

THE SCARECROW

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FADE IN:

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

A two story farmhouse stands in the distance surrounded by neatly cut grass. Otherwise, high stalks of corn for as long as the eye can see.

We hear music and the engine of a sports car.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

CHIP (18, jock) drives his convertible, top down, along the narrow road. Music blares from the speakers. He's handsome with cropped hair and a chiseled face. He wears his letterman's sweater. He's got his arm wrapped around Lois.

LOIS (17, demure) wears a modest sweater over a blouse and a pleated skirt. Hair in a ponytail. She's got one hand on his leg and holds his other hand on her shoulder.

Chip moves his right hand close to her breast, which she quickly swats away. He tries again. She grabs Chip's hand and squeezes it.

LOIS

Be nice.

CHIP

What? No one can see us.

LOIS

That's not the point.

Chip lets his hand fall on her shoulder.

CHIP

How much further?

LOIS

The turn off is coming up soon.

Chip surveys his surrounding. All he sees is corn.

CHIP

How can you tell?

Lois shrugs.

CHIP (cont'd)

So you just know, huh?

She smiles. Chip drives.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

A porch swing sways in the breeze.

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

ELLEN (50s) pulls her roast out of the oven. She pulls the foil back and checks a chunk of carrot with a fork. She grimaces. Puts the fork down and replaces the foil. Puts it back in the oven as she hears Chip's car pull up.

She looks out the open window and sees Chip opening the door for Lois. She gets out and Chip closes the door. Chip looks up and makes eye contact with Ellen.

Ellen smiles affectionately. Chip breaks contact.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Chip and Lois walk onto the porch as Ellen opens the front door. Lois runs into Ellen's arms and they share a tight embrace as Chip looks on.

Ellen breaks the hug and grabs Chip.

ELLEN

And you must be Chip. It's so nice to meet you!

Ellen hugs Chip, but Chip lets his arms hang loose.

ELLEN (cont'd)

Come on. Give me a hug.

Chip finally embraces her.

ELLEN (cont'd)

There we go.

LOIS

Now you've met my grandma Ellen.

ELLEN

I'm a hugger.

She lets go and grabs Lois' hand.

ELLEN (cont'd)
Come on inside. I've got a fresh
pitcher of tea waitin' for us.

Ellen holds the door open as Lois and Chip walk inside.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lois shows Chip the framed family photos that adorn the walls. She stops at a picture of herself as a toddler.

CHIP
Look at that hair!

LOIS
Don't make fun of me!

CHIP
I'm not. It's adorable.

Lois drags Chip from the photo and into the -

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

- where Lois pushes Chip into a chair. Ellen takes out the pitcher of iced tea. She puts it on the counter.

ELLEN
Can you get the glasses?

LOIS
Sure, grandma.

Lois grabs three glasses from the cupboard and hands them to Ellen. Ellen fills them with ice as Lois pours the tea.

ELLEN
The roast isn't ready yet, I'm
afraid. Y'all were a little early.

LOIS
Are you sure? You said to be here at
one. We got here shortly after that.

ELLEN
I was late putting it in the oven.

Lois looks confused but takes a drink of tea anyway.

LOIS
Thank you, grandma, for having us
over. It means a lot.

ELLEN
You're always welcome here, honey.
You know that.

LOIS
And I'm sorry that I don't come by
more often.

ELLEN
You're a busy, young woman. I
understand. Just don't be a stranger.

They share a quick hug.

CHIP
How much time do we have before
supper's ready?

Ellen looks at the oven. Pulls out the roast and checks one
of the under cooked potatoes.

ELLEN
Maybe twenty minutes. Maybe less.

Chip grabs Lois' hand.

CHIP
Can we explore the cornfield?

LOIS
There's nothing out there except
corn.

CHIP
I'm sure we could make it
interesting.

He nuzzles her neck.

LOIS
Stop it.

She pushes him away with a small laugh. Ellen eyes Chip as
she puts the roast back in the oven.

CHIP
Come on. Please. It'll be fun.

Lois rolls her eyes but grabs his hand.

LOIS

Fine.

Lois pulls Chips to his feet.

LOIS (cont'd)

I'm gonna walk him through the cornfield. I promise we'll be back before supper's done.

ELLEN

That's a very nice sweater, Chip. I'd hate for something to happen to it.

CHIP

This thing? It's been through worse.

Ellen smiles.

CHIP (cont'd)

If you insist.

He slides the jacket off his arms and hands it to Ellen. He's left in a tight t-shirt that shows off his shoulders.

LOIS

We won't be gone long, grandma.

ELLEN

Have fun dear.

Lois leads Chip out the back door as Ellen looks on from the kitchen window.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

Lois leads Chip away from the house. Two scarecrows stand tall in the distance.

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Cornstalks tower over Chip and Lois as she walks ahead of him. She laughs as she starts to run.

Chip chases after. He loses her through the stalks.

LATER

Chip moves the stalks out of his way as he moves forward with a slight grin through the quiet field. He stops. Listens. A crow flies overhead as Lois jumps out.

Chip leaps back. Loses his balance and falls on his back. Lois lands on top of him.

He wraps his arms around her waist and they kiss. He rolls her onto her back and pushes her skirt up. Lois pushes his hands away, but Chip is eager.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ellen, in a rocking chair, uses a large set of scissors to cut Chip's sweater down the back.

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Chip holds her hands down with one hand and forces his hand into her skirt with his other. She shouts for help as crows circle overhead.

Chip lets go of her hands as she covers her mouth. She claws, but Chip's too strong. He takes a second to unbuckle his belt and push his pants down.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ellen feeds the sweater through her sewing machine from the bottom of the hem to the neck.

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

A murder of crows caw as Chip lies on top of Lois. The sky darkens as Lois claws at Chip's face and his back.

She screams as the ground opens and cornstalks grow across the dirt. Leaves grab hold of Chip's legs and his arms. He's unable to fight. Lois, free from Chip, scoots back as she pulls her skirt down.

She watches as the corn pulls Chip into the field. His mouth is open but we can't hear him over the sound of the crows.

Just as soon as it started, the sky turns to blue and the crows fly away, leaving Lois by herself.

She jumps to her feet.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ellen closes her sewing box and puts it under her machine as she hears Lois run up the back steps.

LOIS (O/S)
Grandma! Grandma!

Ellen jumps to her feet and meets Lois in the -

INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

- where she grabs Lois and embraces her.

ELLEN
What's the matter dear?

LOIS
Chip's gone. He's gone.

ELLEN
What do you mean?

LOIS
The - the - the cornfield. It took him. It just took him.

Ellen looks at her, dumbfounded.

LOIS (cont'd)
He was on top of me and then the corn just took him. I saw it.

ELLEN
You'll always be safe with me.

Ellen holds Lois tight against her chest.

LOIS
What do you mean grandma?

ELLEN
You're okay now, dear. Believe me.

She walks Lois down the hall.

ELLEN (cont'd)
It's time for supper. Let's get you cleaned up.

Lois lets Ellen guide her down the hall.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Same farmhouse. Same cornfield. Same scarecrows.

Except one.

A new one stands in the field, higher than the rest. We follow the post from the ground, to the letter man's jacket, to the burlap covered face where -

CLOSE UP ON SCARECROW

- CHIPS EYES FLICKER OPEN behind the mask, yells muffled by his sewn lips.

FADE OUT

THE END