

Text me when you get home

by

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Based on the two-sentence horror-story:
"They say a shiver down your spine means that someone is
walking over your future burial site. As my husband walks
around outside gardening, the shivers won't stop."

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. A DARK, FOGGY FOREST - EVENING

A pair of outdoor/working boots is walking over damp, dug-up soil. A shovel pushes into the ground and digs up more dirt, throwing it onto a pile next to the hole, where there's already a bunch of dirt. We don't see who is holding the shovel or wearing the boots. What we can see, however, is a pair of gardening gloves, that puts up the shovel, rams it into the ground (vertically) and leans on top of it. The body language of the person tells us: they're satisfied with the hole they just dug.

2 INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING.

MARIE, who lives in a small, cottage-like house with a pretty little garden and flower bed, sits on the couch in her living room. Her best friend LILLY sits next to her, both have a glass of red wine in their hands, the bottle on the couch-table. The TV is on.

Marie takes the bottle from the table, to fill up her glass.

MARIE

I was thinking of getting a new one.

LILLY

A new table?

MARIE

Yeah, I think I saw one last week that I really liked.

LILLY

What's wrong with this one?

MARIE

Well, it's gotten to the point where I can't get the wine stains off anymore.

LILLY

Maybe you should invest in coasters first, before buying a whole new table.

Lilly holds up her glass to Marie, who pours wine into it.

LILLY

Yo, could you turn up the heating a little?

Marie stops pouring and looks confused.

MARIE

Are you cold? Really? I'm sweating.
It's so warm outside.

LILLY

I don't know, I just got goosebumps
and, like, shivers down my spine.

MARIE

Someone once told me that when you get
the chills, it means that someone's
walking over your future grave.

LILLY

(sarcastically)
Ha ha, very funny.

MARIE

(laughs)
Sorry.

Marie puts down the bottle, gets up and brings a blanket for Lilly. Lilly gratefully accepts.

MARIE

Maybe you're sick.

LILLY

I hope not, but, who knows? Maybe I
did catch a cold. Today is the first
nice day in weeks.

3 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

It's raining, we hear thunder. The rain pours down evenly into the hole in the ground. We see the boots from the first scene slowly walk away from the hole, dragging the shovel along behind them. The metal is scraping on the ground, sinking into the damp soil. The boots leave the frame. We stay on the rain pouring into the hole for another moment.

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Later that night: the sun has set, it's darker than before. The wine bottle is still on the couch table, only now it's empty. A hand is reaching forward to grab the empty bottle. It's Marie, who gets up to put the bottle away. Lilly is sitting on the couch, tired and clearly trying hard to keep

her eyes open.

MARIE

Are you feeling better?

Lilly seems to be startled by that question, opening her eyes in surprise.

LILLY

Huh? Oh, yeah, uhm.

She needs a moment to arrive back in reality.

LILLY

Yeah, everything's fine. I think the wine warmed me up.

MARIE

You know, you can sleep here if you feel too tired to walk home.

LILLY

Oh, no, it's fine, really. I can -

Lilly is interrupted by a scratching and rustling at the door. Marie looks up, alarmed. The door knob is slowly turning and the door slowly opens up. Wet, dripping hair slips through the crack.

Then, the door opens completely and we see the upper body/torso of a young man in a long rain cape/poncho, who pushes through the door. Marie and Lilly stop holding their breaths and exhale in relief.

MARIE

Oh, good, it's just you.

Marie walks over to the man and kisses him. It's her boyfriend, Kevin. His long rain poncho covers almost his entire body, except for his face and hair.

KEVIN

Who else would it be? Did you expect someone? Hi, Lilly.

LILLY

Hi, Kevin.

Kevin sneaks past the couch over to the wardrobe.

MARIE
Any news from the guys?

KEVIN
Nah, just the usual.

LILLY
Did you gossip about your girlfriends?

KEVIN
(sarcastically)
Whaaat? We would never do that.

Instead of taking off the rain poncho and hanging it on the wardrobe, Kevin keeps it on and walks straight into the hallway.

MARIE
Wanna watch a movie with us?

KEVIN
I'd rather take a shower first.

LILLY
You're lucky you wore that rain cape.

KEVIN
Yeah, they gave it to me in the bar. I still got pretty wet, though.

Kevin vanishes into the bathroom while Lilly tediously gets up and stretches.

LILLY
Alright then, I think I'm gonna go home, I'm really tired. You two can watch a movie later.

Lilly puts on her shoes and jacket, while Marie is waiting in the door. They hug each other goodbye.

MARIE
Text me when you get home.

LILLY
(into Marie's shoulder)
Will do.

She leaves and closes the door behind her, Marie sits back down on the couch and watches TV.

Kevin returns to the living room, wet and with a towel around his hips.

MARIE
That was quick.

KEVIN
Where's Lilly?

MARIE
She just left.

Marie yawns. The wine has made her pretty tired - and pretty drunk.

KEVIN
Why don't you pick a movie and I'll
join you once I'm done with this?

He points down to the towel. Marie nods and grabs the remote, choosing some movie on Netflix (a horror movie maybe?). While the TV lights up her face, her eyes slowly start to close and she starts falling asleep.

5 EXT. EMPTY STREET - NIGHT

Lilly is walking down a dimly-lit street, her only light source being the (pretty dark) street lights and the phone in her hand. She sways from left to right, to the edge of the sidewalk and back to the middle, trips sometimes - clearly drunk. She's wearing headphones, listening to music that's so loud, that you can even hear it from the outside (of her headphones). The street is empty and quiet, she walks alone.

In the distance, barely even visible, we start to see the silhouette of a person, a shadow walking far behind Lilly.

Lilly is humming along with the music and doesn't realize that the shadow is getting closer. We can't make out a face. Lilly is writing a message to Marie:

"Almost home"

Suddenly, the person pulls up behind her and presses a cloth on her face - soaked with chloroform. Lilly fights and struggles, wildly flailing her limbs, but the other person is stronger. Lilly's limbs collapse and she faints.

6 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marie is asleep on the couch, the TV still running and

lighting up her face. Her phone display lights up, but the phone is on silent. It's Lilly's "almost home" message. Marie doesn't wake up.

There are now gardening infomercials on TV.

7 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Lilly is lying in the hole in the ground from the first scene, her mouth taped and her arms and legs tied up. The pouring rain has filled up the hole with water, soaking Lilly's clothes. Lilly is regaining consciousness.

We can see her face, eyes, as she wakes up and sees her perpetrator. Her eyes widen with horror, she tries to scream through the tape. The perpetrator isn't getting distracted by this at all and starts filling up the hole with dirt again. Lilly tries to sit up, tries to fight back, wiggling around in the hole. The perpetrator sighs and squats down next to the hole, with his back to the camera. We still can't see his face, but recognize the gardening gloves he's wearing (which we also saw in the infomercial in the scene before).

His body is cut-off at the neck, so that we can't see his head/face.

He leans forward, looking into the hole, at his victim. Then, he pulls out a knife and we can see him stabbing down into the hole, muffled screams coming from inside the hole.

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Marie is still on the couch, the sun is rising. Kevin sits next to her on the couch, wearing pajamas, slowly caressing her face.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP OF KEVIN'S BLURRY FACE, WHICH SLOWLY STARTS GETTING CLEARER AS MARIE WAKES UP.

MARIE
(half-asleep)
What happened?

KEVIN
You fell asleep on the couch.

Marie rubs her eyes. Everything looks clear and normal again.

MARIE
The whole night?

Kevin nods.

MARIE

Why didn't you wake me up?

KEVIN

You looked so cute and peaceful, I didn't wanna bother you.

The TV is turned off. Marie takes a look at her phone, reads Lilly's last message from the night before. She looks at the time on her phone. It's still pretty early. Kevin holds out a hand.

KEVIN

Come on. Let's go to bed.

Marie gets up and follows Kevin into the bedroom.

9 EXT. FOREST - MORNING

The sun is rising over Lilly's covered-up grave, soaking the soil and the flowers and weeds surrounding it in sunlight. It almost looks peaceful...happy.

10 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A few days later.

Marie drinks tea, stands at the window and looks outside at her garden. She's wearing a thin cardigan, half pulled-down over her arms, not covering her shoulders. She's holding her phone, texting Lilly. We can see her screen and see that a few days have passed. Marie has texted Lilly a few times already. No answer:

05.15.2020, 02:43:

"What are you doing today?"

05.15.2020, 06:05:

"Hello?"

YESTERDAY

"are you there?"

TODAY

"pick up your phone already!!"

- Lilly last online 05.14.2020, 11:19

We look outside the window, together with Marie, looking at her garden. Kevin is carrying a bucket outside, puts it down next to the flower bed and kneels down. He looks up, sees Marie and smiles, waves at her. She waves back.

Marie sits down on the couch, tea in hand. She puts her phone on the table, stares at the chat.

11 EXT. MARIE'S GARDEN - DAY

CLOSE-UP OF KEVIN IN THE GARDEN, PLANTING FLOWERS. WE SEE THE GLOVES HE'S WEARING - THE SAME ONES WE'VE SEEN SO MANY TIMES BEFORE...ON THE PERPETRATOR. HE CAREFULLY PLANTS A SEEDLING, USING HIS HANDS TO COVER IT WITH SOIL.

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Marie suddenly gets the chills. She shivers, we see the goosebumps on her arms. She rubs her arms and pulls the cardigan up over her shoulders, as if she's freezing. She gets up and closes the open window.

THE CAMERA STAYS ON THE CLOSED WINDOW FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS, WITH A VIEW TOWARDS THE GARDEN.

FADE OUT.