

INTO THE WOODS

by

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Original Story by Zachary Garcia

EXT. DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

In the darkness of the woods HEADLIGHTS from an approaching car illuminate CLAW MARKS etched into a tree.

The car ROARS by creating a SAND STORM behind it.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

MARTY, twenty years old, sits in the passenger seat.  
LUKE, also twenty, drives the car. He LAUGHS.

LUKE

You have a plan?

MARTY

Yes. I have a plan.

LUKE

What is this master plan of yours?

MARTY

Fuck you. I'm not telling you.

LUKE

Oh, come on. Tell me. What is it?  
What's your big plan?

Beat.

MARTY

I'm going to take her to the dock  
an--

Luke SNICKERS to himself. Marty notices.

MARTY

Fuck you, man.

LUKE

I'm sorry, continue.

MARTY

I'm going to give her this.

Marty holds up a NECKLACE.

LUKE

The fuck is that?

Luke snags the necklace from his hands.

The car swerves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

Careful.

LUKE

It looks like it's from Target.  
Did you get this from Target?

Marty is silent.

MARTY

Yes. Okay, fuck. I got it from  
Target. I have to save for school.

Luke LAUGHS.

MARTY (CONT'D)

See this is why I didn't want to  
tell you.

Luke gives the necklace back to Marty.

LUKE

She'll love it.

MARTY

Yeah, whatever.

Silence befalls the car.

The road is pitch black.

MARTY

We've been on this road for a  
while.

LUKE

The voice has been silent.

Marty picks up the phone.

ON THE PHONE:

The screen is frozen. "No Signal"

MARTY

Shit. We must have lost the signal  
a few miles back.

LUKE

Calm down. We have to be close.

OUTSIDE THE CAR:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The headlights are the only source of light moving past the dark woods.

MARTY

I told you this shortcut was a bad idea. We should have just followed everyone else.

LUKE

The map said it would shave thirty minutes off the drive. I don't know about you but I plan on being at least twelve beers deep before it turns eleven and it's ten o'clock. So, I'm trusting the map. Trust me like Dora trust's her map.

MARTY

(to himself)

I don't trust you.

LUKE

Uh?

MARTY

Nothing.

LUKE

I'm trust worthy!

The engine CHURNS.

Luke looks at the GAS METER. *Empty.*

LUKE

Most of the time.

MARTY

You're joking.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

The car comes to a stop on the dirt road.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Marty stares daggers into Luke.

LUKE

Guess we're camping here for the night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

That's great.

Marty holds up his PHONE.

MARTY (CONT'D)

No signal.

LUKE

Same.

MARTY

(t himself again)

So typical.

LUKE

I don't know if my ears are a little fucked up or something, but speak up if you got something to say.

MARTY

I said 'typical'. So, typical of you to run out of gas.

LUKE

Me? What about you? You're the co-pilot! You're on directions! Nice directing!

MARTY

It was your short-cut! We should have just stuck to the normal route like everyone else! And I can't see your fucking gas meter!

LUKE

I wasn't paying attention to the gas meter I was paying attention to the road like a good driver!

MARTY

Gas is not infinite!

LUKE

No fucking shit, Sherlock!

MARTY

We are in the middle of nowhere. That's one night gone off the trip. I was going to tell her tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUKE

Oh, please! You weren't going to say anything to her.

Marty stares at Luke.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You always say you will but when it comes to it you wimp out at the last second. This time it won't be different.

MARTY

Fuck you, Luke.

Marty opens the car door and SLAMS it.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Marty walks into the woods.

Luke opens his car door. He LAUGHS to himself.

LUKE

Where are you going?

Marty keeps walking. Luke can't believe it, which pisses him off more.

LUKE

Fine. I'll go this way

EXT. WOODS, MARTY - MOMENTS LATER

Marty picks up STICKS for a fire. He stops. He reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out the NECKLACE. He watches it shimmer in the moonlight.

*CRINKLE! CRUNCH! SWISH!*

Sticks SNAP and leaves CRUNCH, as a dark figure moves behind him.

Marty turns around.

MARTY

Luke?

EXT. WOODS, LUKE - SIMULTANEOUS

Luke stomps through the woods using a STICK to hit dead trees.

LUKE  
 Fuck him. It's not my fault. It's  
 not my fault. It's not--

Luke stops. He SIGHS. He nods to himself.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 Yeah.

He looks back to the car.

He picks up STICKS. A STACK sits underneath a tree. Luke picks them up. His eyes move up the tree. He stands up, eyes full of fear.

Carved into the tree, FIVE CLAW MARKS.

Luke stumbles backwards. He drops his STICKS and falls.

Behind him, a DARK FIGURE moves through the TREES.

SWISH! The dark figure moves behind him again.

Luke turns. Sweat falls across his face, his breathing HEAVIES.

SWISH!

Luke SPRINTS off, SCREAMING.

EXT. WOODS, MARTY - SIMULTANEOUS

Marty turns to the LUKE'S SCREAMS

LUKE (O.S.)  
 MARTY! MARTY!

Luke dashes through the woods.

MARTY  
 Luke?

Luke sees Marty from a distance.

LUKE  
 Marty!

Luke sprints to Marty. He embraces him. Marty is stiff.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

We need to go to the car now.  
Let's go!

Marty doesn't follow Luke.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Dude, I saw a monster out there.

MARTY

A monster?

LUKE

I'm not kidding! Over there. We  
need to go.

MARTY

You think I'm going to fall for  
that?

LUKE

I'm serious!

MARTY

Nice try, pal. You did it in fifth  
grade, you won't get me with that  
again.

LUKE

Why don't you trust me?

Marty is silent.

EXT. CAR - LATER

Flames from a fire sway in the wind. They both watch the  
fire in silence. Marty sits near it with a BEER on his  
cheek. Luke turns his head to every SOUND of the woods.

Marty stands up. Luke watches him rummage in the car.  
Marty comes back with a GROCERY BAG. He takes out a BOX  
OF GRAHAM CRACKERS, HERSHEY'S CHOCOLATE, and a BAG OF  
MARSHMALLOWS. He POPS open the bag of marshmallows.

He stands up and walks off. He comes back with TWO  
STICKS. He puts a MARSHMALLOW at the end of each stick.  
He turns, and extends the stick to Luke.

Luke stares at it, then at Marty. Marty nods, Luke  
smirks. He takes the stick. They roast MARSHMALLOWS over  
the fire, watching them cook like they are five year-old  
again. A peaceful, serene moment between two best--

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

BANG!

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

The car's HEADLIGHTS FLASH.

BEEP! BEEP!

MARTY

The keys!

The HORN echoes across the woods.

LUKE

I don't have them!

Marty turns on his phone's FLASHLIGHT.

They KEYS sit next to Luke's seat. Marty turns off the alarm.

LUKE

Jesus, that was loud!

MARTY

What the hell was that? Did you do that?

LUKE

No. I don't think so.

MARTY

Did you hear that bang?

LUKE

Yeah, sounded like something hit the car.

MARTY

A deer maybe?

LUKE

A deer hitting a parked car?

MARTY

I don't know maybe they can't help it.

Marty drops his stick and walks to the car. Luke follows behind.

Their phone FLASHLIGHTS swing back-and-forth as they analyze the car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LUKE

I don't like this, Marty.

MARTY

Holy shit.

Marty is at the back of the car, his flashlight pointing down at the trunk.

LUKE

What? What is it?

MARTY

I--it--it's--

Luke walks to him.

He nearly faints.

LUKE

Holy shit.

On the trunk, a pair of muddy ANIMAL HANDPRINTS.

Marty and Luke look at each other, fear in their eyes.

SWISH! The bushes and trees SHAKE. Marty and Luke turn to the noise, they nearly grab each other out of instinct.

SWISH! More bushes. More trees. A CREATURE lurks in the darkness.

They turn to the noise.

SSIZZLLLLEEEEEE.

The fire extinguishes out of thin air taking all the light with it.

Marty and Luke shake in their boots. They SCREAM and run for the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

They SLAM the doors.

MARTY

What the fuck?!

LUKE

Lock your door! Lock your door!

Marty pushes down on the lock.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

Drive! Drive!

LUKE

We're still out of gas!

MARTY

What the hell was that?

LUKE

I told you! I fucking told you something was out there!

MARTY

Oh my god.

Marty pulls out his PHONE.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Still no signal.

LUKE

Use your hotspot!

Marty looks at him, and doesn't even bother to reply.

LUKE

Did you see those handprints?

Marty checks all of his pockets in a panic.

LUKE

Marty?

Marty continues to check his pockets.

MARTY

No. No. No.

LUKE

Marty?

MARTY

Where is it? Fuck!

LUKE

What is it?

MARTY

I dropped it. I dropped the necklace.

LUKE

Shit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Marty grabs the door handle. Luke grabs him.

LUKE

Hey! Hey! It could be anywhere  
alright. Now is not the time.

THROUGH THE WINDSHEILD

The MOON LIGHT shines down on an object in the grass  
making it shimmer.

Marty unlocks his door and sprints out.

LUKE

Marty! Get back here!

EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Marty springs across the grass to the necklace.

He picks up the necklace, smiling.

LUKE

Marty! Get back in the car!

Marty walks back--

SWISH!

Marty falls on the ground, he SCREAMS as he is pulled  
into the darkness by the creature. He digs his fingers  
into the ground.

MARTY

Ahh! Luke!

Luke gets out of the car.

LUKE

Marty! Marty!

Marty vanishes into the darkness.

It silent as the tress wav in the wind. Luke stands  
shellshocked.

MARTY (O.S.)

Luke!

Luke comes back to life. He opens his car door and arms  
himself with TWO BASEBALL BATS. He sprints after Marty's  
SCREAMS.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Luke sprints in and out through trees.

MARTY (O.S.)  
 Luke!

LUKE (O.S.)  
 Marty!

Luke turns to the right.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 Where are you?

MARTY (O.S.)  
 Over here! Ahh!

LUKE  
 Fuck! Marty!

MARTY  
 (weaker)  
 Luke!

He's closer. Luke follows his voice.

EXT. WOODS - SECONDS LATER

Luke stops in his tracks.

LUKE  
 Marty?

Marty lies on the ground. Luke rushes to him and cradles his BLOODY head.

MARTY  
 What's up, dick?

LUKE  
 I'm sorry, man. I'm sorry we got stuck here. It's my fault. I fucked up and I keep fucking up.

MARTY  
 It's alright, man. I forgive you.

Marty holds up his hand. Luke daps him up.

*WHOOSH!*

Trees SHAKE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARTY

He's using me as bait you know?

LUKE

Did you get a good look at it?

MARTY

No. But...

Marty stands up.

MARTY (CONT'D)

...it's coming.

Luke hands Marty a BASEBALL BAT.

The CREATURE closes in on it's prey.

Luke and Marty stand tall, not going without a fight.  
They follow the FOOTSTEPS and SHAKES.

They're eyes go wide.

MONSTER POV

The CREATURE charges the boys ready to devour. The boys  
SCREAM and raise their WEAPONS.

CUT TO:

*BLACK.*

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS, CAR - SUNRISE

The SUN rises. The car doors remain open, unattended.  
Smoke escapes from the dead fire pit. LEAVES CRINKLE. Out  
of the woods walk Marty and Luke, drenched in blood,  
exhausted, and forever scared.

AT THE CAR

They open the trunk, pull out a COOLER, and pop open  
BEERS. Sitting in the trunk, they watch the sunrise and  
sip beer after a long night.

MARTY

We still don't have gas.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUKE

Positive thoughts, Marty. Positive thoughts.

The two friends smile at each other and look at the open road ahead.

A CAR approaches. They look at each other all bloody and injured.

MARTY

How're we going to explain this?

LUKE

Follow my lead.

Marty and Luke get off the trunk as the car gets closer. A wave of recognition engulfs Marty. He knows the car. It comes to a stop ten feet away. A GIRL steps out.

Marty nearly falls to the ground. Luke notices. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out...the NECKLACE.

He places it into Martys hand and pats him on the back.

FADE TO BLACK.

**THE END**