

THE STALKER

Written by

B.D. Reid

FIRST DRAFT

FADE IN:

1

EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

1

A modest camp fire burns in the middle of a small clearing. Two camp chairs and a two-person tent are nearby. The surrounding trees barely catch the light from the flames, offset by the moonlight shining through the canopy.

LEXI (22) and KEITH (24) fall in front of the fire, locked in a passionate embrace; Lexi, on the bottom, is more feral in her approach, while Keith, on top, is more tender.

From behind the trees, an unseen STALKER watches them.

Keith pauses to look into Lexi's eyes. He strokes her cheek and smiles.

LEXI

This isn't working for me.

Lexi rolls Keith over and gets on top of him, grabbing his collar. She kisses him fiercely. He positions his hands on her shoulders. She starts kissing his neck.

KEITH

Couldn't I be on top this time,
Lex?

LEXI

You always do it wrong.

She bites his neck. He yelps and pushes her off of him.

LEXI (CONT'D)

What the hell, Keith? We were
having a good time.

KEITH

You were.

Keith stands up and walks away from her.

LEXI

Are you gonna be like this the
whole time? That's not what we had
planned.

KEITH

Yeah, I know. You plan it all...
down to the last detail.

LEXI

What? You got a problem with a girl
in control?

Keith pauses and turns back to her.

KEITH

No, but you ALWAYS try to control
everything.

LEXI

I don't do that.

KEITH

I think Roger would--

LEXI

Roger is no longer in the equation.
He couldn't handle our
relationship, so I left.

KEITH

Three weeks after you started
seeing me. Had to be sure I fit the
parameters, didn't you?

Beat.

LEXI

You know what? I'm not in the mood
anymore.

KEITH

Good. I'm gonna take a walk.

Keith turns around and stomps off into the woods. Unseen by
either of them, the Stalker follows him.

Lexi sits in a camp chair and drinks whiskey, straight from
the bottle.

Smoke from the fire blows into her face. She moves the chair
and sits down again. The smoke follows her. She coughs.

2

EXT. RIVER BANK - NIGHT

2

WATER RUNS over rocks alongside a rocky and muddy bank,
exposed only a few feet from the trees.

Keith stomps onto the bank, GRUMBLING to himself. He
scratches his head. Then he picks up a rock and throws it
across the river.

It lands on the other side with a DULL CRACK.

He picks up another one and throws it across again.

The Stalker watches him from the trees.

Keith bends down to grab a larger rock, but he can't pick it up. He strains, then slips on the mud, landing on his back.

He takes a deep breath. He opens his eyes and immediately widens them.

A flash of light refracts off the blade of a hunting knife as it is plunged into Keith's stomach.

He lets loose a LOUD AND PAINFUL SCREAM, which echoes through the woods.

3 EXT. CAMP SITE - CONTINUOUS

3

Lexi whirls towards the DISTANT SCREAM, rising from her chair and knocking the whiskey bottle to the ground.

LEXI

Keith?

Lexi takes her phone out of her pocket. The display reads: "EMERGENCY CALLS ONLY - 15% BATTERY." She turns on the flash light and faces it towards the trees.

SILENCE.

LEXI (CONT'D)

I swear to God, if you jump out and scare me, I'm going to kill you.

No answer.

LEXI (CONT'D)

Damn it.

She goes over to the tent, reaches inside for a jacket and puts it on.

She starts walking into the trees.

4 EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

4

The area is full of trees. Lexi's phone light scans between them, overtaking the dim flickers from the camp fire.

LEXI

Yeah, this is a great idea: let's go wander off into the woods, alone.

She meanders through the woods, RUSTLING LEAVES and CRACKING TWIGS with every step.

The light shines over a nearby tree. Something appears to dart behind it. Lexi brings the light back towards it.

She takes a deep breath.

LEXI (CONT'D)

You got me. I'm scared.

No answer.

LEXI (CONT'D)

I found you, Keith. Just come on out.

She tentatively steps towards the tree.

LEXI (CONT'D)

You've had your fun. Took control. Good for you.

She goes around the tree and shines the light on... nothing.

LEXI (CONT'D)

What the...?

She scans the surrounding area with her light. There is nothing around the tree at all.

Her cell phone VIBRATES and she YELPS, dropping the phone.

Lexi grabs her chest and takes a deep breath. She looks at the phone on the ground and chuckles to herself. She bends down and grabs it.

The screen shows a notification that reads: "LOW BATTERY - 10%"

LEXI (CONT'D)

Shit. KEITH!

Lexi quickens her pace and heads deeper into the woods. The camp fire can no longer be seen. Fog settles on the ground. She navigates around and under low branches and twigs.

RUSHING WATER echoes faintly through the trees.

LEXI (CONT'D)
Where the hell are you?

She presses forward, watched by the Stalker.

5

EXT. RIVER BANK - CONTINUOUS

5

Lexi steps onto the bank and scans the area with her phone.

A faint silhouette lies on the ground perpendicular to the flowing river.

She creeps towards the silhouette, keeping the light on it. Slowly, it reveals that it is a body.

LEXI
Keith? Is that you?

Lexi reaches the body and kneels down, placing her hand on his stomach.

LEXI (CONT'D)
What the...?

She looks at her hand and sees blood on it. She turns the body over and SCREAMS.

It's Keith, but his eyes have been gouged out and blood leaks from his mouth. His shirt has been nearly torn open by the amount of holes in it from various stab wounds.

Lexi falls back and pushes herself away from the corpse. She turns over and vomits into the river.

The world starts spinning around her as she struggles to breathe. She looks over at the corpse. Her cell VIBRATES again.

Another notification: "LOW BATTERY - 5%. PHONE WILL SHUT DOWN SOON."

LEXI (CONT'D)
Shit!

She opens the phone app and types in "911."

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
(through phone, distorted)
911. What's your emergency?

LEXI
My boyfriend... he...

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
(through phone, distorted)
I'm sorry, miss, we appear to have
a bad connection.

LEXI
My boyfriend has been murdered.
Cunningham Campground.

Lexi's eyes widen.

The Stalker stands over Keith, dressed in black, wearing a full white mask etched with black scratches that resemble tear stains.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
(through phone, distorted)
Miss, are you still--

LEXI
You killed him, didn't you?

Lexi prepares to attack the Stalker, but he shows her the hunting knife in his hand. Keith's blood drips from it.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
(through phone, distorted)
Can you hear--

The phone dies.

LEXI
No. No. NO!

The Stalker advances towards her.

She throws the phone.

It hits him in the head and he stumbles a bit.

She takes her chance and dashes off into...

6

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

6

Lexi races through the trees, scratching her arms on the low hanging branches.

She trips over a root hidden by the fog.

She hits the ground and WHIMPERS. Turning over, she looks back to the Stalker.

He brings a knife down into her calf. She SCREAMS.

He bends down and turns her over with his free hand.

She kicks him in the face with her good leg and he topples backwards.

She tries to get back to her feet, stumbling at first. She looks back again.

He's holding his head in pain.

She scrambles back to her feet and takes off, a limp in her step.

A faint light from a camp fire can be seen through the trees.

Lexi limps towards it.

The Stalker gets back up and runs after her.

7

EXT. CAMP SITE - CONTINUOUS

7

Lexi staggers in from the darkness. The Stalker slams into her from behind.

She hits the ground hard and COUGHS. She WHEEZES as she tries to breathe.

The Stalker towers over her. He grabs the ankle of her injured leg and pulls her towards him. He turns her over. She struggles to resist, but he grabs her hands and pins her down.

LEXI

Get off of me! HELP! FIRE!

He moves his knife to her throat and puts his finger to the lips of his mask. He reaches down to her belt buckle and fumbles with it..

Lexi glares at him, tears running down her face, knife at her throat. She notices that one of her hands is free and stretches it towards the fire pit.

LEXI (CONT'D)

This isn't working for me.

Lexi grabs a rock from the fire pit circle. Her hand sizzles and she SCREAMS as she swings it at the Stalker, hitting him on the side of his face.

A section of the mask shatters and he falls over, dropping the knife. Only small movements suggest that he is alive.

Lexi grabs the knife and tries to stand. She collapses almost instantly, letting out a small WHIMPER. She stares at her leg. Blood has drenched the entire bottom of her pants.

She looks over towards the tent. It's blurry and fading. She crawls over to it and opens the door.

She reaches in, pulls out a tensor bandage from a med kit and wraps it tightly around her leg, creating a tourniquet.

Her eyes are barely open as she finishes.

The Stalker GROANS and struggles to stand up. He faces her, swaying with the breeze.

Lexi is still on the ground. She grips the knife.

He lunges at her and she raises the knife. It plunges into his heart as he stumbles forward.

His eyes bulge from behind his broken mask. He stares at her.

STALKER

I... just... wanted...

He slumps down to the side of her, dead.

She pulls herself towards the camp chair and struggles to sit down in it. She grabs the whiskey bottle and takes a long swig before passing out.

8

EXT. CAMP SITE - MORNING

8

The first light of dawn is cast over the camp site. Lexi sits in the chair, a PARAMEDIC tending to her leg. A DETECTIVE analyzes the scene while forensics take pictures of it.

Lexi watches as other paramedics are loading Keith's body into an ambulance, covered by a blood soaked cloth.

The Detective walks over to her, holding a wallet. He gestures towards the Stalker's corpse.

DETECTIVE

According to his wallet, his name was Roger Deacons.

Lexi looks over to the corpse of the Stalker as his mask is removed.

LEXI
Roger?

DETECTIVE
Did you know him?

Lexi takes a deep breath.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)
Ma'am?

LEXI
He's my ex.

The Detective sighs and nods solemnly. He walks away from her.

She stares into the smoldering camp fire as the sun begins to shine through the trees.

The smoke is still following her.

FADE OUT.