

PRAYING FOR BEARS

By

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EXT. CAMP SUNRISE - NIGHT

A quiet camp, abandoned in the woodland emptiness. Outside of a few lonely insects the only sound for miles is a shovel as it grinds against the dirt.

A sign reads CAMP SUNRISE.

A TOTEM POLE, battered and bloodied, stands firmly in the middle of an empty field shrouded by pale moonlight.

A shovel strikes the ground, digging beneath the totem pole. The DIGGER throws dirt behind him furiously, a crazed look of desperation hardens his face.

Digger stops, he lifts a heavy sack over his shoulder and drops it into the fresh hole.

Rustling in the nearby forest-line breaks the silence of the night and startles digger out of his focus.

He buries the sack quickly as a long HOWL pierces the air.

CUT TO

EXT. CAMPFIRE IN WOODS - NIGHT

A GROUP OF FOUR (20's) sit around their campfire preparing to sleep as NATE tells the story, a sinister grin creeping along his face.

NATE

... after he slaughtered the camp  
and buried his treasure...

Nate's girlfriend, MORGAN, yawns. She rolls her eyes, silently unamused by her boyfriend's tale.

NATE (cont'd)

... he evaded police by entering  
the woods... these woods.

ASHLEY lays in the arms of her boyfriend TREVOR, she looks to him worried. Trevor calmly shakes his head and quells her fears, she engrosses herself in Nate's words.

Ashley turns away and wave of terror washes over Trevor, his face contorts and he bites his lip to focus his nerves.

NATE (cont'd)

Some say, Marv Owens went mad and  
still roams this very forest,  
protecting his treasure.

EXT. DEEP WOODS - 10 SECONDS AGO

Deeper in the woods KYLE, a hockey mask on top of his head, takes a piss on a nearby tree. Nate's last words repeat in the distance.

Kyle abruptly stops mid-stream.

KYLE

Oh shit! That's my cue.

Kyle barrels through the forest trying to zip his fly and make it back to the camp.

SUDDENLY a CREATURE drops from above and collides with Kyle. CRASH! They fall to the ground. The dark figure mauls Kyle to death and lets out a monstrous howl.

EXT. CAMPFIRE IN WOODS - CONTINUOUS

The howl echoes through the still night, the group pauses and listens.

Ashley and Trevor sit up angrily.

ASHLEY

God fucking damnit Nate! If you and Kyle are planning some dumbass prank...

TREVOR

Not cool bro!

NATE

Please, why would I do that?

TREVOR

Because you always do.

ASHLEY

You get us all worked up over nothing, we're tired of it.

Nate feigns emotional pain and Morgan rubs his back tenderly. She yawns.

MORGAN

Oh, I think it's fun.

He stands up and raises his arms in the air.

(CONTINUED)

NATE

(To Trevor & Ashley)

At least some people appreciate a good time.

THUD! Kyle's mauled corpse falls into the fire. Everyone screams.

Nate stares dumbfounded and frightened, the color disappears from his face as everyone else regains composure.

TREVOR

Haha, good one.

ASHLEY

Lying prick, where's Kyle so you can have a laugh?

Morgan looks over at Nate, his finger just points behind Ashley and Trevor as he shakes with fear.

MORGAN

What is it?

NATE

Not human.

TREVOR

Is it a bear?

MORGAN

God I hope so.

ASHLEY

What the fuck?

The creature stands just outside the fire's light, a gargantuan shadow in the darkness. It bellows out threateningly towards the group.

PANIC ENSUES as Nate grabs Morgan's wrist and flees in the opposite direction. Trevor follows but turns to see Ashley stand her ground.

Ashley grabs a burning log out of the fire and swings it at the creature. Each swing gives a small glimpse at its body: Matted fur, snarling fangs, angry eyes, and razor sharp claws.

SHINK! The creature's claws pierce Ashley's gut and rupture out her back, showering blood through the clearing.

The beast lifts Ashley's twitching body off the ground and tears her in two. The bloody halves fall to the dirt.

(CONTINUED)

Trevor screams in a very emasculating manner.

The creature turns its attention onto him and charges forward with an unnatural speed. It lifts him up, and runs towards the woods.

Trevor, kicking and screaming, is slammed against a tree and blood spurts from his mouth, the creature steps away.

It gets low to the dirt, sniffs the ground and listens intently. A twig cracks in the distance. The creature re-enters the woods in the direction Nate and Morgan ran.

Trevor peers down in disbelief, a TREE BRANCH protrudes from his stomach. He explores the branch with his hands and cries out, distraught, as he bleeds to death.

CUT TO

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Nate and Morgan race hand in hand through the darkened forest, the creature chases far behind but its footsteps and roar blast through the forest like thunder.

They run out of woods and into...

EXT. CAMP SUNRISE - CONTINUOUS

They stop short in front of the blood-stained totem pole in the center of the camp. Nate, shocked, takes a step forward... drawn to the totem.

NATE

Oh shit.

MORGAN

We need to hide, we must have  
invaded that things territory!

Morgan grabs Nate's arm and drags him towards one of the abandoned buildings.

INT. BUILDING #1 - CONTINUOUS

Nate & Morgan open the dilapidated door and enters the building slowly.

The creature howls.

(CONTINUED)

They quickly shut the door and hide beneath the window. The creature lumbers around outside, searching, hunting.

It passes and silence returns.

MORGAN

Something reeks in here.

Morgan pulls out a flashlight and turns it on, illuminating a pool of blood and a severed arm holding a BOW & ARROW.

She muffles a scream and slowly scans over the floor, reaching the rest of the body and stops on a contorted face, frozen in terror.

NATE

It's him! Marv Owens... looks like he was writing something.

Morgan pans the light over OWENS', still attached, arm pointing at the wall. A crude map written in blood shows a path leading away from a creature sketch, to a river and the word "SAFE" on one side.

MORGAN

Looks like he found a way out... but if he knew, why do you think he never left and got help?

NATE

You've heard the stories, who would have believed him?

Silence passes. Nate picks up the Bow & Arrow.

NATE (cont'd)

If we want to live, we need to go.

EXT. CAMP SUNRISE - NIGHT

Nate leans out the door and gives the "all clear." Morgan and Nate make a dash across the grounds. They enter the woods and the creature howls out.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Nate and Morgan dash through the woods, the creature appears behind them in the distance. They run out into...

EXT. RIVERBANK - CONTINUOUS

They step to the edge of the river, no boats in sight. Morgan runs into and wades through the freezing water, screaming. Nate follows closely behind but stops ankle-deep.

Nate turns and stares at the wood's edge. He raises the bow and arrow and aims, carefully, slowly.

The beast pounces out from the blackness and Nate fires.

The arrow strikes the beast through the eye but to no avail! It howls in rage and tackles Nate to the ground, slamming his body into the river and beach.

Claws scrape across his back but Nate's screams go unheard, his head trapped underwater.

Morgan turns back and grabs onto Nate's arms and pulls in a desperate tug of war.

The creature roars in her face but Morgan breaks free and drags Nate's seemingly lifeless body to the other side.

The creature paces at the river's edge.

MORGAN

C'mon you son of a bitch!

She gives him mouth to mouth and punches his chest. Nate coughs up a mixture of blood and water.

NATE

Don't talk about my mother that way...

She holds him close, relieved. They look back over towards the opposite shore.

The creature howls angrily and then stomps its monstrous form back into the cover of the woods.

Above Ashley and Nate the sun rises, casting rays of light through the forest.

THE END