

Mourning Run

By

Luke Terry

Luke Terry
26 Hurst Drive, Waltham Cross
Herts, EN8 8DG
Email:
13381994@student.lincoln.ac.uk
Tel: 07867472053

FADE IN FROM BLACK

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - DAY

ANDREW is sprinting quickly down a grassy, deserted lane. He is in his late teens and looks athletic, furthered by his clothing; a pair of shorts, white t-shirt, and a sporty tracksuit jacket tied around his waist.

His facial expression suggests that he is scared for his life. A quiet, but tense bass guitar builds up in pace under the voice over.

ANDREW (V.O)

Here I am, looking as if I've just seen a ghost, sprinting for my precious life on this lovely morning... I bet you're wondering what I've just witnessed! Let's take this back to earlier this morning..

INT. PROTAGONISTS BEDROOM - DAY

A clock shows that it is 5:30am, while ANDREW is putting on his trainers and zipping up his jacket.

He searches under some paper and dirty laundry to find his iPod.

ANDREW (V.O)

Everything was normal, in line with my routine of getting up nice and early, so I can go for a run with no one about. It usually saves any awkwardness or embarrassment.

ANDREW decides to do some stretches. These look quick and unnecessary, as he is stretching his arms more than his legs.

Before leaving, he turns on his ipod, which begins to play a fast, upbeat song.

EXT. FOREST PATH - DAY

ANDREW is steadily jogging through the green forest, which is void of people. He begins to look tired, and gradually slows down walking towards a tree. He lets out some deep breaths, while looking at his surroundings.

(CONTINUED)

In the forest, a hand is visible from underneath a bush. The character removes his headphones, changing the sound, creating an absence other than gusts of wind and footsteps on the grass as he walks towards the bush.

ANDREW

Hey! Mate, are you alright?

ANDREW is not too worried; smiling after spotting an empty beer can next to the hand. The full body comes into sight; a male teenager with his eyes closed. His smart/casual shirt, jeans, and shoes suggest that he was probably out at a nightclub before collapsing in the forest on his way home.

ANDREW

Bloody freshers can never control
their alcohol.

ANDREW shakes his head with a smile before turning the body over to face upwards. He gives a loud whistle and then continuously nudges him, with no success. The body has a cut arm, however ANDREW is oblivious to this as he is focussing on waking him up.

ANDREW

Oh come on mate, you can't still be
that pissed..

He is still smiling, which shows his naivety in this situation.

He continues to shake him and then slaps his face but harder than expected, giving off a loud noise that echoes, contrasting with the absence of sound. Immediately his facial expression sinks to a distressed look, showing he finally understands. His face pauses.

QUICK FADE

EXT.DARK INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

This dark, dingy room is a contrast against the environment of the forest, and is only lit by a small lamp which is hanging over ANDREW, who has his wrists cuffed together.

He makes quick movements while looking around him, and is also covered in sweat; evidently frightened of the situation.

ANDREW

I honestly swear, I just found him
like that! I don't know how he got
there or anything!

(CONTINUED)

A judges hammer is slammed down onto the sound block, making a very loud and deep noise.

JUDGE
GUILTY!

The judge is only heard, as his voice echoes over the top of a slow, tense string instrument striking a sympathetic chord as ANDREW is shown looking confused and devastated that he is being punished.

QUICK FADE

EXT. FOREST - DAY

ANDREW opens his eyes and shakes his head almost in the style of a cartoon character, signaling that he has been daydreaming. The sad music suddenly halts, returning to the absent soundtrack of the forest, which only has the sound of wind and flutter of birds to break up the complete silence.

He looks around and discovers a nearby trolley turned on its side. He takes this back, then struggles and groans while picking up the body and placing it inside the trolley. He steps back to look at it and disapprovingly shakes his head.

ANDREW
Subtle.

He takes off his jacket placing it on top of the body, and then looks for other items to cover it completely.

He finds some newspaper on the path, along with some ripped plastic shopping bags and an old jumper, which he sees underneath another bush. The shopping cart still looks very suspicious even when covered by the random, dirty items that were found in the forest.

ANDREW
sigh S'pose this will have to do..

He looks at his watch again and is reassured that it is still early. He starts to wheel the trolley down the path, looking around nervously at every different corner.

The trolley is very loud and creaks as it is pushed over the rough gravel path. This sound dominates the scene and contrasts heavily to the silent setting, which only has a bird chirping and a very gentle ominous wind sound. The character looks out of place in the relaxed setting.

(CONTINUED)

ANDREW (V.O)

This is not how I planned my morning to turn out at all. And it's probably not going to get any better..

EXT. PUBLIC AREA - DAY

Reaching the outskirts of a town, ANDREW has gotten to a point with two possible turns and is looking at one way that could be quicker. However, he sees a sign and realises he would have to walk through a cemetery.

ANDREW

Maybe not.

After looking at his watch he decides to go the over way, signaling that he still has time to spare.

He continues walking, and then stops when he can then see his destination; a river. He continues walking towards it.

EXT. RIVER BED - DAY

He stops at a deserted, empty part of the riverbed, removing the items covering the body, including his jacket, which he ties around his waist.

He throws the newspaper on to the floor which reveals a headline "RISE IN UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES", to the audience. The wound on the dead body is also shown to the viewer.

ANDREW (V.O)

At this point I'm still not too sure what's going through my head, and I'm even considering giving him a funeral style send off speech, until I realise that I've never actually seen the guy alive.

ANDREW bounces from foot to foot, echoing his earlier stretches. He stops his 'warm up' and moves towards the trolley.

He leans in and picking up the body, realising that he lacks the upper body strength when he quickly drops him.

ANDREW (V.O)

I should have just paid for a gym membership.

(CONTINUED)

While he drags the body, its head begins to jolt as if it's waking up. ANDREW stops and wipes his hands on his shorts, to remove any sweat.

He places his hands back on the legs, but slowly turns around when hearing movement. The body is now almost sitting up, but his eyes are closed and he is slurring, in a zombie-like manner.

ANDREW

What the...

ANDREW stares at him, beginning to screw his face up in confusion. The boy continues slowly moving his head, and is now sitting up much closer to ANDREW, who is evidently startled.

Suddenly ANDREW gets up and is beginning to run, managing to get far away in a matter of seconds.

The 'undead' body is now standing up, with his arms dangling at his sides, slowly stumbling in the same direction as ANDREW, who is now barely even in sight.

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - DAY

The action has come full circle, as there is a return to the opening scene with the PROTAGONIST running in fear from the possible zombie with the same music used, but now louder. The action here is new, as we see ANDREW looking over his shoulder while still running.

After realising that he is not being chased he slows down then comes to a stop. He hunches over, to take some deep breaths, as he is exhausted from sprinting. Catching his breath back he slowly begins to look up.

ANDREW (V.O)

That was the first time I ever saw
a zombie.

As he continues to look up, a shocked expression grows on his face as he looks down the road to see a small number of other people that are stumbling around in a similar way to the other 'zombie'.

QUICK FADE TO BLACK