

THE ENCOUNTER

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

A desolate road surrounded by thick woods. The moon shines bright and crickets chirp their symphony.

Pulled off to the side of the road is a Volkswagen van.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN VAN - NIGHT

The interior of the van is decorated. A rug sits on the floor, bean bags act as chairs, posters are taped to the walls, curtains block the windows.

GREG (20s) sits on one bean bag. He smokes a joint, and passes it to PAULA (20s), who sits on another bean bag. She takes a hit.

An electric lantern sits between them and illuminates the inside of the van. MUSIC plays from the radio.

PAULA

I swear, he looked just like you.
Only chunkier.

GREG

Maybe I have a twin out there I
don't know about. Separated at
birth.

Paula sets the joint in the ashtray.

PAULA

If you ever met yourself, what
would you say to him?

GREG

"What happened, man?"

Paula's not impressed.

GREG (cont'd)

What?

PAULA

It's a good thing you're cute.

GREG

Okay, now that's what I'd say to
me.

Paula smiles, then leans in and kisses Greg.

They continue kissing, get more heated, make out passionately.

Paula climbs onto Greg, begins to remove his shirt, when he stops her.

GREG (cont'd)
Wait. I have to pee.

PAULA
Seriously? Make it quick.

Greg gives her one more smack on the lips before she climbs off of him and he exits the van with the lantern.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Greg walks into the thick woods. The lantern light slowly disappears into the darkness.

INT. VOLKSWAGEN VAN - NIGHT

Paula plays with her hair as she waits.

CUT TO:

She lights up the joint and takes a hit.

CUT TO:

She mindlessly scrolls through a social media website on her cell phone.

CUT TO:

She stares at the ceiling out of boredom.

CUT TO:

Paula looks through the curtains of one of the windows.

PAULA
(to herself)
Where are you?

She plops back down onto one of the bean bags in a HUFF.

A moment goes by.

The driver side door opens. Greg climbs into the seat and shuts the door.

Paula turns around to face Greg.

PAULA (cont'd)
There you are. What were you doing,
passing a kidney stone?

Greg remains silent.

PAULA (cont'd)
You okay?

Silence. Then, Greg starts the van. He begins to drive.

Paula climbs into the passenger seat.

PAULA (cont'd)
Where are we going?

Greg doesn't speak. He faces forward, totally ignores Paula.

PAULA (cont'd)
Greg, what's wrong?

She waits for an answer, but there is none.

PAULA (cont'd)
Why won't you say anything?

Ignored. Paula stares at him, fear very slowly forming in her eyes.

PAULA (cont'd)
Did something happen?

GREG
I don't want to talk about it.

PAULA
Talk about what? What happened?

Greg doesn't respond. He turns the radio volume up louder.

GREG
I like this song.

Paula continues to stare at him. Then, she faces forward and remains silent.

The van drives along the dark road. The headlights illuminate the asphalt. The MUSIC plays overhead.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - FLASHBACK

Greg walks through the thick woods with the lantern in hand. Crickets CHIRP loudly.

He stops at a tree and sets the lantern on the ground, unzips his pants, begins to piss.

He finishes up, and turns to walk to the van when a twig SNAPS from somewhere close by. It catches Greg's attention.

He dismisses it quickly and turns to walk back when another stick SNAPS again.

The crickets stop chirping.

All is silent.

Greg stares into the darkness.

Another stick CRACKS.

Greg slowly walks deeper into the woods in search of the sound. The lantern illuminates the way.

There's something in the darkness. Greg gets closer.

It's a man. Pale. Starved. Naked.

The man walks slowly away from Greg, back turned to him.

Greg holds the lantern out, about to call out to the man, when the man stops walking.

He turns around slowly.

Greg's eyes go wide.

The man...is GREG.

Eyes wide and sunken in their sockets. His ribs protrude from his chest. It's an unsettling sight.

The man slowly opens his mouth, and makes a sound so inhuman, so unnatural, that it's bone chilling. A sound no animal has made before, and no human could ever make.

The lantern falls to the ground with a THUD.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. VOLKSWAGEN VAN - NIGHT

BACK TO PRESENT

Greg continues to stare in front of him as he drives. Paula also looks before her. Once or twice, she eyes Greg.

The MUSIC continues to play.

FADE TO BLACK.