The Dark
FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN

DARCY(O.S)
The light, the eternal radiance that shines. Man has delved into the inner light, hoping___

MR.CORNETTO(OS.)
Cut! Jesus...cut it! (beat)
Darcy, this script is about the dark. Not the fucking light!

DARCY(O.S)
Oh. I thought we were doing the light one first.

MR.CORNETTO(OS)
No. You're standing in a pitch black room. There is no fucking light.

DARCY(O.S)
Sorry...

MR.CORNETTO(OS)
(mutters)
Why do I always get the ones from Cleveland? Ready? And...action!

DARCY(O.S)
The dark, the eternal blackness. What mysteries lie beneath the...

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The door opens. DARCY(30), tall, medium build, enters. He's agitated. Flings his EMPTY BRIEFCASE onto the sofa. He paces up and down.

DARCY
Honey? We need to talk! Something's happened...

LEILA(30), pretty brunette, comes in from the kitchen.

LEILA
Hi, darling. What's wrong?

DARCY
Today, I...what's that?

Leila looks down. She's holding a SPORTSBAG FULL OF DRUGS.
LEILA
For the party Saturday night, remember? We were going to try some new stuff.

DARCY
Oh...but, honey, I'm really worried! Today I saw...

Leila sits on the sofa, pats the cushions.

LEILA
No, first, sit right here. Relax and tell me all about, well, whatever's bothering you.

Darcy nods, quickly sits. He squirms, fretting. Leila produces a KNIFE, starts whittling a piece of wood.

DARCY
Can you...can you do another PDA? God, they're so good.

LEILA
Sure, honey. Now, what happened today that's got you so worked up?

Darcy takes some calming BREATHS.

DARCY
Ok, I was in the subway, on my way home. There's a homeless black guy always there, same spot. Every day, I drop a dollar in his tin.

LEILA
You're so sweet. Helping the less fortunate.

DARCY
Yes, well, anyway...normally the guy never says anything. Just nods and plays his harmonica. But today... (beat) Today was different.

LEILA
He thanked you?

DARCY
Well...no. He produced a MEGAPHONE, and started...announcing.
LEILA
Wonderful! He thanked you loudly so everyone could see what a great person you are.

Darcy rises, shakes his head. He's really flipping out now...

DARCY
He said...'beware of the dark'.

Silence. Leila waits patiently for more. Nothing. Finally...

LEILA
That's it? 'Beware of the dark'?

DARCY
(shudders)
Yes.

LEILA
Well...the dark what? The Dark Knight? Sauron, the Dark Lord of Mordor?

She GIGGLES.

DARCY
It's not funny! His voice freaked me out. I didn't__

A KNOCK on the door. Leila gets up.

DARCY(CONT'D)
Don't answer it. It'll be my doom.

LEILA
Oh, don't be so silly, dear.

She opens the door. BRIAN(22)stands there, clean-cut, cheery.

BRIAN
Um, hi. I just moved into number six. I found this on the stairs before.

He holds out a BADGEM WALLET.

LEILA
Why...that's my husband's! Darcy, you must've dropped it. This nice young man has returned it.

Darcy moves to the door. Leila hands him the WALLET.

DARCY
Uh, thank you.
BRIAN
No problem. Glad to help. I'll see you around then.

LEILA
Thank you very much, um...?

BRIAN
The name's Brian. Brian Dark.

He smiles, continues along the hallway. Darcy MOANS, SLAMS the door shut. He rushes towards the bedroom. The SOUND of rummaging...

LEILA
Darcy, come on. You're being silly. It's just a coincidence, nothing more.

Darcy comes back, holding a SHOTGUN.

DARCY
Dark...his name was Dark.

LEILA
Oh, put that away. It's not even loaded.

DARCY
I...it's not?

LEILA
No. Remember the drummer we had next door, keeping us awake? I blasted his kit, MICROPHONE and DRUMSTICKS.

Darcy stands, head bowed.

DARCY
What about my GLOCK?

LEILA
Pawned it to buy the drugs. Look, you don't need any weapons! No one, or nothing pertaining to 'the dark', is going to hurt you.

DARCY
I...maybe you're right. I have been working hard lately.

LEILA
Exactly. So sit down and relax. Actually, you can call Jake and Tash while I have a shower.
DARCY
Why?

LEILA
Because I'm dirty.

DARCY
Huh? No, why do I have to call Jake and Tash?

LEILA
They're coming over for dinner. Tell them I got that wine I was after. They don't need to bring anything.

DARCY
Ok. I can do that.

Leila heads off to the bathroom. Darcy takes out his MOBILE, sits on the sofa.

TEN MINUTES LATER

LEILA(O.S)
Darcy? Could you get me a fresh towel, please?

DARCY
Sure, babe.

He heads down the hallway. A door opens, then SHUTS.

LEILA(O.S)
Thanks, honey. I__

DARCY(O.S)
Aargh! Aargh! It's here!

LEILA(O.S)
Jesus, Darcy, you scared me! What's wrong now?

DARCY(O.S)
The dark...I see it!
(beat)
It's on you.

Silence.

LEILA(O.S)
Darcy, that's my pubic hair.

DARCY(O.S)
No, it's...it's the dark. It's after me.
LEILA (O.S.)
Darcy, you stupid prick, it's
my pussy.

DARCY (O.S.)
I... but...

LEILA (O.S.)
I stopped shaving last month,
remember?

DARCY (O.S.)
I... oh, yeah... sorry.

LEILA (O.S.)
You're acting childish. Now,
get out of here, and sit
quietly till Jake and Tash arrive.

LATER

Leila sets the table, a WINEGLASS next to each plate, A
KNOCK on the door. Darcy opens it. JAKE (29), solid, and
TASH (30), petite blonde, enter. Jake carries an ELECTRIC
GUITAR.

JAKE
Hey guys. Thanks for the
invitation. Brought my axe over
for a sing-song.

LEILA
Cool! Hi, Tash.

TASH
Hey, Leila. Oh, here's that
BOOK I borrowed from you. Great
read!

DARCY
Well, this is nice and comfy,
isn't it? Good friends, good
food, some home grown music.

Jake claps him on the shoulder.

JAKE
You're a great host, Darce.

LATER

The four sit around the table, empty plates in the middle.
Darcy is cheerful, snapping his fingers at forgotten worries.

DARCY
... and he said, 'beware of the
dark'. Ooh, I was really scared...
He laughs. Leila frowns, joins in. Jake and Tash crack up.

JAKE
That's my Darce meister! Gives the finger to the unknown!
(beat)
Hey, I learned a new song. Springsteen...'Dancing In The Dark'. Wanna hear it?

Darcy falls silent, grins macabrely.

LEILA
Uh, maybe later. Coffee anyone?

LATER

The four relax in the sofa and chairs. Each has a steaming COFFEE MUG.

TASH
Is your mom looking after the kids, Leila?

LEILA
Ah, no.
(beat)
They're locked in their rooms.

JAKE
What? But why?

DARCY
Budget restraints. No children allowed in this script.

LEILA
Or animals.

TASH
So...Fido?

LEILA
Dumped at the Shelter this morning.

Silence.

DARCY
Hey, I have a great idea. Let's have a Christmas party! Right here, right now! I found all this stuff in the cupboard on the weekend.

JAKE
Christmas in April? Yeah, what the hell!
Darcy rushes out. Tash looks dubious.

LEILA
I know... it's silly. But it'll keep his mind of this 'dark' rubbish.

Darcy comes back in, with a cardboard box.

DARCY
Ok, cool. We got MISTLETOE - kissy kissy, Tash - a CAROL SHEET... let's see... even a SNOWBALL!

Suddenly, the lights go out! Utter darkness. Darcy SCREAMS.

DARCY
The dark! Aargh, we're all dead!

JAKE
Calm down, man. It's just a blackout.

The SOUND of rummaging again. A cigarette lighter FLICKS, igniting a fiery TORCH. Leila holds it aloft.

TASH
Wow, nice illumination. Creates a real jungle theme.

LEILA
Thanks! I got it from__

Darcy SCREAMS again! He points to the wall. THE DARK is written in huge, black letters. A SPRAY CAN sits on the table.

JAKE
Fuck me... now what?

DARCY
We're doomed! It's here! In the room with us.

He grabs the TORCH from Leila, waves it around.

LEILA
Darcy, be careful with that.

Tash searches in the Christmas box, pulls out a SPARKLER. She lights it from the TORCH.

JAKE
You know, I've just realised something.
TASH
What's that, dear?

JAKE
Darcy's name...it means 'dark'
in Irish Gaelic.

The others look at him. Even Darcy halts his craziness.

JAKE(CONT'D)
And Leila? Your name is Arabic.
It means 'dark as night'.

Silence.

DARCY
I didn't know that.

LEILA
Me neither.

TASH
Wow...but what can all this mean?

Jake stands up, produces a MAGIC WAND from his arse. He
CHANTS, waves the WAND. A blinding FLASH. The lights come
back on.

DARCY
Jake? Have you gone mad too?

Jake is now an old black man in rags.

TASH
Where did you come from?
Where's Jake?

JAKE
Oh, I'm still Jake. I get
around, is all.

DARCY
You're...you're the homeless
guy. From the subway.

LEILA
'Beware of the dark'...it's you.
You're the dark. The dark man...

A moment of impending climax.

JAKE
(sighs)
No, I'm just a lowly beggar.
They gave me this MAGIC WAND
to wrap things up. This script
was going nowhere.
TASH
True.

LEILA
Wait! Isn't the script meant to be twelve pages?

JAKE
Too bad. I'm over it.

DARCY
Yeah, put the fucker out of it's misery.

Jake waves the WAND. Everything goes totally BLACK.

CAMERA MAN (O.S)
You're sure that shower scene can't be a visual?

MR. CORNETTO (O.S)
No. Bathroom tiles are out, I'm afraid.
(beat)
How about a meteor shower?

CAMERA MAN (O.S)
That's a start.
(beat)
Over a nudie beach?

THE END.