

JOURNEY INTO HELL

by

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EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Heavy rain falls as a lone figure, wearing a backpack, walks along the side of the road. This is SARA (21).

She sees a car approaching and sticks out her thumb. The car drives straight past, splashing her with a big puddle.

SARA
Arsehole!

Pissed off, she carries on through the pouring rain.

A moment later, another car approaches and once again Sara sticks out her thumb. Much to her relief, the car pulls over and she quickly climbs into the back seat to escape the rain. The car drives off.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Sara shakes the wet from her clothes. She removes her backpack and lays it beside her.

She turns to the unseen driver. This is JEREMIAH (40).

SARA
Thanks a lot for stopping. I don't
know how much longer I could've
lasted out there.

Jeremiah doesn't speak, he just looks at Sara through the rear view mirror, where a crucifix dangles.

SARA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry for getting your seats
wet, but I can't be blamed for the
weather.

Jeremiah still doesn't speak. Sara attempts to break the ice.

SARA (CONT'D)
I'm Sara. What's your name?

Finally, Jeremiah speaks.

JEREMIAH
My name is Jeremiah.

SARA
Nice to meet you, Jeremiah. Once
again, thanks for stopping. I
really appreciate it. There's some
real pricks on the road.
(MORE)

SARA (CONT'D)

I guess I can't blame them. I mean, who the hell hitchhike's these days? Especially in this shitty weather?

JEREMIAH

It's bad outside all right.

SARA

You can say that again.

JEREMIAH

What were you doing out here all alone?

SARA

It's a long story.

JEREMIAH

It's going to be a long journey.

SARA

But I haven't even told you where I'm heading.

JEREMIAH

I know exactly where you're heading.

Sara is a little creeped out by this.

SARA

What are you, a mind reader or something?

JEREMIAH

No.

SARA

Then what exactly did you mean?

JEREMIAH

It doesn't matter anymore. Just sit back and relax. I'll get you to where you're going.

Sara sits back and relaxes. She looks out of the window at the countryside passing by. She then turns to Jeremiah.

SARA

I don't suppose you can turn on the radio?

JEREMIAH

Sure thing.

Jeremiah turns on the radio. Music begins to play.

As Sara listens to the music, she notices the crucifix dangling from the rear view mirror.

SARA

You a religious man?

JEREMIAH

Yes.

SARA

Oh. No offense, but I'm an atheist myself.

Jeremiah's eyes burn with rage. He grips the steering wheel tightly.

He slams on the brakes. Sara shoots forward and smacks her head on the back of Jeremiah's seat.

SARA (CONT'D)

Hey! What are you trying to do?!
Kill me or something?!

Jeremiah turns off the radio.

JEREMIAH

You don't know what death is,
child.

Jeremiah slowly turns his head, revealing himself to Sara. An ugly scar runs down the right side of his face. Sara recoils in horror.

Jeremiah pulls out a knife and waves it menacingly in front of Sara's face.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

But you soon will.

Terror spreads across Sara's face. She's in the company of a psychopath.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

You're all mine, child.

Panic-stricken, Sara reaches for the door but Jeremiah grabs her by the arm and yanks her back in her seat.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

There is no escape, child. You are
in the hands of God now. Just relax
and enjoy the ride.

Sara trembles with fear as Jeremiah drives on.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Jeremiah's car turns onto a dirt road leading to the woods.

INT. CAR (MOVING) - DAY

SARA

Where are you taking me?

JEREMIAH

To meet your maker.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Rain stops falling as Jeremiah's car pulls up to the woods.

I/E. CAR - DAY

Jeremiah gets out of the car and opens the back door. Sara quickly tries to escape but Jeremiah shoves her back inside the car.

JEREMIAH

I told you, child. There's no
escape.

SARA

Fuck you!

JEREMIAH

Your salvation begins here.

He grabs Sara by the wrists and roughly binds her hands and feet with duct tape. No escape.

Jeremiah slams the door shut and locks the car.

SARA

Help! Somebody help me!

She kicks desperately at the door and then the window. Jeremiah stares at her through the window, waving a finger "no". Sara ignores his warning and continues kicking and screaming.

Jeremiah unlocks the car and opens the back door again. Sara kicks him in the face. Angry, Jeremiah grabs her by the throat and pins her down on the back seat.

JEREMIAH

Silence is a virtue, child.

He gags her with duct tape, muffling her screams. Tears run down Sara's face.

Jeremiah slams the back door shut and locks the car again. He then goes to the boot and opens it.

Jeremiah reaches inside the boot and removes a large object wrapped in a bin liner. He throws the object over his shoulder and grabs a shovel with his free hand.

Sara watches teary eyed as Jeremiah heads off towards the woods.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The tranquil sounds of nature fill the air. Jeremiah appears through the trees. He stops and dumps the object on the ground. He takes the shovel and begins digging.

INT. CAR - DAY

Sara struggles with her bonds, trying desperately to break free. No luck. She becomes hysterical, frustrated with her dilemma.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jeremiah finishes digging a shallow grave. He drops the shovel and turns his attention to the object lying on the ground.

INT. CAR - DAY

Sara stares at her backpack on the seat next to her. Maybe her only hope. She reaches for it with her bound hands.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jeremiah rips open the object wrapped in a bin liner, revealing the naked body of a teenaged GIRL inside. Her eyes are closed. Her body still.

Jeremiah turns away from the body for a moment.

Suddenly the girl's eyes snap open. She isn't dead.

The girl sees Jeremiah with his back turned. Without hesitation, she scrambles out of the bin liner and makes a break for it.

Jeremiah spins around and sees the girl escaping. He grabs the shovel and chases after her.

I/E. CAR - DAY

Sara is about to grab her backpack when, the terrified girl suddenly appears outside the car. She bangs against the car door, leaving bloody handprints on the window. Sara recoils in horror.

Suddenly Jeremiah appears behind the girl. He strikes the back of the girl's head with the shovel and she hits the ground, unconscious.

Sara watches in horror as Jeremiah drags the girl's motionless body back towards the woods.

Once they've disappeared into the woods, Sara acts fast. She grabs the backpack with her bound hands. She struggles with the zip, but eventually manages to open the backpack enough to dip her hands inside.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

A shovel full of dirt lands on the unconscious girl's face as Jeremiah buries her alive.

INT. CAR - DAY

Sara feels around inside her backpack. She eventually finds what she's looking for and retrieves it. A Swiss Army knife.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jeremiah finishes burying the body. He looks down at the ground.

JEREMIAH

Amen.

I/E. CAR - DAY

Sara has managed to cut loose her bonds with the knife. She's just about to remove her gag when, she sees Jeremiah returning from the woods.

She quickly places her hands behind her back, clutching the knife, and keeps her feet together, pretending to still be bound.

Jeremiah arrives back at the car. He takes out a grubby handkerchief and wipes the bloody handprints off the door window.

He opens the back door. He removes the duct tape from Sara's mouth, but doesn't bother with her hands and feet, which he thinks are still bound. Sara remains silent, still clutching the knife behind her back.

Jeremiah slams the door shut and gets in the car. He starts the engine. Sara finally speaks.

SARA

Who was she?

JEREMIAH

Just another sinner. Like you.

SARA

Then why didn't you leave me in the woods too?

JEREMIAH

Because God has other plans for you, child.

Pause.

SARA

Did you kill her?

JEREMIAH

She continued on her path to damnation.

SARA

Then you did?

JEREMIAH

I only opened the gate for her damaged soul to pass through. Her true punishment will take place in Hell. She will burn for her sins.

SARA

What was it she did that was so sinful?

JEREMIAH

Only God knows.

SARA

Bullshit. You must have killed her for a reason.

JEREMIAH

I do as God wishes. It is not my place to question the Lord.

SARA

You're such a deluded bastard.

JEREMIAH

No, child. It is you who is deluded. You don't see the world for what it really is, for what it has become.

SARA

And what's that?

JEREMIAH

An abomination.

SARA

I guess that's just a matter of opinion.

JEREMIAH

No, child. It's the truth. God's truth.

Sara has had enough. She stabs Jeremiah in the shoulder with the knife. He screams in pain.

Sara quickly gets out of the car and races towards the woods.

Enraged, Jeremiah removes the knife from his shoulder and gets out of the car. He shouts after Sara.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)
You can run, but you can't hide,
child!

He chases after Sara.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Sara runs through the woods, never looking back. Jeremiah isn't far behind, in hot pursuit.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Sara arrives in a clearing where there is a ramshackle of a cabin. Smoke rises from the chimney. Someone's home.

Sara races towards the cabin. Salvation.

SARA
Help!

She reaches the door of the cabin and pounds on it.

SARA (CONT'D)
Help me! Let me in!

JACOB (35) opens the door.

JACOB
What in God's name is going on?

SARA
Please, help me. There's someone
after me. He's trying to kill me.
He's already killed another girl.

Jacob looks around the woods. There's nobody in sight.

JACOB
It's alright. There's nobody out
there. It's just me and you. You're
safe here.

SARA
Please. Do you have a phone? I need
to call the police.

JACOB
Sure. Come inside.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Jacob closes the door behind them and locks it.

JACOB
Don't worry, you'll be safe in here.

SARA
I'll feel a lot safer when the police arrive.

JACOB
You don't need the police. You're in the safety of God now, child.

Sara freezes. Those words striking a raw nerve.

SARA
Oh my God.

Jacob smiles wickedly.

JACOB
Well now. It looks like you've just jumped out of the frying pan and straight into the fire, child.

Sara is too petrified to speak as Jacob goes to the door and unlocks it.

JACOB (CONT'D)
You may have escaped my brother, but you won't escape your fate, child.

He opens the door. Jeremiah is standing there. He stares at Sara like a hungry wolf.

SARA
No!

Jacob turns to his brother, Jeremiah.

JACOB
You almost lost her, brother.

JEREMIAH
The sheep can only stray so far from the flock, brother.

JACOB
Yes, brother. It was God who brought her here.

Sara is paralyzed with fear as the brothers move menacingly towards her.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Sara's screams echo through the woods.

THE END