

FACE THE FEAR

Written by

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INT. SAREY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The heavily decorated apartment is quiet and dark. We hear giggles and laughs outside the door. The front door handle jiggles. Stepping in through the front door is SAREY COOK, 22, tall, skinny and female, in a short club dress of vibrant color. She's laughing while on her cell phone.

SAREY

Okay, I'm home! Okay, bye!

She tucks her phone in her pocket and reaches for the light switch by the door. A creaking sound stops her from flipping the switch. She turns abruptly and looks into the depths of the room.

SAREY (CONT'D)

Who's there?

She squints her eyes. The shape of a tall, figure stands before the window on the opposite side of the room. Antennae seem to extend outward from the creature. Sarey's eyes fly open wide. She turns to turn on the light.

The creature moves quickly across the room and attacks.

Sarey screams.

INT. DOCTOR BAKER'S OFFICE - DAY

Outside light streams into the accolade filled office. DR. MICHELLE BAKER, 45, a well groomed woman in business casual dress, sits at a desk. Across from her is SAREY, who is bunched up and trembling with a hood over her head.

DR. BAKER

Sarey? You have to choose.

Before Sarey, there are a set of cards on the desk. The cards are not legible, but look like symbols or hieroglyphics.

Doctor Baker's eyes fix on Sarey's condition.

Sarey trembles and just looks over the cards. Her eyes shift and look up at Doctor Baker.

INT. DOCTOR BAKER'S OFFICE - LATER

Dr. Baker types on her computer.

COMPUTER SCREEN

We see words like 'Acute', 'non-responsive', and 'fear'.

Baker clicks on the patient title field and erases 'Patient# 213'. She types in 'Sarey Cook'.

INT. WARD ROOM - DAY

White walls surround some light furnishings. Sarey is guided into the room by Doctor Baker and two NURSES. Light streams in through a window, where the bed sits. The nurses gently lay Sarey down on the bed and pull the covers over her. She says nothing. She just closes her eyes.

The nurses leave, but Dr. Baker stays behind.

DR. BAKER

Sarey?

Sarey looks at the Doctor, but doesn't say a word.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)

I promise you, I'll do everything I can to help you, but tomorrow, I hope you will find some way to talk to me, and maybe even trust me.

Sarey still says nothing.

Dr. Baker leaves the room.

INT. INSTITUTE HALLWAY - DAY

Dr. Baker walks through the empty corridor, but stops to take a drink from the fountain.

After a few gulps, she lifts her head up and looks at the running water. She's fixated on it.

INT. WARD ROOM - NIGHT

Sarey wakes up shaking. She is underneath the bed, crouched into a ball, and drenched in sweat. She clings tight to a blanket that is firmly wrapped around her. She breathes deep and heavy in the dark.

Her head turns up. She sees moonlight beaming in through the window. She sticks her hand out of the window and reaches out. Moonlight shines on her hand.

INT. DOCTOR BAKER'S OFFICE - DAY

Baker and Sarey are back at the desk with the cards on top.

DR. BAKER

Sarey, you have to make a choice.  
Just reach out and choose.

Sarey has the blanket wrapped around her.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)

How are you feeling, Sarey?

Sarey pulls the blanket tighter to her. Dr. Baker winces.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)

I've asked them to turn up the air  
in here, but they always seem to  
ignore me.

Sarey looks up at her.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)

I'd think after seven years they'd  
do me a favor and not freeze my  
patients.

Sarey's eyes shift to the cards on the table.

She reaches out. Her hand hovers over the cards. She looks  
back up at Doctor Baker.

SAREY

Do you believe me?

Sarey picks up one of the cards with oval patterns on it. She  
hands it to Baker.

DR. BAKER

That's good, Sarey.  
(smiling)  
That's very good.

SAREY

Do you believe me?

DR. BAKER

Sarey, I'm going to tell you  
something that you may not believe.  
Most people believe that people in  
my profession only tell you what  
you want to hear.

Dr. Baker holds up the card and shows Sarey the ovals.  
Sarey's eyes fix on the card. A tear falls from her eye.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)  
I believe you.

Sarey reaches out and picks up another card. She holds it up.  
It's a bunch of wavy lines.

SAREY  
What if it's all in my head?

Sarey holds out her other hand. Dr. Baker hands over the card  
she has to Sarey.

DR. BAKER  
Why would you believe that, Sarey?

Sarey holds the cards up together.

SAREY  
Because it can't be real.

Dr. Baker stares at the ovals and wavy lines.

DR. BAKER  
It's real to you, Sarey, and that's  
important. It's the only thing that  
really matters, isn't it?

Sarey and Dr. Baker stare at each other for a moment.

INT. WARD ROOM - NIGHT

Dr. Baker peers in through the door.

Sarey sleeps sound on the bed with the blanket at her waist.  
Moonlight shines over her body.

Dr. Baker lets out a little smile and steps away from the  
door.

Sarey opens her eyes and looks toward the door. No one is  
there. She looks out through the window and sighs.

She closes her eyes and goes back to sleep.

EXT. THE INSTITUTE - DAY

A simple looking building sits outside the city. Out of the side discharge doors, Sarey, in casual clothing, walks out of the building with Dr. Baker.

I/E. BAKER'S CAR

Baker drives. Sarey leans against the passenger window and looks out as they pass the buildings.

DR. BAKER  
Sarey, would you like some music?

Dr. Baker turns on the radio. A crazy hip-hop tune plays through the speakers.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)  
Sorry.

Sarey frowns at Dr. Baker.

SAREY  
You like this?

DR. BAKER  
Of course. I love the beat. You know, it's actually pretty therapeutic.

Sarey chuckles.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)  
What? You don't think a therapist knows good music when she hears it?

SAREY  
No, I just...

DR. BAKER  
Expected Gilbert and Sullivan?  
Beethoven, maybe?

Sarey cracks a smile.

Dr. Baker looks over at the smile and almost looks shocked at the sight of it.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)  
Sarey?

SAREY  
I expected Jazz or Acoustic.

DR. BAKER  
Kenny G? What are you psychic?

Dr. Baker reaches into her center console and pulls out a large collection of jazz, hip-hop, and symphonic CD's.

SAREY  
Wow. You listen to... Everything.

DR. BAKER  
Well, my daughter listened...

She stops dead in her tracks.

DR. BAKER (CONT'D)  
She liked all kinds of music.

Sarey stares at Dr. Baker, who turns her complete attention back to the road.

Sarey stares at the CD's in her hand. She smile fades. Her eyes fall on a picture of Dr. Baker.

#### PICTURE

It's Dr. Baker, significantly younger, hugging tight to MAN, maybe 30, and a YOUNG GIRL, 8, curly hair, and all smiles.

SAREY  
I'm sorry.

DR. BAKER  
It's okay, Sarey.

Dr. Baker just keeps on driving. Sarey stares at the radio as the song continues to play.

#### INT. SAREY'S APARTMENT - DAY

The sparsely decorated apartment is open concept. Sarey sits on the couch with Dr. Baker.

DR. BAKER  
If you need more time to acclimate,  
I can sign for an additional week  
or two. It's up to you.

SAREY  
No. You know, I think...

Sarey looks around her apartment.

SAREY (CONT'D)  
I think I'll be fine. I think  
getting back to work is just what I  
need to acclimate.

She smiles.

Dr. Baker smiles and stands.

DR. BAKER  
Well, then. You have some work to  
do, don't you?

Sarey stands. Dr. Baker holds out her hand. Sarey reaches out  
and shakes her hand, but then hugs Dr. Baker instead.

SAREY  
Thank you.

Dr. Baker holds back a smile as they hug.

Sarey releases the hug and she steps back.

DR. BAKER  
Thank YOU, Sarey.

Dr. Baker steps toward the door.

SAREY  
Doctor? Can I ask you something?

DR. BAKER  
Of course.

SAREY  
How did you... Keep going?

A BEAT.

Dr. Baker stays silent in thought. She smirks in amusement.

DR. BAKER  
I chose to.

Sarey nods. Baker leaves. Sarey looks all around her.

INT. THE OFFICE - DAY

Sarey looks over some correspondence on her computer. CARLA  
PETERS, 24, petite and curly, walks over and sits at the side  
of the desk. She looks concerned as ever.



CARLA

Hey.

Sarey stops reading and finally looks at Carla. Sarey is without makeup or a smile.

SAREY

What's up?

CARLA

You okay?

SAREY

Fantastic. Maybe I should've signed up for that extra week after all.

CARLA

Extra week?

SAREY

The boss said he wanted to put me back in the game, he wasn't kidding. This is letter 50, and it's only...

Sarey looks at her watch. She frowns.

SAREY (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Really?

CARLA

Yeah, you skipped break time, girly. Are you gonna do lunch, or what?

SAREY

Ugghhh! I could eat a horse right now.

CARLA

In that case, Burgers Galore is open. I hear if you listen close enough at one of their restaurants, you can hear galloping.

Sarey smirks, lightly amused.

SAREY

Ha ha. Funny.

A BEAT.

Sarey rubs her forehead.

SAREY (CONT'D)

Listen. Um. Thanks for not saying anything about---

Carla rests her hand on Sarey's.

CARLA

(sarcastic)

---I have no idea what you're talking about.

Sarey and Carla smile together.

SAREY

You're the best.

CARLA

I'll leave you to it, but listen. A bunch of us are going out tonight. There will be a lot of people around.

SAREY

Ooh. I don't know if I'll make it out tonight. I mean, I just got back and.

Sarey pints at her busy screen.

CARLA

It's your choice, but don't make me come drag you by your hooker heels.

Carla gets up and walks away. Sarey smiles, watching her leave. The smile fades away just as fast.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

The bus arrives for Sarey and a bunch of others. The bus door opens and they are about to get on board. Sarey looks off to the side. There's a shadow in the distance. Her eyes are stuck on it. She can't stop staring. It's a humanoid figure.

BUSDRIVER

Come on lady! You coming or what?

Sarey looks into the bus, then back to the side. The shadow is gone. She gets on the bus.

INT. SAREY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sarey hurries into the apartment. She hits the light by the door and looks all around. She is alone.

She picks the phone from her pocket and speed dials someone. The phone rings and rings.

INTERCUT

INT. DR. BAKER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dr. Baker is asleep on the couch. A glass of water sits on the end table next to her phone.

The TV is on, playing a home video of herself with the Young Girl from the picture in her car.

The phone rings and wakes her up abruptly. She reaches for her phone and checks the caller ID.

She grabs the remote and pauses the video.

She answers the phone.

DR. BAKER

Sarey?

SAREY

Doctor Baker? I'm sorry to call you like this.

DR. BAKER

Is everything alright?

SAREY

Yes. I just wanted to tell you something. It's something important.

DR. BAKER

Of course. What is it?

Sarey thinks about it for a moment.

INT. SAREY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Sarey cooks something that sizzles. She chops onions with a large knife. She suddenly stops and raises the knife up before her. She looks at herself in the shiny steel.

EXT. THE CLUB - NIGHT

There's a long line of well dressed MEN and WOMEN going inside. Carla is with a bunch of FRIENDS. They laugh and smile. Carla looks out across the street and spots Sarey, who is dressed for the occasion. Sarey crosses the street and steps up to Carla.

SAREY  
I'm not too late?

Carla smiles at her.

INT. THE CLUB - NIGHT

Loud music, dancing, drinking, and flirting everywhere. Carla comes out of the crowd and grabs Sarey from the bar.

CARLA  
Come and dance, Sarey!

Sarey smiles and stays put. Carla sits with her.

CARLA (CONT'D)  
You okay?

SAREY  
I don't know if I'm ready to--

CARLA  
--You're never going to be ready.  
You can't wait for that.

Carla gets up and holds her hand out to Sarey. Sarey takes a breath and takes Carla's hand. They disappear into the crowd.

Carla shakes Sarey's shoulders. Sarey works up a smile. Guys and girls are dancing everywhere around her. She closes her eyes and takes deep breaths.

SAREY  
I choose...

Her eyes open. She looks Carla in the eyes. Then, she turns to the nearest man in the crowd and starts dancing with him. Carla smiles and keeps dancing and watching Sarey.

EXT. THE CLUB - NIGHT

Sarey and Carla spill out of the club laughing as hard as ever. They are obviously tipsy.

CARLA  
I think that guy is in love! Did he  
get your number?

SAREY  
He got more than that.

Sarey is about to cross the road. She looks back at Carla.

CARLA  
You okay?

SAREY  
Yeah. I haven't been out since...

Sarey thinks about it for a minute.

SAREY (CONT'D)  
I just wanted to say thank you.

Carla smiles and nods. They hug.

Sarey withdraws and walks across the street. Carla watches  
her walk away.

INT. THE BUS - NIGHT

Sarey sits and looks out the window. She takes a deep breath.  
The bus stops. People get on and off. Sarey watches the  
people and smiles at them. She looks back out the window. Her  
eyes widen. She's startled by the site of a large shadow. Her  
breath hits the window and fogs it. It's the shadow from her  
apartment. It stands across the street. She looks away to a  
TEENAGER in the adjacent seat, who plays games on his phone.  
She looks back out the window. The shadow is still there. The  
bus starts to move, but the shadow stays put.

SERIES OF SHOTS

---Dr. Baker holds up the card with all the ovals on it.

---Sarey holds up the card with the wavy lines.

---Sarey holds both cards together.

SAREY (V.O.)  
I just wanted to tell you  
something. It's something  
important.

DR. BAKER (V.O.)  
Of course. What is it?

SFX - The cards blend together to form one large oval with wavy lines extending from it. It's the shape of the creature that attacked Sarey.

EXT. THE APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

The bus drives away. Sarey stands across the street from her apartment building, and looks up at the twelfth floor windows. It's dark.

SAREY (V.O.)  
You once told me that if something  
was real to me, that that's what  
mattered.

Her face is emotionless.

SAREY (V.O.)  
Whatever tried to take my life away  
that night is real. I don't know  
how or why, but I believe it's real  
now.

She starts walking across the street, towards her apartment.

SAREY (V.O.)  
But you also told me something that  
I know is even more real.

Her steps become more and more deliberate.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

The elevator beeps. The doors open. Out comes Sarey.

SAREY (V.O.)  
You told me that I had to make a  
choice.

Sarey walks down the hallway.

SAREY (V.O.)  
I called to tell you that I'm  
making that choice right now. I  
choose to face it.

Her steps are deliberate along the laminate floor.

SAREY (V.O.)

Because I know no matter what happens, I can still take charge of my reality. You chose to do that a long time ago. I choose this now.

She arrives at apartment 1213. She clutches her purse. Her eyes close again. She takes some deep breaths.

She lifts the apartment key to the door lock and slowly slides it in. She twists the key and unlocks the door.

She twists the door lock, opens the door, and steps into the darkened apartment.

INT. SAREY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Sarey closes the door with her back to the room. She locks the door and slides the bolt. Heavy breaths. She clutches her purse even tighter.

There's a creaking sound across the room.

Behind her, standing tall at the window, the shadowy figure waits. The antennas extend from its body. It's a large, horrific creature. The antennas extend toward Sarey. The sounds of breathing. An alien in the dark.

Sarey's hand reaches for the light switch.

SAREY

You can't have it. You can't have my life.

Her fingers touch the switch. The creature squeals loudly and swings across the room at Sarey.

Sarey pulls the kitchen knife from her purse and turns around. The creature attacks her and slams her against the door. The antennas are everywhere, but suddenly the creature stops. Below, Sarey has the knife buried in the gut of the creature.

It falls back to the ground. Dark liquid drips from the knife in Sarey's hands. She breaths heavy and looks down at the creature on the floor.

With rage, she raises the knife in the air drops to her knees. She plunges the knife into the creature once, twice, three times, and again, and again as she screams.

The creature squeals in terrifying pain. Rage in her eyes.  
She stabs again and again...

FADE OUT.