

A FAMILY (TALES OF THE INCANDESCENT ILLUMINATION NUMBER SIX)

Written by

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A family of survivors huddles together in a cave, elsewhere, an army hunts for an abominable group of monsters.

## BRIGHT LIGHT FADES SCENE IN PER USUAL:

EXT. ABANDONED VILLAGE - NIGHT

Green tone to the mist that spreads out through the village. We can barely make out to see the deteriorating condition of the small wooden houses, panels of wood falling off everywhere, holes in roofs, doors missing, etc. then we hear the voice of a scared, sweet, innocent, sixteen year old female.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

My name is Claire.

And now we see a SOLDIER, MID-EVIL HELMET enters the frame, he's looking around like he's searching for something.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Do you know that feeling ... when it's a moment or two after you just watched something change forever?

Now we see that the man is on HORSEBACK and we see emerge through the thick hazy mist, MORE MEN ON HORSEBACK, A SMALL ARMY! they all have shields with crosses on them, some of the men have swords, others spears, some bows.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

It's a sort of ... catching up moment, like, the foot of your mind is still where it was, but it knows it's about to leave, so you feel like you don't wanna let the moment go.

The ARMY SPREADS OUT THROUGH THE VILLAGE.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

But your other foot is real, and so you know ...

CLAIRE (V.O.)

... you have to let the other one

THE ARMY SEARCHES THE VILLAGE.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

That's the moment that I was in not too long ago.

Still searching the abandoned village and homes, we can hear the soldiers shouting about monsters chasing the people out of this poor, god forsaken village. CLAIRE (V.O.)
Nothing can stop that moment ...

We see the men searching through more vacant homes.

CLAIRE (V.O.) ... once it begins.

The soldiers continue on through town, we notice that they look very on-guard, like they're expecting a monster to suddenly jump out at them at every corner they turn, but at the same time we can also see the diligence of their quest stricken across their brows and stern eyes.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
No one makes the rules, or any rules exactly, there is a set of rules, I think, but, those are nature's laws and she is a very complicated woman, mother and father say. But still, who doesn't get upset when bad things happen?

Terrible things. You'd have to have no heart!

The men continue on, then

We see A SOLDIER and ANOTHER SOLDIER nod to one another, and then,

THE ARMY SETS FIRE TO THE VILLAGE!

LIGHTING EVERY ROOFTOP ABLAZE WITH TORCHES!

AND LEAVING THE BURNING TORCHES ALL AROUND THE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE OF THE ABANDONED HOMES!

CLAIRE (V.O.)

We can only pray ...

Then the ARMY gallops off as the homes burn.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

That things go our way. We can pray though, mama says.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Dark. Pitch black.

Its too dark to see anything, but we're with THE FAMILY as they share scraps of the flesh of a rat they caught. We hear them crunching on bits of it and ripping pieces apart.

BOICE

(verge of tears)

I wish we had more than just this rat to eat. I miss you're cooking, mom.

MOM

We aught be grate-full, Boice

CLAIRE

I'm grateful, very, mama.

DAD

Bah! Huck-slop! God's abandoned us and you know it!

Silence.

Silence and Chewing.

MOM

I still believe that someone, from somewhere, will come and save us from this fate.

DAD

I don't. And you know why.

Silence again. Chewing too.

MOM

I'm just thankful for the rat. Just let me be thankful for the rat, please!

BOICE

I'm ... I'm thankful for it too.

Dad sighs, we can't see it, but we can hear the fact that he's tearing up.

DAD

... Me ... me too.

We hear Dad take a bite of meat and chew, and sob.

We hear the whole family begin to sob together.

CLAIRE

If we never hid in this cave, we wouldn't have found the rat. So we can be thankful for that too, ya know?

BOICE

Yeah.

MOM

I agree.

DAD

It's sick ... it feels a little sick to be great-full ... but yeah. I think I understand what you mean.

MOM

Everything is a blessing.

CLAIRE

Nothing can take that away from us. From anyone.

We hear the family hugging, huddling together closer now, and see brief shadows, streaks of movement through the pitch black darkness around the cave wall that indicate as such as well as hearing their movement.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

The ARMY stands around the cave, facing the entrance.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

THE FAMILY is still cuddling in a huddled pile in the pitch black darkness. We can see just barely that they are all in brown dirty robes.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

We were grate-full, for each other and for everything, not just the rat. But we knew, we knew no one would come for us to save us, we knew, we knew why we were here, what happened. We knew. But still, like they say ...

They've finished eating the rat and we see

A CLOSEUP OF THE CLEANED SKELETAL REMAINS OF THE RAT ON THE CAVE FLOOR, INEDIBLE GUTS BESIDE IT.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

... it's the small things, after all, we are all each, small things ourselves, compared to the whole.

Slowly, the pitch black darkness begins to grow HAZY with THICKER and THICKER SMOKE.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

And so ...

Hazier.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

... we're grate-full.

DAD starts CHOKING.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

For every ...

BOICE starts CHOKING now too. DAD keeps choking, and harder now too.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

... little ...

MOM AND CLAIRE CHOKING NOW TOO! They're all CHOKING! THE CAVE IS FULL OF THICK SMOKE!

CLAIRE (V.O.)

... thing.

THE WHOLE FAMILY CHOKING AND GAGGING! THE CAVE, THICK WITH SMOKE!

DAD

We need to go! Now!

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

THICK SMOKE BILLOWS out of the cave.

We see the ARMY waiting on a hill nearby.

We come to focusing on TWO SOLDIERS.

SOLDIER 1

Uh ... captain, I think we overdid it a little.

(MORE)

SOLDIER 1 (CONT'D)

How are we gonna be able to see them when they come out of the cave?

SOLDIER 2

Hopefully that wont matter, hopefully ... they die in there.

We go back to focusing on the cave entrance, and we see FOUR THICKER BILLOWS come gusting out all at once, and the SILHOUETTES of THE FAMILY as they run out of the cave through the thick smog.

They run in the opposite direction of the hill the army is on.

Now, back with the army, they see the silhouettes of the family from afar through the smog just barely.

SOLDIER 1

(pointing)

Hey! There they go!

EXT. THE FOREST - NIGHT

The forest is VERY MISTY, so once again we can't see the family beyond silhouettes and shadows.

There is also very thick vegetation.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

How long does the running, the chasing, the hide and seek go on for?

The family runs through the thick misty forest together, still choking and gagging from smoke inhalation and also from running.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

Perhaps this is all a part of the grand design, to run, to hide, to chase, to seek.

The forest is hilly and full of thick, sticking out roots, hard for the family to see as they run, causing them to stumble through the woods.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

To be able to point two fingers in two different directions and say, "well here's one thing, and here's another." We see them helping each other along and now we get to notice they are all in cloaks with the hoods up.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

I guess it's like god is a child, playing with his collectible monster card collection.

The family hides together underneath a hill with a canopy of large thick branchy roots sticking out from a tree on the hill above.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

He sets up different sets of rules for his different games, and he has fun grouping things into categories and designing point systems and keeping scores. Ya know, stuff like that.

The family huddles together under the branchy root canopy, breathing heavy and choking a little still. We still cannot see their faces.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

What I have trouble grasping, is all this from the perspective of me, as an entity personal and distinguished to myself. If my family is the world, how can the world turn on my family?

EXT. THE FOREST - NIGHT

THE ARMY CHARGES THROUGH THE FOREST!

CLAIRE (V.O.)

"Checkmate!" He says to himself when he finds himself hiding behind a tree or in a cave somewhere!

The army has no problem traversing the thick forest on horseback, shouting and waving their swords and torches around.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

It's just a system of pattern, that's the one, understandable, certainly agreeable fact. My family's forefathers were fallen angels, the fathers of the Nephalim, the abominable giants who birthed our wretched race.

EXT. THE FOREST - NIGHT

Back under the branchy root canopy, the family trembles, huddles together as they hear the army shouting in the distance, the shouting growing closer rapidly and now we hear the horses too and the men's voices clearly

SOLDIER 2 (V.O.)

Over there!

and

THE ARMY SURROUNDS THE FAMILY!

CLAIRE (V.O.)

But I don't think people who exist in the future should have to pay for the sins of their parents ...

SOLDIER 2 (face=disgusted)
Reveal yourselves, trolls!

We see the family, they're TROLLS! They're HIDEOUS TROLLS! Leathery skin and big thick lips, fat lumpy noses and deep sunken in eye sockets. Long, pointy ears. Hunch backs. Crooked teeth.

The army stares at the family with disgust.

DAD

Please ...

MOM

Have mercy on my children, they are only children!

CLAIRE (V.O.)

... I think ...

SOLDIER 2

They are not god's children!

CLAIRE

Yes we are!

CLAIRE (V.O.)

... I think we should all ...

The soldiers roar in disgust.

SOLDIER 2

No you are not! You are abominations! Monsters!

CLAIRE (V.O.) ... always ...

The army cheers for their captain. The TROLLS tremble and sob holding each other tight, backs up against the hill under the branchy tree canopy.

SOLDIER 2 You die on this day!

CLAIRE (V.O.)
... get to start over ...

EXT. ABANDONED VILLAGE - NIGHT

The village has finished burning.

We come to seeing a pile of ashes,

we pan closer and closer into it slowly,

CLAIRE (V.O.)

... anew.

AND WE SEE A SMALL SPROUT OF VEGETATION, LIFE.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.