

"INTO THE DARK"

By

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FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: "six weeks from today"

Black.

A flashlight beam cuts through the darkness.

The lid is removed off the toilet tank and a ladle is dipped into the water.

JACK, wearing a winter coat, brings the water to his lips and drinks slowly.

He measures the water level with a ruler, three inches.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A small fire burns in the fireplace.

SARAH, wrapped in a blanket, sits on the couch with her back to the room. The curtains are shut, but she parts them to look on the world outside.

JACK (O.S.)

I asked you to stop that.

Sarah, startled, turns and covers her eyes from the glow of the flashlight.

SARAH

I thought I saw a light.

JACK

Please, just keep the curtains closed.

Sarah picks up a transistor radio. She turns it on and dials though the stations. Nothing but static.

JACK (CONT'D)

Save the batteries.

She turns it off.

SARAH
I'm cold.

JACK
Move closer to the fire.

Sarah sits on the floor, in front of the flames.

JACK (CONT'D)
There. Isn't that better?

SARAH
No.

Jack trudges upstairs.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

Jack returns with several books.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Are you going to read to me?

JACK
Not exactly.

Jack throws the books on the fire.

Jack sits down and puts his arm around Sarah. She wraps the blanket around him.

There is a knock at the front door. It gets louder.

FARLEY (O.S.)
Jack? Sarah?

SARAH
It's Farley.

Sarah turns on the flashlight.

JACK
Turn it off. He'll go away.

The doorknob jiggles and then stops. Farley goes away.

Suddenly, there is banging at the back door.

Sarah, shines the flashlight at the glass door. On the other side is FARLEY, shivering.

Farley sees the light and waves. Jack begrudgingly lets him in.

FARLEY

It must be 10 below out there.

JACK

I guess.

SARAH

Come in by the fire and warm up.

He does.

FARLEY

Couldn't you hear me at the door?

JACK

We heard you.

FARLEY

I see.

JACK

Things the way they are, well, I think it's probably best if we all just keep to ourselves.

FARLEY

I understand.

SARAH

I'm sorry.

FARLEY

It's okay. Something like this, it changes everything, doesn't it?

Farley kneels in front of the fire.

FARLEY (CONT'D)

I was talking to Thomas and he said he heard a rumor the power should be back soon, real soon.

JACK

We've been hearing that for six weeks.

FARLEY

Did you ever think the world would come to this?

Farley pokes at the fire.

SARAH

How are Jenny and your girls?

FARLEY

Actually, that's why I'm here. They're all pretty thirsty. We ran out two days ago. You don't have any water do you?

JACK

No.

FARLEY

I'm not asking for a lot. Just a bit. Just something for my kids.

JACK

I wish we could, but there's nothing left.

Farley rises from the fire.

FARLEY

Do you mind if I check for myself?

Jack thinks about this.

JACK

Yes, I guess I do.

FARLEY

I guess I'm not asking.

Farley pulls a pistol from beneath his coat.

SARAH

Oh my God.

Farley takes the flashlight from Sarah.

JACK

What are you doing?

FARLEY

I'm sorry about this. But, I'm just going to have a little look around.

Farley heads into the kitchen. The sounds of cabinets opening and closing.

SARAH
(whispered)
This is insane.

FARLEY (O.S.)
Your cupboards are bare, Jack.

Farley heads upstairs to check the bathroom.

Jack grabs the fire poker.

SARAH
(whispered)
What are you doing?

JACK
(whispered)
He's not getting our water.

Jack quietly heads up the stairs and into the dark.

FARLEY (O.S.)
You lied to me, Jack.

There is a loud crash and struggle. A gunshot illuminates the upstairs hall.

Sarah screams.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

In quick succession all the street and house lights come back to life.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

All the lights in the house are on. Sarah runs upstairs.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The shower curtain is torn from the rings.

Farley lies dead in the tub.

Jack sits on the tile floor, the gun in his hands.

SARAH
Jack?

Jack just stares at her.

The phone begins to ring.

FADE OUT.