

UMBRA

By

I . B

OVER BLACK.

We hear a suspensful chorus behind the darkness.

It gradually becomes louder. Increasing in intensity before we--

JUMP TO.

1

EXT. DARK FOREST. DAYTIME

1

A young boy. Around 15 or 16 glares, wide eyed directly towards us. Skinny build. Overdressed yet haggard--Nose wrapped in a bandage. OSCAR.

He CLASPS a frying pan closely against his face. Observing the area in front of him.

Searching for something...

CUT TO REVEAL.

A sinister BLACKNESS engulfing the forest ahead. Drawing us in.

Beat.

CUT BACK TO OSCAR.

He tries to collect himself when confronted by the abyss. A sense of reassurance washes over him. Quelling his fear. Beat.

He slowly begins to place his pan away before--

CRUNCH!

Oscar JERKS around. The crunch RINGS through the air.

His grip tightens around the neck of the pan. He slowly EASES towards the noise.

Oscars fear stricken eyes profile the abyss ahead. Examining it closely--

He suddenly stops. And lowers his weapon...

A look of terror slowly begins to contort his face as he peers ahead--

HOLD ON OSCAR BEFORE WE

CUT TO REVEAL.

TWO BEAMING EYES of red light sear through the black void ahead. Directly towards Oscar.

(CONTINUED)

We slowly PUSH TOWARDS the lurking beams. Getting ushered in by them before we--

CUT TO TITLES .

**THE UMBRA (Working title)**

FROM TITLES.

JUMP TO.

2

EXT. FOREST WALKWAY. DAYTIME

2

We find a young girl. Mid to late teens. Hipster-ish. CLUTCHING a crumpled map. This is SAM. Our main protagonist.

SAM

(Strolling down beaten path)

Do you think the forest gets a bad rep? People associate it with like monsters and poison ivy and stuff.

*Who doesn't like the thought of creepy darkness with someone potentially stalking you at all times , or the feeling of crippling dermatitis ?*

We then--

CUT TO.

A tough , hardened young lad. Radiating an idgaf attitude. Imposing build. This is BILL.

He plods on in stern silence.

SAM (Turns to Bill)

Y'know Oscar likes to talk out his ass. To get under peoples skin. That's like his lifeblood. You've gotta learn to get over it.

(A pause)

Besides, I don't think your hurt feelings compare to the amount of pain Oscar's feeling right now after what you did.

BILL

Had to teach him a lesson init ?

SAM

Giving him a broken nose. Seems fair.

(CONTINUED)

BILL

(Clasping his wrist)  
If I'm lucky. I fluffed that punch. He'll get more than just a broken nose when I find him.

SAM

Believe me. As much as I'd love to see that--

CUT TO.

E.W.S

We find the teens lost. DWARFED against the backdrop of the large , TOWERING FOREST.

SAM (CONT'D)

we need to deal with this--*little* problem first.

FINN(O.S)

So we're gonna leave Oscar here ?

Sam and Bill snap around--

They are faced by a frail , meek boy looking like he instantly regretted speaking at all. FINN

Sam tries to regain herself after the brief startle.

SAM

(A beat)  
I-I wouldn't put it that way.  
We're finding our way out without him is how I'd put it.

FIN

So, say we find our way out,  
he'll be left here--by *himself* ?

SAM

(A pause of guilt)  
--Look, it was his choice to go on his own. And I have to admit, as much of an ass that he is, he's the most competent person out of all of us. If anyone can find their way out , it's him.

If you wanna accompany him, be my guest but I'm getting out of here.

Sam hoists up her backpack.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FINN

We're supposed to be a team. We all came here for the same thing.

SAM

What? Some crummy plastic medal? Not the best incentive.

(She begins to walk away.)  
You can either come with, or stay back for Oscar. Your choice.

Beat.

Sam slowly TRUDGES away while Finn stares down. Silenced. Defeated in his morals. Beat.

BILL(To Finn)

Why are you worried about him ?  
You know what he's like.

FINN

(A pause)  
I-It's not just *him* I'm worried about--

Suddenly something RUSTLES discretely; The trio all SNAP around.

BILL

(A beat)  
Did you hear that ?

SAM

---I wish I didn't

CUT TO.

The *dark void* ahead as it blankets the forest. The rustling ECHOES from it ominously.

We slowly inch towards the darkness. Getting closer and closer before--

OSCAR LIMPS through the cloak of blackness. Looking like he just ran a marathon.

CUT TO.

SAM

(A pause)  
Oh. Speak of the *literal* Devil.

She strolls over to a beaten Oscar.

Damn. You look terrible.  
(Turns to Finn)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Look, Finn. He's here. Now calm  
your--

BAM!

Suddenly Oscar clasps her backpack with an UNRELENTING  
grip. Beat.

SAM

W-what are you doing ?

We slowly PAN to reveal Oscar. Looking blank faced.  
Braindead. He begins to DRAG Sam away.

SAM

Hey what are you doing ?! *Let me  
go !*

Oscar doesn't respond. He carries on dragging her away.

The pair slowly advance towards the ABYSS ahead. Sam  
SCRAMBLES desperatley. Attempting to worm away from Oscars  
grasp.

Sam and Oscar gradually inch closer and closer toward the  
darkness before--

BILL(O.S)

Oi !!

Oscar stops. He slowly arches around before--

WHAM !

He is greeted by a stinging PUMMEL to the face.

CUT TO BLACK.

FROM BLACK...

JUMP TO.

3

EXT. FOREST CLEARING. MOMENTS LATER

3

Oscar lies slumped on the ground. His eyes slowly FLUTTER  
open-He limps upward from his sleep state caressesing his  
face. His attention slowly flickers towards Bill--

OSCAR

(A pause)

Bill !

Bill jerks around. Oscar LIMPS over to him.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

You! You did this! You  
just weren't satisfied with one

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

punch so you had to go again !  
I'm delicate !

BILL

You should thank me. You needed  
to be put down judging by how you  
were acting.

OSCAR

(Beat)

How I was acting ?

SAM

You must have eaten peyote or  
something! You started dragging  
me away for no reason. You were  
out of it.

CUT TO.

Oscar stares down in CONFUSION...

Slowly his look of confusion contorts to one of fear.  
TERROR. We PUSH INTO him.

SAM

(Beat)

Oscar ?

OSCAR

We-we have to get out of here  
right now.

He RUSHES past Sam.

SAM

That was kinda the M.O. What's  
going on with you ?!

Sam trails after him.

OSCAR

You won't understand , all you  
have to know is that we should  
go! Now !

SAM

What are you on about ?! Oscar ?!

Oscar THROWS on his backpack and scrambles for his  
supplies.

OSCAR

(A beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Look,

Whatever happened , that wasn't  
me.

Beat.

Sam and Bill gaze at each other. Confused . Sam slowly  
turns to Oscar and glares at him even more confused.

OSCAR

(A beat)

Ok, it was. But, it wasn't. Look,  
I wasn't in control of myself  
that time. It was--something  
else.

Oscar stops dead. Beat.  
--Something evil.

FINN

(A beat)

D-do you know *exactly* what it  
was ?

OSCAR

--No.

WIPE TO.

4

EXT. DARK FOREST - DAYTIME

4

FLASHBACK. ON SCENE ONE

We are once again greeted by the DEEP CRIMSON BEAMS.  
Seducing us from the darkness. We PUSH INTO them.

OSCAR(V.O)

But it overpowered me.

Oscar GAPES ahead. Hypnotised under the lights. He stares  
ahead until--WHOOSH. A blank expression wipes over his  
face.

OSCAR(V.O)

I-I had no control over my  
actions. My mind. I couldn't stop  
it. No matter how hard I tried...

CUT TO REVEAL.

The familiar vast forest clearing. However-- things aren't  
the same.

It's HELLISH. Showered in a dark hue. Oscar is greeted by  
the red flares of light. But he remains calm, almost  
welcoming them.

(CONTINUED)

OSCAR(V.O)

It asked for something of me.  
Something terrible.

The creatures spindly fingers emerge from the blackness and point ahead.

Oscar slowly arches around. He is greeted by Sam , Bill and Finn. They all trot through the clearing. Metres away from him.

OSCAR(V.O)

A price.

Oscar glares at the trio momentarily. He trails after them before we--

FADE UPON.

5

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAYTIME

5

PRESENT DAY.

C.U ON OSCAR

OSCAR

There's something else here.  
Something that can control me.Us.  
If we don't get out now, that  
thing will get us. And if it  
does,

We're screwed more than we could  
ever imagine.

Sam stares down in reflection--

BILL

Bull.Shit.

OSCAR

What ?

BILL

(Marches up to Oscar)  
You heard me. You like to talk  
crap. Get under people's skin.  
It's your lifeblood.

(Beat)

I know you're just trying to  
scare us. I ain't falling for  
your games though--

We've all had enough. Sam has , I  
have , even Finn has. He told me  
himself. Ain't that right Finn ?

(CONTINUED)

Finn remains silent. Withdrawing himself in.

BILL

(A pause)

Wait. You think he's right. You think there's some , monster out there! *That's* what you were pressed about earlier...

He SNAPS around to the others.

Well, here's a newsflash. There's nothing , nobody out here but us ! No--mind controlling creatures or nothing ! Alright ?! Get that through your *thick heads* !

We're gonna get out and go home. Like we were supposed to. And forget this ever happened ---

CRUNCH !

A crunch ECHOES through the trees. The teens all jerk around; The forest is ENGULFED by an eerie silence; The teens continue to glare ahead. Faces masked by terror.

FINN

(Staring directly at camera)

I think there's someone watching us...

CUT TO REVEAL.

An IMPOSING DARK FIGURE. LURKING behind the shrubbery ahead - Observing the teens.

This is the **UMBRA**.

Bill glares at the creature. HORRIFIED.

SAM

What is that thing ?!

OSCAR

That thing, is what controlled me.

FINN

(A pause)

Why is it stood like that? Why isn't it moving ?!

SAM

I don't think finding that out should be our priority. We have to go! Right now!

(CONTINUED)

The teens SCURRY away into the forest. Bill remains stagnant. GLARING at the ENIGMA facing him. Beat.

Finn catches on. He makes his way over to Bill.

FINN

C-come on Bill. Let's go.

Bill remains unresponsive.

Something dawns on Finn. He arches around to the shrubbery and finds it vacant. The creature isn't there.

He then slowly turns to Bill...

We PAN to reveal Bill LOCKED under the trance of the creature. He STARES at Finn--

CUT TO.

6

EXT. DARK FOREST  
FINN (O.S)

6

ARGH !

Finns screams RING through the air. Sam and Oscar jerk around.

SAM

Finn!

(A pause)

We gotta go back for him!

OSCAR

Hold on. Wait a minute !

Sam RACES to Finn's aid. From the horizon, Finn comes SHOOTING towards them. Terrified.

SAM

Finn ? What happened ?!

FINN

(Struggling for breath)  
Bill attacked me! He-he tried dragging me. Like how Oscar tried to with you earlier. So I ran away. He's on his way after me now !

He's walking, but he's on his way !

OSCAR

(A beat)

It controls him...

(CONTINUED)

SAM

(A pause)

We're not leaving him like that.  
We've gotta get him to snap out  
of it. Then we get out of here !

FINN

B-but how are we gonna get him to  
snap out of it ?

OSCAR

(A pause)

I have an idea...

CUT TO.

Bill MARCHES down the forest. Surveying the area around  
him closely. Sniffing out his prey...

BILL

(Scanning the area)

Guys ? Where are you ? Come so we  
can get out and go home.

We don't wanna be left in  
the forest with so called  
"monsters". Do we ?

We slowly PAN OVER to Finn. His back pressed against a  
tree. Hiding from Bill. He closes his eyes and composes  
himself. Searching for a sense of heroism...

CUT TO.

BILL

Guys--?

BAM! Finn LAUNCHES himself at him! Rugby tackling him to  
the ground! The pair scuffle for a moment. Finn's easily  
over powered. Bill CLASPS his wrists and THROWS him up. He  
slowly turns to the darkness--

BILL

(Beat)

Yeah. You'll do just fine...

OSCAR(O.S)

Oi !

Bill stops. He arches around--CLANG. Oscar CLAPS him  
across the face WITH HIS PAN. Bill COLLAPSES onto the  
ground. Beat.

Sam , Finn and Oscar slowly cluster around Bill.

SAM

Is he dead ?

(CONTINUED)

Bill slowly limps up. He arches over to Oscar.

BILL

(A pause)

What. The. HELL ?! Argh !

He ROCKS up to Oscar fist cocked back--

SAM

Bill! Calm down for once. It was for the best. That thing controlled you. If he hadn't done that, it would've taken you. It would've taken us.

Bill lowers his fist.

OSCAR

I technically saved you. You should thank me.

(Offers out hand)

Or we can break even and call this beef off ?

Bill contemplates his gesture. He trudges away. Leaving Oscar hanging.

CUT TO.

Finn slowly arches around. Entranced by something. Seemingly hypnotised. We PAN TO REVEAL swords of light piercing through the trees ahead.---AN ESCAPE.

FINN

Guys ?

(The others all snap around)

That's the way out.

WE PUSH INTO THE GROUP BEFORE--

The Umbra SLITHERS out of the shrubbery. LOOMING behind the teens. They slowly turn around.

OSCAR

(A pause)

Oh God. We're so dead.

SAM

Yeah we are. If we don't get out-- so, we're gonna get outta here.

The others all stare at Sam. As if she's crazy.

SAM(CONT'D)

(Shuffles ahead)

Listen, on three , we all make a break for it straight ahead towards the light.

(CONTINUED)

Don't look back-- just keep  
running forward. Ok ?

They all nod awkwardly in some sort of agreement.  
Meanwhile, the creature begins to CREAK forward.

SAM

Ok. One.

CUT TO.

OSCAR

More running ?

BILL

Stay. That thing could use a  
friend.

Oscar glares at Bill. Bill chuckles.

Two.

Sam and Finn both adopt a running stance. Prepared to bolt  
out.

FINN

Here we go.

CUT TO.

The Umbra's eyes begin to SEAR intensely as it CREEPS  
forward. It's fingers WRIGGLE and CLENCH.

SAM

(A short pause)

---Three.

In a flash the Umbra's LEAPS towards the teens as they  
ROCKET towards the light---

CUT TO BLACK.

END.