

After Dark

By

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OVER BLACK

An air raid siren blares.

A slow text crawl begins and a voice reads out:

T.V. ANNOUNCER

This is not a test. This is your daily curfew announcement. For the next 10 hours refrain from going outside for any reason. Lock your doors and windows, Close curtains and lower blinds and under no circumstances attempt to look at the moon. Another announcement will be sent out when it is safe to resume normal operations... God bless america. May darkness keep you safe.

INT. APT. - EVENING

A deadbolt clicks, windows latched and curtains are drawn.

Pull out to reveal LUCAS a young man (30) on the phone.

LUCAS

I just don't get why we have to go through this every night. It doesn't seem right. The moon is fine for thousands of years and suddenly now it's a problem.

PHONE VOICE

You've seen the same news as everyone else. It's not safe out there.

LUCAS

Yeah. That's what the news says, but how do we know? Have you taken a peak outside after sunset in the last six months?

PHONE VOICE

Of course not. I'd like to keep my brain intact thank you.

LUCAS

But what if we're being lied to?

PHONE VOICE

Look I'm not taking any chances and

you shouldn't either. I got to go
there's still a little bit of light
seeping in. May darkness keep you
safe.

LUCAS

Right.

LUCAS hangs up the phone.

INT. APT. - LATER

LUCAS sits on the couch, channel surfing, restless.

He taps his foot again and again. He tosses the controller.

LUCAS gets off the couch and walks slowly creeping toward the window. He grabs the cord for the window blinds and twirls it in his hand. He pulls the cord hard with his hand and the blinds open. Light spills in the room.

He shuts his eyes and drops to the floor.

The T.V. clicks on automatically

T.V. ANNOUNCER

This is your emergency broadcast
system reminding you to keep your
homes as dark as possible and avoid
moonlight at all costs. This is for
your own safety. May darkness protect
you.

There is a loud beep and the broadcast ends.

LUCAS sits against the wall by the window panting hard.

He stands again and sticks his fingers between the blinds
cracking them slightly.

He takes a breath and puts one eye up to the crack in the
blinds.

His eye moves back and forth scanning the landscape.

LUCAS

Nothing. They've kept us locked up in
here every night for months telling us
something was out there and it's
nothing.

LUCAS grabs his phone and dials a number.

With a click the line connects.

PHONE VOICE

Do you know how late it is man

LUCAS

I did it. I looked.

PHONE VOICE

You did what!

LUCAS

I couldn't take it anymore. I had to know.

PHONE VOICE

What did you see?

LUCAS

Nothing.

PHONE VOICE

Like you didn't see them or?

LUCAS

No, I'm trying to tell you. There is no them. I don't think any of this is true. The brainwashing, the moon, darkness protect us. It's all crap!

PHONE VOICE

Lucas. What good would that do?

LUCAS

I don't fucking know, but I'm going to find out. I'm going outside.

LUCAS pulls his phone away from his face and the distant voice of his friend yelling his name can be heard as he hangs up the call.

LUCAS walks to the door, unlocks the deadbolt.

Sirens blast outside. The same voice from the TV can be heard booming all around the area.

T.V. ANNOUNCER

We remind all citizens to stay indoors. For the duration of curfew.

Those that fail to comply put
themselves at great personal risk.

LUCAS

Shut up.

LUCAS turns the knob and opens the door a blinding flash of
light can be seen.

LUCAS stands still, unable to move, a lifeless husk, with
bright white eyes.

FADE OUT:

CREDITS