To Know

by

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EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

A brick colonial perches on top of a slight grade. It’s windows are small and boarded up. Leaves scurry about the porch. It is the only structure for miles.

A cargo van is parked in its drive. Lights off.

INT. CARGO VAN

DEREK, 35, exposes the GUN in the back of his waist-line while making out with ANNETTE, 26.

Rain pelts the roof. Thunder crashes. Her cell phone rings. She pushes Derek away.

ANNETTE
It’s him.

He nods. She pulls out her phone. Flips it open.

ANNETTE
Hey baby. Miss me already?

ZUCKER (V.O.)
Of course I do darling. You two get him there okay?

She looks towards the back of the van. An unconscious man in a wheelchair sits in the back. A black bag over his head.

ANNETTE
We got him. We’re at the house now. This place is weird.

ZUCKER (V.O.)
Just follow the directions. I’ll be waiting for you after. Got your costume all picked out.

ANNETTE
I can only imagine...

ZUCKER (V.O.)
I love you baby.

She pauses. Shrugs her shoulders at Derek.

ANNETTE
I... I don’t know what to say.
ZUCKER (V.O.)
Goodbye.

She closes her phone. Looks at it.

DEREK
What's wrong?

ANNETTE
He said "I love you." He hasn't said that in years.

Derek leans his head forward. Peers at the house.

DEREK
Your husband is a sick fuck. How long you think it will take for the ol' timer to die in there?

ANNETTE
I don't care. I don't want to know.

DEREK
Member Jimmy Maloney? Zucker locked him, naked, in a cellar full of pissed off honey bees once. Took him six days to die.

She takes his hands.

ANNETTE
I don't love him anymore. Pretty soon, it will just be us.

The two put on ski masks. She exits the van.

DEREK
What the fuck am I doing?

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE

He exits. She slides open the side door. They work together to get the man in the wheelchair out.

Derek pulls the bag off the cripple's head exposing NORMAN, 68. He smacks his face.

DEREK
Wake up old man.

His eyes flutter open. He tongues the cut on his lip. They begin wheeling him towards the house.
NORMAN
Where? Where am I?

DEREK
At a place where people come to
dump their trash. You shouldn’t
have talked to the D.A.

Norman looks around. His eyes lock onto the house.

NORMAN
No, no, no, no! Don’t put me in
there!

DEREK
Shut the fuck up. Or I’ll hit you
with my right hand this time.

Derek makes a fist.

NORMAN
Please. I used to work for Zucker.
I used to bring people here. Nobody
ever gets out.

They lift his chair up the porch stairs. Annette reaches for
the door handle. The door clicks. Opens on it’s own.

ANNETTE
That’s strange.

INT. LIVING ROOM

They wheel him in. Cob webs score the walls. Moonlight shines
in between the boards on the windows. Norman puts his head in
his hands, begins to cry.

DEREK
So this is it? We just leave him
here?

ANNETTE
We just gotta say this...

She pulls an envelope from her pocket. Rips it open.

NORMAN
Please don’t! Just go. Don’t say
anything!

She looks at the message. Hands it to Derek. He laughs.
DEREK

Honey, I’m home?

NORMAN

No!

A CRASH of thunder. The door slams shut. Derek runs to it. Pulls on the door knob. It comes off.

NORMAN

You shouldn’t have done that. Nobody ever gets out.

Derek pulls his gun. Points it at him.

DEREK

Just shut the fuck up old man.

He walks over to a window. Starts kicking the boards.

DEREK

Jesus. They’re like concrete.

ANNETTE

What the fuck is going on?

Derek walks over to the front door. He puts two rounds into each of the hinges. He kicks at the door. It doesn’t budge.

NORMAN

He wants you dead too.

ANNETTE

Derek?

He walks into the kitchen.

DEREK (O.S.)

Gotta be a way out.

He pounds on windows and doors off screen. Norman looks at Annette.

NORMAN

What did you do to him?

ANNETTE

Nothing. I’ve done nothing.

She pulls off her ski mask. Derek returns.

DEREK

Place is a fucking vault!
NORMAN
Nobody ever gets out.

Derek raises his gun again. Annette lowers it with her hand.

ANNETTE
I just need to call him. I’ll explain. Maybe he’ll understand?

DEREK
He’ll kill us both. The man’s psychotic.

She pulls out her phone. Flips it open.

ANNETTE
I don’t have a signal.

DEREK
You just talked to him. Gimme that.

Derek snatches the phone from her hand. Lifts his ski mask.

NORMAN
It’s the house.

DEREK
You don’t have any bars.

ANNETTE
No shit.

He hands the phone back to her. Presses the barrel of the gun to Norman’s forehead.

DEREK
How do we get out old man?

NORMAN
Nobody ever gets out.

Her cell RINGS. They all stare at it. The display reads “UNKNOWN CALLER”.

DEREK
But, you don’t have a signal.

NORMAN
It’s the house. It tells you when you’re going to die.

Annette flips open the phone. Puts it to her ear.
ANNETTE
Hello?

VOICE (V.O.)
Only one of you will live through the night. Norman will die in ten seconds.

A CRASH of thunder. She closes her phone.

DEREK
What? Who was it?

ANNETTE
It said only one of us will make it through the night.

Norman begins to rock in his chair.

NORMAN
Nobody ever gets out. Nobody ever gets out!

Derek raises his gun. Points it at Norman’s head.

ANNETTE
Wait!

BANG! Norman’s head whips back. Blood splatters the wall. Annette turns her back. Covers her mouth.

ANNETTE
Oh my god.

DEREK
You should be thanking me. I just increased your chances to fifty-percent.

ANNETTE
It said he would die. Like it knew you were going to shoot him.

Her phone rings again. They stare at each other.

DEREK
Give it to me.

ANNETTE
No. I don’t think we should answer it. What if it says you will die in ten seconds? What will you do?
She looks at the gun in his hand. The phone continues to ring. He sighs. Slips the gun in the back of his pants.

DEREK
Fine. Let’s just find a way out of here. Gotta be some tools or something. Gonna check around.

Derek exits the room. Annette silences her phone. Puts it under a dusty white linen on a table in the room.

UTILITY ROOM

Derek rustles around behind a washer and dryer. He opens a wall-hung cabinet. The nails give. It falls to the floor.

FURNACE ROOM

Annette searches through the dark room. She knocks over some folding chairs. A spade shovel rests in the corner.

LIVING ROOM

Derek enters. The phone lights up the linen it’s hid under. He looks around.

ANNETTE (O.S.)
I found a shovel!

DEREK
Great! Bring it in here!

He grabs the phone out. Puts it to his ear.

VOICE (V.O.)
You will die in thirty seconds.

DEREK
Fuck that.

He puts the phone down. Pulls out his gun. Turns.

Annette brings the shovel down on the top of his head. He falls. Drops his gun. She picks it up and points it at him.

ANNETTE
What were you doing? You weren’t supposed to answer it!

Derek wipes blood from his forehead. Puts up his hands.
DEREK
It didn’t say anything. I swear.

ANNETTE
Then why were you pulling your gun out? You were going to kill me.

The gun starts to shake in her hands.

DEREK
Angel, I love you. Please, just put the...

BANG! The shot rips through his hand before it enters his forehead. It doesn’t exit. He falls back. She drops the gun.

ANNETTE
No!

Derek gurgles saliva, like someone who forgot how to breathe. Then his body starts into a violent convulsion. His arms and legs flail about smacking themselves against the floor.

Annette covers her ears. She runs to the corner of the room and vomits. Derek’s body ceases to move with a long exhale.

THE NEXT DAY

Annette leans against a wall. She opens her eyes. Smacks her dry lips together.

She searches the basket under Norman’s wheelchair. Finds a half full bottle of water. She puts it to her mouth and finishes it.

She stares out of a crack in the boards. The sun begins to rise. She smiles.

ANNETTE
I made it.

Her phone rings. She pulls it out. Puts it to her ear.

VOICE (V.O.)
You will die in six days.

She looks at the empty bottle of water. She starts shaking her head. Puts her phone away.

ANNETTE
No! You said one would live! You said one would live!
She punches at the boards until she bloodies her knuckles. She kicks them. She grabs the shovel. Wails it against them. They don’t budge.

ANNETTE
I will not die in this shithole!

She drops the shovel. Exhausted. She slumps against a wall. She puts her head in her hands.

She looks at Derek’s body. A rat nibbles on his ear. At his feet lies the gun. She looks up at the ceiling.

ANNETTE
I’m not gonna let you win.

She picks up the gun. Puts the barrel of it under her chin.

ANNETTE
Has it been six days yet, asshole? I don’t think so.

She cocks the hammer back. Closes her eyes.

The front door clicks. It opens on its own. Annette’s eyes widen. She drops the gun. Flings open the door. Runs outside.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

She runs several yards away from the house. She stops and turns. A smile comes over her face.

ANNETTE
I tricked you! I wasn’t really gonna do it. Ha! Nobody ever gets out? I beat you!

Her cell phone rings. She pulls it out. The display reads “ZUCKER CALLING”. Her eyes trail off.

NORMAN (V.O.)
He wants you dead too.

Two black S.U.V.’s kick up a rooster tail as they turn into the drive. She starts shaking her head.

Her gaze returns to the house. Her eyes well up. Her lower lip trembles.

ANNETTE
Six days?
The front door SLAMS shut. The bolt clicks home.
She drops to her knees. The cars kick up a cloud of dust as they stop. It drifts over her. She disappears.

ZUCKER (O.S.)
Hey baby, you miss me?

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.