

RELIQUARY

Written by

????

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FADE IN

EXT. PUBLIC LIBRARY IN A LARGE CITY - EVENING

Closing time. A GUARD holds the door for PATRONS, who exit with armfuls of books.

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY IN A LARGE CITY - MOMENTS LATER

MADELINE, 18, sleeps, curled up in a chair.

A Teen magazine covers a worn, marked up text book.

LETICIA, 30's, in a white County Library shirt, pushes a bucket of soapy water with her mop.

LETICIA

Come on, Madeline...Time to get goin.'

Madeline stirs. Her hair is blond and tangled, which lays in an awkward clump over her ripped flannel man shirt, several sizes too big.

LETICIA

Come on, girlfrien'...

Madeline grunts and picks up her book.

LETICIA

You ever talk to that Janice lady? She say she gonna get you back in school...maybe a G E D?

Madeline stretches and shakes her head

MADELINE

School...yeah.

LETICIA

You got to make better choice, sugar...Ain' no one handin' you an' me nothin' on no silver platter...

Leticia hands Madeline a small bottle of travel shampoo.

Madeline smiles as Leticia motions her to the bathroom.

LETICIA

Go 'head. He ain' gonna be up 'ere  
for another twenty minute.

Madeline walks towards the restroom.

Leticia groans and waves her hand in front of her nose, as if that helps.

She removes a spray bottle from her belt and squirts the chair with liquid.

EXT. BACK ALLEY - EVENING

Madeline strolls down an alley that stretches between two old, red brick buildings.

She rolls back a large dumpster to reveal a small hole in the building, close to the ground and covered by the dumpster and a metal plate.

INT. MADELINE'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

The young woman, who is lovely since she bathed, reaches her feet down to find the small aluminum step ladder that leads her, sadly, home.

It's a small room, ten feet by ten feet, surrounded by stone masonry.

It may have been used to store coal back in the old days, as there are still bricks and boards and huge, rusted machine that was useful at one point, but now is broken and forgotten.

A man, LYNCH, mid 30's, sleeps on a mattress on the floor.

Madeline frowns and walks over to a large, plastic cooler. It's empty, except a few scuttling cockroaches.

Madeline spots an empty can of chili. She picks it up.

MADELINE

Fuck! You ate my chili! God damn  
it, you knew that was mine!

She throws it against the wall, just over Lynch. It sends a shower of roaches over his bed.

MADELINE

Wake up, you fat lazy...!

Madeline nudges him with her foot.

He grunts and rolls over, which reveals an empty bottle of cheap whiskey and a receipt.

MADELINE

You know we can't afford this shit!

She smashes it on the concrete floor. Tears in her eyes and her teeth clenched, she picks up a sharp edge and holds it against Lynch's jugular.

Her hands tremble as she slowly moves the broken glass to her own wrists. Scars show that this is not the first time.

A rat knocks the cooler closed, which breaks Madeline out her dark trance.

MADELINE

Damn it all...

She puts the glass down, sits down with her legs crossed and weeps.

MADELINE

Damn it all to hell.

EXT. SHOP AND SAVE CONVENIENCE MART - NIGHT

Madeline walks towards the store as a low fog rolls along the concrete.

An OLD MAN, 80's, finely dressed, runs up to Madeline as if in a panic.

OLD MAN

Run, child! While you can!

The old man looks over his shoulder with wild eyes. Madeline is stunned.

OLD MAN

Run!

He slips on the side walk, falls into the gutter and quickly gets back up.

The old man scrambles down the street.

Madeline shakes her head and enters the store.

INT. SHOP AND SAVE CONVENIENCE MART

DUANE, 20's, a scruffy man with long hair stuffed under a knit rasta cap.

A CUSTOMER buys a lottery ticket and a box of smokes while Madeline fills a plastic grocery bag with canned goods, soap and other useful items.

CUSTOMER

Thanks. Have a good one.

Duane smirks as the customer leaves. He walks from behind the counter and locks the door.

He flips over the "back in 10 minutes" sign that is suction cupped to the glass.

DUANE

Ain' seen you round here lately.  
Thought you was gonna move on to  
Miami...

Madeline smiles slightly.

DUANE

Assumin' ya want to barter for them  
groceries...

He opens the drawer and takes out thirty dollars.

Madeline nods as Duane holds the "Employee's Only" door open for her.

Through the front window, the old man pounds furiously on the glass.

INT. SHOP AND SAVE -BACK ROOM

Madeline's dirty jeans lay in a pile next her bag of groceries.

DUANE (O.S.)

Oh, God...please...Don' move t'  
Miami!

EXT. SHOP AND SAVE -BACK ALLEY

Madeline leaves through the back door. On the stoop, the old man lay before her, twisted, broken and dead.

Looking left and right, she reaches into his pocket and takes out twelve dollars and thirty five cents.

At the far end of the alley, she notices an old woman, dressed in a black cloak, rummaging desperately through the trash.

Madeline smiles slightly, reaches into her bag and removes a can of Spam...

MADELINE

You wan' this, lady?

The old woman turns, stares for a moment and goes back to her task.

Madeline shrugs and puts the can back in her bag.

EXT. SHOP AND SAVE CONVENIENCE MART - NIGHT

As Madeline walks along, she notices a glint of metal coming from an object in the gutter, near where the old man fell.

It's the size of a coin, though wrapped in several layers of duct tape.

She picks it up and peels off some of the tape.

It has strange markings and appears to be gold.

From the alley, a short walk away, a blood curdling scream!

OLD WOMAN (O.S.)

AIIEEEEEEEEE!

The old woman tears out of the alley, a half a block away. She runs on all fours, like a werewolf might.

The chase is on.

CHASE SEQUENCE

-- Madeline darts into traffic

-- Tires squeal as cars brake in the intersection.

-- Madeline leaps over a car hood.

-- The "old woman" does likewise.

-- Madeline runs as hard as she can.

-- Hands on her knees, she looks behind her. She appears to be gone

END CHASE SEQUENCE

EXT. BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Madeline gasps for breathe as she approaches the dumpster in her "neighborhood".

She puts her shoulder into it and rolls the dumpster forward through the fog that gathers around her feet.

INT. MADELINE'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Lynch is awake, but still wasted. Madeline picks up the cooler, dumps out the roaches and puts the grocery bag inside.

LYNCH

Where ya' been, baby girl?

Madeline sighs as she gathers up some small possessions from around the room.

MADELINE

Out...

LYNCH

You goin' somewheres?

Madeline keeps packing.

MADELINE

Maybe...ain' none o' you business, really...Why don' you jus' do a bit more drinkin' and do whatever you do to "make it all jus' go away".

Lynch stands up. He's almost as tall as the gears on the big, rusty machine, perhaps an old fashioned printing press.

LYNCH

You gonna talk to you step daddy like that?

(MORE)

LYNCH (CONT'D)

You jes' like you mamma...got no  
r'spect, lesson y' learn th' hard  
way...

Madeline grabs a pipe tightly, like a baseball bat. Lynch  
laughs.

LYNCH

Jus' like you mama...fore she  
passed...

Madeline takes a swing, but to no avail. He grabs it and  
throws her into one of the antique machines down there.

Madeline coughs up blood as he takes another swing at her,  
she blocks it with left arm, but it still snaps...broken.

Lynch smiles.

LYNCH

Time to learn some 'spect...

Madeline appears dazed as he picks her up and throws her on  
the bed.

As Lynch unbuttons his shirt, a dense fog appears to pour  
into the room, like a waterfall, from the higher, ground  
level entrance.

MADELINE

Don' do it...I'll stay...I'll  
stay...Promise...

Madeline screams as Lynch unzips his pants...Lynch smiles,  
but doesn't realize the Old Woman stands behind him.

She grabs his arm and throws him down next to Madeline...

OLD WOMAN

Wh...where...?

Lynch growls and charges at her. For a moment, he seems to  
get the upper hand, but only for a moment as the old woman  
presses his body against the big machine.

From behind, Madeline rams the pipe through the woman's  
midsection, causing water to splash from the wound like a  
hose.

Lynch is covered with water.

Slowly, the old woman turns and removes the pipe from her  
gut. The wound heals instantly, but the woman still screams.



Lynch takes another swing, but the old woman blocks him and pounds him with a vicious uppercut that sends him sprawling onto the bed.

The old woman straightens and, like a spider, she climbs onto the rusted machine and howls.

Lynch reaches under the mattress and pulls out a large knife.

With fire in his eyes, he charges at her as Madeline shivers in the corner.

He takes on swing with the blade, but it's not enough.

She grabs his throat. Taking advantage of the additional height, She lifts him off his feet.

He struggles and coughs. His skin appears to peel and crack, his eyes bulge and crumble out of his head.

She discards him, throwing the withered corpse next to Madeline, who screams.

The old woman walks slowly towards Madeline.

Madeline lunges for the pipe, but she is too hurt and too slow.

The old woman grabs it and tosses it aside with a metallic clang. She sighs and extends her hand, palm up.

She strains to speak.

OLD WOMAN

M...my son...please...my son.

MADELINE

What? I'm not your son!

The old woman gestures to her open hand.

OLD WOMAN

Please...My s...son!

Madeline begins to cry.

MADELINE

I'm sorry! I-I don't know what you mean!

The woman screams. Tears flow from her eyes, which appears to cause her great pain.

OLD WOMAN  
No...M...my...SON!!!

MADELINE  
B-But I don't have your son!

Her hand lands on the duct taped coin. She understands.

MADELINE  
This?

The old woman nods.

OLD WOMAN  
All...that's left...but enough.

Madeline stands, straight and tall.

MADELINE  
This was gonna get me outa this  
hell hole but...fuck it.

She sighs and puts the coin in the old woman's hand.

MADELINE  
I ain' got nothin' to lose.

The old woman embraces the coin to her heart as a  
thunderstorm appears to erupt within the basement.

In the center of the storm, the old hag morphs into a  
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...

Surrounded by winds and water, she leans over and kisses  
Madeline on the forehead...

FADE TO BLACK

LETICIA (O.S.)  
I need sixty cee-ces! Stat!

DUANE (O.S.)  
She's convulsing again! Hold her,  
Hold her!

FADE IN

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Madeline, heavily bandaged with her arm in a cast, wakes up.

DUANE  
She's coming too...

Duane is now clean cut with a colorful nurse's smock.

Lynch, also dressed neatly leans over with MOM, (30's) and smiles, holding her hand.

LYNCH

Good to see you, baby girl.

Madeline shakes her head.

MOM

You had a bad wreck yesterday.  
Thank God you're...

MADELINE

...alive?!

Mom embraces Madeline as Leticia enters with a clipboard and stethoscope.

LETICIA

You had some serious trauma to your  
head, young lady. It may take a  
while to get your bearings...

Madeline nods.

MOM

But know this, sweetheart. We'll  
never leave you...

The Beautiful Woman, holding a BOY NEWBORN, glances into the room and smiles.

MOM

...Ever.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR

A dense fog appears on the floor of the corridor as the Beautiful Woman and her baby seem to vanish into the mist.

FADE TO BLACK