

SUN BURN

Written by

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EXT. WOODS - DAY

The scorching sun engulfs the area, as a lone car drives through the dirt road.

INSIDE CAR

In the back; PENNY, 20s, pale skin with a reclusive look, stares out, through the shaded view of her sun glasses.

The sun's rays glisten through the gaps of the surrounding trees... Something about it makes her uncomfortable.

EXT. WOODS - CABIN - DAY

The car pulls up beside a lone cabin.

INSIDE CAR

Beside PENNY sits CONNOR, 20s, handsome with a calm facade.

SIMON (O.S.)
(Excitedly)
There she is, guys.

At the FRONT; SIMON, a confident looking guy with a slacker's air, pulls up the emergency brake and smiles at RACHEL; Cute, athletic.

They all step out of the car....

...The sun greets them with a blinding glare.

Rachel shields her eyes, as she makes her way towards the cabin with Simon.

RACHEL
This where you keep the roadkill?

SIMON
Well we can't order take-out...

Connor hovers behind Penny, sensing her anxiety, as he places his arms around her.

CONNOR
Change from the city...

Penny squeezes his hand and smiles, as they stare out towards the woods.

INT. CABIN - PENNY'S ROOM - DAY

Penny, under the shade of the shut blind, lays on the bed and scrolls through her laptop.

Laptop Screen; Weather Forecast for the weekend - 86 degrees, 83, 85.

Connor rubs in the last bit of sunscreen and emerges, from the bathroom, towards her.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
(Disbelief)
You actually brought that?

Penny knocks it off and turns to him, like a deer caught in headlights.

PENNY
Sorry... Forgot it was in the bag.

Connor jumps on the bed, like a cave man, and pulls her down with him.

CONNOR
(Primitive)
No technology.

Penny laughs, as she struggles against him.

CONNOR
Machine bad.

Connor restrains himself, conscious of being overly annoying. He smiles playfully at Penny.

Penny smirks and kisses him.

EXT. WOODS - LAKE - DAY

Rachel and Simon race down the peer...

...They reach the edge and leap out into the lake,
SCREAMING...

...SPLASH.

Connor and Penny, now in their swimwear, walk over at a steadier pace.

Rachel and Simon resurface...

RACHEL
(Excitedly)
Fuck.

They quiver at the bitter coldness of the water.

SIMON
Guys don't listen to her, it's
gorgeous. Hop in.

Penny stares up anxiously at the sun; She can sense it
sizzling off her exposed skin...

CONNOR
(Concerned)
Penny you stepped in something.

Penny lifts up her foot curiously...

...Connor swoops his arms under her legs and rushes for the
lake with her in his clasp...

PENNY
(Anxious)
No Connor, No...

He leaps in with her...

Rachel and Simon cheer and applaud, as they crash into the
water.

Penny springs up, somewhat dazed by the cold, as she rubs the
water off her face.

Connor laughs, manically...

SIMON
Well done sir.

Penny splashes Connor, playfully.

PENNY
Asshole.

Connor pulls a, mock, sad face.

Rachel floats on her back, soaking up the rays.

The sun glistens off Penny's shoulders. She sinks them under
the water, almost instinctively.

Simon floats cynically towards Rachel...

SIMON
Dun-Dun...

RACHEL
Fuck off.

The banter between them becomes muffled, as Penny looks up at the blazing star; It appears surreal to her.

She shuts her eyes and submerges under the still water...

All is pleasant below; Penny appears at peace in her solitude.

She opens her eyes and watches the glistening rays, off the water's surface.

She resurfaces...

Connor smiles at her.

CONNOR
Welcome back.

Penny looks around suspiciously... They're alone. *How long was she down there?*

PENNY
Where'd they go?

Connor hovers towards her.

CONNOR
They said they were going for a walk...

He takes hold of Penny.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
(Mockingly)
But they're probably just having sex.

Connor kisses her neck. Penny smiles hesitantly: Something is making her anxious.

PENNY
Can we go inside?

Connor looks at her curiously.

PENNY (CONT'D)
I'd just feel better inside.

CONNOR
But that's why we came right? The great out doors, the lake... Weekend away with friends...

PENNY
 (Correctively)
 They're your friends.

Connor looks taken back by that... Penny seems apologetic.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 I...

CONNOR
 You're not having a good time?

PENNY
 I didn't mean it like that...

CONNOR
 Just thought this would be good for
 us.

Penny sees Connors unsettled, as she puts her arms around his neck.

PENNY
 (Apologetic)
 No. You're right, sorry I'm just
 being stupid.

She smiles, somewhat genuine...

PENNY (CONT'D)
 This is great.

Connor smiles back and brushes his hand through her soaking hair.

INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Penny rubs 'after sun' against her skin... She gasps slightly.

Her skin is red, with traces of blisters surfacing.

The lotion seeps against her fragile flesh.

Penny lets out a sigh, as the lotion soothes the pain somewhat.

She picks up a sweater, hanging on a towel rack...

...and carefully places it over her; Cautious of the material pulling at her flesh.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

A camp fire hisses, as it illuminates the darkened forest. The four friends huddle around it, chatting and smoking. Simon takes in a drag from a joint and passes it over to Connor, as they both chuckle.

SIMON
(To Connor, Excited)
Aw buddy, it's been too fucking long.

Connor smiles, as he takes a hit.

Simon, appearing, quite baked turns to Penny.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Penny you stole my boy away from me you know that? I've had no one to get fucking high with.

Connor passes the joint to Rachel... Rachel gives Penny a cynical smirk.

RACHEL
He calls out his name at night.

Simon looks at Connor, compassionately.

SIMON
It's true.

Penny forces a laugh, appearing a little tense.

Rachel takes a drag. She struggles not to cough, as she passes it to Penny.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Rachel can't handle it.
(To Rachel)
Tell them how you freaked out on Saturday.

Rachel appears somewhat embarrassed...

RACHEL
Oh God, I started to panic because I forgot what I looked like.

Penny smirks as she takes a drag, but she doesn't appear to be getting into the conversation.

CONNOR
 (Laugh)
 What?

RACHEL
 (Half Laughing)
 Seriously. I actually had to rush
 to a mirror to remind myself. It
 was fucked.

Simon looks at Connor, longingly.

SIMON
 You see what I've had to deal with
 babe?

RACHEL
 (To Penny)
 We should just leave these two to
 fuck.

Rachel taps her hand off Penny's arm. She winces...

Rachel notices.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 You okay, hun?

Penny smiles, reassuringly.

PENNY
 Just a bit too much sun.

Connor smiles, but appears somewhat frustrated by her.

RACHEL
 Aren't you meant to like put yogurt
 on that now? I read that
 somewhere...

The BLAZE of the fire muffles out the voices, as Penny stares
 across at Connor, through the flames.

Their eyes link... Connor reads her discomfort.

INT. CABIN - PENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Penny lies down on the bed, apprehensively.

Connor doesn't notice her restraint as he, longingly, leans
 over her.

She appears somewhat anxious, as he kisses her.

Penny gently holds her hand out to stop him...

PENNY

I-

Connor pauses.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Sorry, I think it's the weed... I
just feel really strange.

Penny appears worried; Hoping he won't get mad.

Connor struggles to hide his disappointment, as he nods his head reluctantly.

CONNOR

Alright.

He forces a smile. Penny smiles back.

PENNY

Thanks.

TIME CUT

Penny shuffles back and forth, still in her sweater, struggling to sleep... Connor, beside her, is a million miles away.

The mattress catches off her back, pulling at her skin... Penny gasps, faintly.

She gazes up at the ceiling, her expression reveals a nausea and pain.

The sound of Rachel and Simon conversing in the next room catches her attention.

She can't make out what they are saying but she appears to be suspicious of them.

She shuts her eyes and struggles to get some rest.

PENNY'S ROOM - DAY

Penny awakens to the feel of the sun on her face. It blurs her vision...

...Her sight slowly returns. Connor is no longer in the room.

She rises up. Her back peels off the bed.

She whimpers slightly and shuts her eyes.

BATHROOM

Penny cautiously pulls off the sweater... It pulls at her skin.

She struggles not to make a sound...

Her skin is raw red with blisters across her stomach.

Penny, very carefully, lays her hand against the blisters, feeling the burn.

She slowly takes her hand away... A thin layer of skin comes with it.

Penny groans...

...A fleshy scar is left. She looks at the skin in her palm, with shock.

She pours the sun lotion in her hand. It turns pink with the blood.

...She places a t-shirt over her body, constraining any noise as it grips around her tender flesh.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Penny steps out, wearing the t-shirt and a summer skirt.

Rachel looks up at her, as she lays on a sun bed.

RACHEL
(Cheerfully)
The men went exploring...

Penny forces a smile... Rachel looks out into the wilderness.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Some place, huh?

Penny moves carefully forward, ensuring she remains under the shade.

She appears, somewhat, uncomfortable alone with Rachel.
Unsure what to say...

PENNY
You and Simon come down here a lot?

RACHEL
Not as much as we'd like. You know,
you guys are welcome to come over
whenever you want?

PENNY

It's hard for us to get away.

RACHEL

I know. Connor said this was the first weekend you two had off in a while.

Penny moves forward, curiously...

PENNY

Connor, talks about us much?

Rachel turns to her, curiously.

RACHEL

To me and Si? Sure, I mean we never get to see him much but when we do he's all about you.

PENNY

We don't get to go out a lot, because of me...

Penny appears hesitant.

PENNY (CONT'D)

With work and everything...

Rachel looks anxious to ease any tensions. *Something under the surface, neither wants to address.*

RACHEL

No, I get it.

Penny nods her head, the pain from her burn combines with her anxiety.

Rachel reads it...

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Me and Si are the exact same.

The sound of Simon and Connor shouting, playfully, down the forest catches her attention.

Rachel looks across for them, but they are still hidden.

She appears anxious of the silence building, as she turns towards Penny.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

We should go out some time.

Penny's tension eases.

Rachel shrugs and smiles cheerfully.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
I never get a girls night out...
And I make a mean sangria.

Penny smiles, pleasantly. *Caught off guard by this.*

PENNY
Yeah- That sounds nice.

Rachel smiles back, warmly.

Simon and Connor come rushing through the forest, laughing.

SIMON
(Shouting)
We just saw a wolf.

Rachel shakes her head, in disbelief; As if gazing at two children.

Penny watches cautiously.

EXT. WOODS - FOREST

Penny and Connor walk through the woods, sheltered from the sun.

The couple appear somewhat distant. Penny appears anxious to break the silence.

PENNY
Did you really see a wolf?

Connor seems impassive; Bored.

CONNOR
Think so. It was big anyway...

Penny looks away; Something on her mind.

PENNY
Would you prefer if I wasn't here?

Connor looks at her suspiciously.

CONNOR
Why would you say that?

Penny shrugs, sheepishly.

PENNY
Sometimes it feels like I'm holding
you captive.

Connor's expression lightens; Reading the pain in her eyes.
He shakes his head and comes to a halt.

CONNOR
Look I know this is weird for
you...

He takes hold of her hand.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
But this is what we want right? Get
out more?

Penny nods her head.

PENNY
Me and Rachel are gonna meet up for
drinks sometime.

Penny shrugs.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Could be fun.

Connor smiles, faintly.

CONNOR
That's great.

Penny smiles, as she gazes into Connor's eyes.

PENNY
Still with me?

Connor, gently, leans his head in against hers.

CONNOR
Always.

Penny leans forward... They kiss...

Penny closes her eyes, as the kiss becomes passionate.

Connor lays his hands on her hips... Penny struggles not to
flinch from the pain.

Connor's breathing becomes heavier, as he leans in...

Penny perches her head over his shoulder, gasping slightly as he rubs his hands vigorously off her.

She tries to ignore the pain, as she wraps her arms around him and kisses at his neck.

Connor reaches inside her skirt...

Penny shuts her eyes...

He pulls down her underwear, and leans over her.

Penny follows his movement as she lies back on the ground, allowing Connor to go on top.

Connor goes inside her... He grips his hand around her shoulder.

Penny gasps... Connor doesn't notice, as he presses against her.

Penny winces and kisses him; Fighting the pain.

The sun gleams in from behind the trees...

Penny tries to ignore it. Her breathing becomes tense. Tears dwell in her eyes.

She clasps her hand around Connor's arm, as he goes faster...

He rubs her legs... She flinches; His rough touch against her tender skin is almost unbearable.

Penny shuts her eyes tightly, trying to be somewhere else...

Connor gasps, as he finishes.

He catches his breath, Penny lets out a final gasp... The pain is visible in her teary eyes.

Connor doesn't seem to notice, as he kisses her cheek.

A distant look emerges on Penny's face...

INT. CABIN - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Penny and Connor sit on the couch, while Rachel sits on Simon's lap. All with beers in their hands.

Penny appears quiet and anxious, while the other three laugh and banter...

... She forces a smile now and again.

INT. BATHROOM

Penny turns on the tap for the bath... The water flows down into the tub, muffling the sound of the others in the next room.

She stares at herself in the mirror, tears seep from her eyes.

She pulls off the t-shirt... Blisters and fleshy scabs cover her upper body. Resembling third degree burns now.

She takes in deep breaths, trying to suppress the pain.

She pulls down her skirt, her legs are the same...

Penny cautiously lays down into the bath, panting as the water flows over her tender flesh.

The CHATTER and LAUGHTER in the next room continues...

Penny holds up her arm, and gazes at the hideous scabs and blisters around it.

She cups some water in her other hand and, gently, pours it over the arm.

She rubs her hand off it.

The motion appears to sooth the burns. She lets out a gentle breath...

She repeats the action...

Pours the water over her arm.

Rubs her hand off it...

...The flesh PEELS from her arm into her hand.

Blood OOZES out from the wound.

Penny gasps, almost getting sick from the sight of it.

She puts the arm down into the water, afraid to look at it.

The bathtub water turns pink....

The LAUGHTER and SHOUTING continues...

She rubs her hand just above her chest... The Skin PULLS away, gouging out a chunk of flesh below her collar bone.

She struggles not to cry, as the panic sets in...

Penny gazes down at the calm water.

She looks up, as though for the last time, as the heat boils her decomposing flesh.

She shuts her eyes and jumps in...

TIME CUT

...The sun rays glisten over the water, as the lake returns to it's natural stillness.

A deathly quiet through the woods, as the sun shines out.