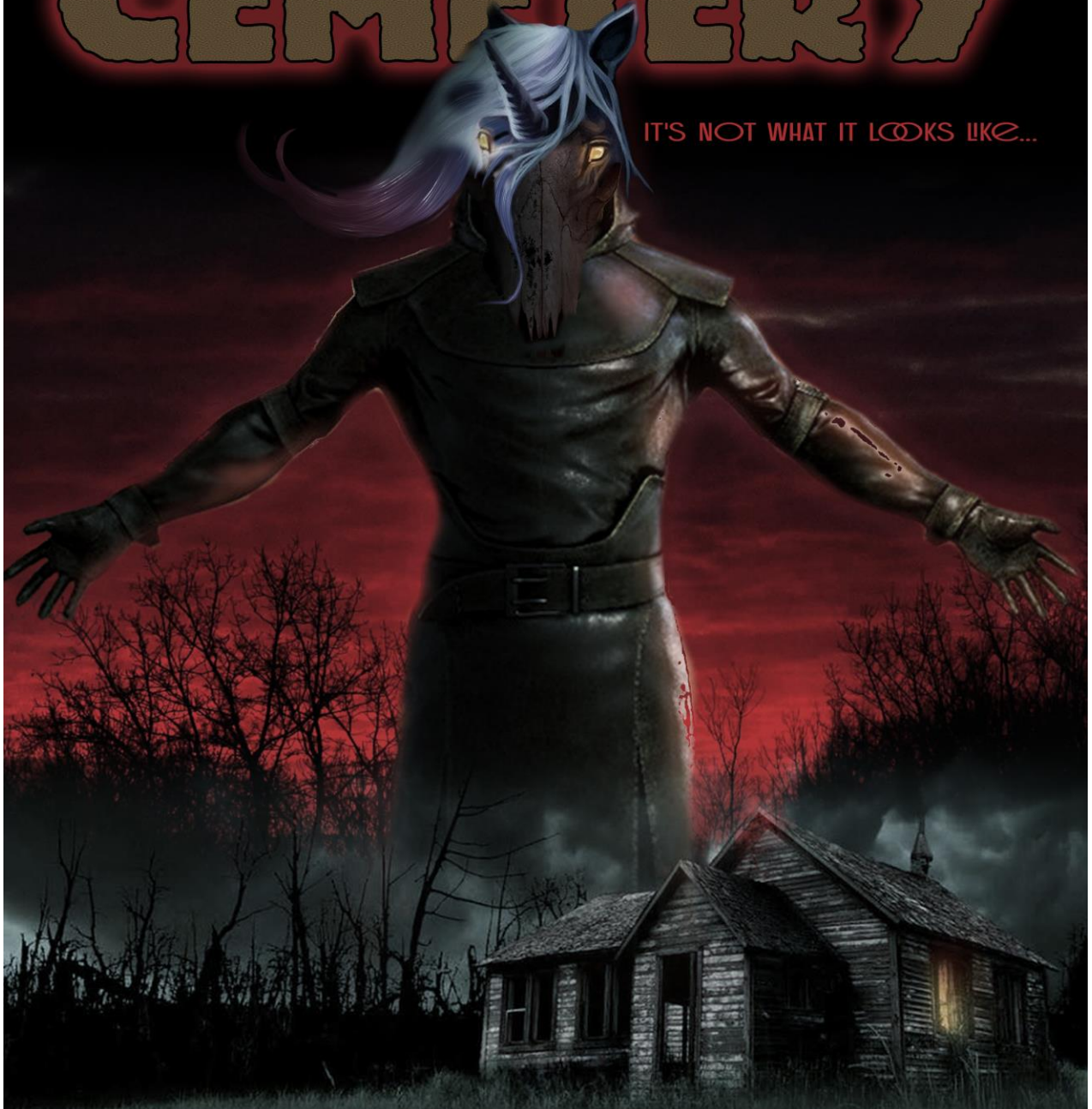


MASTER OF CEMETERY

IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...



KRASHOV PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH AEROPLAN FILMZ AND MUSIC FOR SALE PRESENTS A FILM BY VIS VITALIS «SOMETHING TO SAVE YOU»

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MASTER OF CEMETERY
(original screenplay)

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1 TEASER.

1

TV screen. Close-up scene from an old horror movie. On the screen, some teenagers at night are running through the corn fields towards the one-story farm. They are followed by an ominous figure with an ax.

2 INT. CAFE-MOTEL. AFTERNOON.

2

A family are having a meal at the table of a roadside cafe-motel. HUSBAND and WIFE, aged thirty to forty, presumably of professional class.

They look frayed at the edges and tired after a long journey. They eat French fries and some stew. Their SON (a neat and somewhat immature boy, 9-10 years old) has a hamburger with his eyes fixed on the TV screen, where the horror movie is on.

WAITRESS, a 25-year-old girl, cleans the tables.

Behind the counter is CAFE OWNER, a neat and good-natured woman aged about 45.

3 EXT. BY THE CAFE-MOTEL. AFTERNOON.

3

The day is grey, clouds are gathering, it is getting dark. The banners at the café entrance are waving in the wind.

CAPTION: MAARL-SHEAAH. DAY 1

4 INT. CAFE-MOTEL. AFTERNOON

4

HUSBAND sets the plate aside to check the tablet.

HUSBAND

Crap, no damn connection...

SON

They have Wi-Fi here.

HUSBAND

(to the waitress)

Excuse me, what is the WiFi password?

WAITRESS

Oh, you know... It is not working now,
the rain must have cause a fault or something..

HUSBAND

Thanks.

(to wife)

It is not far, I checked it down in the valley.

WIFE

(annoyed)

You have been saying this for three hours,
since we passed through the valley.

HUSBAND

For the record, I have never been here before.

Besides, the road is difficult,
and you asked me to go slower.

WIFE

I don't know why we are here in the first place.

Was it bad on the beach?

HUSBAND

(snappishly)

But we agreed all along that we would travel!
And not lie on the beach for the hell of it!

WIFE

Maybe, the hell of it is just what I need?

I want to relax, you know?

And you are taking us...

THE WIFE catches the WAITRESS'S eye, smiles at her frigidly and lowers her voice.

WIFE (cont'd)

... in the middle of nowhere, like this place.

HUSBAND

It was you who said that the boy should grab a bite!

And after all, we agreed that...

WIFE

Enough. You'd better ask if there is a long way ahead.

She might know.

And let's go already!

HUSBAND

(to the WAITRESS)

Excuse me... Could you help us? This road here...

WAITRESS readily approaches them and looks at the tablet.

WAITRESS

I'm sorry, I don't know the neighborhood that well...

I live in town, I only work here...

Let me check if we have the connection after all.

WAITRESS turns to the bar, where the CAFE OWNER is making some calculations.

WAITRESS (cont'd)

Martha! Have they fixed the connection problem yet?

CAFE OWNER

Oh, tomorrow at the earliest.

When it rains, we always have problems. Why?

HUSBAND

Well, you see, we want to go further, and...

CAFE OWNER

Frankly, if I were you, I would not go further in this weather.

We're in for a downpour.

HUSBAND

What if it rains till morning?

Do we just sit here and wait?

CAFE OWNER

Why not?

I have two rooms upstairs, you can stay overnight.

And set off in the morning, when it clears up.

I will cook poached eggs for breakfast.

Our house specialty.

Hey kid, do you like poached eggs?

SON looks away from the screen where they stab someone to death. Not sure what to reply, he looks at his mother.

WIFE

We can't stay here, we have already paid for the night there.

CAFE OWNER

Well, do as you see fit.

I don't want to frighten you, but the roads here leave much to be desired.

And when it rains...

A car falls off the cliff into the sea, and that was the last that was ever seen of it.

Families disappear.

I can ask my son to bring your things from the car, if you like..

CAFE OWNER (cont'd)

(shouting to someone in the kitchen)

Hey you, potboy... Can you bring their things?

The voice of a teenager is coming from the kitchen.

TEENAGER'S VOICE

Yes, yes, just a moment... Let me finish cleaning the stove.

WIFE

No, thanks, it is unnecessary.

We'd rather go.

We have an excellent experienced driver.

WIFE casts a sarcastic glance at her HUSBAND.

WIFE (cont'd)

You'd better get us a couple of burgers to go.

(to her SON)

What kind would you like? Chicken and onions?

SON nods. He is immersed in the movie.

WIFE (cont'd)

Chicken and onions, please.

HUSBAND

I'll have one with beef.

CAFE OWNER

Two burgers with chicken and onions and one with beef to go.

Anything else?

HUSBAND

I'd like a doner kebab for dinner.

CAFE OWNER

A doner kebab. One?

CAFE OWNER

(To the kitchen)

Hey, all in the galley! Get ready to deliver food!

(To the waitress)

Have you heard? Bring it here, please.

WATRESS goes to the kitchen.

CAFE OWNER

(After the waitress)

Pack some cherries for the boy!

And our branded gift, as usual!

CAFE OWNER (cont'd)

It's free, you know.

Well, if you change your mind on your way back, you are welcome!

I doubt that anyone will come today, but tomorrow we expect an inflow of
tourists.

HUSBAND

Thank you very much, we will keep it in mind.

CAFE OWNER

Have a nice trip!

If you excuse me, I must get things done.

It's time to close the register.

HUSBAND

Thank you!

CAFE OWNER leaves.

WIFE

Of course, she wants us to stay, because she rents rooms!

I know those country people inside out!

They know where their interests lie.

HUSBAND

I had the impression that she was just worried about us.

Mountain roads...

WIFE

(interrupting)

I'm fed up with your mountain roads!

I'm not going to pay for one night twice in two different places!

HUSBAND

Okay, stop nagging, you are driving me nuts!

WAITRESS comes to the table with a paper bag.

WAITRESS

Here you go. Hamburgers and the rest.

Promise that you will be careful on the road,

there are heavy rainfalls here.

HUSBAND

Thanks! We will be fine!

The family gets up to leave.

WIFE is carrying the paper bag with hamburgers.

CAFE OWNER winks at SON.

CAFE OWNER

Poached eggs!

SON smiles tentatively and, passing the TV set, looks at the screen.

There a maniac hacks someone to pieces with a huge ax.

CREDITS ON THE BACKGROUND: CAMERA CREW, DIRECTOR, ETC.

5 EXT. ROAD. DUSK.

5

Road. Picturesque bridges, gorges, spellbinding scenery. The rocks are on the left, the sea is on the right. During the opening credits, there is a conversation in the car.

6 INT-EXT. CAR. DUSK.

6

The car is on the road. The heavens opened, water is running down the windshield. The road goes up, it is narrow, steep cliffs are unfenced. Visibility is bad.

HUSBAND

We should have stayed in the motel.

WIFE

We have no spare money.

We already paid for the house, so we just need to get there faster.

HUSBAND

How can I drive faster?

It is pitch dark, and the bloody road does not make it any simpler!

WIFE

Well, you brought us here.

You always choose the worst option.

HUSBAND

My worst choice was you!

WIFE

Is this how you feel?

Great, as you well know, it will be over soon!

SON

Stop, stop it!

HUSBAND

We agreed we would not discuss it in front of him?..

WIFE

Why did I ever listen to your damn psychologist?

(MORE)

(mocking)

WIFE (cont'd)

"Often families experiencing a crisis find it helpful to travel together, as such a journey makes them take a fresh look at the situation and see the value of all the family members for each other."

HUSBAND

It is his job.

WIFE

Does he poop in pink ponies, too?

What does he know about our relationship?

SON

Aaaaaah!

WIFE

I wish I could get out of this damn car!

SON claps his hands over his ears and yells even louder so as not to hear his parents.

7 INT-EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD. CAR. DUSK.

7

The engine suddenly stalls, the car slowly comes to a halt and starts to slide down. Inside the car, people are screaming in panic. The car is swept away from the road to the cliff, it's very high, the dove-coloured sea is storming far below.

8 INT-EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD. CAR. DUSK.

8

HUSBAND frantically presses the pedal and turns the steering wheel.

HUSBAND

It's out of control!

WIFE

Do something! We will fall!

HUSBAND

Jump out, quick!

HUSBAND tries to open the driver door, then - leaning over his wife - the passenger door, but all handles are jammed. SON is crying, WIFE is screaming, the car pulls over to the side of the road and stops, coming across a stone, some twenty centimeters away from the edge.

TITLE: MASTER OF CEMETERY

9 EXT. ROAD BY THE FARM. EVENING.

9

The rain is over. The car is slowly crawling along the country road. The road is no longer in the mountains, this is a small, high plateau.

10 INT. CAR. EVENING.

10

The family is in the car, HUSBAND is driving, WIFE is in the back seat, a tired SON is sound asleep in her lap.

WIFE

Why didn't you check it before departure?

We all could have died...

HUSBAND

Quit complaining, it's a rented car, you know.

I'm not responsible for the car that had been driven by someone else.

WIFE

But your family was inside this coffin on wheels!

You just never thought about us!

HUSBAND

(exhausted)

Stop it. The main thing is that it started up.

And we are almost there.

CAPTION: MAARL-SHEAAH. DAY 1

EXT. ROAD BY THE FARM. EVENING.

The car stops in front of a closed wooden gate blocking the way to a squat farmhouse, seen from afar. The purpose of the gate is unclear, since a fence is nowhere to be seen. Apparently, it is intended solely for the sign saying "Simon's Farm. You are welcome here! Shelter for you and your car. Bed, meals & auto service!"

11 INT. ROAD BY THE FARM. CAR. EVENING.

11

HUSBAND is in the front seat, WIFE - in the back one. SON is asleep. He seems comfortable with his head on her lap.

HUSBAND

Well, here it is. "Simon's Farm".

We have arrived.

And Simon is probably inside, waiting for us, according to his message.

WIFE

It does not look like it. Are you sure?

Why is the gate closed?

Check again, maybe he wrote something else?

HUSBAND takes the tablet and starts checking the messages.

WIFE (cont'd)

Well, what's in there?

HUSBAND

Well... There is no connection here. Or anywhere else in the mountains...

WIFE

But you said you got his message.

HUSBAND

I checked it back in the valley.

There weren't any problems there.

WIFE

Let's call him.

HUSBAND is trying to get through, but the phone does not work, too. Meanwhile, it is getting dark.

HUSBAND

I'll go out and open it myself. We'll drive to the house and figure it out.

12 EXT. ROAD BY THE FARM. EVENING.

12

HUSBAND is trying to open the gate, but it is locked.

WIFE

Let's drive around, I don't get why it is here in the first place!

HUSBAND inspects the offramps - there are deep ditches on both sides of the road.

HUSBAND

No... We might get stuck.

And something is wrong with the car..

Let's drive through properly.

I'll go closer to the house and call him. Maybe, he went to bed.

HUSBAND walks towards the house in the distance.

13 INT. ROAD BY THE FARM. CAR. EVENING

13

WIFE is in the car.

Through the hazy windows of the car, WIFE can see an outline of a large figure slipping past the car. She is trying to make it out, but water is

streaming down the glass. WIFE is nervous. Suddenly, SON wakes up with a cry.

WIFE

Quiet, quiet, baby... All is well.

Did you have a nightmare?

SON

Sort of...

They keep quiet for some time. Nothing is visible outside, it is pouring with rain.

SON (cont'd)

Mum, can I have a hamburger?

WIFE

Sure, it is in the bag.

SON rummages through the bag and takes out a hamburger wrapped in paper.

SON

What is it?

SON pulls out a small plastic doll from the bag: it is a cute one-horned anthropomorphic little cow in a funny dress. Its eyes, like in a comic strip, are marked with crosses.

WIFE

Let me have a look...

WIFE turns it over in her hands.

WIFE (cont'd)

I don't know, this must be your gift. Wow, a cow.

SON

Mum... Do maniacs exist?

WIFE

No, of course not. Only in movies.

14 EXT. FARMYARD. EVENING.

14

HUSBAND is coming closer to the farm. Not a soul around. Some shelters are visible from afar. HUSBAND looks around and climbs up the porch. He comes to the door. It is closed. HUSBAND knocks on the door, but there is no answer. Thunder is rolling far away. HUSBAND shudders and turns. Someone is standing behind him. We do not see the stranger's face. Only an ominous silhouette is outlined in the light cast by the headlights of

the car standing far away. The silhouette has a huge chopper on its shoulder. HUSBAND starts back. The silhouette is approaching.

SILHOUETTE

There is... nobody inside...

There is a wild female cry. Having left all things in the car, WIFE (accompanied by SON) followed HUSBAND and saw a figure on the porch with an ax. Snatching up the ax, like a woodcutter, the stranger turns to them. Lightning flashes.

15 INT. OUTHOUSE. NIGHT.

15

HOST, HUSBAND, WIFE and SON climb up the stairs of a small outhouse.

HOST

I'm sorry. I just assumed you would not risk and drive in this thunderstorm.

I thought you would spend the night at Mari's and come here in the morning...

WIFE

No big deal. As they say, all's well that ends well.

The HOST stops on the landing to unlock the door to the room.

HOST

Come in, take a look.

All four enter the room. The room is large, quite modern, with a fireplace. There is a TV set in the corner, an old computer on the table, pictures on the walls and on the mantelpiece. In the room, there is a door to the second bedroom.

HOST (cont'd)

(to HUSBAND)

And I didn't mean to scare you.

I thought you would arrive in the morning.

In the meantime, I decided to chop wood;

there is a fireplace here, as you can see...

SON takes out the tablet and sits down on the bed by the wall.

WIFE meticulously inspects the room.

HUSBAND looks around, too.

HOST (cont'd)

There is a kitchen downstairs... It's small...

Well, it may not be luxurious here, but the air...
home-made milk, my own cow... garden, everything is natural...
Nobody has complained. I suppose, you have read the reviews?

HUSBAND

Yeah-yeah, it's fine...

You also have a garage here, right?

Could you have a look at my car tomorrow? It has been behaving
strangely...

We nearly fell in the sea..

HOST stares fixedly in front of himself and does not reply.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

...Excuse me?... I asked if you could check the car. I will pay....

It's rented, I have no idea what the problem is...

HOST

(coming to his senses)

Okay-okay, give me the keys, I'll park it...

Yes, it's probably better to get it in the garage right now.

It will rain again at night.

HUSBAND

Yes, thank you very much.

HUSBAND gives the car keys to the HOST.

WIFE

What about your keys? The website says you have a spare.

HOST

(after a short pause)

You see, my son... went to summer camp, at the seaside, until the end of
summer.

And my WIFE and daughter... went to visit him and so on...

To do the shopping, then to granny's, she lives down in town.

WIFE

I see. Do you miss them?..

HOST

Sure, sure.

I do feel a little lonely every now and then.
Now that you are here, it will cheer me up a bit.

Meanwhile, my family will be back.

WIFE

When did they leave?

HOST

Well, it's the second week that I am alone...

Sorry that it's not very tidy.

I am not very good at housework, I specialize in engines...

SON

(engrossed in the tablet)

Is there Wi-Fi?

HUSBAND

(mockingly)

See for yourself.

HOST

Yes, connection is terrible here...

Mountains jam mobile coverage.

SON

It won't load. What shall I do then?

WIFE

No big deal, you can survive a day or two.

Read a book for a change.

You have a whole list for summer,

and you have not started yet.

HOST

We have comics in English. I can give him some, if you like.

Good comics, based on Lovecraft, do you know him?..

HUSBAND

I read some, when I was a child. Something about ancient monsters, right?

HOST

Well, sort of. Okay, I'll go park the car.

Make yourselves at home!

HOST leaves.

WIFE runs her finger along the table. Her finger is covered in dust, a clean strip remains on the wooden surface.

WIFE

Two weeks? It's been two years since this room was cleaned..

WIFE, still looking around, inspects the second bedroom and looks out in the hall.

WIFE (cont'd)

I'll go down and have a look at the kitchen.

You may not care, but I will probably cook.

WIFE goes down the stairs. HUSBAND follows her.

16 INT. KITCHEN IN THE OUTHOUSE. NIGHT.

16

The door in the hallway leads to the kitchen, which is located under the bedrooms. The kitchen is modest. Plain utensils, a small cooker. Dried bundles of some herbs hanging down the windows. Pottery on the windowsill. A checkered tablecloth covers a small table. Photos of a much younger HOST are on the shelves and walls of the hallway and kitchen. In some photos, there is a woman with a friendly smile next to him.

WIFE

Oh, look. It must be his wife.

She is not very good at cleaning though.

HUSBAND

It's all right.

We spend the night here, and that's it.

Tomorrow we will cross the pass... and go home.

WIFE

Okay. Is there a bathroom here?

HUSBAND

I'll ask. According to the website, there is a shower...

A sound of an approaching car.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

Oh, he drove the car closer. I'll go get the things.

HUSBAND leaves.

SON

Mum... You told dad back in the car that it would be over soon.

What will be over?..

WIFE sits down next to SON on the bed, hugs him and gently strokes his head.

17 EXT. FARMYARD. NIGHT.

17

Car is in the garage. Outside, there is a heavy downpour of rain. The hood is open, HUSBAND and HOST are checking the engine.

HOST

Well, do you want to set off tomorrow?

HUSBAND

Yes, there is a mountain pass and then..

HOST

That is unlikely. You will have to stay a little longer.

HUSBAND

Why?

HOST

You see...Your car is ruined.

I can fix the engine.

But the belt...

The belt, you see?

It's worn out... starting to crack.

It can get torn at any point, and it's over.

The engine's finished.

On a mountain road, the car may fall down.

In a nutshell, it needs changing.

I will get a new one in town.

HUSBAND

Can you just tow my car down?

HOST shakes his head.

HOST

No, it's impossible on a road like this, it's not a plain...

HUSBAND

But we can call emergency service.

HOST

How do we call them?

There is no mobile coverage...

You've probably already tried it.

It's easier to get there by car than call.

HUSBAND

Okay, I'll go back to my family.

Oh, it nearly slipped my mind, where can we take a shower after the trip?

HOST

Oh, it's in the main house, but I haven't cleaned it yet...

I will get it ready tomorrow.

There is a sink in the kitchen downstairs.

There is another shower in the outhouse, but it is still under repair...

It is on the other side of the house, in the basement. Entrance is in the garden.

There's even a bathtub there.

HUSBAND

The water is cold, I assume?

HOST

The boiler is in the main house.

It leaves you with cold water for now...

But I will fix it all tomorrow.

Thunder. HUSBAND and HOST are looking at the rain.

HOST (cont'd)

(smiling)

Seems it'll be raining for a while!

I won't be surprised if the power goes out.

Don't worry, I have a generator.

WIFE

I got it, there is a road to the basement.

HUSBAND

Shall I come with you?

WIFE

Okay, I don't want to get lost.
Once we get the kid down for bed.
Tell him, he won't listen to me.

HUSBAND

(in a louder voice to SON in the second bedroom)
Hey you, successor, put the tablet aside and off to bed!

SON

(from the second bedroom)

The pillow is hard!

HUSBAND

No big deal.
Never say die!
Go to sleep!

Don't wait for an ancient monster to come and grab you...by your side.

19 EXT-INT. OUTHOUSE. SHOWER ROOM. NIGHT.

19

WIFE and HUSBAND, slipping, go along the road badly laid out by fragments of brick and leading into the basement.

The gray concrete facing of the basement is untreated. The doorway is not decorated, the door is unpainted.

They enter an empty, dimly-lit room with a cement floor, a single bare light bulb under the ceiling and snake-like pipes along the wall.

A legged bathtub stands by one of the walls. Above it is a straight shower arm.

WIFE

Wow! Straight out of a horror movie.

HUSBAND

Unhomely, that's for sure.
Anyway... come on... be quick.

He will fix the system in the main house tomorrow.

He was really sorry.

WIFE

A discount would be better. There is no use in being sorry.

HUSBAND

Yeah, this bathtub seems designed to butcher travelers.

WIFE

Thanks a lot... Like I wasn't scared enough.

WIFE hangs a towel and a dressing gown on one of the pipes.

WIFE (cont'd)

Seems out of order after all.

HUSBAND

The shower? I can see.

WIFE

No. I meant Simon. A weirdo.

Probably because he lives off the beaten track.

HUSBAND

He seems like a good guy to me, educated. With kids...

WIFE

Well, I don't know...

Everything is somewhat uncomfortable here...

Say what you will, but it does not look like a girl lives here.

Neither toys, nor jewelry...

HUSBAND

But on the walls there...haven't you seen?

Plenty of pictures of him and children.

WIFE

This does not mean anything. Children...

As if men with children do not desert.

HUSBAND

Please, don't start again.

WIFE

I do not start. On the contrary, I want to get it over with.

It is obvious that we do not suit each other, and...

HUSBAND

Will you give it a rest?

If that's what you believe, then so be it. I have a different opinion.

WIFE

Anyway, traveling together was a stupid idea.

HUSBAND

But the psychologist...

WIFE

We have already discussed this.

HUSBAND

By the way, I had hoped that it would bring us closer together, and we...

WIFE

And we are standing in a concrete box in front of a bathtub with cold water.

The light starts blinking and goes out.

WIFE (cont'd)

Perfect. Now we'll go back by touch...

20 INT. OUTHOUSE. NIGHT.

20

WIFE can't sleep.

There are strange rustling and creaking noises in the room.

WIFE is worried. She gets up and goes out in the hall, because the sounds seem to be coming from there.

The sounds are of unknown origin - it is a strange tapping, as if someone is walking on the floor, knocking with small but strong claws. They are coming from the walls and ceiling.

Following the sounds, WIFE goes downstairs.

The ghostly light of the moon pours through the windows. The rain is over. There is a view of a field flooded with a feeble, blue light.

WIFE listens closely and suddenly realizes that the noises are becoming louder. Moreover, they are multiplying, as if an army of invisible small creatures is moving towards her from all sides.

WIFE runs up the stairs in panic - but the knocking is even more

persistent. WIFE rushes into the bedroom and, crying, falls into the arms of HUSBAND.

HUSBAND

What is it?.. What happened?..

WIFE

There...there... They were trying to attack me!

HUSBAND

Who would do such a thing?

WIFE

Dwarfs... Dwarfs... there in the attic... in the walls... Dwarfs!

HUSBAND

Good Lord! What's wrong with you?.. What freaking dwarfs?..

Don't be childish..

WIFE is crying, unable to calm down. HUSBAND gets up and clicks the switch. There is no light.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

Sure thing...

HUSBAND sits on the bed. Little by little, WIFE calms down.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

There, there... There are no dwarfs here.

WIFE

I heard... Heard...

HUSBAND

Well, keep quiet, let's listen together...

Both listen closely to the silence interrupted by the WIFE's convulsive sobs.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

You see?

WIFE

But outside... Is someone walking there?..

HUSBAND

Dwarfs, you reckon? Let's have a look. Come on!

HUSBAND and WIFE get out of bed and come to the window. HOST is standing in the moonlight below the window with a gun. He slowly points the gun at

them. HUSBAND and WIFE quickly hide behind the windowsill. Catching his breath, HUSBAND carefully peers out. There is no one there, the yard is empty.

CAPTION: MAARL-SHEAAH. DAY 2

21 INT. HOST'S KITCHEN. MORNING.

21

Kitchen in the large host's house. Clean, comfortable, equipped with modern devices. Sunlight is streaming through the windows. HOST sits at the table, looking at a pregnant woman in a red kitchen apron who is busy at the stove. This is HOST'S WIFE.

HOST

Why do you have to go? Let me take him instead!

HOST'S WIFE

(smiling)

Oh, what a family tyrant!

I'll be spending a lot of time at home, you passionate man!

At the kitchen doorstep, a ten-year-old boy shoots the scene with a palmcorder. This is TOMASH, HOST'S SON.

HOST

Check it out, we have paparazzi!

Watch out, Tomash, save some film!

TOMASH

It's a movie! Don't pay attention to the camera, talk to mum!

HOST'S WIFE laughs. Kitchen, interior. A huge black cat walks on the table. HOST'S WIFE puts it on the floor.

HOST'S WIFE

Shoo! I already fed you!

Shameless animal!

22 EXT. FARMYARD. MORNING.

22

HUSBAND and WIFE stand by the host's house. Through the window, they can see HOST sitting in the dusty kitchen. He is alone. HOST speaks into the void, but they can't make out the words.

WIFE

He is definitely crazy. A psycho.

Behind her, a cat meows. WIFE turns around: this is the exact same black

cat that had been in the kitchen.

23 INT. HOST'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. MORNING.

23

HOST'S WIFE

I'll go shopping, get some swaddling clothes for the baby girl...

TOMASH

And for me!

HOST'S WIFE

(laughing)

Right, for you, too!

HOST laughs, throwing his head back.

24 EXT. FARMYARD. MORNING.

24

HUSBAND and WIFE look at the HOST laughing all alone, exchange glances and silently go back to the outhouse.

25 INT. KITCHEN IN THE OUTHOUSE. MORNING.

25

The family has breakfast in the kitchen. They eat cereals and yesterday's burgers.

WIFE

I don't want to be a pain, I just want to find out what happened last night!

The sound of engine is coming from outside. HUSBAND and WIFE come to the window. HOST'S pickup truck is driving away.

HUSBAND

He went to town to get the belt...

WIFE

Or something else.

HUSBAND

Your paranoia is contagious...

SON

What happened last night?

HUSBAND

Nothing special...

WIFE looks at the photo hanging on the wall: a young HOST with a young pretty woman against the sea background. Next to them is a five-year-old boy.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

Mum and I will go have a look at the car. You stay here.

SON

I'll come with you!

HUSBAND

No, you'd better catch up on your reading.

SON gives him a sly look.

26 EXT. FARMYARD. AFTERNOON.

26

HUSBAND and WIFE are by the car. The hood is up.

HUSBAND

See? It is on its last legs.

We can't go with this belt, it can get torn at any moment!

WIFE

Look! Seems like it has been cut here.

He deliberately cut it to get more money from us!

I'm telling you, he's an odd fish.

Walking around at night with a gun...

HUSBAND

Why odd?

Maybe, he went for a walk at night...

Guarding the farm...

WIFE

Why is there no dog?

Not a single dog on the farm, have you ever seen such a thing?

HUSBAND

I don't know...

Maybe the neighbors are nice...

Or there's nothing to steal...

WIFE

Who was he talking to?

There is someone there, no doubt!

WIFE turns around at HOST's house.

HUSBAND

There is no one.

WIFE does not reply. She looks at the house and takes a few steps in its direction.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

Where are you going?..

WIFE walks on in silence.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

Okay, okay... let's take a look, while he is gone...

For your sake...

27 INT. OUTHOUSE. AFTERNOON.

27

SON looks out the window, sees his parents walk away, puts the book down and leaves the room.

28 EXT. FARMYARD. AFTERNOON.

28

HUSBAND and WIFE go to the HOST'S house.

HUSBAND

Do stop flapping about.

I read the reviews, very good reviews, there's no problem, I'll show you.

WIFE

He was pointing it at us, I saw it!

HUSBAND

Maybe an owl was sitting on the roof?

WIFE

And those sounds... You know what?

HUSBAND

What?

WIFE

I want to get away from this place as soon as possible!

HUSBAND

Don't panic! We are city dwellers.

(MORE)

It's only natural that his life

HUSBAND (cont'd)

would seem kind of strange.

HUSBAND and WIFE walk around the HOST'S house.

The TV is on.

Music comes from the record player in one room, the radio is on in another.

HUSBAND and WIFE peer through the windows.

They are dusty, making it hard to see what is inside. Although the home appliances are turned on, there is clearly no one there.

WIFE

Well... If this is not a strange life, then I don't know what it is.

29 EXT. WASTELAND BY THE HANGAR. AFTERNOON.

29

SON walks around the farm.

It is quite large.

SON passes an old cart, the wrecks of rusty cars of the 50s, a heap of rubbish, half-rotten cattle corrals, sheds for goods and chattels.

SON looks into one of the sheds. A creaky door hangs on a single hinge. Hay and shovels are inside. A huge haystack is on the hillside nearby.

SON goes around it - it looks special. Branches of dry wood are used to give it a shape. A wooden ladder leads to the top.

SON wants to climb it from another side, but his attention is distracted by another hangar-type shed standing far away.

SON goes there.

There is a lock on the door of the hangar. SON tries to peek through the cracks in the wood, then tries the back wall and takes a billet of wood to be able to look through the small window.

The window is foggy. He can't see a thing.

SON rubs the window with his sleeve: in the semi-darkness of a decrepit barn, he sees to his surprise a red American retro sports car - Thunderbird - covered with dust, standing in the middle. Nets and ropes are hanging from the ceiling.

Sitting on the bed in their room, HUSBAND and WIFE are looking at the tablet.

HUSBAND

Naturally, there's no connection, but let's check the cache.

Here, look: "Nice hosts, beautiful son".

"Neat and clean house, beautiful views, fresh air!"

"Simon's hospitality is unsurpassed..."

"We came to celebrate a holiday, enchanting, five stars out of five."

WIFE takes the tablet and looks at it herself.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

See? And you grumble.

WIFE

Now, the last review was published three years ago.

You did not notice the dates, did you?

HUSBAND takes the tablet and silently looks at it.

SON rushes into the room.

SON

Dad, dad! There is...

Standing on the blockhead, HUSBAND is peering through the small window of the shed.

HUSBAND

Yes... It's a Thunderbird... Why is it here?..

SON

Let's sneak in and have a look!

HUSBAND

We can't just sneak into someone else's shed, slow down.

SON

Why not?

HUSBAND

Yeah... Mom's right, I'm not spending enough time with you...

WIFE is screaming out loud.

HUSBAND and SON race to rescue.

32 EXT. WASTELAND BEHIND THE FARM. AFTERNOON.

32

WIFE is in front of a shallow pit behind the buildings. All three of them look in and see some kind of bloody mess.

Seems like someone's remains.

A wild dog eats meat and growls at the family.

HUSBAND

Okay... Stand still... Remember you must avoid any sudden movements...

WIFE

Is it mad?..

SON

Mad dogs have foam...

HUSBAND

Whatever you do, do not show that you are afraid, they can feel it...

SON

I'm not afraid.

WIFE

Speak quietly, or it will get angry!..

HUSBAND

Okay, okay... Now let's go back to the farm very slowly...

All three of them, moving sideways, start walking towards the farm, trying to keep away from the pit and the dog.

But the dog starts to snarl louder.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

No... We can't make it...

The dog thinks we want to attack it or take the prey...

More scary dogs are slowly approaching from the farm.

WIFE

They are wild... I bet they are mad..

HUSBAND

Don't panic. Back away...

Let them see that it's their territory...

There must be another way...

The pack gathers at the pit fighting for the bloody prey.

The family takes a detour to a small grove nearby.

Entering the woods, they see that they are at the cemetery.

33 EXT. CEMETERY. AFTERNOON.

33

The cemetery is old, quite large and well maintained.

Clean roads, freshly painted fences.

They walk among the graves.

SON

Look, it's just like the one we go to, when we visit granny's grave.

HUSBAND

Yes, cemeteries are almost the same everywhere...

WIFE

Just like everything else.

HUSBAND

Nevertheless, you can see many interesting things, if you look closely.
And new ones...

SON picks up a stick and runs it along the bars of the cemetery fences,
making a rattling noise.

WIFE

Stop it, it's a cemetery! The graves!

SON

They don't care!

HUSBAND

Do not argue with your mother, be respectful!

SON reluctantly obeys and, frustrated, throws the stick away.

They are almost at the edge of the cemetery.

Three fresh graves have been dug here - two large ones, for adults, and
one small, for a child. They are located on the same plot of land.

WIFE

Oh, someone died.

HUSBAND

A whole family... Look, this one is for a child.

SON

Do children die, too? Not just old people?

HUSBAND rumples his hair.

Engine noise breaks the silence. It is getting louder.

HUSBAND

About time! He's back, I think.

Come on, let's change the belt and run for it.

Coming out of the grove, they notice that they are at a distance, almost at the far gate of the farm.

34 EXT. ROAD BY THE FARM. AFTERNOON.

34

The gate of the farm is locked again. A dirty old pickup with rust stains on its sides is parked by the gate. Its wheels are covered in dried mud up to the hubs.

Next to it is not the HOST, but a stranger.

This is an UNFRIENDLY GUY in country clothes, old jeans, a rough plaid shirt and a faded cap.

Boards, shovels and some other equipment are piled up in the back of the truck covered in dirt and sticky fragments of dried grass. Tarp cover protects its part. A YOUNG REDNECK with a small moustache and a cheeky look is in the passenger seat of the cabin. He is 20-25 years old. Dressed in overalls, he looks scruffy and unpleasant. He scowls at the family from under his eyebrows.

UNFRIENDLY GUY

(speaking briskly in broken English)

Hi!

HUSBAND

Hello...

UNFRIENDLY GUY

Simon.

HUSBAND

No, I'm not Simon, I'm...

UNFRIENDLY GUY

Where is Simon?

HUSBAND

I don't know, he must have gone to town to get a...

UNFRIENDLY GUY

Not interested. When come?

HUSBAND

We came yesterday, but...

UNFRIENDLY GUY

Not interested. When Simon come?

HUSBAND

Damn it, how should I know?

HUSBAND turns to his family.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

Screw them, let's go back to the house. Bumpkin...

Ignoring the gate, HUSBAND steps on the unbroken soil, but UNFRIENDLY GUY jumps over the ditch and blocks his way.

YOUNG REDNECK giggles from the cabin.

UNFRIENDLY GUY

Simon owes skin.

HUSBAND

(confused)

Skin?.. Whose skin?..

UNFRIENDLY GUY grins. There are scars on his face, he looks ominous.

UNFRIENDLY GUY

We need skin. He ran into debt, skins are needed.

HUSBAND

Hey, pal! I have no debt and I do not owe you anything.

We will leave you to sort it out with Simon and go home today.

YOUNG REDNECK gives a short laugh.

YOUNG REDNECK

Leave?..

HUSBAND

(provocatively)

Yes, leave!

UNFRIENDLY GUY and YOUNG REDNECK look at each other and burst out laughing, as if they heard a big joke that only they can understand.

UNFRIENDLY GUY takes a step forward, coming close to HUSBAND. It looks like a challenge.

WIFE walks up to her HUSBAND and takes his hand.

WIFE

Calm down, dear, all is well, calm down...

Their fingers are intertwined.

HUSBAND and UNFRIENDLY GUY exchange glances.

UNFRIENDLY GUY

I don't think you leave...

WIFE

We will, don't you worry!

UNFRIENDLY GUY

You do not leave because we start. We begin. You stay.

YOUNG REDNECK sneers.

HUSBAND

Begin what?..

UNFRIENDLY GUY

You know. That's why you come. Waiting for you. Do not know?

HUSBAND

You know what?.. We are here for one day and we don't care what you start or continue.

(turning to WIFE and SON)

Let's go.

(turning back to UNFRIENDLY GUY)

And go to hell together with your Simon, who is obviously sick in the head!

UNFRIENDLY GUY suddenly beats his fist on the gate. It bangs and swings.

UNFRIENDLY GUY

(spitefully)

Simon sick. Yes, Simon sick! You not know!

WIFE

Darling, calm down. They are all psychos here, forget about it.
HUSBAND takes a step back keeping away from UNFRIENDLY GUY.
WIFE and SON follow him. They are on the road outside the gate.
YOUNG REDNECK spits meaningfully from the pickup truck in their
direction.
UNFRIENDLY GUY watches the family go. His stare is stony.

35 EXT. ROAD BY THE FARM. AFTERNOON.

35

WIFE, HUSBAND and SON walk towards the farm.

HUSBAND

Jerks.

SON

Dad, I thought you said not to swear.

HUSBAND

I'm not swearing.

WIFE

Then what are you doing?

HUSBAND

Characterizing.

They keep quiet for some time.

HUSBAND looks back in the direction of the gate.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

Seriously, did you see how insolent they were?

He almost grabbed my hands.

"We begin, you continue..."

Savage men.

WIFE

...Did you notice?..

HUSBAND

Their savagery? Yes, thank you very much.

WIFE

No... Did you notice blood on his overalls?

HUSBAND

Whose?

WIFE

The one... with moustache...

HUSBAND

No. Are you going to be paranoid again?

WIFE

But there was blood!..

HUSBAND

Maybe they are furriers! He said something about skin.

Or maybe the guy works at a meat factory!

WIFE

And you are rock-solid...

HUSBAND

Maybe they stuck a pig yesterday!

WIFE

Something is wrong, I just feel it...

HUSBAND

(heatedly)

As the saying goes, a woman will teach you to be afraid. What are you so scared of? We live in the twenty-first century, we made a reservation through the international hosting website, we were brought here by a navigator connected to hundreds of satellites that fly in space, in our pockets we have microcomputers more powerful than those NASA had thirty years ago... and you make up some... Lovecraft!

WIFE

I don't want to discuss this.

Let's just get out of here and forget about it!

HUSBAND

(imitating)

We do not leave because they start.

Irritated, WIFE quickens the pace.

WIFE

(snappishly)

I'd better go cook something...

There's some cereal on the shelf and potatoes, I saw.
СЫН tries to keep up with her.

SON

Maybe we can switch on Wi-Fi somewhere?..

HUSBAND

(to their backs)

Meanwhile I'll have a look at the car... to see what's wrong...
WIFE and SON enter the outhouse.

HUSBAND looks at the car parked in the shed.

HUSBAND

(under his breath)

Got into a jam... Belt, damn it...

36 INT. KITCHEN IN THE OUTHOUSE. AFTERNOON.

36

WIFE peels potatoes. SON sits at the table whining.

SON

Ma... Ma! Have you asked Simon about Wi-Fi?

WIFE

How should I know?

There is no connection, be patient, we will leave soon.

SON

Maybe we just need to restart a router?

WIFE

(heatedly)

Look! I'm sick of you.

I don't know any router.

There is no router here.

SON

But Simon must have it.

Dad said that you booked the house via the Internet.

WIFE

I don't know, you see, I'm busy.

SON

Yesterday the power went out, so the router must have switched off.

WIFE

Aren't you a bloodsucker?..

If there is a router or whatever you need, it's at Simon's place.

The house is closed, Simon is not home. All clear?

Besides, power is probably still out. You'd better help me peel!

SON

No, I can't... Can I play outside?

WIFE

Just don't go far.

This place is full of mad dogs and people.

I want to see you through the window. Got it?

SON

I'll be on the porch.

37 EXT. FARMYARD. AFTERNOON.

37

HUSBAND tinkers with the car in the garage.

SON sits on the porch of the outhouse with a tablet playing an exploration game.

The tablet beeps. A message appears on its screen: "YOU HAVE REACHED THE NEXT LEVEL!"

SON

(happily)

Yeeah!

A blue superhero in armor rotates on the screen. He has threatening muscles, tattoos, a cloak, a sword in his hand, etc.

A new message appears on the display: "TO MAINTAIN PROGRESS, SAVE THE GAME IN THE GAME CENTER. SAVE THE GAME? YES / NO."

SON presses "YES".

The tablet reacts: "SAVING FAILED. INTERNET CONNECTION REQUIRED."

SON curses in disappointment and takes his eyes off the tablet.

HUSBAND is not by the car, he left.

SON notices what he has not seen before: the door of the HOST's house is

ajar.

SON studies the door.

It is swaying and creaking in the breeze.

38 INT. KITCHEN IN THE OUTHOUSE. AFTERNOON.

38

HUSBAND enters.

HUSBAND

I had a look at that wretched belt... I'm not an expert, but...

Just to be sure...

WIFE

And?..

HUSBAND

It is very bad indeed. Whether torn, or cut...

WIFE

You think, he cut it?!.

HUSBAND

It's hard to tell, but...

WIFE

Maybe at a low speed... Little by little...

We might make it down to the valley...

HUSBAND

The risk is enormous.

The belt will break, the engine will stall, I will lose control of the car and...

WIFE

You mean, we are trapped?..

HUSBAND

Well, I would not say so... So far, it is not that bad...

WIFE

So let's stay and wait until it gets much worse, right?

HUSBAND

Stop freaking out, please, nothing bad has happened yet...

Where is the kid?!.

WIFE

He is outside. He said he would play on the porch. Why?

HUSBAND

On the porch?..

WIFE

Yeah.

HUSBAND

He is gone!

39 INT. HOST'S HOUSE. HALLWAY. AFTERNOON.

39

SON enters the house. All appliances are on: TV is talking, radio is playing.

SON walks through the hallway. The doors to the rooms are open, SON looks into the rooms. Under the stairs, there is another door - the only one that is closed.

SON pulls the handle: no, the door is tightly closed. SON looks around the hallway. On the hook of the hanger by the door, there is a bunch of keys. Coming closer, he removes the bunch and starts to look through the keys. One of them seems to fit the lock. SON opens the door. It leads to the basement.

SON turns on the light.

On the yellow wall, there is a writing in red letters: "Maarl-Sheaah". And a down arrow next to it.

SON, driven by children's curiosity, goes down.

40 INT. HOST'S HOUSE. BASEMENT. AFTERNOON.

40

In the dim light of a bare bulb, SON sees that the walls are covered with drawings of people with skulls instead of heads. People stand around huge bonfires lit on mountain slopes.

They seem to be children's drawings, though frighteningly realistic in their naivety. Above them, the same word is written over and over again: "Maarl-Sheaah".

SON touches a heap of rubbish in the corner, a cow skull falls out of it.

The light starts blinking.

SON hears someone coming down the stairs to the basement.

Huddled up in the corner, SON hides under some rags and closes his eyes.

Someone walks in the basement and suddenly tears off the rag he used as a

cover.

It's HUSBAND.

HUSBAND

There you are, kiddo... Mum and I already...

SON

(with relief)

Dad, dad...

HUSBAND

You sat on the porch and then disappeared...

Well, what are you doing here?..

SON

I thought... Router...

HUSBAND looks around the basement.

HUSBAND

Router... And what are these?..

In flashing light, drawings seem alive.

HUSBAND comes closer to examine them.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

A Maarl-Sheaah... What is this crap?..

SON

Dad, don't swear!

HUSBAND

How can I not?.. What's with the keys?..

SON gives him the bunch.

SON

They were on the hook...I just thought...

Check out something else...

SON lightly kicks the cow skull.

HUSBAND looks at the skull and once again surveys the wicked pictures.

HUSBAND

Maarl-Sheaah then...

HUSBAND and SON walk out of the HOST's house.

WIFE runs out of the open shed to meet them.

WIFE

Oh, there you are... I looked everywhere around the house...

HUSBAND

We were inside.

WIFE

(weeping)

First, you disappear, then you go looking for him and disappear, too!

Do not do this to me!.. I'm soooooo scared...

HUSBAND

(reassuringly)

There, there, honey... Don't cry, we are here, all is well...

WIFE

You were gone... And there are psychos all over the place...

HUSBAND

It's okay, it's over. All present, it's fine.

WIFE

Do not disappear again, please.

HUSBAND

You two go upstairs. Meanwhile I'll go and check...

HUSBAND takes out the bunch of keys and shakes it.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

I'll go check what he's hiding in other places...

SON

I'll come with you!

WIFE

No, you stay here!

SON

Dad can't go alone.

In horror movies, those who go alone get eaten.

WIFE

What a load of nonsense!

HUSBAND

Okay, the more the merrier. Come on, don't wander around...

Go upstairs... Oh, and let's have lunch, when we are back.

WIFE

You can postpone a war...

HUSBAND

... but never a lunch.

SON and HUSBAND go towards wooden hangars.

SON

Mum, we'll be right back.

HUSBAND and SON walk away.

WIFE walks up the stairs, poses on the porch and looks at the HOST's house.

The door is open. WIFE hesitates for a while, then, making up her mind, goes inside.

42 INT. HOST'S HOUSE. HALLWAY. AFTERNOON.

42

WIFE cautiously enters the hallway. Now we see the room with her eyes: a mess. Dust. In its corners, there are bundles of books, pots, random clothes on the hanger...

43 INT. HOST'S HOUSE. AFTERNOON.

43

WIFE walks through the rooms. There is a mess here too, but it is clear that the place used to be tidy once. At some point, they gave up on the order. Books and newspapers are scattered on the tables. A game of solitaire is unfinished on the computer, standing in the corner on the table. Ashtrays, overflowing with cigarette butts, are on the windowsills, on the table, on the floor. An old Hi-8 video camera recorder stands next to the turned-on TV. Numerous cassettes are piled up next to it.

44 INT. HANGAR. AFTERNOON.

44

HUSBAND and SON are already in. There, half-covered with sackcloth and tarp, is a real Thunderbird - for some reason, it has no wheels and stands on wooden supports. The wooden runners go to the gate of the hangar and further outside.

SON cries out in joy, climbs into the car and starts turning the steering wheel.

In the corner of the room is a heap of junk covered with a tarp.

HUSBAND comes closer and pulls it off to reveal piles of children's clothing, old toys, dust-covered strollers, a sledge and a tricycle.

Further in the shade, a figure covered with sackcloth rises by the wall.

HUSBAND hesitates, comes up to the figure and pulls the sackcloth off. He screams.

45 INT. HOST'S HOUSE. AFTERNOON.

45

In one of the rooms, WIFE notices a pile of medicine boxes and packs on the table.

WIFE takes an empty box. These are sedatives and potent anti-anxiety drugs generally prescribed to schizoid patients.

WIFE puts the box in her jeans pocket and goes on.

46 INT. HOST'S HOUSE. CHILDREN'S ROOM.

46

WIFE takes the stairs to the first floor. There used to be a children's room here. The room is just as messy, the bed is unmade. There is a guitar on the wall, teenage posters of outdated rock bands, Marvel characters of the '00s, a "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" movie poster.

People's eyes on all the posters are pierced with pins.

Everything is covered in dust.

47 INT. HANGAR. AFTERNOON.

47

Under the pulled-off sackcloth, there is a huge, human-sized doll made of hay and dry branches with a cow skull placed instead of its head. The eyes of the skull are criss-crossed with black sticky tape.

SON

Wow, Maarl-Sheaah!

HUSBAND

What?..

SON

Well... it's all over the place, drawn, written... So I figured...

HUSBAND covers the eerie figure again and goes a little further.

The far wall of the hangar is covered with dried blood. In the best traditions of horror movies, there is a table looking like a butcher

block and a whole arsenal of overwhelmingly creepy skinning knives and meat cleavers above it.

SON does not see this - he rummages through the heap in another corner of the barn.

SON (cont'd)

Wow! Look what I found!

48 INT. HOST'S HOUSE. BEDROOM. AFTERNOON.

48

WIFE continues her investigation. The second bedroom belongs to the host and his wife. The bed in it is also unmade. Plates with the remnants of half-eaten food are on the floor and on the bedside table.

In the corner, there is a crib. One of its side rails is removed. There are swaddles and a pink pajamas on the mattress. Both the crib and the pajamas are brand new, but dusty. The bed is dusty, too.

WIFE thoughtfully inspects the room. Downstairs, several appliances are on...

49 EXT. WASTELAND BY THE HANGAR. AFTERNOON.

49

HUSBAND and SON come out of the barn.

SON carries in his hand a wooden boomerang with intricate carvings.

SON

Cool, right? Can I take it?

HUSBAND locks the door.

HUSBAND

No, you can't... It's not yours...

SON

Please...

HUSBAND

Let's ask Simon, it must be his son's.

SON

He won't give it to me..

HUSBAND

No big deal. I'll get you one.

SON

Not like this one... Look at the pattern...

HUSBAND carefully examines the boomerang.

HUSBAND

I'll make you one. Or shall we make it together?

SON

(distrustfully)

Together?..

HUSBAND

Sure. We can buy a wood carving kit... It's not that difficult, see? I'll teach you.

SON

Deal!

SON turns around and forcefully throws the boomerang.

WIFE, who had been approaching them from behind during this conversation, barely dodges the flying weapon.

WIFE

Oh...Have you gone nuts?..

HUSBAND

Hey, kid, easy there!

SON

I did not notice!

WIFE

Did not notice...

SON runs after the boomerang, WIFE comes closer to HUSBAND.

WIFE (cont'd)

I examined the house...

HUSBAND

And?..

WIFE

There.

WIFE hands him a couple of medicine boxes.

HUSBAND takes one box and turns it over in his hands.

HUSBAND

I don't know a thing about it. Some pills.

What is it? You are a psychologist, not me.

WIFE

Sedatives. Neuroleptics. He has a whole bunch there.

Antipsychotics, tranquilizers.

HUSBAND

Which means...

WIFE

Psycho. A real one.

50 INT. WASTELAND BY THE HANGAR. AFTERNOON

50

SON

Da, ma... Come and see...

Running with the boomerang, SON found another small hangar, whose gate is ajar.

HUSBAND and WIFE come to take a look.

In the hangar, there are several old cars, all disassembled to some degree. None of them has a plate number.

WIFE

Remember, they told us about the families that vanished without a trace here?

Like they fell off the cliff and into the sea?..

HUSBAND

Yes...in the cafe...

WIFE

What if these cars are theirs?..

They hear the sound of an approaching car.

HUSBAND

Quick, to the house... Let's pretend that we have not seen a thing!

51 EXT. FARMYARD. AFTERNOON.

51

HOST unpacks by the house.

HUSBAND, looking relaxed, comes out of the outhouse.

HOST

Oh, hello! Did you take a nap?

HUSBAND

No, we walked around the neighborhood...and were going to have lunch now.

HOST

By the way, there is a local cemetery over there, I would skip it...
Nothing special. You'd better to go down the creek a little further, in
the hollow.

WIFE comes out on the porch.

WIFE

Hello.

HOST

I was just saying that there is a very picturesque creek - there, in the
hollow...

A lake...

HUSBAND

Good, I hope we'll see it next time. We actually have to go...

Did you get the belt? Shall we replace it?

HOST

Oh, it's not that simple...

WIFE

Why?!..

HOST

Out of stock... Available to order only.

HUSBAND

But... When we were walking around, we saw cars for disassembly in the
barn...

Can we remove the belt from one of them?

HOST pauses for a minute before answering.

HOST

Yes, I buy old cars for parts. But there are no spares for your model...

Rare beast. Besides, it's not only the belt that needs changing.

Tension rollers, the pulley...

And most definitely the water pump.

HUSBAND

Sounds sad.

HOST

Well... It's worn out, that's all.

I placed an order, the spare will delivered in a couple of days.

In the meantime, you can live here... I'll give you a discount.

HOST looks friendly, but somehow strange. Every now and then during the conversation, he stutters and looks away...

WIFE is right: if one looks closely, he gives the impression of a sick man.

HOST (cont'd)

So you have not had lunch yet?

Let's eat together, you will be comfortable at my place, in the open air.

WIFE

No, you know, it's a little awkward..

HOST

Oh, please, you will do me a favor.

I brought it all, I will show you how to cook meat in a pot following a local recipe.

(MORE)

My WIFE likes this

HOST (cont'd)

recipe very much, there are little secrets...
special herbs are added for flavor... I'll show.

WIFE

No, you know...

HUSBAND

(chiming in)

Sure, let's do this. If you need potatoes, we have already peeled some.

HOST

Great. Bring them.

Kid, do me a favor and pick some cucumbers and radishes in the garden,
it's over there... behind the house.

SON

Okay...

HOST

Pick up the big ones, don't be shy.

HOST enters the house.

HUSBAND and WIFE exchange glances.

WIFE

I don't want to eat with him! Some kind of herbs...

HUSBAND

As you know, it's better not to argue with psychos.

Let's put him off his guard...

WIFE

And?..

HUSBAND

I'll figure something out.

HOST

(from the porch)

Come on. I have a convenient kitchen...

Meanwhile, you can lay the table.

52 EXT. FARM. VEGETABLE GARDEN. AFTERNOON.

52

Digging radishes, SON discovers several children's toys buried in the garden. Including superhero figures.

53 EXT. FARMYARD. AFTERNOON.

53

HUSBAND holds the figures in his hands.

SON

They were buried in the garden.

HUSBAND

In the ground?

SON

Dad! Where else?

HUSBAND

It makes no sense.

SON

As if they were laid to rest.

HUSBAND

To rest?..

SON

Well yes. You see... their eyes are criss-crossed.

Suddenly HOST walks down the front steps.

HUSBAND hides the toys behind his back.

HOST

Well, are you hungry? Come on!

As the saying goes, let's have a feast as if it's our last one!

54 EXT. FARMYARD. AFTERNOON.

54

Everyone is sitting at the plank table outside. The family is tense, but HOST does not seem to notice. He is a little dazed (clearly, a side effect of the pills), but friendly.

WIFE is wearing a red apron with a kitten.

HOST

Delicious, isn't it? You won't find such meat anywhere else.

Real food. Everyone is delighted.

Our cows eat our grass, and the grass grows on our crystal-clear glacial water...

HUSBAND

Yes, it's very good.

HOST

Live here for a while...And you might want to stay forever.

Many people stay here, you know...

WIFE

No, this is unlikely.

HOST

This apron really suits her, don't you think?

Turn around, please, show us... If I'm not asking too much.

HUSBAND is watching HOST closely. HOST is turning a knife in his hands - not a special kitchen knife, but a real cleaver.

HUSBAND

Yes, it looks very good.

HOST

My WIFE loves this apron very much.

You look just like the lady of this farmhouse.

WIFE laughs forcefully.

WIFE

Thank you.

HOST

You sure, you don't want to stay? You can send these two down and stay at my place, eh?

HUSBAND and WIFE exchange looks

HOST (cont'd)

Just kidding, of course. You are a great couple, we must not separate you two.

Oh, let me give you something to remember me by.

HOST disappears in the house.

WIFE

I can't do this anymore.

HOST walks down the front steps. He has something in his hands.

HOST

Well, it's time you had them.

Close your eyes, give me your hands...

Come on, don't be shy, close your eyes... give me your hands.

All three obey.

HOST puts something in their hands.

HOST (cont'd)

Open!

WIFE shrieks and drops the present on the ground.

HUSBAND examines the gift - this is a little straw doll with a stylized cow skull instead of a head.

Everyone has the same dolls, but in different dresses.

SON

What is it?..

HOST

Do not be afraid, it's only a doll...

HUSBAND

It's a strange doll...

HOST

Symbol of a local holiday.

Well, we have an annual holiday here...

It's fertility festival.

You arrived just in time. It began yesterday, and today is the Night of Fire.

HUSBAND

Night of Fire?..

HOST

Yes. Burnt offering. We burn the old to welcome the new...

HOST pats SON on the head.

HOST (cont'd)

Right, TOMASH?..

WIFE

His name is not TOMASH!

HOST

Oh, yes... Sorry.

55 EXT. WASTELAND BEHIND THE FARM. EVENING.

55

HUSBAND nervously smokes around the corner of the house.

In the distance, the sky begins to light up in a reddish color.

HUSBAND hears unintelligible echoing sounds, but they are very far away, and it is impossible to make them out.

HUSBAND tries to see what it is, but he fails again.

Suddenly, a rustling sound comes from behind.

HUSBAND turns sharply: it's HOST holding two kerosene lamps.

HOST

Here, take it. Power is out again.

HUSBAND

Seems like you have... constant blackouts...

HOST

They will fix it. Later.

HUSBAND

When?

HOST

Then. Later. I will not turn on the generator until tomorrow.

HUSBAND

What is that noise there?

HOST

You'll see... It's there...For now. When it comes here, you'll see.

HUSBAND

See?

HOST

I'll... explain everything. Later.

A rustling noise comes from the attic of the outhouse.

HOST looks up and smiles ominously.

56 INT. OUTHOUSE. NIGHT.

56

The family has dinner in the light of a kerosene lamp.

HUSBAND stands with a plate by the window, watching the farmyard.

HOST passes through the farmyard with a ladder. He disappears around the corner of the outhouse.

HUSBAND

I wonder what he is up to...

SON reads comics.

WIFE

Cut it out... It's dark, you'll break your eyes.

HUSBAND

Come on... For once, he put down the tablet...

SON

It's dead.

HUSBAND

Excellent. What are you reading?

SON

A comic magazine.

HUSBAND

I can see. Is it good?

SON

Yep.

HUSBAND

Let me have a look.

HUSBAND takes the magazine and reads out the summary.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

An iconic story from an iconic author... Blah blah blah...

Classic Lovecraftian horror fiction... Blah blah...

An ancient monster comes out of the sea.

It is worshiped by the inhabitants of a small seaside town...

HUSBAND looks at WIFE.

HUSBAND (cont'd)

All newcomers are sacrificed to this monster,
and only the hero is destined to solve this mystery...

WIFE

Great. Bedtime story.

HUSBAND

(examining the magazine)

Looks old and battered. Apparently, read more than once...

Where did you find it?

SON

Simon gave it to me.

He bought it for his son at the beginning of the summer, but his son has
already read it.

WIFE

Simon?... Let me have a look...

WIFE takes the magazine and looks at the cover.

WIFE (cont'd)

How weird... this is a three-year old issue...

They hear what sounds like heavy footsteps upstairs, in the attic.

WIFE (cont'd)

Oh dear... What is it?

HUSBAND

Probably, Simon... who is in the attic?..

WIFE

Why?

HUSBAND

No idea... I'll go...have a look..

WIFE

I'll join you!

HUSBAND

Right...Okay, come on quick.

(to SON)

You sit here and do not move, okay?

SON

What is Maarl-Sheaah?

57 EXT. FARMYARD. NIGHT.

57

HUSBAND and WIFE are in the shadow of some building not far from the outhouse.

HOST descends from the attic holding something and goes into the house.

WIFE

It seems... He's up to something.

HUSBAND

It may well be that all this is nonsense and we've watched too many horror movies.

WIFE

Maybe so. But you see... We are alone with a psycho...

How can you stay so calm?

HUSBAND

Hush, kitty. We are together. We will figure it out. Do you trust me?

WIFE

I... Last year was so difficult that I...

HUSBAND

Forget it. It is in the past. Here and now. Do you trust me?

WIFE

I...

HUSBAND

Yes or no?

WIFE

Yes...

HUSBAND

Thank you, darling. Now look...

WIFE changes countenance. Eyes wide open, she stares at something behind HUSBAND. She makes hoarse sounds, unable to utter a word in a state of utter horror.

58 INT. outhouse. NIGHT.

58

SON looks through the comic magazine.

In the majority of pictures, the eyes of the drawn heroes are poked out. But not all of them.

SON gets up, picks up a toothpick from the table and starts to poke out the eyes of the remaining figures, working diligently and intently.

59 EXT. FARMYARD. NIGHT.

59

HUSBAND turns around.

Behind him is a terrible figure with a cow head.

Additionally, the cow has only one horn in the middle of the forehead... And it has no eyes.

WIFE screams.

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END OF END OF THE INTRODUCTORY SECTION

THIS VERSION OF SCREENPLAY CURRED DUE INFORMATION SECURITY ISSUES.

THERE IS ABOUT 10 SCENES MORE IN SCREENPLAY, WHICH SCENES IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE STORY AND CONTAINED ALL FINAL TWISTS.

ONLY OUR CONTRIBUTORS CAN SEE IT.

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