

Echoes From the Somber Wood

Written By

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A compositional, abstract, melancholic short.

Fourth Draft.

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FADE IN:

EXT. WILDERNESS-DUSK

Shots of a northwestern wilderness are shown through out the duration of a slow time lapsing montage that shows the light of the sun slowly fading from the area.

Night then descends.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARK SUBURBAN APARTMENT-NIGHT.

We pan slowly through the empty abode. We see nothing but the dark silhouettes of the furniture inhabiting the room.

Stops on a bathroom door on the far left of the same room.

It is shut.

Cross fades into the interior of the bathroom.

The bath water is running. No one is there.

A flickering candle stood on a plate by the sink.

It barely lit the room. The shower curtain was open as the water poured down. The ghostly shell of a girl fades into the shot, just outside the bathtub.

She put her head underneath the faucet, wetting her hair.

After cutting to a closer shot of her face, we notice her deep in thought about something.

A dark purple aura enveloped the room. The candle continued to flicker. She then stopped and just stood there, staring into space in a melancholic manner.

Something perplexed her. Cuts to another side shot from the far right side of the bathroom.

We see her step up to the towel rack. Even though her hair was dripping wet, she did not grab the towel that hung in front of her to dry herself with.

We cut back over to her perspective. She instead just took her hand and caressed the material of the towel. She then placed her other hand on the wall she was facing and slid it up and down, feeling the texture of the wall. Her face became filled with distraught.

She started to uncontrollably weep and kneeled down on the

floor. Cutting back to the right side of the bathroom, we see her fade from her current position and disappear.

After which, the candle burns out in slow-motion.

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS-EARLY DAWN.

The shot cross-dissolves to ripples in a pond, reflecting the moon of the near ending night. Then cross-fades to a slow pan of an area, somewhere in the pine forest during the wee hours of the early morning.

Cross fades to a landscape shot of the entire dead, wintery region. Then Cross-fades to the entrance of a mountain trail.

The camera pans up the trail as we gaze upon the trees that stood to the left of it.

Cross-Dissolves to a long shot from a side angle. We see a man out in the backcountry, hiking up the unmaintained trail of the mountain.

His back is to us.

Cuts to a position ahead of him up the trail. We look down on the man going at his own pace as he slowly continues to ascend the mountain.

Cuts down to a closer shot of his face, focused on moving one foot forward after the other. He was a young, thin, bearded man with shoulder length hair.

We cut back behind him as he continues up the unmaintained trail.

SLOWLY FADES TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

EXT. MONOTONE, OVERCAST, WILDERNESS-UNKNOWN

We cut to a shot of the same area with solid, high, Mono-tone grey clouds, shrouding the same wilderness.

We are also looking at powerlines from a side view of a gravel pathway. From the perspective of that shot, we see a hooded figure walking up the road. The gravel road extended over hills and then the camera cuts to a more straight on view of the figure, who was walking cautiously around the corner of a sticker bush that resided at the bottom of one

of the hills.

The figure was a woman. Although, she was too far away for us to make out if she was the same woman as before.

Before she walks up close enough for us to see, she vanished just the same as the other girl did.

Cross-fades to the top of the summit.

Then cuts to a panning motion over a bare area on top of a flat mound of earth. There was trash everywhere.

There was also a burnt spot of charcoaled wood.

Someone had stayed here.

Cross-dissolves to another area in the woods, atop the summit.

The hooded girl fades back into the frame of a long shot, walking through the midst of the trees. The tracking shot follows her.

Shot cuts to a front angle of the woman about 5 paces away.

Her back was to the camera.

She then turned around to face us. It was the same girl from the bathroom.

Her eyes were red and puffy from crying. She continued to wander amongst the forest as if she was desperately looking for something.

Cuts back to a long shot of her walking away from the camera with her back towards us.

Cross-dissolves back to the grey, mono-tone, overcast sky, seen through the tops of the forest trees.

Another cross-dissolve brings us back to the hiker, laying flat on his stomach in the middle of the forest.

He looked dead. He was completely motionless.

A super-imposed shot of the girl fades into the frame, lost and shivering in the forest.

As the super-imposition faded out, the shot then cuts to the man's face.

His eyes weakly opened up. Cuts back to the woman who continued to walk through the forest with tears streaking down her face.

Cuts back to a long shot from behind the Hiker, who was now struggling to get up, supporting his weight with the pine tree beside him, and struggling to pull himself up.

Back to the girl, who walked diagonally toward the camera, looking down. The tracking shot moved backward with her as she continued to move forward.

After following her for a dreary moment, she moved her head up to reveal her mono-tone expression, tears still streaking down her face.

Cuts to her left hand which was suddenly grabbed by another person. She was startled and turned to face the Hiker, who was just staring into her eyes.

She stood there surprised. He wiped her tears with his thumb and then embraced her. She didn't move until he released her, and then she smiled and hugged him back.

They then held each other for the longest time and slowly kneeled on the ground.

The man then suddenly wakes up from a dream. He was sitting next to a blazing fire on the mound of earth we were believed he abandoned. He looked around at his surroundings to realize the girl was a figment of his imagination and he was still out in the middle of woods.

The hiker took a deep breath and sighed. He then looked up into the night sky.

Cross-dissolves to a long shot view of the man's camping sight. The man is getting up, packing his accessories, getting ready to move on. The shot itself then pans up into the darkness of the very same sky.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.

