The Mother

By

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EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD NIGHT

A woman wearing a yellow shirt (MOMMY, 30’s) and a small boy (DANNY, 4-5) travel down a winding mountain road in a subcompact car. The child is sleeping in the front seat, but stirs a little. The child wears a seat belt; the mother does not. A bunch of stuff loaded in the back.

MOMMY
Hey, sleepy.

DANNY
Hmm. Hi Mommy.

MOMMY
We’ll be home in an hour, honey. What did you think about the mountains?

DANNY
Fun. I like the snow tubes.

MOMMY
Think you’d want to go back some time?

DANNY
Yes.

Danny falls back asleep. Mommy yawns and brushes his hair with her free hand. They drive along this road, which has no signs of life otherwise.

Mommy turns on the radio, low so not to disturb her child.

Endless trees pass by on both sides of the road, a big lonely road sign far up ahead. Mommy lowers her head. Fade to black. Scene screeches back abruptly as we see them blow right through that yellow sign and off the road.

A rocky descent down a woodsy hill, just missing tree after tree until boom. They hit the thickest tree around. Mommy is thrown through the windshield, past the tree.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

She awakes at what may be minutes or hours later. She wills herself from the ground, through pain and stiffness and looks around, seeing the car 20 feet back. She limps to the vehicle in haste, seeing her son move in the car. The world seems a bit more blue than it did.
MOMMY
Danny! Danny, I’m coming! Everything’s gonna be okay!

She attempts to open the car door. The handle doesn’t even budge under her efforts. She puts her foot on the car for leverage and gives it one last great pull. The handle moves an inch before becoming unbearable for her.

MOMMY
Danny.

She knocks on the glass.

MOMMY
Danny, baby. This door won’t open. Try my door on the other side... Danny! Look at Mommy!

Danny, sobbing gently, seems to become preoccupied with the driver side window of the car as she speaks on the passenger side.

MOMMY
Danny!

Danny leans over to the driver seat and puts a limp, bruised arm over his shoulder. Mommy is taken aback as she realizes her body is still in the driver seat.

DANNY
Mommy, please wake up.

MOMMY
(Backing away)
Oh, God. I’m so sorry.

Mommy falls to her knees. She wretches with sorrow on her hands and knees. A strange and ominous shadow envelops the area beyond the car, unnoticed by all.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE DAWN

Mommy sits at the base of a nearby tree. Her son sleeps in the car. She watches.

Suddenly it sounds like an engine in the distance. She looks up towards the road. She starts with a fevered rush up to the road.

Sure enough, a car is passing as she gets there, and she tries to wave it down.
MOMMY
Help! Please, my boy needs help! Hey!

The car passes by, seemingly unfettered. But it screeches to a halt 40 yards away and just sits there for a moment.

EXT. ACCIDENT CONTINUOUS

The blue hue of the world is gone as the car continues to wait. Looking back, Mommy is nowhere to be found. The car’s break lights brighten and we hear the sound of it changing gears. We hear the same thing a second time, the lights dim, and the car takes off in its previous trajectory.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE CONTINUOUS

The blue hue is back. Mommy runs after the fleeing car, in futility.

MOMMY
Wait, dammit! Wait! He’s gonna die!

She hears another vehicle, but nothing like the last. The sound is sharp and high pitched, like what you hear when you try to start an engine when it’s already running. The sound draws her back to the accident, where she sees a tall, shadowy ENTITY tinkering under the hood of the mangled car.

MOMMY
Danny!

She hears the muffled scream of her son. The entity looks up the hill and smiles inhumanly at her.

MOMMY
Get your hands off of him you son of a--

She runs headlong down the hill and straight into the Entity. It disappears as she hits the ground.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE AFTERNOON

Mommy lays in the back seat of the car, staring out of the window. Danny remains in the front seat. His mother’s body in the seat next to him.
MOMMY
I know you probably don’t understand what’s happened to me. And I know it’s scary without me but you have to leave me, Danny. I can’t think of any other way this is gonna work out... You don’t hear a word I’m saying do you?

Danny rubs his eyes, looks to the back of the car. Hopeful, Mommy raises her head, then sits up.

MOMMY
Danny?

Danny reaches in the back of the car to the floor. Grabs a cooler and looks into it. He lets the empty cooler drop to his feet.

MOMMY
(sighing)
You’re hungry? I should’ve got something for the trip home... There’s gotta be something I can do.

She exits the car, without opening the door, of course. She looks every which way. Then up towards the tree canopy. She walks to one of the thicker trees and starts climbing.

EXT. ACCIDENT AFTERNOON

A harmless tree limb falls on the roof of the car.

After resting on the roof for a moment the limb starts to slip down the passenger side window. It somehow gets stuck between the window pane and the car door. Raspberries adorn the limb.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE AFTERNOON

Mommy struggles to hold the tiny limb up to the window, as if it weighed a hundred pounds.

MOMMY
(through clenched teeth)
You see that, buddy? Take it. It’s good.

Pensively, Danny rolls down the window and grasps the berry branch.
MOMMY
  (Relieved)
  There you go.

She gets back in the back seat of the car. Danny starts eating.

MOMMY
  That’s what me and your uncle
  Steven would eat all the time, when
  we were outside. Grandma used to
  say "stop eating those
  berries. You’ll ruin your dinner!"

Mommy chuckles at the memory. Danny ignores her, eating voraciously. She looks at Danny with longing.

MOMMY
  We’re gonna make it, buddy. You
  and me against the world.

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

The woods are alive with creepy sounds. Insects, an occasional distant cry of a fox. Most creepy of all is the sound of dead leaves crackling all around as branches/nuts fall, and/or animals amble around. Mommy sits behind her son who’s sleeping with a blanket around him. She startles at every sound.

MOMMY
  I should’ve known not to go the
  road less traveled. Twenty-four
  hours, not a single car passes
  us. I won’t let you die, Danny—I
  simply won’t.

The Entity appears out of the dark woods. He walks towards the car, stops, stares for a moment and unleashes his deadly grin before turning and disappearing into the woods as calmly as he arrived.

MOMMY
  Yeah, that’s right, bitch! Turn
  the other way!
EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

Something is hitting Danny’s window. Danny wakes to see what it is. They’re berries, but not the same berries as before. They’re small and smooth, and black. Pokeweed berries.

Mommy finds the Entity chucking these berries from a tree branch. Danny motions to roll down his window.

MOMMY

NOOO!

Mommy reaches around her dead body and attacks the car horn. It beeps, scaring the Entity off into the blackness and upsetting Danny.

DANNY

Mommy!

MOMMY

Don’t eat those, Danny. Don’t you get any ideas. Mommy did NOT give those to you.

She tries to hold her son. She is reduced to tears.

MOMMY

Leave him ALONE! DAMN YOU!

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE DAY

Mommy whispers into her son’s ear as he sits there, terrified. Her voice raises with her frustration.

MOMMY

Danny. Go. Get out of the car. Danny. Nobody can help because they can’t see us. Mommy’ll be okay right here, I promise. Danny... GET THE HELL OUT!

EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

Establishing shot shows the Entity crawling around the car like a hyena. The Entity is completely silent as it moves.

Mommy lays in the back seat as usual. Danny sits up front. Mommy watches the entity pace.
MOMMY  
He gets bolder by the night, Danny. We’ve done well up until now but...I don’t know what he’s capable of. I’m failing you again. He gets stronger. I get weaker... No, I can still save you, Danny. We can still get out of this but I need your help. You hear me, Danny?

Danny doesn’t respond.

MOMMY  
I need you...to play your CD. Just like you always do. Okay? Don’t worry, Mommy won’t be mad. Turn it up as loud as you want.

She exits the car. She stares down the Entity which now slouches into a ball several yards away, alert.

MOMMY  
You want a piece of my son, huh?

No response from the Entity. She walks cautiously towards it.

MOMMY  
Not even over my dead body. You got that? Not happening!

Just then, the faint sound of a car in the distance. She looks up to the road and as she does the Entity seizes the opportunity to attack, ravaging her with shadowy, unseen claws and a mouthful of sharp teeth.

She screams, but stands steadfast, bludgeoning the Entity with lady fists. It retreats into the shadows. Mommy runs up to the road and attempts to pull the broken yellow sign upright again. She nearly manages it when suddenly attacked by the Entity again. It swarms around her like a force.

The sign falls back down. Mommy steps into the middle of the road as she is attacked. The entity grabs her by the hair, and goads over it’s prey as the headlights of the oncoming car engulf them. The Entity is banished by the light as the car screeches to a stop. The sound of a loud concussive thud is heard.
EXT. ACCIDENT NIGHT

The Driver and several Passengers are searching the road. One has a flash light.

    DRIVER
    Oh, shit. Oh shit, please tell me I didn’t hit anyone.

    PASSENGER 1
    There’s nothing out here, dude.

    DRIVER
    You saw it, right? It was right THERE!

    PASSENGER 2
    Maybe it was a deer, and it just ran off.

    DRIVER
    What d’you think I’m makin’ this up? I know what I saw, I was probably the only one paying attention. It was a woman with a yellow shirt on. And some jeans, I think.

    FEMALE PASSENGER 3
    Don’t spook me out can we go already? Sooner we get outta these boonies the better.

    PASSENGER 1
    Hey look at that! Is that what you saw?

Passenger 1 refers to the yellow sign on the side of the road, that seems to be jutting out the ground at a very acute angle.

    DRIVER
    How the hell did I hit that?

The Driver walks up to the sign. It falls flat to the ground making him jump. The driver inventories the area, lighting the hill with the flashlight. Sees the car.

    DRIVER
    HEY THERE’S SOMETHING DOWN THERE! A CAR!

The driver rushes down the hill. His light illuminating the canopy.
EXT. ACCIDENT BLUE NIGHT

Mommy lays belly down next to the sign, exhausted, huffing.

    PASSENGER 2 (O.S.)
    No kiddin’ someone down there?

    DRIVER (O.S.)
    Uh, a woman. And her kid.

Several footsteps pass her by as Mommy crawls along the highway toward a towering beam of light at the other side of the road. She crawls, without the use of her legs.

The Entity snakes out of a shadow beside her and stands next to her. She looks up at him, turns around and lays on her back. She is beaten. The entity picks her up by the waist like she was weightless and carries her away from the light.

Pan back to reveal the writing on the sign: Slow down, Save a life. Yours. A message from your LIMMBO CTY Sheriff’s Dept.

Fade to Black