

"The World is Singing"

FADE IN:

INT. PLAINFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

We move across the hallways of Plainfield Middle School. Aside from the rays of sun passing through the cracked windows, no other light illuminates the hallways. Leaves and debris have invaded the hallways. Some lockers remain closed. Those that are open reveal old shoes, notebooks with ripped pages, and torn clothing. Classrooms are opened, yet empty and dark. There is light coming out of one classroom, in the middle of the others.

Outside, LLOYD (25) towers over MIKE (13). Lloyd is dressed in a blue shirt, darker than his blue eyes. His eye bags reveal clear signs of sleep deprivation. Mike is dressed in a pink shirt and khaki shorts. Although his face sports no eye bags, exhaustion is drawn all over it.

LLOYD

At least you know why I took you outside, right?

MIKE

Yes, sir.

LLOYD

How many times are we gonna have this conversation?

MIKE

Mr. Williams, you gotta listen to m-

LLOYD

huh?

MIKE

Please listen. They need to know.

LLOYD

No, no more. Mike, your classmates have had it bad. Don't make things harder for them.

MIKE

That's the thing. I wanna make things better for everyone.

LLOYD

By scaring them? You shouldn't be telling them stories about it. It's better if they don't know about it yet.

MIKE

It's been invading your dreams too, hasn't it?

LLOYD

I wouldn't use that word. It's like a warm, comfortable feeling. Like an invitation.

MIKE

I'm worried the others will follow it. We need to warn them.

LLOYD

Like I've said, it's not a good idea.

MIKE

Then, we get rid of it before it's too late.

LLOYD

Now you are getting carried away. A lot of people have entered the forest. None came out. What makes you think that we will succeed?

MIKE

Whether we succeed or not, someone still has to try.

LLOYD

We need to get back in class.

MIKE

Come on, Mr. Williams. It's like the only option we have left. If we keep waiting we will run out of food. Besides, I'm getting tired of eating cheese crackers.

LLOYD

(Sighs)

Alright. We'll go. For now, we gotta get back to class. Act like everything is normal, ok?

MIKE

O.K.

The two enter the classroom. The door closes behind them. It has a sign reading "Welcome to Mrs. McConnell's Class!".

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PLAINFIELD STREETS- EVENING - CONT.

A door with broken glass. The grocery store it belongs to is desolated. Little to no food items remain in the aisle. There is glass lying on the floor. Lloyd stops Mike from stepping on the shards.

LLOYD

Watch your feet.

MIKE

Ah thanks, that was a closed one.
Why are we here again? I don't see
any firearms we can use against it.

Lloyd walks around the empty food aisles. Crouching and staring at the lower aisles occasionally.

LLOYD

Firearms? Oh no. We are looking for
something even better. I wonder
where it could be...

Sunlight is reflected in an aluminum can. It catches Lloyd's attention.

LLOYD

(Reaching for the can)
There it is!

MIKE

Pork beans?

LLOYD

Yeah, I haven't had these in a
while. I figured it would be a good
last meal.

MIKE

So, you are still going on about
that. Mr. Williams, we won't die
today. I got the perfect plan.

LLOYD

Which is?

MIKE

(Opening his backpack's
zipper)

I thought we might get lost along
the way, so I picked up some rocks
to create a trail.

LLOYD

Were you really planning to carry
those all day?

They exit the abandoned store. We follow them across the
streets of Plainfield.

MIKE

They won't remain inside the
backpack for too long. I'll be
throwing one for every 5 feet we
walk.

Any other day the streets would have been packed with cars.
Today the streets were rather empty, yet somewhat alive.
Overgrown streets revealed the passage of time. Vines hang
from street lights, grass grows out of the concrete cracks
and cars are covered in moss. Mike and Lloyd stand against
the green hues with their blue and pink clothes.

Within the vegetation, a pack of stray dogs chases after
some mice. These dogs vary in breed and size. Mike throws a
rock, hitting one of the dogs.

MIKE

(nonchalantly)

See? Now we know where we came from
and how to go back.

LLOYD

You've hit one of the dogs.

MIKE

I what?

LLOYD

Crap, here they come.

We see the dogs form a circle around them. A brown,
mutt-looking dog stands before them. It salivates. Anger
fills its eyes.

LLOYD
Daisy?

MIKE
You know it?

LLOYD
Kind of? It used to be my dog until
it ran off a few months ago.

MIKE
Well, talk to it or something.

LLOYD
Hey doggy

The dogs growl at Lloyd in unison. The circle grows smaller.
That's not gonna work. We'll make a
run for it. That should at least
give us time to say our prayers
before we die.

Lloyd takes out the can of beans and opens it.

MIKE
I think I got a better idea.

Mike snatches the can from Lloyd's lips, throwing it far
from the circle. The dogs run after the can.

LLOYD
Why would you do that? That was my
only ca-

Mike pulls his arm.

MIKE
We need to go before they catch up
to us.

The two run from the scene. As they make their escape, some
of Mike's rocks fall.

CUT TO

EXT. PLAINFIELD - LATER

ROCKS FALLING FROM A CLIFF

A waterfall sounds in the distance

PAN TO:

The two march through tall grass trying to catch their breath. As they walk, their shadows begin to grow larger. The sun falls down slowly.

LLOYD

We lost them, along with the only can of beans in Plainfield.

MIKE

Oh right. I almost forgot. I took one before we left the store.

He hands it to Lloyd

LLOYD

(relieved)

Now I can die in peace.

MIKE

Why are you so sure we are gonna die?

LLOYD

Why wouldn't I be? The thing's in our dreams. It knows where we are. It's just a matter of time before it exits the forest and murder us all.

Mike is noticeably saddened by Lloyd's words.

Alright, alright I'm being too pessimistic. If anything bad happens, I'll try my best to save you. For now let's place more rocks for the trail.

Reaching for his backpack, Mike notices a hole in his backpack.

MIKE

Ah man, the rocks must have fallen.

LLOYD

At least your back's not breaking anymore. Come on, we are almost there.

A hill stands tall before them. At the top of the hill, hundreds of trees stretch into the sky. Their canopy cannot be seen. The hill itself resembles a small island, with cliffs on each side and a waterfall in the middle. A fire appears to burn within the tree trunks. No smoke or ash comes out of the forest.

MIKE

Is this it? Is this the forest?

LLOYD

Apparently. I've never seen it like this. You know, if a man killing creature didn't live inside I'll be willing to come here for a picnic.

MIKE

...

LLOYD

Oh, come on. It's so breathtaking.

Lloyd and Mike enter the forest. The night comes closer. The fiery trees provide dim lighting. It decorates the forest with hues of red and orange. Lloyd takes out a lantern. It doesn't add more lighting than the trees.

MIKE

What's with the ground? I feel like I'm walking in mud.

LLOYD

I wouldn't be surprised if the forest had turned into a swamp. Tread lightly.

As they move deeper into the forest, leaves begin flying recklessly. These, along with an increasing number of trees, block their view. While Lloyd and Mike try to shove them away, a voice echoes through the forest.

O.S. WOMAN

HEEEEEELP!

MIKE

Someone else is here. I can't see too well, but I know the voice is coming from my right.

LLOYD

I'll shine the light there.

Lloyd's wrists shake, causing him to drop the lantern. They are veiled in darkness for a few seconds. Lloyd picks up the lantern, his hands still shaking. He slowly rises from the ground. Through the lantern's light he catches a glimpse of something.

A bulking mass of muscle and teeth stands before Lloyd. Its mouth is a void where undecomposed bodies lie. These bodies,

still moving, attempt to escape the void and yell for help. Crimson blood, brighter than the fiery forest, drools from its mouth. Arms stick out of the rest of its body. They move towards Lloyd at an unsettling rhythm. It releases a loud growl along with a choir of agonizing screams.

Scared, Lloyd shines the light away from it and towards the floor. The light reveals a collection of moving unskinned bodies swimming in a lake of blood.

He gags.

MIKE

What's going on over there?

Lloyd regains his composure, rushing towards Mike.

LLOYD

We need to get out of here now.

MIKE

Wait, we need to help them ou-

LLOYD

It's too late for them. We need to save ourselves.

MIKE

(Grunting)

Mr... Williams help me.. up.

Its growls sound in the distance. The noise gets closer by the second.

Lloyd looks around. He stares at the forest. Horror fills his eyes. He turns to look at Mike. A tear rolls down his cheek. He bites his lips until they bleed.

LLOYD

I promised I'll save you when things went south.

Lloyd steps on Mike's hands. Mike now hangs from one arm. I'll spare you from spending your last minutes like those unfortunate souls.

MIKE

Please.. don't.. we can still.. escape.

Lloyd stomps on the ground. It crumbles down along with Mike. He opens the can of beans, bringing it closer to his mouth. Six arms slowly approach Lloyd from behind. He takes a sip. Smiles. As the arms drag him away, he drops the can of beans.

Dog howling echo across Plainfield. Lloyd's screams sound in the distance. Gusts of wind pass across the forest. Leaves dance in the gust. The world is singing.

END.