The Light

By

Screenwriter-lite
EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Towering pinewoods dominate the backdrop.

MILES (10), kneels on the forest floor - a light flickers gently on his face - he looks at the light with wonder.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

A large log cabin sits in a forest clearing.

INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

An oak-furnished room, lit by the flame of a open fire. The logs in the fire CRACKLE gently, and spit the occasional spark.

By a large, solid wood table, ABBY (34), a brunette, sets a bottle of WINE down.

From behind her - ROBERT (45), enters the room. He’s fast balding, and harassed.

    ABBY
    Why did you bring us here?

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

An SUV sweeps along the road - Miles’ head sticking out of the passenger window - the wind billowing his hair.

INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY

Abby’s at the sink in the functional kitchen - a window in front of her.

A large table takes up most of the central space in the kitchen - a door’s ajar just beyond and behind the table.

Abby glances out of the window, then spins round to see--

MILES - by the door.

    ABBY
    Where in hell have you been?
INT. CABIN - HALLWAY - DAY

Robert creeps into the hallway.

A DOOR creaks open, and NELLIE (12), long blond hair, pokes her head round.

    NELLIE
    Is he back?

EXT. CABIN PARKING BAY - DAY

The SUV’s got it’s rear passenger door open.

Marching toward the car, Robert’s got Miles round the waist, and up off the ground.

Miles SCREAMS like there’s no tomorrow, kicking his legs out like crazy.

They get to the car, but Miles slams his legs against the vehicle body - no way he’s getting in there.

INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Abby and Robert by the dining table.

    ROBERT
    He just ain’t leaving. And I don’t know how to make him. Short of boxing him up and shoving him in the trunk.

    ABBY
    You didn’t answer my question.

    ROBERT
    Abby...

    ABBY
    And he’s out there. In that... forest. Alone.

    ROBERT
    He’s safe.

    ABBY
    How in hell do you know that!
EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Miles kneels in his usual place.

The light flickers off his face - but this time, blues and reds dance off the child’s features.

    MILES
    Do you want to talk?

And the light dances quicker.

INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - DAY

Abby, Robert, and Nellie sit around the kitchen table, and share some simple fare.

    NELLIE
    Is he going to die?

    ROBERT
    He ain’t going ‘n die.

Abby takes a rushed slurp of her drink.

    ABBY
    Sound so sure. How so?

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Robert stands on the veranda, looking out toward the forest.

INT. CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Abby sets a bottle of wine on the table - fingers and thumbs, she breaks it open, tips some in a glass, some on the table.

The door’s ajar - she looks up at it, and back to her glass. Then back to the door - Miles is there.

Abby runs to him, grabs him and gets down on one knee in front of him.

    ABBY
    You CANNOT keep doing this to us!
MILES
To late to stop now.

ABBY
What the hell is it? Tell me!

MILES
I can’t.

ABBY
Honey...you can tell your Mommy anything.

MILES
Anything I’m worried about? Anything that’s on my mind?

ABBY
O’course baby.

MILES
I ain’t worried about it, and it ain’t on my mind.

INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Abby and Robert by the table. Abby ups a bottle of wine, about to re-fill her glass.

Robert place his hand over the glass.

Abby pours over his hand. He takes his hand away.

ROBERT
Well, he inherited that.

Abby finishes pouring, and upends the bottle.

ABBY
I’m losing my baby.

Robert lowers his head.

ABBY (CONT’D)
Then it’ll just be Nellie and me.

ROBERT
How...

ABBY
You brought us here.

Robert breathes in.
ABBY (CONT’D)
Keep on saying it ain’t nothing to be afraid of...

ROBERT
Hon--

ABBY
And how do you know that much?

Robert searches for a response.

ABBY (CONT’D)
You ain’t behaving like a father. You think I don’t see that?

She takes a too-big gulp from the glass.

ABBY (CONT’D)
Most fathers’d be going half nuts by now, little boy lost in the woods all night, night after night.

Another gulp of wine.

ABBY (CONT’D)
You think I don’t see?

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY
The SUV sears along the forested road.

INT. SUV - DAY
Robert, happy, looks across to Abby, who’s concerned.

ROBERT
It is going to be fine.

ABBY
It’s just so far away. Middle of nowhere.

ROBERT
It comes recommended, I can assure you of that.

ABBY
Not too sure you can. What, one of your buddies?

Robert smiles at Abby, and focuses back on the road.
INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
Abby and Robert - Abby takes a gulp out of her wine glass.

ABBY
Why--did you bring us here?

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT
Miles kneels - a RAINBOW of colors pulse across his face.
His features reflect the upped beats of the light, faster, more frenetic...

EXT. CABIN PARKING BAY - DAY
Abby’s frantic, throwing belongings into the car.
Robert’s nearby, stood still.

ABBY
I’m going to get him.
She throws a back-back into the vehicle.

ABBY (CONT’D)
It’s the only solution.

ROBERT
It’s not going to help.

ABBY
I can’t leave... him like this.

ROBERT
Abby, let me...
She stops, and faces Robert.

ABBY
Why would I do that?

ROBERT
Let me speak to him.

ABBY
This is all...
She moves forward with menace.
ABBY (CONT’D)
About trust. And I can’t...

She shakes her head, looks around...

ABBY (CONT’D)
You brought this on us. On him. I know that. I can see it running through you. Right through your veins.

Robert looks away.

ABBY (CONT’D)
I trusted you right from... when I first called you Bobby and you held my hand. But now... he won’t say... and you won’t say... and what I got?

He won’t look at her.

ABBY (CONT’D)
I can’t put my child in your hands.

Silence... for a beat.

ROBERT
Just one last chance.

EXT. FOREST - DAY
Among the pines, the growth, bushes and twigs, Miles marches. Almost too fast for his legs to carry him - urgent all over.

Robert follows in his tracks.

ROBERT
Miles...

Miles storms ahead.

ROBERT (CONT’D)
I...I understand. Sure I do.

Robert stumbles, but regains his footing.

ROBERT (CONT’D)
It’s just your Momma... she ain’t getting any of it. She don’t understand.
But nothing from Miles.

ROBERT (CONT’D)
Miles...I’m...

Roberts stops.

ROBERT (CONT’D)
...lost.

Miles stops. He turns around.

Robert moves toward him, and sets down on one knee in front of the boy.

ROBERT
Son... I just don’t know what to say... to your Mom. I tried so hard. But...

MILES
Did you see it?

ROBERT
I saw it...

MILES
But not today.

ROBERT
I need to help your Mom. I’m losing her. And I can’t do that.

MILES
But you brought us here?

ROBERT
Of course I did.

MILES
And you wanted me to see it.

Robert looks around.

ROBERT
Had too.

Miles looks surprised.

MILES
Like it was your job?
ROBERT
More than that.

MILES
You... you discovered it, right?

ROBERT
No. I never did. My Grand-daddy did. When he was the same age, or near enough, as yourself, I don’t recall too well.

MILES
A boy like me?

ROBERT
Yes.

MILES
Do you have to be a boy?

ROBERT
I think just innocent.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Miles kneels as before. The light flickers on his face, but it’s weak.

He turns to look behind him.

Miles POV:
Robert off in the distance.

On ROBERT
Robert fidgets.

MILES
(raised voice)
Don’t worry!

On MILES. He turns toward the light. The light dances— a little stronger on his features.

MILES
Don’t fear. Don’t...anything.

Miles smiles.

He turns to look toward Robert. In the distance, Robert creeps a little closer.
Miles looks back toward the light.

In the b.g., a few feet off, Robert sits.

    ROBERT
    My Grand-daddy always said...

A beat.

    MILES
    It takes me away sometimes.

    ROBERT
    Where to?

    MILES
    I saw Albert.

    ROBERT
    Grand-daddy.

    MILES
    He bring you here?

    ROBERT
    My father brought me. And of course his father brought him.

    MILES
    I ain’t afraid.

    ROBERT
    You’re going to go. Ain’t you?

    MILES
    It wants to take me someplace.

    ROBERT
    It was always looking for someone.

    MILES
    Did it tell you that?

    ROBERT
    It was just like you knew.

    MILES
    What are you going to tell Mommy?

Robert looks away.
MILES (CONT’D)
You never know. She might just understand.

Miles rises from his kneeling position... and steps on into the light.

FADE OUT: