

STATIC

by

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If you can't change it, change the way you think about it

FADE IN

EXT. DESERT - MORNING

A topless, slender man with bandages on his face wakes up in the desert. There is a crow sitting on his face and picking what's left of his eye. He screams in pain and it scares the crow away. He adjusts the bandages to cover his eye and stands up.

Only a spark in his eye is visible through the bandages. On the horizon, he sees a wind turbine and a house by it. In half a mile to the house

BOOM

- a shot goes past his head. He falls to the ground and tries to look and runs forward. Another

SHOT

And it knocks him down.

He rolls over and sees an old man with a shotgun in his hand standing over him.

UNCLE

Come on, it's just salt, stand up.

He stands up. Coughs.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

What's your business here?

JOHN

Always shoot before asking?

UNCLE

Southern hospitality, man. Whatcha doin' here?

JOHN

I...

(beat)

I don't remember

UNCLE
Whatcha name?

JOHN
Don't remember.

UNCLE
Ain't a name I never heard of.

JOHN
Call me...John.

UNCLE
Uncle.

Uncle helps him to stand up and they walk towards the house.

EXT. DESERT, ON THE WAY TO THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Uncle studies John and smirks.

UNCLE
Sunburned?

JOHN
I don't remember.

UNCLE
Good for you, I guess. Some things
are better be forgotten.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME MORNING

They sit in the kitchen and Uncle pours him a glass of water.
John drinks it in one go.

UNCLE
If you did something bad - or plan
to do some shit, you'll not be the
first one I'll bury in the
backyard.

JOHN
I'm a farmer. If you allow me to
stay here I'll do anything.

UNCLE
O, I don't think you'll get to farm
anything in the next thousand miles
in any direction. Just drink and
fuck off.

JOHN
I can repair things. Anything.

Footsteps on the second floor distract John.

JOHN (CONT'D)
You live alone here?

UNCLE
With my wife Ruth.

Uncle picks up his shotgun.

UNCLE (CONT'D)
Come with me.

EXT. BEHIND UNCLE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

In a shack behind the house stands a water pump. It's broken.

UNCLE
You'd have to walk for a week to see another one. This little bitch broke something like a month ago, though it feels like a fucking year in this godforsaken place. Can you fix it?

John adjusts his bandages and inspects the machine. Seems like it was broken on purpose.

JOHN
If you've got the instruments.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEHIND UNCLE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

John, all covered in sweat, with a glass of water in his hand watches Uncle starting the pump. It HUMS, COUGHS, but starts and pumps a thin stream of water on the ground. Uncle looks pissed as hell.

UNCLE
Stay for the dinner. Maybe we'll have some real food tonight. You can fuck off in the morning or stay and help with the house. Up to you. If you stay you can sleep on the first floor - don't wanna see you around the second one cause we sleep there and I don't want any motherfucker lurking around me sleeping. All right?

JOHN
All right.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

A tan dark haired girl boils a small piece of meat on the stove. She is pregnant - 4-5 months.

John and Uncle sit in silence. John studies the woman and he looks disturbed and fascinated at the same time but has to hide his eyes when Uncle turns to him.

JOHN

You didn't introduce us.

UNCLE

That's my wife. This is John. You happy?

JOHN

(to uncle's wife)

What's your name? Aunt?

UNCLE

She can't talk.

JOHN

Why?

UNCLE

She talked too much before.

She serves the table, and when she puts a plate in front of John, she looks at him with desperation and hope before turning away and not looking at him again that evening.

They're slurping the broth in silence.

John stays with them for a couple of weeks and helps to maintain the house, goes hunting for rare vulture or crow to eat. Before sleep he listens to the Uncle puff and moan when he fucks his Ruth. With each day, more and more often he notices how she watches him work and how she notices when he is looking when Uncle is nowhere close.

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

John risks and takes the bandages off and finds out that his face is in place and absolutely healthy - no scars, burns and his eye is in place. He stops wearing them, but no one else seems to notice the change.

INT. THE KITCHEN - NIGHT

John hears

STRANGE SOUNDS

from the second floor - like a building site combined with backwards foreign speech and looped notes of brass. He is just too curious and disturbed to ignore it and goes upstairs. Uncle's wife sits in a rocking chair by a tape recorder.

She is sitting with her eyes closed. He makes a sound and she notices him.

JOHN

Sorry.

She looks at another chair and he gets it as an invitation.

He sits.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What's this?

She takes a piece of paper, a very short pencil and writes. Reminds me of the past.

JOHN (CONT'D)

O, before the war?

She nods.

I'm his second daughter. - She writes on the piece of paper and tears it to pieces after John read it.

John is DAZZLED.

She takes another paper and writes You need to run.

They hear Uncle run up the stairs, he storms into the bedroom where they were sitting. He HITS his Wife in the FACE with the butt of the rifle.

UNCLE

I fucking told you.

Hits her one more time. Turns to John.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

I FUCKING TOLD YOU

He grabs John by the collar, but he pushes the old man. Uncle points the rifle and shoots John in the face.

CUT TO:

John lies in a grave. Uncle is throwing earth and rocks at him and it hurts the found in his face.

UNCLE (CONT'D)
Better luck saving her next time,
you moron.

EXT. DESERT - MORNING

John wakes up in the desert with bandages on his face and the crow eating away his eye. He jumps up and looks in the distance. A silhouette on the horizon moves to the right, trying to flank him. He adjusts the bandages and makes a run for it.

When he runs into the Uncle both of them don't look surprised. John dodges the shot and gets into the fight with The Uncle.

HIT after another HIT John ends up bludgeoning Uncle's face into a bloody mess mixed with rocks and sand.

He runs towards the house, enters it and sees Uncle's Wife waiting inside with a notebook and a pencil in her hands. John approaches her and she writes:

What happened???

JOHN
I... killed him. And came here to
help you. I remember it.
(almost screams) I remember he last
time and that there were more.

She starts crying and runs upstairs. John follows her. She tries to comfort her but she pushes him jumps over and starts scratching his face, they lose balance and fall from the window on into the shack and hit the head the water pump.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT

John wakes up in the desert with bandages on his head.

FADE OUT