

The Light
By
Screenwriter-lite

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: