THE DOOR

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OVER BLACK:

HYPERVENTILATION. PULSING HEART. FOOTSTEPS. Fast, plenty. They echo. Someone's running.

Boards SHRIEK as weight's put on them. Silence. BANG! THUMP - CREEK - THUMP - CREEK - THUMP. Someone's marching up a flight of stairs.

Beat. Silence.

DR. CADWELL (V.O.) Where are you now?

KYLE (V.O.) (laboured breathing) Hall... hallway.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK/ BLACK AND WHITE

Door opens. ERICA (28) peeks inside the modest, plain office.

ERICA Doctor, Kyle Miller's here.

DR. CADWELL (42) sits at his desk. His brown eyes come through black fat rim glasses. He's got equally brown hair to match.

DR. CADWELL Is he? Right on time.

He looks at the clock on his wall - 2 PM, on the dot.

DR. CADWELL (smirks) Might be Swiss.

Erica smiles. Dr. Cadwell stands and goes to the door.

ERICA (to someone O.S) He'll see you now.

She fully opens the door, revealing KYLE (22) standing before it. Dr. Cadwell sees the skinny, timid young man. Greets him with a smile. Kyle wary, shakes hands with Cadwell.

INT. HOUSE/ HALLWAY - DAY - PRESENT/ DREAM SEQUENCE

Kyle stands in front of a long house hallway. Plain white doors on each side. Four left, four right.

DR. CADWELL (V.O.) Where are you now? KYLE (laboured breathing) Hall... hallway. DR. CADWELL (V.O.) Lose him? KYLE He... never stops. A terrifying, thunderous HOWL is audible. Stuff of nightmares. KYLE (scared) He's coming. Kyle looks over his shoulder at a flight of stairs. The HOWL came from the floor below. His eyes go back down the hallway. DR. CADWELL (V.O.) Do you see the door?

> KYLE Not my door.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK/ BLACK AND WHITE

Dr. Cadwell sits in a chair. Kyle sits on the couch.

DR. CADWELL Why don't you tell me why you're here, Kyle?

KYLE I... I have nightmares.

DR. CADWELL Frequently?

KYLE

Daily.

INT. HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY - PRESENT/ DREAM SEQUENCE

Door opens. Kyle bursts inside, immediately closing it behind him. Leans on it with his back.

Eyes closed, he tries to regulate his breathing.

Just as he compose himself, he hears --

GIRL (O.S.)

Hi.

His eyes open to - SUSIE (8), who sits on the floor near her bed. Doll in hand. Kyle goes to her. Takes a knee.

KYLE

Hey. My name's Kyle. What's yours?

GIRL/SUSIE

Susie.

KYLE Can we play a little game, Susie? (she nods) You go under that bed and I'm gonna do my darnedest to make you come out. Okay? But, don't budge now. I'm gonna make horrible noises and throw stuff around. But no matter what you hear you don't come out. You'll lose the game if you do. Okay? (she nods) Extra points if you close your eyes and ears under there, cause I'm gonna be super loud. I wanna win.

Susie excitedly obeys. She slides under the bed. A HOWL comes in from outside the room, the hallway.

KYLE (to Susie) See. I'm starting to play.

Kyle can't seem to open the bedroom window. He grabs Susie's doll house. Busts it open with it.

Breaks the rest of the glass and steps out.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK/ BLACK AND WHITE

Dr. Cadwell's in his chair. Kyle on the couch. Both in different clothing. A different session.

DR. CADWELL Was it the same one as before?

KYLE No. It's always different. Always one. But I feel, like its the same one.

DR. CADWELL

And you can't never leave the place you're in?

KYLE I've told you before. Only through the door.

INT. HOUSE/ DINING ROOM - DAY - PRESENT/ DREAM SEQUENCE

Kyle comes through a window in the dining room - AAAAAAAA. A girl's SCREAM comes from the floor above. Kyle's face tenses up.

KYLE (angrily) Arggg. He always gets her.

DR. CADWELL (V.O.) What's happening?

KYLE (looks around) I'm in the dining room.

DR. CADWELL (V.O.) The door, do you see the door?

KYLE No! Stop asking.

There's slime on the floor. Large beastly footsteps over it.

A HOWL. THUMP - THUMP - THUMP. Heavy FOOTSTEPS come through the floor above. One can almost feel the pressure and weight of every step above Kyle's head. He looks up, then storms out of the room.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK/ BLACK AND WHITE

Kyle stands next to Dr. Cadwell, who sits in his chair.

Kyle unbuttons his shirt. Pulls it down revealing a large scar on his shoulder. Covers up and sits.

DR. CADWELL How long has this been going on?

KYLE

Two years.

DR. CADWELL Has he ever gotten as close as that time? KYLE

I've... gotten better. I keep focus, keep running, make decisions faster. But, it's a matter of time.

DR. CADWELL No one can run forever.

KYLE I can't hide and I'm bound to trip, eventually.

INT. HOUSE/ KITCHEN - DAY - PRESENT/ DREAM SEQUENCE

Kyle enters through a white door, like all others before. Closes it behind him. Scans the kitchen - Two doors inside. Both white.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK/ BLACK AND WHITE

Dr. Cadwell's in his chair. Kyle paces the room.

DR. CADWELL I wanna try hypnosis. I put you under, here. I'll put the blinds down, make it nice and dark. Couch's comfortable. Ideal nap conditions.

KYLE What's that going to accomplish?

DR. CADWELL Locate, see if this is deep rooted in your subconscious somehow. Why it is? So you don't hurt yourself again --

KYLE I've never --

DR. CADWELL I'm sorry. Maybe we can find the trauma that's bringing this over and over again.

KYLE What if there is no trauma?

DR. CADWELL Then what's the harm? If we do nothing you'll eventually have another nightmare. It won't change anything.

INT. HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM - DAY - PRESENT/ DREAM SEQUENCE

Kyle throws a glance from behind a corner to another empty hallway. Sweat drips from his forehead. Lower lip shakes.

> KYLE (frustrated) No! There's too many. I went through half the house.

DR. CADWELL (V.O.) It has to be there, somewhere. What about the basement, garage?

Kyle looks at the other end of the room - another hallway. Thinks. Deliberation visible in his eyes.

A decision's been made. He runs.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kyle stands at the beginning of the hallway. Three doors there. Two on the right, one on the left. Each about ten feet from the other.

His eyebrows rise as FOOTSTEPS are audible. They grow in power. A strong GRUNT follows. Sounds awful close.

Kyle reaches the nearest door. Opens it - an EMPTY BEDROOM. Shuts it.

ANOTHER GRUNT. FOOTSTEPS. Slow, torpid but loud. THUMP, THUMP.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK/ BLACK AND WHITE

Kyle lays on the couch, eyes closed. Dr. Cadwell stands next to him, concerned look on his face. He has Kyle's shirt lifted. Its bottom gripped between his fingers as he holds it up. Inspecting Kyle's torso with confusion.

A long, thin, fresh cut is clear above Kyle's belt line. A slash. Blood drips onto the couch and is present on the shirt.

Dr. Cadwell releases the shirt.

DR. CADWELL (reassuring) Okay, okay, Kyle. I'm gonna count back from five. When I reach one, you'll --

KYLE (stiffens up) I hear him. He's big. DR. CADWELL Listen to me. I'll count down from five, when I reach one you'll wake up.

KYLE It's starting! I have to run!

DR. CADWELL What? No. Where are you?

KYLE House. A large house.

Dr. Cadwell kneels next to Kyle, anxious. He speaks into his ear.

DR. CADWELL Listen to my voice. Five. Four. Three. Two... one. (beat) Wake up. Wake up, Kyle. Now!

INT. HOUSE/ HALLWAY - DAY - PRESENT/ DREAM SEQUENCE

Kyle stares directly at the end of the hallway. A GROWLING travels down it. There's something around the corner.

KYLE

He found me.

DR. CADWELL (V.O.)

Run.

Kyle looks back, then again at the door nearest to him. He thinks. Makes a dash for it. As he does, the FOOTSTEPS intensify. Someone, something is running towards him, head on. Collision course.

Kyle reaches the door... he opens it... inside - basement stairs, leading down to... a RED DOOR.

KYLE

Found <u>it</u>.

Kyle eagerly goes down the stairs to it. He trips. Falls.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - PRESENT - DAY

Dr. Cadwell's face over Kyle's on the couch.

DR. CADWELL

Open it.

Kyle lays at the end of the flight of stairs, next to the red door, all beat-up. He lifts himself by the elbow. Reaches up.

DR. CADWELL (V.O.)

Open it!

KYLE

I'm trying.

He grabs the doorknob. Turns it. White light peeks in as the door opens. Kyle pushes it fully open.

THUMP - THUMP - THUMP. FAST, HEAVY FOOTSTEPS COME DOWN THE STAIRS.

Kyle drags, scrapes his body through the door to the white light.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - PRESENT - DAY

AAAAA - SCREAM. Kyle's eyes open. He lifts his head, gasping for air.

DR. CADWELL (trying to calm him) It's okay, it's okay. You made it. You're here. (beat) Breathe. Calm down. Easy.

KYLE (grabs Dr. Cadwell by the collar) Doc --

DR. CADWELL Don't talk. Don't tense up now. Relax, relax. I'll get the blinds. (stands) Lighten things up a bit, literally and figuratively. We had quite the scare, huh?

Dr. Cadwell goes to the window. He grabs a string for the blinds.

KYLE

Doctor.

DR. CADWELL (lifting the blinds) What is it, Kyle?

KYLE (panicked) I... I didn't close the door. HEAVY BREATHING'S audible in the room.

Dr. Cadwell lifts the blinds, as... A GRUNT is heard behind him. He turns... sees... A HIDEOUS WEREWOLF-LIKE beast, drooling, standing at the other end of the room. Foaming at the mouth, growling.

Dr. Cadwell SCREAMS. The Beast SCREAMS. Kyle SCREAMS.

THE END.