks)
It's the stitcher.

They cackle together, almost falling to floor in hysterics.

KYLE
It's not funny guys.

LEE
Oh yes it was, I've never seen anything like it.

As the boys continue to laugh, a small rustling in the foliage distracts KYLE.

After a few moments, a loud snap rings out. The boys turn. Laughter fading.

LEE
What was that?

CAMERON (mocking)
It's the stitcher!

KYLE
Shut Up!

The laughter begins again, but Kyle now ignores them and stares into the foliage ahead.

A sudden loud rumble rings out, the boys all turning to face it.

LEE

What was that?

LEE stomps forward beside KYLE, both pausing cautiously for a moment.

They wait. No more noises. They turn back. CAMERON is no longer there.

LEE
Cameron?

KYLE
Cameron?!

LEE
Cameron?! Get out here you knob!

No response. KYLE turns towards the further rustling.

LEE
Same trick twice is boring you know!

KYLE moves towards the rustling up ahead.

LEE
Where are you going?

KYLE ignores him.

LEE
Oi! Kyle!

KYLE continues to walk. LEE, realizing he isn't going to stop, follows reluctantly.

LEE
Cameron!?

The boys push through a larger section of dense woodland, KYLE leads, a new vibe of fearless determination.

LEE follows, looking around desperately.

LEE
Cameron?! Come out you prick!
(pause)
Where the hell is he?

KYLE stops suddenly. Up ahead appears to be the ruins of an old house, barely visible through the moss and weeds, only the brick foundations and the odd piece of wall remaining. KYLE takes a deep breath and walks towards it.

LEE
Don't go in there mate, let's keep moving.

KYLE ignores him.

LEE

Kyle! Don't! For fuck sake..

KYLE steps closer into the ruin. The way the weeds have been ripped up on the inside, the leaves brushed neatly around, seems to suggest someone has been there recently.

Outside, LEE becomes increasingly uncomfortable.

LEE

Cameron! Listen this isn't funny anymore! Come out now!

KYLE notices something balanced on the edge of one of the walls. He bends down and looks closer.

Perched on the wall is a coil of thread and a collection of old needles.

SNAP.

LEE turns. Like magic CAMERON stands there, back to him.

LEE

Cameron! Where have you been?

CAMERON doesn't respond. KYLE, hearing LEE, steps out of the ruined house.

LEE is confused, and reaches out towards CAMERON.

LEE

Cameron? Wha-

CAMERON turns and LEE lets out a terrified scream. CAMERON's eyes and mouth are stitched up, fresh blood trickling down his face.

LEE bolts, as fast as his legs will carry him, KYLE right behind him, galloping down the nearest path out of the woods.

CAMERON collapse to the ground as a shadowy figure steps into view. He watches the boys run, before turning to CAMERON.

END.