

**NEXT FENCE**

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - MATT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A damn snowy winter. Winds whistle. Empty street.

A CAR pulls up in front of the house.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

On the wheel sits MATT(40s), covered in a thicket of warm clothes.

Heater's on full blast, still, he rubs his hands together.

He takes out a FOLDING KNIFE from the glovebox and puts it in his jacket pocket.

Then, he grabs a CARTON of dog food from his passenger seat.

INT. MATT'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Matt enters in, puffing, and shuts the door.

His breathing slowly calms, looks around his familiar surrounding, and notices an unsettling silence.

He steps ahead. A metal clink comes from below him.

There's a DOG COLLAR under his foot. He picks it.

Tension seeps in.

MATT

Tess?! Tess?!

Nothing.

MATT(CONT'D)

Where are you girl? Got your favorite. Chicken with oats! Come on out.

Silence.

MATT(CONT'D)

Tess? Enough playing OK. It's already late for your dinner. Come out.

Suddenly, a SMELL hits him.

He moves further, wiggles his nose, and follows it into the-

KITCHEN

He switches on the light, sees a WINDOW wide open.

MATT(CONT'D)

Fuck!

He dashes towards the window and finds the latches broken.  
His breathing escalates.

MATT(CONT'D)

TESS! TESS!

He's unable to shut the window down.

Matt looks around, sees something on his stove burner. THE  
SMELL!

His chest heaves as he approaches the stove. He shakily  
picks up the black stuff off the burner and quickly drops  
it.

It's BURNT FUR!

MATT(CONT'D)

What the fuck!

He rushes out of his house.

**EXT. MATT'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT**

The cold hits him as he tightens his coat around him.

He runs towards his-

**BACKYARD**

And looks around.

MATT(CONT'D)

Tess!

No luck.

He peeks over his fence into his neighbor's backyard, sees a  
LUMP OF MUD AND SNOW on the ground, with BLOTS OF BLOOD  
surrounding it.

His eyes widen with terror.

MATT(CONT'D)

What the heck?!

He climbs over the fence, loses balances, and falls into  
his-

**NEIGHBOR'S BACKYARD**

Crawls to the big lump on the ground, starts digging with  
his hands.

Despite the cold, sweat breaks from his temples. He pants. Something's wrong.

Abruptly, his hands stop. He sees a BLACKENED FUR TAIL poke out of the lump.

He backs off. Eyes bulge out of its sockets.

MATT(CONT'D)

No way! Fuck no way! Tess!

He looks at the backyard door.

Fury! Sheer fury overtakes him.

MATT(CONT'D)

ANDY! ANDY!

He heads towards the door.

MATT(CONT'D)

What the fuck have you done?!

He pounds his hand on the door. Surprisingly, it's unlocked.

A moment of hesistation, then Matt steps in.

**INT. ANDY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Dark. Quiet.

MATT(CONT'D)

Andy?!

**EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Matt bolts out from the MAIN DOOR. Completely pale.

MATT(CONT'D)

Fuck no! Fuck no! Dear God!

**EXT. MATT'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT (LATER)**

Matt stands with the dog collar close to his chest, shivering.

He looks at TWO BODY BAGS loaded on stretchers, carried out of Andy's house by PARAMEDICS and into an AMBULANCE.

POLICE OFFICER#1 appears from the backyard.

POLICE OFFICER#2 emerges from the house.

They both shake their heads.

POLICE OFFICER#2

Sir?

Matt jolts.

POLICE OFFICER#2(CONT'D)

Sir. Can you-

Matt walks towards his-

**BACKYARD**

Police officers exchange glances.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Sir?

They follow him.

Matt stops at his fence, looks at the EMPTY PIT on the ground in Andy's house.

The Officers stop behind Matt.

They speak, but their voices sound distant.

Matt looks over at the side of the pit, sees the Paramedics seal the piece of blackened tail into a plastic bag.

He clutches the dog collar in his hand tigheter, to the point his knuckles turn white.

He glances at the departing ambulance as a sneer appears on his face.

FADE OUT