

UNTITLED SCREENPLAY

by

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1.

EXT-WOODS-NIGHT

Small clearing in the woods. Foggy, moody, full of leaves. It's transparent thanks to the moon, which shines brighter than its half-full state would make you think. Whole place feels surreal. We hang on this image for few moments, accompanied by typical night-in-the-woods sounds. Some wolves howling in the distance, some owls, some insects, you know the stuff.

Then we hear the sound of footsteps closing in. Pace is confident. Woman enters the frame and stops to look around. Dressed in a night gown, messy red hair, dreamy eyes. This is ANDREA (late 30s) and from the look on her face you would assume she's sleepwalking. But she isn't because then we

CUT TO:

INT-BEDROOM-NIGHT

Andrea is sleeping. We close up on her face and we see her eyes in REM state. Next to her is her husband MATTHEW (late 30s) snoring very calmly, as if he were aware doing it in any other way would've been inappropriate for this scene. Then something startles Andrea.

CUT TO:

EXT-WOODS-NIGHT

We see a shadowy figure around 30 meters from her. She follows it in a trance like state but he seems elusive, disappearing and reappearing in an erratic manner. Whenever he emerges Andrea blindly follows him, until frustration finally sinks in.

ANDREA
(dissatisfied)
Why are you doing this to me?

Crickets in response. She gives up, sits on a moss and starts crying.

CUT TO:

INT-BEDROOM-NIGHT

Single tear runs on her cheek.

CUT TO:

EXT-WOODS-NIGHT

Andrea cries for some time then out of nowhere she's feeling a sudden drop in temperature. Shivers on her arms. She's confused because it took her totally off guard. Despite being in the woods at night, she never felt cold. She also

never thought she's in a dream. We look at her face and something clicks there. You could almost see the machinery in her brain turning. She stands up, smiles a little and her whole body says I'M READY. Melancholic music starts playing.

The big moment of anticipation that lasts few seconds too long, making you think the resolution will never come. And when you're sure Andrea will get dissapointed again, that is when SHADOW MAN appears right in front of her.

She is spellbinded. Fear mixed with excitement. We hang on them for a few beats, while music gets more intense. They are very close to each other and the whole thing feels like a twisted holy matrimony. And then, without warning, SHADOW MAN dissapears. Because that's what he does.

Note

NOTE: It should feel like he himself has no control of this - it will be explained later in the movie.

Andrea is of course shocked.

ANDREA
NO NO NO NO NO! COME BACK HERE!
NOOOOO!

CUT TO:

INT-BEDROOM-NIGHT

Andrea wakes up violently, knocking her husband in the process. He also wakes up and looks at her.

MATTHEW
(in a sleepy voice)
What is happening? Were you crying?

She touches her cheeks. They are wet.

ANDREA
Looks like it.

MATTHEW
Probably some nightmare. Come here.

He hugs her.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
So, what was it?

She's very confused. Takes a second to respond.

ANDREA
Can't remember. I honestly can't remember.

Still embraced by Matthew, she looks at the clock and scoffs sarcastically, telling us it's not her first messed up night.

2.

INT-OFFICE-DAY

Andrea sits in front of the computer typing something. She looks very tired after what happened last night. She's in one of those cool journalist startups, where people sit on bouncing balls instead of chairs. Despite the fact, the environment seems gloomy, like if they forgot it's the people that make the place cheerful, not colourful walls or a ping pong table in the basement.

Her boss comes in and looks over her shoulder. It's SUNJAY (around 45). He seems like a thoughtful and considerate person. He's aware of the limitations this job has but he decided to do best under circumstances.

SUNJAY

What you're writing about this time?

ANDREA

I was just planning to show you. It's about younger generations. How they are not planning the future. Or not saving for it because they believe it may not come.

He thinks for a moment.

SUNJAY

In what year you were born exactly?

ANDREA

Ha, very funny. But seriously, it's about people that are like 15 years younger than me. I have nothing in common with them.

He puts his hand in the air- "don't shoot"

SUNJAY

Okay, okay, I was just joking...BUT

ANDREA

But what?

SUNJAY

You know, it's not like every new generation comes with a wholly fresh set of values and ideals.

ANDREA

All right, let's examine this.

He's getting cornered. He thought it was just an office banter but now it seems like she's serious. Andrea leads him to the kitchen area.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Come on. I need more coffee anyway.

She goes to the coffee pot, picks it up silently and shows it to Sunjay.

SUNJAY

No, I'm okay.

She pours coffee into the mug very slowly, giving herself some time to ponder.

ANDREA

I've gotta admit you made me think a little.

SUNJAY

I did?

ANDREA

I have this flaw where I separate myself from the article I'm writing. It could be literally about me, but it wouldn't hit me until someone just states the obvious.

SUNJAY

I was just joking, Andrea.

ANDREA

No you weren't. At least not exactly. You're the same as my mother. She will casually drop some remark like it's nothing but in fact she means something by it.

SUNJAY

How is Mrs Loretta, by the way?

His attempt at joking doesn't work.

ANDREA

She's fine. Thank you very much. Listen, you remember those stupid questions "where do you see yourself in 10 years?". What was my answer?

She's getting agitated a little and that stresses Sunjay.

SUNJAY

Geez, I don't remembe-

ANDREA

Me neither.

SUNJAY

What is happening with you today?
You seem, I don't know, uptight.

She drinks some coffee.

ANDREA

I've been sleeping very bad lately.
I have those dreams I don't
remember. And when I wake up I feel
this big void inside of me. Maybe
it's my subconscious trying to tell
me that I lack something? Or that
I'm stuck in this life?

She gets teary eyes.

SUNJAY

You have a great husband and a...

He wants to say "kids" but he just remembered she doesn't
have any. This is an important moment.

SUNJAY(CONT'D)

...pretty good job. And friends who
like you. What more you can wish
from life?

He cheered her up a little.

ANDREA

"pretty good job"?

SUNJAY(CONT'D)

What?

ANDREA

What prospects do I have here?

SUNJAY

You'll replace me when I move to
Washington Post.

She bursts out laughing.

ANDREA

You're a good friend, Sunjay.

SUNJAY

When you finish writing this
article that is TOTALLY 100% NOT
about yourself, I'll have something
for you.

Andrea nods with a smile.