

Trunk

by

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EXT. WOODS - MORNING

ELLA; 13, rides her BMX along the pathway in-between the trees. She wears a dark tracksuit with a red baseball cap, her long mousy brown hair falls from the back of the cap.

She races through the woods jumping over ramps and going over bridges made of brittle planks.

Ella slows down and comes to a halt. She places her feet down and catches her breath.

She looks around the empty forest and takes it all in.

A DEEP GROAN is heard.

Ella becomes vigilant, she looks around.

THE GROAN is heard again.

Ella drops her BMX to the ground and walks round a large tree trunk in front of her.

A WOUNDED MAN (early 40's) sits against the trunk holding his stomach, blood seeps through his hand as he tries to stop it.

Ella approaches him cautiously and keeps her distance.

ELLA
Are you ok?

The man looks up at Ella, a sarcastic smile comes across his face.

MAN
(Grimacing)
I've been better. Are you alone?

Ella nods.

MAN
What's a girl like you doing out here by yourself?

Ella is still unsure whether to continue this conversation or leave.

ELLA
(Reluctantly)
I had a fight with my Mum.

MAN
What did you do?

ELLA
Actually, it's what I didn't do.

The man chuckles. He struggles with the pain of the wound as he does. He sits himself up a little which causes him to groan.

MAN
Do you have a phone?

ELLA
No, my mum took it off me.

Just his luck.

A BEAT

ELLA (CONT'D)
You were part of the robbery on the security van in town weren't you?

The man stares at Ella which makes her a little uneasy.

MAN
You heard about that?

ELLA
Are you shitting me? You're not from round here are you? You only have to fart differently in this town before everyone knows about it.

(A BEAT)
You robbed a security van, stole hundred's of thousands of pounds and killed one of the security guards.

The man's head drops.

MAN
He died?

Ella sits down cross legged on the floor where she stood.

MAN (CONT'D)
That shouldn't have happened, nobody was meant to get hurt.

ELLA
(Looks at the Man's wound)
I see that went well.

The Man moves his hand away from the wound. Blood spills out . He quickly places his hand on the wound to stop it. He is in a lot of pain.

ELLA (CONT'D)
Was you by yourself?

MAN
No, two others.

ELLA
I guess they got away.

The man nods. The pain is getting worse.

ELLA (CONT'D)
Should I go and get some help?

MAN
No! No, there's no point.

He checks the wound again, as he lifts his hand he lets out a slight whimper.

ELLA
I have my bike, I can be quick.

The Man shakes his head.

MAN
No, I think it's to late for that...

He tries to get himself comfortable.

MAN (CONT'D)
...Anyway, I'm enjoying your company.

Ella smiles.

MAN (CONT'D)
What's your name?

ELLA
(again, reluctant)
Ella.

MAN
Nice to meet you Ella.

ELLA
What's yours?

MAN
You know on pig farms they don't name the pigs. Do you know why?

ELLA
So they don't feel as attached to them before they kill them.

MAN
That's right, smart girl.

A BEAT

ELLA
Do you have family?

The man looks at Ella. *His family?* He looks up at the trees in the forest, it is so peaceful.

MAN
I have a wife.
(He chuckles)
She is gonna be so pissed.

ELLA
I'm sure she will understand.

MAN
You think?

ELLA
It's not too late you know, I could have some help here in no time.

MAN
(Shaking his head)
Nah, I don't want to be alone.
(A BEAT)
I'm sorry that you found me, you shouldn't have to see this.

ELLA
I'm not sorry.

The man smiles.

A helicopter flies overhead but they are covered by the forest.

Ella looks up. ELLA'S POV: We see the shadow of the helicopter as it goes by.

Ella looks at the Man. He has passed out.

ELLA
HEY!

The man wakes from his unconsciousness.

ELLA (CONT'D)
You need to stay awake.

MAN
Yeah.
(A BEAT)
Can I ask you something?

ELLA

Sure.

MAN

If you hadn't had an argument with your Mum this morning, would you have your phone on you now?

ELLA

Yeah, probably.

MAN

(Laughs)

I guess that's when you know that your times up.

ELLA

Do you believe all that?

MAN

I didn't, until now.

ELLA

Or maybe, you shouldn't have robbed a security truck. Isn't that an easier way of looking at it?

He has well and truly been put in his place.

MAN

Can I tell you a secret?

ELLA

Sure.

MAN

You promise you wont tell anyone?

ELLA

You wouldn't even know if I did?

He nods with agreement.

MAN

I'm not a criminal.

A BEAT

MAN (CONT'D)

I'm an undercover policeman. I've been working undercover for three months now, when we had intelligence about the planned robbery.

Ella is shocked. She stands up and paces up and down around the area where she sat.

ELLA
You're shitting me right?

He screams out in pain as he tries to get comfortable.

The Man shakes his head.

ELLA (CONT'D)
You're an undercover copper?

He nods.

ELLA (CONT'D)
(Shocked)
Holy fuck!
(Realising)
We've got to get you some help.

Ella moves towards the Man to help him.

MAN
NO! Nothing has changed, I'm still
not going to make it. I just
wanted you to know. I didn't want
you thinking that about me.

Ella sits back down where she sat before.

ELLA
So you was after the other two?

MAN
Yeah, that didn't quite go to
plan.

ELLA
Do they know?

MAN
I don't think so. It just went
wrong, that's all.

Ella is still trying to process what she has been told.

ELLA
You're not lying to me are you?

MAN
Why would I lie?

Ella ponders her thoughts.

MAN (CONT'D)
There's more...

Ella awaits with anticipation.

MAN (CONT'D)
...I've got the money.

Ella puts her hand to her mouth in disbelief.

ELLA
You have it?

He nods.

MAN
Can you take it to the police?

Ella nods enthusiastically.

ELLA
Where is it?

He looks past Ella.

MAN
Over there, you see that half tree
with the chalk on it?

Ella turns behind her.

ELLA
Yeah.

MAN
If you go behind it, you will see
a pile of branches covering a
bush. Under the branches is a
case, with the money. I didn't
have time to bury it.

Ella freezes. She doesn't know what to do.

She looks at the Man.

He encourages her.

Ella stands and makes her way over to the half tree.

The man watches on, he checks his wound as he tries to
hold in the pain. The wound is haemorrhaging.

He watches Ella as she crouches down behind the half tree
and begins her search.

He sits himself up against the tree a little more.

He watches Ella stand from behind the half tree with the
case and make her way back towards him.

Ella places the case in between them both.

She sits down.

They both stare at the case.

ELLA
How much is inside?

MAN
Apparently half a million. I
didn't have time to check.
(Chuckles)

Ella shuffles forward to try and open the case.

MAN (CONT'D)
You won't be able to, it will have
to be prized open or have the
combination.

MAN (CONT'D)
You need to get this to the
police, do not take this money, do
you hear me? This will bring
trouble to your door. Take it to
the police...for me at least

Ella nods. She starts to cry, they both know that the end
is coming.

ELLA
(Crying)
I'm sorry.

MAN
Do the right thing, please.

BANG!

Ella jumps back but remains focused on the Man.

The man instantly dead as the bullet enters his chest.

Tree's rustle behind Ella. Footsteps are heard and get
nearer.

A figure begins to appear behind Ella and stops directly
behind her.

Ella doesn't react and instead remains fixed on the dead
Man. She wipes away her tears.

FIGURE
It was best for him.

Ella agrees.

FIGURE (CONT'D)
You ok?

Ella nods.

A roll of money drops onto Ella's lap.

FIGURE (CONT'D)

Good job.

Ella stares at the dead body. She begins to snap out of the trance. She grabs the money and stands up.

ELLA

What are you going to do with his body?

FIGURE

You go along now, you don't need to worry about that.

Ella turns and quickly walks over to her BMX. She grabs it and sits on the saddle.

She turns one more time to look at the Man. He looks peaceful.

She wipes her face and begins to ride in the direction to which she came.

She rides in the forest as fast as she can.

She stops and turns one more time.

ELLA'S POV: We see nothing but forest now.

She looks down at the roll of money, places it in her jacket. Pulls out her mobile phone which has a message on it.

MESSAGE FROM MUM: You home for lunch?

Ella types back.

Ella places the phone back in her jacket then begins to ride through the forest.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END.

