

And Darkness Comes

By

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INT. CAR, DAY

A woman, JESSICA is driving down the road, listening to talk radio. A man is screaming about the abhorrence of left-wing politics. JESSICA listens on as she drives, her face not really reacting to what she's hearing, but clearly getting tired of hearing it all the time.

MAN ON RADIO

And these leftists, pacifists,  
pussies, that's what I think of 'em.  
They want to tear down the great  
society of ours that was built on a  
foundation of god. You take god out of  
our country and you're left with  
nothing but a ruinous heap of SHIT!

JESSICA is fed up with the radio, and leans down to change the station. She scans a bit, changing from station to station, until she finally finds a station that is playing some light rock music. She listens to the music for a moment, tapping her hands on the steering wheel as she listens. She starts to get into the music, and her phone falls off of her lap, in between the gap in the passenger seat and center console.

JESSICA

Shit.

JESSICA looks up at the road, then checks her mirrors and sees that no one is around, and begins to reach for the phone. She is unable to reach it, and has to lean down a bit more, feeling around with her fingers, the phone is just out of her reach.

The music on the radio begins to fade in and out, becoming fuzzy.

JESSICA looks back up at the road, then down at the radio, before turning it off and leaning in further to get her phone out of the crevice. She is completely unable to see the road now. After squirming around and positioning herself to be able to grasp her phone, she pulls it up and looks at it before looking back to the road. She sees that she has a missed call from an "Unknown number". She sets it down in the center console area and then finally looks back to the road. In the center of the road ahead of her, she sees a man dressed all in black (MAN IN BLACK) standing, waving at her.

JESSICA slams on her brakes as hard as she can, being jostled forward and nearly slamming her head on the steering wheel.

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She is breathing heavily as she quickly jolts up and looks in the road in front of her. The MAN IN BLACK is no longer standing there. She looks around, in her mirrors and to the sides of her car, before unbuckling her seat belt and getting out of the car.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, DAYTIME

JESSICA gets out of her car and walks around her car, looking around to see where the man went. There are trees to all sides of the car, and she hears nothing but nature. She gets down on her hands and knees and looks underneath her car, but sees nothing.

From within the woods behind her, she hears branches snapping, causing her to quickly whip around to see what or who is there. She sees nothing and stands there for a moment waiting to see if anything is going to come out. Nothing does, and she decides that she should just get back in the car and keep going.

INT. CAR, DAY

JESSICA gets back in the car and looks at her phone. There has been another missed call from an "Unknown number". This time, they left a voicemail. She begins driving again, and listens to the voicemail. It is full of static, but she can vaguely make out a voice.

VOICE IN VOICEMAIL

You're almost there.

The voice causes her to be panicked, and she hangs up and throws the phone down on the passenger seat.

She pushes harder on the accelerator.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, DAYTIME

The car JESSICA is driving speeds up, driving off into the distance.

Footsteps are heard from behind the camera, but nobody is seen.

INT. CAR, DUSK

JESSICA is still driving, now scanning the radio from station to station, but all she is hearing is static. No stations are coming in. She is getting frantic, and thinking that she is lost, alone, deep in the woods of the mountains.

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She decides to pull over and try to figure out where she is on her phone.

She pulls her phone up from the passenger seat, and attempts to open Google Maps, but there is no signal and it's not telling her where she is.

JESSICA

Come on! Where the hell am I?

She attempts to force close the app, and reopen it, but she gets the same result.

She opens the phone app and tries to make a phone call, but it won't go through. In her frustration, she pounds on the steering wheel and slams her phone down on the passenger seat. She sits there, frustrated, looking around out her windows. The sky is getting darker and the trees feel like they're getting closer. She sits there for a minute, thinking about what to do next. In the distance in front of her, she sees a set of headlights coming towards her. She feels relieved.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Yes!

JESSICA gets out of her car.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, DUSK

JESSICA gets out of her car and begins to walk towards the headlights that are still off in the distance. They do not appear to be getting any closer to her. She keeps walking, which slowly turns into a light jog.

Suddenly, the headlights disappear, and she stops in her tracks. The atmosphere around here begins to feel heavier, and she feels an almost primal fear. She looks around her, but sees nothing. There is nothing immediately around her which would be causing the sensation.

The sounds of the crickets that had been in the woods slowly starts to dwindle, adding to her uneasiness.

She looks back towards her car, and can see almost nothing. Only the sight of her headlights can be seen through the darkness. Behind her, it is still dusk. As she begins walking back to her car, she sees a shadow pass in front of her headlights, which causes her to freeze in place. She doesn't know if it was an animal or the person from earlier.

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She stands there, frozen, debating about what she should do. She decides that her best option is to run back to her car as fast as she can, straight into the pitch black.

She runs as fast and as hard as she can, reaching her car. She gets in.

INT. CAR, NIGHT

JESSICA gets in her car and immediately pulls out as fast as she can. She is flooring it.

She gets her phone out and again tries to make a call, but it won't go through.

The radio in her car turns on by itself and starts playing static extremely loudly, startling her. She screams.

Hellacious screams can be faintly heard in the background, along with evil sounding chanting. She tries to turn the radio off, but it won't shut off. The audio from the radio is getting louder and louder, and the chanting and screaming is intensifying.

Suddenly, the car turns off entirely and the audio cuts out.

She sits there, unsure of what to do. Her car is sitting in the middle of the road, in complete darkness. Not even her headlights are working.

She reaches into her purse and pulls out her can of pepper spray and clutches it tightly, not knowing what is happening. She's waiting for someone to come up to her car.

Her phone rings, startling her. She quickly answers it without looking to see who is calling.

JESSICA

(Frantic) Hello? Please help me! I don't know where I am and my car died!

There is no response on the other end, only a dim buzzing sound.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Hello? Can you hear me? I need help!

She listens for a moment, waiting for a response.

VOICE ON PHONE

Yes you do, Jessica.

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The line on the other end hangs up, and JESSICA looks at her phone, seeing that it was again from an "Unknown caller".

JESSICA grasps her pepper spray tighter in her hands. She hears a very loud screech from outside her car, causing her to duck down as far as she can go in the seat of the car.

She waits for a minute before sitting up a bit and peering out of her car. She sees nothing in front and to the sides of her. She turns around and sees a small light off in the distance. They're not car headlights. She tries to focus on the light, to see what it is, but is unable to make it out. It appears to be getting closer to her, but very slowly.

As she is turned around, there is a light tapping on the hood of the car. She doesn't notice it at first, but after the second round of taps, she hears it and quickly swings around to look and see what it is. She can't see out into the darkness, but tries to turn her headlights on and off, trying to get them to work, to no avail.

She suddenly remembers that her phone has a flashlight on it, and turns it on, shining it out of the windshield. She sees nothing.

She quickly turns back around to see the light in the distance is now getting closer to her. Much closer. It is now somewhat apparent that the light is from a torch or something of the like. She is unsure of what to do next, so she gets into the backseat of her car and hides down on the floor as best she can. She has her pepper spray pointed in the direction of the car window, waiting for someone to try and get in.

She listens intently to what may be coming, hearing only wind blowing against the trees outside.

After a few minutes, she slowly gets up and peers out of the back window to see where the light is, only to discover it is now gone. As she is looking out of the back, her car suddenly turns on and some old timey piano music begins playing.

Without hesitation, she climbs up to the driver's seat, puts the car in drive, and starts driving down the road as fast as she can.

INT. CAR, NIGHT

JESSICA is driving away from the area as fast as she can, occasionally looking in the mirrors behind her for a light, but sees only darkness.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, NIGHT

JESSICA's car passes a sign that reads "DEAD END"

INT. CAR, NIGHT

JESSICA continues to drive, looking at her phone occasionally, hoping for a signal.

She glances in her rear view mirror and sees the MAN IN BLACK from before, now sitting in her back seat.

She screams and slams on the brakes, and quickly turns to spray him with her pepper spray, which hasn't left her hand the entire time. But the MAN IN BLACK is no longer there. She turns around, looking for him, and now sees that he is standing in front of her car, in her headlights. She can't make out his face.

She puts the car in reverse and begins to back away from the man, but he is now suddenly sitting in the passenger seat. She doesn't see him until he speaks.

MAN IN BLACK  
You're almost there.

JESSICA slams on her brakes, again, and this time sprays the pepper spray out towards him, but he's disappeared.

Against better judgement, she gets out of the car.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, NIGHT

JESSICA is standing outside of her car and is looking all around her, looking for the MAN IN BLACK.

She does not see him, but on the side of the road, she sees a candle lit. She quickly pulls out her phone and turns on the flashlight and swings it in every direction. She sees nothing, and hears nothing, and begins approaching the candle.

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD, NIGHT

JESSICA reaches the candle and finds a note next to it. She picks up the note and shines her flashlight on it. It reads: JESSICA, MY DEAR JESSICA, WE MISS YOU EVERY DAY. I WISH I WOULD HAVE STOPPED YOU FROM TAKING THAT TRIP.

She drops the note, terrified, and turns back to her car, but it is no longer there.

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She drops to her knees in fear and frustration, and screams out as loud as she can.

MAN IN BLACK  
Are you ready, Jessica?

She quickly spins around and points her pepper spray at the man, but the spray is no longer in her hand. She looks at her hand, unsure of what is happening. She also no longer has her cell phone. The only light is that from the candle that is burning on the side of the road.

JESSICA  
What's happening? Who are you?

The MAN IN BLACK motions for the WOMAN to come closer to him.

MAN IN BLACK  
Come and see.

She slowly gets up and slowly walks towards him, having given in to the insanity that has been happening to her all day and night.

She walks up to the MAN IN BLACK, and this time sees a photo of her and her boyfriend.

JESSICA  
Jake? Why is there a photo of me and  
Jake?

MAN IN BLACK  
Do you not yet remember?

She looks up at the MAN IN BLACK, whose face is still not been revealed to her.

She looks at him intently, when flashes begin to come back into her mind.

EXT. ROAD, DAY

(Flashback scenes)

JESSICA is driving down the road, listening to music. She's tapping on the steering wheel to the beat of the song.

JESSICA drops her phone and reaches down to get it.

JESSICA gets her phone, and looks up at the road.

CUT TO



EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, NIGHT

JESSICA is crawling on the ground, bloody, unable to move her legs. She is screaming out in pain and for help.

CUT TO

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, NIGHT

JESSICA sees a man in the road in front of her car, also lying dead, before her head falls to the road and she dies.

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD, NIGHT

JESSICA drops to the ground and looks at the MAN IN BLACK.

JESSICA  
What was that!? What is this?

MAN IN BLACK  
This, Jessica Marie Hayes, of Earth,  
is the end. It is time to go.

JESSICA is crying, tears are streaming down her face.

JESSICA  
Go where? (Pause) To Heaven?

The MAN IN BLACK does not respond.

JESSICA (CONT'D)  
Tell me! Go fucking where?!

The chanting that she heard on the radio earlier is getting louder around her, and six men dressed in black robes, surround her, chanting something (will figure out soon)

MAN IN BLACK  
From the darkness you emerged. And to  
the darkness, you shall return.

JESSICA is freaking out, looking around at the men in robes.

JESSICA  
Stay away from me! Get away from me!

MAN IN BLACK  
This is the end.

The men in robes close in on her, and she screams.

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SLOW PAN BACK AS THE MEN CLOSE IN ON HER

The MAN IN BLACK, JESSICA, and the men in robes suddenly disappear, and the sound of crickets returns to the forest. The only light to be seen is that of the candle that is burning, in effigy of JESSICA.

FADE TO BLACK