

THE WOODSMAN
an original screenplay by
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FADE IN.

INT. OLD BEAT-UP FLAT BACK TRUCK - DAY.

A hoary Backwoodsman and a young girl, 8 years, ride on a bumpy country track. The truck, man and girl seem to have left the rest of modern humanity behind. The truck hits a crossroads and slides onto a main road. As cars pass they check out the truck and give it a wide berth, overtaking sharply. Something's just not right about it.

The girl points to her empty bubble-gum pack, the man looks at her, gives her a 'what, now?' look, the girl gives him a cute smile. He gives in and swings off the road, cruises around and finds a Store. They get out and enter.

INT. SMALL STORE - DAY.

The man gives the girl a dime and he wanders around checking out the store whilst the girl wanders until she gleefully finds a bubble-gum machine.

A woman, EVE, appears behind the counter, nods to the man who nods and walks on. Eve sees the girl by the bubble-gum machine and smiles. She finds them both odd, but hey.

The girl slides her dime in, presses the button. Nothing. No gum. She presses the button. Nothing. She shakes the machine. Nothing. No gum. She cry's.

Eve hears the shaking and leaves the counter. The man hears the crying and walks towards the sound.

The girl is in tears. Eve reaches the machine before the man and bends down to the girl.

EVE

What's up honey?

The girl points to the machine, demonstrates what she did and shows 'no gum'.

EVE (CONT'D)

OK. So the nasty machine took your money and gave you no gum. Bad machine. Hmm, well let me see.

The man is looking on at this. The girl looks at him pleadingly. He makes like he has no more coins.

The woman smiles at him. She takes a dime out of her pocket and gives it to the girl who slides it in the machine, presses the button, out pops the gum.

EVE (CONT'D)

There you go honey.

The girl opens up the gum and chews. She rejoins the man who holds her hand, smiles back at the woman and they stroll out the store.

EVE (CONT'D)

Bye bye. Thank you for calling.

The woman watches them as they exit, enter the truck and drive away. She shrugs and goes behind the counter.

ONE MONTH LATER

INT. BEAT-UP OLD CAR, LONELY TRACK - DAY.

A weasly guy, SAM, sits in it, mobile in hand.

SAM

C'mon, c'mon.

His phone flickers with a message. 'DELILAH'.

PHONE

FIVE MINUTES. USUAL PLACE. HOPE
YOU'RE HORNY!

His wedding ringed hand types in the phone.

PHONE (CONT'D)

HORNY AS HELL!

EXT. BEAT UP CAR - DAY

The car burns rubber. The promise of illicit sex.

The car screeches to halt at an intersection. A sloppy woman half the guys age steps into the headlights. She's clothed, just, but you can see everything. She steps in the car.

SAM

Oh My Lord look at you. All ripe
and juicy and ready for plucking.

DELILAH

Where's the dutiful wife?

SAM

Minding the store. Take a look.

He pulls out an envelope.

'MANNING, SCHOLES AND EMMEN LTD. LAWYERS. LIFE ASSURANCE
POLICY MRS. JULIE EDMONDS. IN THE EVENT OF HER SUDDEN DEATH
\$100 000 DOLLARS TO NEXT OF KIN. MR. SAM EDMONDS'

DELILAH

So now, you dirty magician, all you
gotta do is make her disappear.

SAM

You got the cash?

The girl hands over the cash. He pulls out a wad.

DELILAH

Is that all it takes to mur..

He shoves his palm over her mouth.

SAM

Don't say that word. Besides, it's
all we have. I've been on the dark
web...there's people out there who'll
do it for this. Less even.

The girl is gasping for breath. He slowly releases his palm.

DELILAH

Okay Okay. Easy tiger.

SAM

Just getting twitchy.

DELILAH

And here's me thinking you were horny.

She starts to slide down the seat and part her legs.

DELILAH (CONT'D)

Tell me cowboy, what you gonna give
me for this?

EXT. SAMS CAR - DAY

The car goes into rock n' roll motion.

EXT. SAMS CAR - DAY

The car booms along, screeches to a halt, the girl steps out
like she's been ravished, which she has. The car zooms away.

EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY.

The car pulls off the road and turns off. Sam steps out. He
lights up and draws heavily. His eyes catch something in the
woods. He walks cautiously to it.

Under tree cover he finds a flat-back truck. He feels it, touches it...cautiously. Empty. He pulls the handle, door opens. He gets in. Creepy smell. CLUNK. The doors self-lock. He wrenches both doors. He's trapped. A hiss of gas. Sam gasps and chokes. Clutching his throat, he blacks out.

INT. OLD BEAT-UP FLAT BACK TRUCK - DAY

The BackWoodsman is driving along a quiet road. Sam is lolling about next to him, still unconscious. He begins to wake.

His eyes open and takes in where he is. He screams like a banshee. He tries to open his door. It's locked. Of course.

SAM

Lemme out. God's sake lemme out.

The Woodsman just drives. Sam tries to undo his seat belt. He can't.

SAM (CONT'D)

C'mon man lemme out....please.

Sam reaches around to his back. The Woodsman heaves a hefty arm over and twists Sam's arm in pain.

SAM (CONT'D)

Leggo my arm...your breaking it...please leggo. It's just money.

The woodsman lets go of Sam's now limp arm, reaches into Sam's pocket and pulls out the wad of cash.

SAM (CONT'D)

It's for a job. A special job.

The Woodsman hands back the wad, puts a finger to his lips.

The truck slows, stops, the engine barely hums.

By the road ahead, a deer. Grazing, innocent, unaware.

The Woodsman's eyes narrow, he flexes his wrists, the truck moves snails pace, then.....BLAM, it blasts away toward the deer, Sam's eyes widen, he hangs on.

Like a deer in the headlights. Sam can't look.

BANG.

The truck stops. Sam's breathing hard, watches the Woodsman calmly get out, walk back, pick up the dead deer, place it on the truck. Unmarked. Covers it. Wipes the front of the truck. Gets in the truck. Drives away.

SAM (CONT'D)
You're a ruthless S.O.B.

The cab is quiet. Sam fingers the wad of money.

SAM (CONT'D)
Hey mister look. I'm sorry I got in your truck. That's a mean anti-theft thing you got. I was, well, curious. I was on a high. See me and my girl...well we'd just been...you know, you know how it goes. Can I ask you a question?

The Woodsman pulls over to the side. He looks at Sam with an I'm listening look.

SAM (CONT'D)
See I couldn't help but notice what you just did, the way you did it, very efficient, like you've done it a hundred times before, and, I have this problem. My wife and I, well, a marriage can go wrong, it happens. And this money here. It's for a job. A special job...and maybe my money and your driving talents...can sort of ...meet.

The Woodsman looks at the wad of money. He nods.

SAM (CONT'D)
So here's the plan. My wife will leave work 6 PM on the dot. Walk across the road and down Blueberry Lane. You know that? Quiet road, very quiet. I'll be parked the other side of the highway. When you've done, the accident, which of course it will be, then it'll be a simple hit and run, no witnesses, nothing to pin you or me. Here's a photo of her, take a look. She works at Sam and Eve's. You know it?

The Woodsman looks, nods, holds his hand out, Sam hands him the wad. Woodsman signals Sam to get out. Sam's car is right there where he parked it.

EXT. WOODSMAN FLAT BACK TRUCK - DAY

The truck glides away leaving Sam standing there. He texts.

PHONE
HONEY WE'RE HOME AND DRY.

EXT. SMALL STORE - DAY

The Woodsman's truck waits down the lane, parked up.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Sam and Delilah sit in his car, waiting nervously.

EXT. SMALL STORE - DAY

The Woodsman walks towards the store. Enters.

He wanders slowly around the store. A woman comes to the counter. Eve. The Woodsman locks onto her. That's her.

EVE

Can I help you sir?

The Woodsman shakes his head. Walks on. Passes the bubble-gum machines. Stops. Looks at the machines.

He walks back to the counter. Holds his hand like a phone call shape.

EVE (CONT'D)

You need to make a call? Sure.

Eve hands him a few dimes.

The Woodsman goes to the phone booth, dials, pushes in the dime. Puts the phone down. Waits.

Blues and Twos and sirens.

EXT. SMALL STORE - DAY

Cops haul Sam and Delilah from car.

INT. SMALL STORE - DAY

Eve moves to the window. Woodsman moves to the counter. Drops an envelope with a wad of money spilling out.

Woodsman goes to bubble-gum machine. Puts in other dime. Takes gum. Walks out of store.

Cop enters store, gently takes Eve by the arm, sits her down, whispers in her ear. Eve sobs. Looks up, Woodsman talks to another cop, looks back at Eve. Smiles. Tosses a dime.

FADE OUT

