

**GONE**

written by

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INT. DORM - NIGHT

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

The door swings open, presenting ELI (20's) in its place. He gives a brief, small smile.

ELI

Hey, man. How're you holding up?

JASON (20's) frantically motions him into the room. Eli looks over his shoulder, then steps in.

ELI (CONT'D)

Something got you spooked, Jason?

Jason quickly slams the door closed behind Eli, locking it behind him.

ELI (CONT'D)

What's got you calling me at ten at night? I mean, you know I'm always here for you. I've just...

His voice trails.

ELI (CONT'D)

I've got curfew.

JASON

Curfew?

ELI

Yeah. It's a preset time where I have to go to bed-

Jason motions with his hands to stop.

JASON

I know what curfew means.

ELI

I mean, I figured, you just seemed-

JASON

Eli.

Eli's voice trails off for a moment before adding:

ELI

Confused.

JASON

Eli, this is important.

Eli sees it in Jason's eyes: *this is important.*

ELI

Okay. What'd you have for me?

JASON

Ever since the funeral, I keep running it through in my head: could I have changed it? Could I-

Eli closes his eyes, disappointment falls across his face.

ELI

Look, Jason. We can't keep going through this.

JASON

Through what?

ELI

"The funeral". You can't keep thinking of it-

JASON

You want me to drop it from my memory? Just like that?

Eli places his hand on Jason's shoulder, in a friendly way.

ELI

Emma was more than a funeral, Jason.

Jason goes quiet for a moment, thinking it over.

ELI (CONT'D)

And, I'm sure this goes without saying, but you're still a part of this family. We're always going to be here for you.

JASON

I don't think you understand-

ELI

I do understand. I get it, I hear you. You blame yourself. You keep replaying it in your head, but you can't do that. It wasn't your fault-

JASON

But it *was* my fault. I dropped her off at church.

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

I didn't want to stay that night, so I lied. *Jesus*, I told her I was sick - why would I do that? Why did I have to lie? She left alone. She was attacked by those crooks alone. And she died... *alone*.

Eli takes a moment, trying to process this information.

ELI

Jason, I can't-

JASON

I don't want to be the reason she is dead. The reason she is lying six feet underground.

Jason takes a deep breath.

JASON (CONT'D)

I keep having this reoccurring dream. But the dream always ends the same way: with *me* holding the knife. And I'm covered in blood. *Her* blood from *mine* wound. I killed her, Eli. *Me*.

From Jason's POV, he looks down at his hands, rubbing his wedding ring. We notice blood on them.

JASON (CONT'D)

But I think I've been looking at this wrong. It's not a what could I have done? It's a **what can I do**.

Eli's eyes wander around, looking for an answer.

ELI

What're you getting at?

JASON

Let me just show you. But promise not to scream, 'kay?

Jason guides Eli towards the bedroom door within the dorm. Jason opens it, presenting it to Eli. Eli's eyes widen. He gags in his mouth, avoiding vomit.

A DEAD BODY LAYS ON THE BED. EMMA'S (20's). Next to the corpse is an old, beat-up book.

ELI

Jason, wha- what is- is that my sister? Did you grave rob my sister?!

JASON

Look, Eli, there's something I need to tell you-

ELI

Jason, this is my sister.

JASON

When I tell you what I have found - what I have uncovered - you're going to-

ELI

Call the cops. Are you fucking insane?

JASON

You're going to be shocked by what I have.

ELI

What you *have*? Besides the rotting corpse we both once loved?

JASON

Eli, I found a way to bring her back.

Jason walks over to the book, picking it up. He brings it over to Eli, presenting it to him.

JASON (CONT'D)

This is the "Book of the Damned".

ELI

Why the fuck would you have the "Book of the Damned"?

JASON

It's an old Native American legend. I've spent my days living in... in the libraries - online - meetings - all of this-

He flips into it, pointing at the text.

JASON (CONT'D)

I read this. Recite it. To her. And she-

Jason turns to look at this fiancé's corpse.

JASON (CONT'D)  
God will breath new life into her.

Eli looks at him with hesitance.

ELI  
Are we sure that's *God* that will be doing that? Or something else?

JASON  
I don't care who it is. I just want her back.

ELI  
And what exactly did you need me here for?

JASON  
The ritual needs two souls to return the one.

Eli stares at him for a moment.

JASON (CONT'D)  
I need you to bear witness.

Eli squints his eyes, skeptical. He opens his mouth to argue the statement, before Jason turns away to Emma. Eli goes quiet.

Jason looks at the book. Then back up at Emma. He nods his head to himself.

JASON (CONT'D)  
*Gwirodydd, gwirodydd. Clywed fy crio. Dod hwn enaid yn ol i ni.*

The lights above Jason flicker. On and off. On and off. Jason drops the book, wincing in pain. Smoke rises off of it. The room appears to shake, as pencils, forks, and knives fall from the dresser.

Jason takes couple of steps back from the bed before...

The lights stop flickering, staying on. The book rests, smoke-free. And Emma lies in the bed, lifeless. Still a corpse.

Eli regains his breath before turning from his sister to Jason.

ELI

Wh- What's supposed to happen now?

Jason looks at his fiancé in bewilderment. Then down at the book. Then back to Emma.

JASON

I-

ELI

Don't tell me you don't know.

Jason turns to Eli. "I don't know".

ELI (CONT'D)

Oh, shit. You're fucking with me.  
*You're fucking with me, aren't you?!*

Eli wanders back towards the center of the kitchen area in the dorm. Jason follows after him.

ELI (CONT'D)

What is your plan from here? Did you have a backup plan? Any 'Plan B' in case your demonic ritual went south?

JASON

No, it was supposed to work. Everything I read - everyone I talked to. It- it had to.

ELI

Well, it didn't. Oh, god. Oh, god. I can't believe I just let you try that. On my dead sister's corpse!

JASON

I'm sorry. For making you watch that. I just- I really thought I wasn't alone on this. To share another conv-

ELI

Jason, I've made my peace with it. I've already said my 'see you later's. I'm here for you. And you - you did that?!

JASON

And how many of those 'see you lates' did she hear? Huh, Eli?

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

Because she didn't hear any of mine. I did all of this for *her*. For my Emma.

ELI

Oh, she's your Emma? Like you own her? I guess so, you dug her body up and enchanted her, so, yep. She's your possession now.

Behind Jason, Emma's corpse now sits straight up. Staring at the pair arguing. Neither of them notice.

JASON

She is *my fiancé*. My love. So, yeah, I don't think I'm that big of a douchebag for the "my" in front of her name.

ELI

You think so. You know she was *my* sister. I grew up with her, played Barbie's and dress-up with her everyday as kids. You just put a piece of jewelry on her hands.

JASON

Are you saying you're entitled to saying she was yours?

ELI

No, because that barbaric. That's 17th century shit. Why can't we just sit here and talk about her like she's a dead body laying across from us in that room?

Behind Jason, the bed lays EMPTY. No traces of Emma's body.

Jason's voice drifts to a sarcastic tone:

JASON

You know, I'm relieved to hear you say that. I'm relieved to know that's the only way you think about her. Like a soulless vessel in the ground.

ELI

At least I am able to move on with life and look towards my future. You're the one stuck in the same place for three months!



JASON

I'm sorry that I have the emotional capabilities to grieve and wish to see my loved ones again.

ELI

I'm sorry that you have the emotional control of a five-

Eli's voice drifts off. He squints his eyes, looking past Jason. Jason notices.

JASON

What? What's going on?

ELI

Come here.

Eli leads Jason back into the room, where they find: the empty bed. EMMA NO LONGER THERE.

Jason's face transitions to an excited surprise face. Eli's face sinks into confusion.

JASON

It worked?

ELI

It couldn't have.

JASON

Why not? You think God would choose not to?

ELI

You said this was a Native American legend?

JASON

Yeah?

ELI

Well, you know who chooses that in the legends, don't you?

Eli waits for a response.

ELI (CONT'D)

The Wendigo.

The sound of movement from the other room, jars their eyes back towards the kitchen area.

ELI (CONT'D)

Okay, here's what probably happened - must've happened - you placed her in a different spot and our brains, our minds - for whatever reason - erased it. That's what that light show must've been.

JASON

You can't really think that?

ELI

Either way, we have a missing corpse walking around here somewhere.

JASON

Yeah, we do.

Eli raises his eyebrows.

ELI

You look around here, see if you can find anything. Maybe you put her under the bed? Back in whatever bag you shipped her out of the cemetery from? I'll cover the ground outside. Do a perimeter search. Figure out what that noise just was.

TRACKING SHOT as we follow Eli walking towards the front door.

JASON (O.S.)

Okay, okay. Good plan, Eli.

As Eli reaches the front door, he looks back towards Jason. He nods to himself and leaves through it.

As Jason walks back into the bedroom, POV lingers from outside. He searches under the bed for her. Nothing.

Jason moves to look around the dresser. Slowly PUSH IN on him.

Jason moves out of the POV, looking further into the room. PUSH IN closer to the bedroom.

Jason returns into focus, looking back around the bed.

EXT. DORM BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Eli exits through the door, breathing in the fresh air for the first time. He quickly examines the sidewalk in front of him.

Eli walks down it. POV from behind a tree. A tree branch SNAPS.

Eli quickly turns to it where he finds TWO GLOWING EYES staring back at him.

Eli looks closer at them. The two eyes BLINK.

He gasps and jumps back. He regains his breath before moving closer towards the eyes.

POV from behind the tree. The unseen creature quickly RUSHES at him. Eli gasps, unable to scream before-

INT. DORM - CONTINUOUS

Jason checks around the front door. He looks through the peep hole of it. Nothing of interest.

Jason moves to the bathroom, searching behind the shower curtain. He looks around the room. Nothing.

He turns back to the kitchen area, finding...

THE FRONT DOOR WIDE OPEN. Jason walks towards it. He looks outside of the room. Behind the door. He examines the general area.

JASON

Eli?

No response. Jason slowly begins to close the door before noticing: faint, bloody marks on the doorknob.

Jason closes the door. After it clicks locked-

EEEEEEEEEEEEIIIIIIIRRRRRRRRRRR.

Jason quickly turns around to see the bedroom door creaking, slowly closing.

He walks towards it, catching it with his foot before it closes. He slowly pushes it open.

Nothing out of the ordinary, except: the window left WIDE OPEN.

Jason walks towards it before...

A HAND REACHES OUT FROM UNDERNEATH THE BED. It latches onto his foot. Jason screams, shaking his leg. The hand remains sturdy, not letting go.

A horrible GROWLING noise emerges from underneath the bed. Emma, with a disfigured and death-like face, peers out, grinning up at him. She speaks in a low, unsettling voice:

EMMA

Did you check under the bed? Did you look for me there, sweetie?

She laughs, mixed with the awful growling noise.

Jason shakes his leg harder and harder until his leg eventually breaks free. He falls to the ground.

Emma, on all fours, crawls inhumanely fast towards Jason, pinning herself on top of him.

She presses her face closer to Jason, growling. Jason turns his face away from her. Drool escapes from her bottom lip, landing on Jason's face.

Emma begins sniffing his ear. Then his neck. Then she looks back up at him.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Why won't you ask it?

Jason remains quiet.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Ask it.

JASON

Ask what?

EMMA

What happened to Eli?

Jason's eyes widen.

JASON

W- Where's Eli?

Emma chuckles, moving closer.

EMMA

Eli is with Emma now.

Jason looks down at his legs. He notices: A KNIFE, knocked over earlier.

Jason turns back to look Emma in the eyes. She growls, not liking him less scared than before.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Do you not want me anymore,  
sweetie?

Jason doesn't answer, simply staring back.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Do you still consider me yours? Did  
you rescue me from that awful  
graveyard?

Again, no response.

EMMA (CONT'D)

When you find a creature in the  
woods, do you let it go or keep it  
as a pet?

JASON

Did you let Eli go? Or did you keep  
him?

Emma growls and Jason kicks back, knocking her off of her balance temporarily.

Jason throws his body towards the knife. As Emma rushes back toward him, Jason swings the knife at her, knocking her back.

Jason takes this opportunity to rush out of the room. He swings around the corner, taking himself to the bathroom. He slams the door closed, locking it behind him.

He pants for a moment, catching his breath.

He falls to the ground, looking through the crack between the door and the floor.

The shadow of two feet wander slowly towards the door. Jason looks up at the doorknob waiting for it to turn. He looks back at shadows underneath the door. The feet stay there for a moment, before wandering back throughout the room.

Jason sits back, breathing heavily. He leans back against the wall next to him. PAN OUT to reveal, Emma sitting next to him, not a corpse, not disfigured. The way he remembers.

EMMA

Well, that certainly is never how I would have acted around you.

Jason slowly turns towards her.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Now, you, sometimes you acted like that. Especially when your football team lost.

JASON

Hi, Emma.

EMMA

Hi, sweetie.

JASON

This is all I wanted.

EMMA

*This* is what you wanted? Me to act like an stupid, ugly, fat, disgusting creature?

JASON

No, of course not. I didn't want that.

EMMA

Oh, so you *are* saying I am a stupid, ugly, fat, disgusting creature.

JASON

No, honey. I just wanted to be able to share a conversation with you again.

Emma's eyes look down, somberly. Then back up.

EMMA

If you had gone with me to church that night, it wouldn't have changed anything. Nothing would have changed it. I still would've gone, I still would've waited outside, I still would've stood my ground - because I wasn't going to stop living. And I lived. All the way up to my last minute here. And then I continued to live on. Through you. Through Eli. Through my mom. My dad.

She takes a deep breath.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Things are going to happen, Jason.  
No day is promised. But you always  
were. And that made it worth it.

Emma smiles. She kisses her hand and places it on his  
shoulder.

EMMA (CONT'D)

See you later.

PAN IN ON Jason, who smiles. He looks back over at Emma. PAN  
OUT to show Jason now alone, Emma faded away. Like a memory.

Jason looks down at his hands. FROM JASON'S POV, he rubs his  
finger over his wedding ring on his hand.

Jason slowly opens the door to the bathroom, knife in his  
hand.

He looks around the kitchen area: no sign of Emma.

Jason steps forward slowly, careful with each step. As he  
gets closer...

A SHADOW emerges from the bedroom. It lingers on the floor,  
as if watching him. He stands as still as possible, clenching  
tightly onto his knife.

The shadow retreats back into the room.

As Jason turns the corner, he sees Emma wandering around,  
inching towards the window, like a zombie.

Jason takes a deep breath before moving closer. He inches  
closer to Emma, who still watches out the window.

He steps closer, mere inches away from her before...

She WHIPS around, GROWLING at him. She lunges herself towards  
him, where he wraps his arms around her in a hug.

JASON

I'm so sorry, honey.

He takes the knife in his right hand and JABS it into her  
back.

Emma lets out a cry of anguish before he repeats the process,  
lodging the knife back into her. He does it again. And again.  
Until the creature finally remains still.

Jason holds Emma's body, gently placing it on the ground.

He looks at his fiancé's corpse, tears forming in his eyes.  
He drops to his knees, sitting next to her. Letting the knife  
fall to the ground.

FADE TO BLACK.

Jason returned Emma's body to the ground,  
He was welcomed by her family as they attended Eli's funeral

But...

They never found the body, nor the book

It's like they were just...

**GONE**