

RUN

Written by

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INT. HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Rain crashes on the windows. A dark creature stands over Joel's father. It's covered in slime, dripping onto the corpse. Its skin is smooth, but bones poke out. It pulls out a red orb from the body's chest. The orb has the dad's face.

JOEL, 12, opens his bedroom door. The monster's red eyes shoot over to the noise.

JOEL

Dad? Are you home?

Joel shines a flashlight at the monster, and it screeches as it turns into smoke and flies out of a window. Joel drops the flashlight and runs to his father.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Dad? Dad! Help! Someone help!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

ON SCREEN TEXT: 2 years later

Four kids sit in a classroom void of any other necessities. They are spread out from one another. Joel, 14, is attentive. MICAH, 14, slouches back, sleeping. JILL, 14, stares out the window. MIKAYLA, 14, draws.

TEACHER, 30s, throws a notebook at each kid. Joel catches it. Micah startles awake. Jill's unfazed. Mikayla moves it and draws.

TEACHER

I know this is a hard time for you guys, so here's a fun assignment. A scavenger hunt. You must all work together to find the items on the list. Since there are four of you, you have until Monday.

The school bell sounds. All the kids pack up and leave.

INT. LUNCHROOM - DAY

The kids sit together, separated from everyone else. Jill and Joel eat. Micah still sleeps, and Mikayla draws.

JOEL

What should we get first? I think we can get the stones done quickly. There's a shop that sells plenty.

They all ignore him.

JOEL (CONT'D)

A bird feather! I have a couple of those. Pinecones are easy.

JILL

That's boring. Let's make it fun. We can go to the cave.

Micah and Mikayla both pay attention.

JOEL

Wasn't that closed down?

JILL

I'm sure that'll be a cakewalk. We are the smartest kids in the school.

JOEL

I can't do it.

MICAH

You don't know how to have fun. Joel, it's time to take risks.

JOEL

I don't think I can get permission even if I wanted to.

MICAH

That's easy. Just sneak out. We can do it tonight. If we get in trouble, we just say it's an assignment.

JOEL

I don't know, guys.

Joel exits, packing up his food. Micah looks at Mikayla.

MICAH

Didn't feel like helping?

Mikayla shrugs and goes back to drawing.

INT. JOEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Joel stares at a photo of his father, a tear streams down his face. He sits up and walks to his bedroom door. He breathes, rubs his chest, and exits.

JOEL
Mom, I'm heading out.

JOEL'S MOM
Be careful, honey!

JOEL
I will.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Mikayla, Jill, and Micah wait at the entrance. Joel sprints up, out of breath.

JOEL
Are you sure we should be doing this?

JILL
It'll be fine. Stop worrying.

Micah scavenges through rocks that fell.

MICAH
I just want to do this and get home. How long should it take?

JOEL
We could find nothing. This cave was cleaned out.

JILL
Stop trying to kill the fun.

Micah finds a tracking device and torn police tape. He picks up the device.

MICAH
What's this thing?

After playing with it, it turns on, blinking green and spinning. Micah drops it, and Mikayla throws a rock at it crushing it.

JILL
I guess we'll never know. Anyway, let's get started, shall we.

Jill hands out four lanterns, and Micah lights them.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

There is no light besides the lanterns. Nothing can be seen except for some lights torn off the walls, accompanied by dried blood stains.

JOEL
How are we ever going to find
anything in here?

JILL
You didn't have to come.

JOEL
I would've lost points on the
assignment.

Behind them, black smoke flies through. More tracking beacons light up, unbeknownst to the kids. Joel scratches his chest.

The kids walk up to a fork.

JILL
Let's cover more ground.

MICAH
Mikayla and I will go left.

Jill sighs.

JILL
We will go right, then.

JOEL
Why'd you sigh?

JILL
I didn't sigh.

JOEL
Yes, you did.

JILL
You're hearing things.

Black smoke flies across the ceiling. Jill flashes the lantern up.

JILL (CONT'D)
And I'm seeing things. Let's
continue. Meet back in 10 minutes.

MICAH
Sure.

Mikayla skips down the left cave with Micah dragging his feet. Jill and Joel walk slowly down the right cave. Joel's hand covers his heart.

INT. RIGHT CAVE - CONTINUOUS

JILL

Why are you doing that?

JOEL

It's nothing.

JILL

Doesn't look like nothing. JOEL
Why do you say that?

JILL (CONT'D)

You've been on edge since we
arrived. Little weird. JOEL
Maybe I'm scared of the dark.

JILL (CONT'D)

Yeah, sure.

Joel turns around, walks three steps and gets a chill. He shines the lantern forward and reveals black smoke. It retracts away from the light before materializing into a slimy demon.

Red eyes stare into Joel's soul. It leans forward and blows out its lantern.

Joel sprints away, pushing Jill over.

INT. LEFT CAVE - SAME

MICAH

You're not much of a talker, are
you? Which is why I chose you.

She glares at him.

MICAH (CONT'D)

What's that look for? We are all in
that class for the same reason.
Traumatic experiences and all. They
won't even let us near other kids.

He finds a place to sit down.

MICAH (CONT'D)

While they look for the items we need, I'm going to sleep. Wake me up in ten, will you?

Mikayla looks down both ways through the cave. She looks up and finds a purple crystal.

MICAH (CONT'D)

You know, you make this job easy.

She kicks him. Then they hear Joel scream. Micah stands up.

MICAH (CONT'D)

Was that Jill?

A lantern shines deep in the cave, getting brighter quickly.

Jill and Joel blow past them. Jill is way behind.

JILL

Gotta go, gotta run, let's get out of here.

MICAH

Why? What's going on?

A breath rolls down Micah's neck. He turns slowly. The demon slashes his arm, leaving four gash marks. He drops the lantern and falls in pain.

Mikayla picks him up and runs. Behind them is all black, but the sound of it's growl echos in front of them.

They near closer and closer to the exit, but black smoke speeds above them, and the demon appears in the exit.

A branch flies through the demon. Mikayla jumps to dodge it almost dropping Micah. But it is unfazed. It creeps closer and closer to Mikayla and Micah.

A red glow starts to glow from their chests.

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Jill and Joel are hiding in the tree line, panting.

JILL

What are we going to do? The stick did nothing.

JOEL
Your lantern. It doesn't like
light. Throw it.

JILL
Why? We won't be able to get home!

JOEL
If you don't throw it, they die.

Jill hesitates, then runs to the cave. No one is there. A
spotlight shines on Jill. She covers her eyes.

AGENT 1
What are you doing here?

JILL
My friends. There was a monster,
and it cornered them in the cave.

AGENT 1
I need you to come with me.

JILL
No, I can't.

The Agent walks over and grabs her arm. The spotlight turns
off.

AGENT 1
Who's there?

He lets go and walks back to it. He immediately gets pulled
into the darkness with a scream, a red light pulses.

Mikayla runs from behind Jill and pulls her back to Joel.

JOEL
You guys are safe!

JILL
Thanks for the help, Joel.

JOEL
I'm sorry. I didn't want to get
caught. I didn't want to be here.

Jill rolls her eyes.

JILL
Mikayla, how did you get out?

She pulls out one of the tracking devices and it blinks
green.

Micah manages to get off Mikayla. He rips his shirt and ties it around his wound.

JOEL
Micah, what happened?

MICAH
That thing stabbed me.

JILL
It's more of a slash if you think about it.

The bushes rustle nearby. They hear a growl. They all turn to look when a dog jumps out. Mikayla starts petting the dog.

It runs away. The monster stands above them. It takes another scratch but misses. The kids scatter.

INT. FOREST - NIGHT

Joel and Jill are running around the trees. The demon phases through.

JOEL
We need to get to town!

JILL
Understood. You guys hear that?

Micah and Mikayla don't answer.

JILL (CONT'D)
Guys?

Mikayla pulls Joel and Jill into a small drop-off. She puts her finger to her mouth as the demon stops above them. Leaves fall. Joel starts to sneeze, but both Jill and Mikayla put their finger under his nose to stop him.

A light shines on them.

AGENT 2
You guys need to come with me.

They shush the agent, but the demon drags him away.

Mikayla urges them to run, pushing them along.

JILL
Where is Micah?

Mikayla shakes her head and shrugs her shoulder.

JOEL
Maybe he got killed?

Mikayla viscously shakes her head.

JOEL (CONT'D)
It's not that bad as a theory. He
goes into shock, and he gets found.

The sounds of shaking leave behind them get closer and closer. Jill spots Micah's face on a red orb and runs to it.

JILL
Micah?

Joel turns around and searches for her. Jill is unconscious, the demon standing over her. A red orb with her face rises.

Joel tries to stop it, but Mikayla pulls him.

JOEL
We can't just leave her!

Mikayla keeps pulling.

The red light disappears, and the demon continues to peruse.

Joel and Mikayla run into another agent. They split up left and right, to go around.

AGENT 3
Hey, stop!

A scream echos behind Joel and Mikayla.

EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS

The town lights come in and out of view as they run. Joel jumps through the bushes and sprints into the middle of the street. Mikayla is nowhere to be seen.

JOEL
We did it!

Joel looks around. Quickly, snapping his head in every direction. A red glow comes from the bush he jumped out of.

He investigates to find Mikayla collapsed, grasping the tracking beacon. But the red glow is coming from her chest.

The monster gets closer. Without thinking, Joel pulls her into the street.

JOEL (CONT'D)
I will not lose another friend!

She gains consciousness and starts crawling quickly into the street, breaking free from Joel's arms.

She nods to Joel, and they peer back into the forest. Inside the darkness, there are only red eyes until it pulls out two orbs.

They are the faces of Jill and Micah.

JOEL (CONT'D)
No...

A lantern appears behind the kids on the crosswalk.

TEACHER
Are you kids okay?

They turn, tears in their eyes.

The street light turns off, and Joel and Mikayla scream. It turns back on with no trace.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Kids! Where'd you go? This isn't funny!

She looks in the forest. The four red orbs of her students.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Come on, let's get you home.

She creeps closer and closer and gets pulled in.

INT. JOEL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Joel's mom looks at a photo of her son and husband and breaks down. There's a knock on her door. It opens to the families of the other kids.

INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT

The classroom sits empty collecting dust. The demon's smoke flies in and knocks over some books.

Janitor, 50's, opens the door and walks in. He picks up the book, and the monster rises behind him.