

IT WANTS TO KILL ME

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Fade In:

INT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Into a big city train station, a MAN enters, his eyes darting about the interior. He wears a tattered, soiled business suit, holds onto a briefcase. He stops, does a spin to take in all corners, and tries to dial a number on his phone, but he discovers that it won't work.

INT. VIEW OF MAN - DAY

He tries to take a deep breath, lets his briefcase drop. He looks imploringly at people standing or sitting near him.

MAN

It wants to kill me.

No response.

MAN (CONT'D)

Did you hear what I said?

YOUNG WOMAN

Walking across the floor, a backpack over her shoulder.

MAN AND WOMAN

She comes towards him, checking messages on her phone. She looks up, notices him, but hurriedly looks down at her cellphone.

MAN (CONT'D)

It's been following me now. For days.

WOMAN

(looking up)

What?

MAN

It wants me dead.

WOMAN

Are you talking to me?

MAN

I came in from the West. South West. Two weeks now,
I've been trying to stay ahead of it. Spent
everything I had just to get away from it.

WOMAN

Do I know you?

MAN

Please. Please. Can you help me?

WOMAN

I don't want to get--

MAN

Did you hear what I said

WOMAN

Yeah. I get the drift. Something's
following you.

MAN

It wants me dead.

WOMAN

Yeah. So. Okay.

She moves a few steps away from him.

VIEW OF CROWDED STATION

MAN

(loudly)

I'm not the only one. It wants others too. Not
just me. Do you understand? Don't you
understand?

He walks over to the WOMAN.

MAN (CONT'D)

I just need a favor. One favor.

WOMAN

(backing away)

Look.

MAN

Phone call. That's all. If you could make just one call.

WOMAN

I don't know. Look. I don't know. Okay? What's wrong with your phone?

MAN

It drained the power.

WOMAN

It?

MAN

I had it charged up. Believe me.

WOMAN

Believe you? I don't know you. For all I know, this is some scam you're pulling. If you're trying to pick me up, well shit. It's just not gonna work. You understand?

MAN

It wants to kill me

WOMAN

I know. I heard you the first twenty times. Look.

MAN

If you don't believe me--

MAN reaches into his pocket. She backs away even further, her hands out.

INT. TRAIN STATION BENCH - DAY

Another MAN stands up, sensing trouble, and approaches the two. The man is dressed in t-shirt, jeans. He pulls up on his pants and stands apart from the two, but he glares at MAN.

MAN 2

Hey. Are you bothering this lady?

MAN has his wallet in his outstretched hand.

MAN

Take a look if you don't believe me.

MAN 2

Just turn around and go out the way you came. She doesn't want to be...

WOMAN

No. I'm okay. Really. I can handle myself.

MAN 2

I was just trying to help.

WOMAN

Well I don't need anyone's help. I can fend for myself.

MAN takes a photo out of his wallet and puts it out toward MAN 2.

MAN

I don't care who helps me. It wants to be kept in the dark. You understand. The more people that know, the faster it will disappear.

MAN 2

Reaching for the photo, looking at it. He does a double take. He looks up at MAN.

MAN

I have more pictures on my phone. Hundreds of them. Taken at all hours of the day and night. I haven't slept in 2 weeks.

MAN 2 now looks concerned.

MAN (CONT'D)

You see why?

MAN 2

What is it?

MAN

If I knew.

WOMAN

What is it? Is he on the level.

MAN 2

Well I don't know if he's on the level.

MAN 2 hands the photo to the WOMAN.

WOMAN

Growing alarm on her face. Her eyes stay fixed on the photo.

WOMAN

Where was this taken?

MAN (O.S.)

In a diner.

WOMAN

Did anyone else--

MAN (O.S.)

The waitress took a picture of me.

WOMAN

You asked her to?

MAN AND WOMAN

His eyes darting about.

MAN

I told her that something was there.

WOMAN

Shit. She took the picture and THIS appeared?

MAN 2

Are you playing a game? Is this a setup? You make money doing this? I mean, a good effects person could pull off something like this I suppose.

MAN wipes away tears.

MAN

It wants to kill me. It's just waiting for the right moment.

WOMAN takes another look at the photo.

WOMAN

I can't stop looking at it.

MAN 2

Approaching MAN

MAN 2

I've seen this scam before.

WOMAN

I don't know. It sure looks real. It's just standing there, behind him. Not some man in a costume. The way it's staring at the camera. It's looking at us like it already knows anyone he might happen to--

MAN

That's how it started. With me. Someone else came up to me in a place, very much like this, and handed me..

WOMAN

No. No. To hell with that--

She drops the photo. MAN reaches down to pick it up.

MAN

Handed me a photo just like that one. And then--

WOMAN

No. I'm not going to look.

MAN 2

Did it follow you here? Are you saying it followed you?

MAN

Where are we?

MAN 2

You don't know? How do you not know?

MAN

I haven't slept in two weeks.

MAN 2

Nice game you're pulling there, pal. Nice game.

MAN

No. It's not a game.

WOMAN

I believe him.

MAN

His eyes wide.

MAN

You're in it now.

VIEW OF ALL THREE

MAN 2

What?

WOMAN

I'm in it now? What the hell does that mean? What are you driving at?

MAN

It knows what it wants. It killed my best friend.

WOMAN

What? Are you shitting me?

MAN

Back West. In the West. Some town back West. Desert town. My best friend was coming in to pick me up. He drove his car where I was. A gas station just 50 miles East of Tucson. I was standing just outside my car. When it's around, you don't dare get inside your car or a bathroom or anyplace where you're alone. That's what it wants you to do, though.

WOMAN

If we know the story, if we know this story--

MAN

Yes. Yes. That's how you die.

MAN 2

What? See that? I told you.

WOMAN

That's not what I was going to say.

MAN 2

Nobody's gonna kill me, pal. And I still think this is a set up.

MAN

My best friend--

MAN 2

What was his name?

MAN

Joe. His name was--

MAN 2

See that? That sounds like a made up name. That's the first name anyone would think of if someone asked them, "What was his name?"

MAN

His name was Joe.

WOMAN

I believe him. How could he make this up? It's too crazy. I mean. Right? Isn't it?

MAN 2

Anybody can make up anything. And he looks the part. This could be a performance of some sort.

WOMAN

A performance?

MAN 2

Yeah. We're unsuspecting saps in this guy's performance. But I just don't get the money part of it.

WOMAN

Money part?

MAN 2

How's he making money off of us?

MAN

No. I'm not making any of this--

MAN 2

Okay. Okay. I'll bite. How did "Joe" die?

MAN

Stepped out of his car.

MAN 2

His hands up, moving as he talks.

MAN 2

Yeah? This better be good. Don't tell us he got hit by a truck or something. Like in that movie, "Final Destination"?

He looks around the space.

MAN 2 (CONT'D)

Are you making a movie? What kind of budget do you have? Are you going to pay us to be in it?

WOMAN

So if we hear how he died, that means we die the same way?

VIEW OF TRAIN STATION BENCH

A young woman--WOMAN 2--is listening to the loud conversation of the three.

MAN (O.S.)

No. No. It doesn't work like that.

(BEAT)

I don't think it works like that.

(BEAT)

I don't know.

WOMAN

Then how does it work? Do you even know?

TRAIN STATION BENCH

WOMAN 2 stands, and approaches the three, moving through a growing crowd.

WOMAN 2

I can't help it. I was listening to you. I know how it works.

WOMAN

What?

WOMAN 2

I said I know.

(BEAT)

It happened to me. I was one of three that survived an attack. The girls in my sorority in college. They were taken one at a time. Some were caught on campus because they were walking alone.

WOMAN

How do you know--

WOMAN 2

Selfies. Just before. And it was always behind them. Right behind them. We were always taking selfies. Day and night. In the dorm room. In the bathroom. Library. In the cafeteria. The first one that said it was after her. Sylvie. None of us believed her. She was always getting high. We thought it was drugs. Paranoia. Then one night, she fell on the sidewalk. The phone was on the pavement.

WOMAN 2 reaches out with cellphone in her hand. WOMAN takes it, a look of horror building on her face.

WOMAN 2 (CONT'D)

Six other girls were taken. The same figure on each of their phones.

WOMAN hands back the phone.

WOMAN

You said you were one of three?

MAN 2

This is some operation you three have going.

WOMAN

You still think they're making it up?

MAN 2

Just to let you know. I'm not falling for any of it. I don't believe in shit like this. Bigfoot. Shadowmen. Men in black. Mothman. Slenderman. I don't believe any of it. Except the Deep State, Pizzagate, Lizard Men, and Q'Anon. That shit is for real, for real.

MAN

How do we fight it.

WOMAN 2

You have to stick together. You can't be alone. Can't stand alone.

WOMAN 2 walks up to MAN.

WOMAN 2 (CONT'D)

You were the one that first came in here.

MAN

That's right.

WOMAN 2

Your best friend. How did he die?

MAN taking a deep breath.

MAN

He was suffocated, I think. I don't know. He was walking towards me and I started taking pictures. He was screaming at me why was I doing that? Why the hell, why the hell was I taking fucking pictures, what the hell was wrong with me? Then all of a sudden, his eyes grow wide, his mouth opens and he's screaming that something's got hold of his throat. Then. Pop! Just like that, his head goes back and he falls to the ground. He's flailing for a few seconds like he's getting electrocuted.

VIEW OF ALL

MAN 2 shaking his head.

WOMAN 2

So we knew.

WOMAN

Who knew?

MAN 2

Knew what?

WOMAN 2

That there's strength. In numbers.

MAN turns his head, and suddenly starts to walk away.

MAN 2

This is a damn movie. I'm telling you. The thing killing off sorority girls or strangers one by one. The found footage. In this case photos on an I-phone. Everyone's gonna die unless they can find a way to work together. And I know how it ends. A twist that comes out of nowhere!

MAN, STANDING

At a distance from us, MAN is staring upward. He lets out a scream, a look of absolute terror on his face.

MAN

It's got me. It's got me! Someone, someone stop it. It's killing me right now. It's killing me right--

MAN falls. The three race toward him. He is on the ground.

MAN, ON FLOOR

His eyes and mouth wide open. MAN 2 kneels down and checks his pulse, then looks up, growing horror on his face.

MAN 2

This ain't no movie.

WOMAN

See? You see? I told you.

She takes MAN 2's picture. Then looks at it. WOMAN 2 looks at the image, begins screaming. WOMAN grabs her by the shoulders.

WOMAN

Stop! Get a hold of yourself!

WOMAN 2

It's gonna takes us down, one by one.

MAN 2 stands, rushes towards them.

MAN 2

Shut up! Shut up! We can beat it. We can beat it back! Right? Am I right? Take my hand.

WOMAN 2

It wants to kill us. It wants to--

MAN 2

Shut the fuck up! It won't kill us. It can't. Strength in numbers. You said so yourself.

WOMAN 2

Strength in numbers. Yes. You're right.

MAN 2

Okay then. Take my hand.

WOMAN 2 nods, reaches for his hand. MAN 2 nods toward WOMAN

MAN 2 (CONT'D)

You also. Come on. Come on! Do you want to die?

WOMAN looks at him. Someone from behind them screams.

WOMAN

I don't think that's it. There's something else going on. It feeds on something else. Or with the help of. Someone.

MAN 2

What are you talking about?

WOMAN
(backing away)
I don't know what I'm saying.

VOICE (O.S.)
What the hell is that thing? It wants to kill--
Sound of a body falling.

MAN 2
(pleading)
Take my hand. Don't be stupid.

WOMAN 2
Teamwork. We can only survive if we stay together.

WOMAN
Pointing at WOMAN 2, stepping back.

WOMAN
No. That's not how it works. I think I know who you are.

WOMAN 2
What? What are you talking about?

WOMAN
I know what you're trying to do. It brought you here.

WOMAN 2
What? My God. You're crazy, lady!

MAN 2
She doesn't want our help? Let her be.

He reaches out a hand for others to join him and WOMAN 2.
Others stand, come forward.

WOMAN AND GROUP

WOMAN steps towards us, the others in the background. She looks at her phone with alarm. Behind her, the group grasps onto one another tightly.

WOMAN 2
You see that. I told you. Teamwork--

Suddenly, WOMAN 2 starts gasping.

WOMAN

Have no fear. I must—

WOMAN 2 glares at MAN 2

WOMAN 2

It was you. It brought YOU here.

MAN 2

Just don't resist.

WOMAN 2's head jerks backward, her mouth opening, letting out a guttural scream.

MAN 2

(smiling, shouting)

This goes down easy if you just give in. Nothing to fear. Let it have its way. It wants what it wants.

WOMAN 2 falls. MAN 2 plods towards WOMAN, but her back is to him. He reaches his arm out to her.

MAN 2 (CONT'D)

Lady. You have to take my hand.

WOMAN

Get the fuck away from me.

MAN 2

But I can help you.

WOMAN turns, puts up her hands.

WOMAN

Like you helped them? I told you. Stay away from me!

He reaches out, almost grasping her shoulder before he is stricken and collapses. WOMAN looks down at him, warily. Then she looks at her phone, alarmed.

WOMAN (CNTD.)

Work alone. Have no fear.

She gestures to SOMEONE, who is standing in shock at the unfolding terror.

WOMAN (CNTD.)

Can you take my picture? Please. My phone is dead.
Take my picture.

SOMEONE AND WOMAN

SOMEONE nods, eyes wide, takes WOMAN'S picture.

WOMAN (CNTD.)

(breathing deeply)

No fear. I can't let it take me. It feeds on fear.
That's it. Breathe deeply. Think about something.
Ocean beach. Wildwood. Summer day with my mother
and sister. They're smiling at me. Telling me it's
going to be okay. I can see them. Deep breath.

(to SOMEONE)

Is there. Is there anything there, anything behind me?

SOMEONE shakes her head. WOMAN closes her eyes, almost loses her balance as if she's been stricken, but she catches herself and SOMEONE moves in to help her. WOMAN shakes her head. She lets go of her phone.

WOMAN (CNTD.)

I'm okay. Just felt a little, dizzy. But I'm alright.

WOMAN FROM A DISTANCE

She takes a deep breath, then pulls her backpack over her shoulders. She looks in all directions, then walks across the floor to the nearest door and exits.

THE END