

THE LAUGHING FISHERMAN

written by

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NON ENTITY

FADE IN:

EXT. DARK SCARY FOREST - NIGHT

Groupie MARINA (17) Her mascara smudged when dressed in just her underwear, screams as she races for dear life while being chased by a faceless NON ENTITY inside a hood.

With the epitome of fear upon her face, her foot catches a discarded LOG and she stumbles and rolls down a slippery gulley, towards a RAVINE where she lies unconscious beneath a thick RIVER BUSH.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. MUSIC VENUE - NIGHT

Baby face rock chick Marina pops a pill as she goes wild on the dance floor in front of punk rock outfit - THE FOG.

Her skimpy black dress covered in sequins reveals her shapely figure.

ON STAGE:

Long haired, leather clad vocalist IZZY STRANGE (22) pulls her up with him as he belts out lyrics and simulates sex with her.

When the song finishes he quickly ushers her out of the venue and into a waiting-

STRETCH LIMO.

They're joined by SHADOW. WOLF. ANT and STRIKE. They're also long haired and leather clad, and all in their mid-twenties.

IZZY STRANGE

(panting)

Phew! That was fuckin' awesome,  
man.

She looks up at him and smiles affectionately.

MARINA

(London accent)

You were brilliant.

He gives her a gentle squeeze.

IZZY STRANGE

Thanks.

(wipes forehead)

What's your name, honeysuckle?

MARINA

Marina.

IZZY STRANGE

How old are you, darling?

MARINA

(coyly)

Old enough.

IZZY STRANGE

How old is old enough? I don't  
wanna get cancelled for sleeping  
with someone who's underage.

MARINA

Don't worry. I'm seventeen.

IZZY STRANGE

So where's your friends? You  
didn't come to the gig on your  
own, did you?

MARINA

No. We got separated.

IZZY STRANGE

D'you wanna gatecrash a party  
later?

MARINA

As long as you get me home safely  
afterwards.

ANT

(interjects)

No chance, baby. Your feet won't  
touch the ground, I promise you.

WOLF

(to Ant)

Neither will yours if you don't  
shut the fuck up, brain ball.

SHADOW

Ah, take no notice of him, babe.  
He's a fuckin' door knob.

WOLF

(shows the finger)

Piss off!

IZZY STRANGE

Oi! Leave my girl alone. She's coming with us.

STRIKE

We'll work on it.

SHADOW

(to Marina)

Listen love. The darker you go, the more fulfilling it is, trust me.

IZZY STRANGE

Well, she ain't going nowhere with you, bro, so keep quiet.

CUT TO:

INT. COUNTRY COTTAGE LOUNGE - NIGHT

Marina and Izzy Strange snuggle up on the sofa in front of a roaring coal fire. The others laze around drinking from cans, smoking weed and talking bollocks.

Door chimes repeatedly.

IZZY STRANGE

Get that, somebody for fuck sake

SHADOW

I'll go.

Shadow gets to his feet and opens the door to a thick fog and a howling wind.

A PIZZA GUY of no particular age has his face covered as he stands holding three boxes.

SHADOW

(obliviously)

Cheers dude.

He grabs the pizza's then closes the door in his face.

WOLF

(sits up)

I'm fuckin' starved, man.

ANT

Depraved, more like.

STRIKE

I've got a serious case of the munches. Bring them over here.

They rip into the pizza's like rabid dogs then begin to eat like savages. Marina looks on and chuckles.

Beat.

The band get to their feet and are about to exit.

Marina and Izzy strange continue to lie in front of the log fire.

ANT

(to Izzy Strange)

Aren't you coming then?

IZZY STRANGE

No. Just fuck off and have some fun, bro. We're staying here.

Ant is the last to close the door behind him as they exit.

MARINA

I thought you wanted to-

IZZY STRANGE

-Nah. C'mon, let's go upstairs to bed and watch Netflix.

She looks at him imploringly.

MARINA

You will call me a cab in the morning, won't you?

IZZY STRANGE

Of course I will, honeysuckle. I'm not that sad, am I?

MARINA

No, you're not.

END FLASHBACK.

SCARY FOREST - CONT'D:

Torrential rain pours down upon Marina as she regains consciousness.

With her wild hair dripping and her make up washed away from her pallid face, she looks up in wonder at the huge eerie trees that protect her, before she climbs to her feet and stumbles across the other side of the ravine.

She shelters from the rain beneath a tree as she shivers from the cold.

Her POV: a FISHERMAN in a SOUWESTER HAT and WATERPROOF CAPE. She attempts to cover herself as she approaches with caution.

He sits and stares at his little FLOAT bobbing up and down, before she stands behind him, then lightly taps him on the shoulder.

MARINA  
(timidly)  
Excuse me, sir.

He ignores her and continues to stare at his float.

MARINA /  
Hello. I'm sorry to dist-

He turns his head THREE-SIXTY.

His eyes show huge BLACK HOLES. His mouth furnished with SHARP METAL TEETH. His nose a stump of ROAR FLESH.

She screams of fright and darts back through the trees.

In uncontrollable laughter he picks up an axe and chases after her.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

BEDROOM.

She lies next to Izzy Strange. Her eyes wide open when she hears the floorboards creak outside the room.

She sits up and spots a DARK SHADOW pass by the door.

Fearfully she gives him a nudge. He doesn't flinch. She leans over and pulls him towards her.

Her POV: His THROAT SLICED from ear to ear and leaks BLOOD.

Agape, her screams are stifled by fear.

MARINA

(terrified)

Ohmygod. Ohmygod. Ohmygod.

Ohmygod. Fuck. Get out. Get out.

She jumps out of bed and runs towards the window and looks down at a slate roof above a-

COURTYARD.

She climbs out of the window, then slides down the rooftop, before she drops down into the pitch black fog and disappears into the night.

END FLASHBACK.

SCARY FOREST - CONT'D:

She scrambles her way through the density of the woods and stops when she treads upon the bloodied, limbless CADAVER of Ant.

Her eyes bulge as she looks down agape and attempts to scream, before she falls backwards and crashes to the ground, her eyes transfixed upon his savaged TORSO.

She throws her head in her hands and sobs as she acquiesces.

She finally climbs to her feet, then cautiously turns his torso over and removes his sleeveless, studded leather jacket.

She slips it on then huddles up to herself as she shelters.

CRACK.

She spins around.

SNAP!

The lifeless body of Shadow swings directly in front of her. His stomach ripped open as BLOOD drips from his ripped up cadaver.

She SCREAMS as she panics, before she spots the Fisherman through the trees. He swings an AXE as heads in her direction.

She legs it. He chases.

She loses him as she pants with nervous exhaustion.

Her POV: A FARMHOUSE where REVELLERS party.

She sprints towards the well-lit entrance then enters.

INT. FARMHOUSE

She shuffles through the crowded hallway and into the large-

KITCHEN

where she grabs a bottled beer of the table.

She's confronted by a young GUY dressed as DRACULA. He shows his fangs as he goes to bite her neck.

MARINA /

Oh fuck off, you weirdo!

She pushes him aside and enters the-

LOUNGE.

PARTY PEOPLE dance to garage beats as they soak up the atmosphere.

She spots Strike and Wolf in the corner of the room. They smoke a spliff and drink beer as they chat.

She joins them.

STRIKE

Hey! You Made it. Where's Izzy?

MARINA

Come. Come with me, please. I need to show you something.

WOLF

Alright babe. Calm down. What's going on?

MARINA

Come. I'll show you.

They follow her outside.



EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

She leads them through the forest towards where Shadow and Ant's cadavers lie.

WOLF

What's going on, babe? Where are you taking us?

MARINA

They've been murdered! They're in the woods.

STRIKE

You what? Are you sure?

WOLF

Well, she is wearing his bomber... part of it. What happened to the sleeves?

MARINA

You'll find out.

STRIKE

So why did you come here? Where's Izzy?

MARINA

His throat was cut while I was asleep. We both were.

WOLF

(facetiously)

It wasn't you, was it?

MARINA

Very funny. I've just been chased by a fisherman with an axe.

STRIKE

OK.OK. Calm down. Show us where the bodies are.

She takes them to the approximate place, but their cadavers are gone.

MARINA

Oh my god! They were here! Shadow was swinging from that tree.

(points to the tree)

And Ant was right here by your foot. I stepped on him.

WOLF

(To Strike)

They were behind us, larking about, weren't they?

STRIKE

I'm gonna call the police. Someone's fucking with our heads, man.

WOLF

Yeah. Either that or there's a fucking maniac on the loose.

MARINA

There is.

STRIKE

Stick together.

He takes out his iPhone and presses three digits.

STRIKE /

(on phone)

Yeah. Police please...

WOLF

(To Strike)

No. Wait. Stop. There isn't any bodies. How can we justify murders if there aren't any bodies?

STRIKE

(hangs up)

OK. What shall we do?

WOLF

Go back to the cottage and wait there.

STRIKE

Wait for what? You just told me to hang up.

WOLF

C'mon. We'll phone the cops after we see what's going on. We still don't know if she's lying.

MARINA

(angrily)

I'm lying am I? Look at me! I'm terrified. I'm wearing Adam's leather jacket without sleeves.

WOLF

OK. I believe you. I believe you.

They walk back through the forest with caution and in close proximity of one another.

They hear the rustle of leaves.

SNAP!

STRIKE

(panicked)

RUN!

They separate as they run off in different directions.

CU: Strike screams as he is dragged by the hair into the density of the forest, before his head is consumed by the Laughing Fisherman.

CU: Blood spatters the screen.

Beat.

Marina sobs as she hears his screams. She spots the-

FARMHOUSE.

CUT TO:

INT. COTTAGE - NIGHT

Wolf enters then quickly flies up the staircase towards the-BEDROOM.

He opens the door and steps inside.

He pulls back the bloodied quilt.

He stands in shock at the frightful sight of the Laughing Fisherman, who jumps up and slices his throat from ear to ear.

Wolf's blood spatter squirts like a spinning fountain as he continues to be butchered.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL BED - MORNING

Marina violently tosses and turns, before she wakes up sweating.

Her MOTHER and FATHER (50's) gaze down at her with sympathy from her bedside.

She slides herself up and shakes her head.

MARINA

Where am I?

MOTHER

You're in hospital, my darling.  
You passed out at the concert  
last night. You were brought  
here.

MARINA

Who by?

FATHER

The nurse says it was a  
fisherman.

Marina looks up in horror with the face of the Laughing Fisherman deeply rooted inside her mind.

LAUGHING FISHERMAN VO

Hahahaaaa.....Haha.....Haaahaa.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END