

The Cyclops

By

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EXT. FOREST OVERLOOKING SHACK - MORNING

CLOSE UP ON A KALEIDOSCOPE GOING ROUND.

A small girl hesitantly takes a kaleidoscope down from her eye and looks at Bert. He has a loaf of bread in his hand and tears some off to give to her. At the last moment he snatches it back and eats it himself.

He casually tosses the loaf to Ernie.

BERT

See that? (pointing to the kaleidoscope) that means i trust you. But if you want some of this (indicating the bread) you know what you have to do.

Bert points at a shack further down the hill side.

The girl nods, then slowly makes her way down to the shack.

ERNIE

She's not coming back.

BERT

Well, i wouldn't come back. (He takes the bread back off Ernie) But then i can remember what this tastes like. (Speaking with his mouth full) i don't see she's got much of a choice.

Bert is stuffing his face and Ernie has to concede he makes a fair point.

Ernie sets himself down in a comfortable spot to wait. Bert stays standing watching the girl make her way down to the shack through his binoculars.

BERT

No. Up there. If she pulls him out, I'm not planning on getting caught.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK IN FOREST - MORNING

Inside the shack are Bert and Ernie.

ERNIE

No, no you don't understand...don't worry about me anymore...I'm waking up...

(CONTINUED)

Bert is nursing his friend in his last moments, resting his head in his lap.

Bert pulls the cover over his friends face, he's gone and he can't bear to look at him.

He gets up and paces the room for a bit. Wanting to go wild but he can't draw any attention to himself. He has a peak out of the window as though he's a man being watched.

Bert has an idea.

He uses some of the debris on the floor and his belt to form a makeshift cross. He continues to undress, stripping down to his waist and crouching down half naked against the wall.

The clothes which should have been on his back are being carefully wrapped around the cross frame to make a kind of scarecrow.

Bert gets up gingerly, careful to keep out of sight of the open window above him. He keeps out of sight.

Bert and his scarecrow are now ready. He takes his gun in his other hand.

Tipping the scarecrow across to the window on the other side of the room he looks out his sights at the hillside above.

A shot is heard and the scarecrow falls to the floor.

EXT. SHELTERED SPOT ON HILLTOP - MORNING

Sniper Ernie reloads, but makes no other movement.

Bert is behind him looking down the binoculars.

BERT
Well you hit something.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK IN FOREST - MORNING

Bert carefully creeps up in his window and looks down his sights to see the sniper. He goes to Ernie's pockets and pulls out the binoculars.

Back, just peeking behind the window and Bert can make out two figures hiding behind a clump of weeds. He braces himself and takes a shot. He misses.

EXT. SHELTERED SPOT ON HILLTOP - MORNING

We see immediate return of fire from sniper Ernie, but Sniper Bert is spooked and drags him back to a safer place.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK IN FOREST - MORNING

Bert is ducking frantically as bullets thud into the outside wall of the empty shack, but as soon as they let up he's up again returning fire.

He can see the two figures trying to hide and run up the hill, but he is unable to take them down.

EXT. SHELTERED SPOT ON HILLTOP - MORNING

Sniper Bert runs on into the bushes, but Sniper Ernie suddenly drops, rolls and fires wildly. It's an awful position to be taking aim from, and they're desperate shots under the gunfire coming from the shack.

He gets lucky.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK IN FOREST - MORNING

Bert falls back onto the floor having taken a shot in his shoulder.

EXT. SHELTERED SPOT ON HILLTOP - MORNING

BERT
You alright?

ERNIE
Of course i'm alright.

Sniper Bert and Ernie are going to make their way down when they spot the little girl running towards the shack.

The two of them hold their position and continue to watch.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK IN FOREST - EVENING

Bert has patched himself up as best he can, but some of his clothes are still strewn on the floor. Under one arm, the one time scarecrow is now being used as his crutch, and in his free hand he holds his rifle, desperately trying to keep awake for any possible intruders.

EXT. SHELTERED SPOT ON HILLTOP - EVENING

Bert watches through his binoculars.

The small girl hovers around outside the shack. She appears lost or looking for something. She scratches in the ground as if she would dig something up.

BERT
(To Ernie) Hey!

He motions for Ernie to raise his gun.

Ernie gets her in his sights. He follows her all the way inside.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK IN FOREST - EVENING

The girl doesn't see Bert or Ernie at first, instead she rushes over to put on the shirt that still lies on the floor- it's obvious that she was cold. She wraps it round her tightly.

But her entrance has awoken Bert and he makes a move that startles her. Shivering from the cold and loss of blood, he is a ghastly sight.

BERT
It's all right. (Coughing) Don't be afraid. What's your name? (points to himself) Bert.

He reaches out to her and as she backs off the kaleidoscope falls out of her pocket.

BERT
What's that you got there?

The girl picks it up and tries to hide it.

BERT
What's that? Let me see. Show me.

She comes forwards and holds it out, but she won't let go when he tries to take it. He snatches it off of her.

The little girl runs off.

Bert watches her go. Looks around the room. Drops his gun.

He slumps back, his head against the wall and puts the kaleidoscope to his eye.

(CONTINUED)

SCREEN FILLS WITH ITS IMAGE, GOING BLURRY AS HE FALLS
ASLEEP.

Bert is asleep.

The girl is back, this time carrying water and an old rag in some dead soldier's helmet.

She gently washes Bert's face.

He begins to wake up, but he's obviously still woozy from the pain.

BERT

Thank...thank you.

Suddenly the girl is startled. She turns her head and sees something to make her run from the place but she remains rooted to the spot.

Ernie is awake. He has his gun pointed at the girl. But his aim is all over the place.

ERNIE

I had the most horrible dream, but there she is, there she is-

BERT

Ernie, put the gun down.

ERNIE

Don't you worry mate, don't you worry. My little friend here is going to be far too quick for her. yeah, that's it that's a girl just, just move over there. And-

BERT

Put the gun down. (to the girl)Come here. It's alright.

Ernie is unconvinced. Bert is slowly coming to his feet to put himself between the gun and the girl.

The girl begins to move towards Bert.

ERNIE

Over there!

Ernie tries to lift himself up to keep her in his sights. Bert stands up fully to intervene.

(CONTINUED)

BERT
For the love of God, just put the
gun-

Bert's speech is cut short by a single shot. We see him fall.

EXT. SHELTERED SPOT ON HILLTOP - EVENING

Sniper Ernie reloads, but he's more feverish now in his movements, eager to see what's going on.

BERT
Got him.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK IN FOREST - EVENING

Ernie looks at the gun.

ERNIE
But, i, i didn't , i didn't even...

In a rage he trains it on the girl. She can't move.

EXT. SHELTERED SPOT ON HILLTOP - EVENING

Bert and Ernie hear a shot. They keep watching for movement.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK IN FOREST - EVENING

The girl backs away from the two dead bodies.

Then she sees something shiny poking out of Ernie's shirt. It's a money clip. She grabs it. Then she does the job properly and rifles through both the dead bodies.

With Bert's she finds the kaleidoscope and takes it then sets about removing his wedding ring. She has to gnaw at it with her teeth. She gets it off and tips out the water in the soldier's helmet. She ties up all she stole in a shirt.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SHACK - EVENING

There's a pause before the little girl creeps out into the night. She holds the wrapped up shirt in her hands, full of everything she stole. She wears the soldier's helmet on her head.

She breaks into a run, Bert's rifle slung across her back.

EXT. SHELTERED SPOT ON HILLTOP - EVENING

BERT

Job done?

ERNIE

Done and done. Call it in.

THE END