

The Silence of the Night

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - EVENING

The summer sun sets on the countryside. A heavy silence with only wind through the trees.

This quietness is broken by the panting of a man (NICK) looming from behind a tree.

He is well-built, in his 40s, wearing an old-time prison outfit. His right hand bleeds.

Nick runs through a field, jumps over a fence, and reaches a path.

In the b.g., dogs bark. Above the trees, far behind him, high prison watchtowers.

Nick leaves the path, crosses a small river, and enters a forest.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Nick runs from tree to tree and stops.

In a glade, a small house --

Feminine clothes are hung and dry in the sun.

The dogs barking get closer.

Nick springs to the house.

EXT. HOUSE - EVENING

Nick passes by a pigeon house and stumbles against an old tree root. He staggers on the ground and blusters.

As Nick sits, out of breath, and holding his wounded hand, the house door half opens and a woman (JANE), wearing a long dress, appears.

She is in her early 30s, blonde-hair and deep blue eyes, and a large scar on her left cheek.

She smiles at Nick.

The dogs barking resound nearer in the forest.

Nick and Jane stare at each other. Nick looks desperate.

Jane reaches out her hand for him.

She beckons him to come in.

Nick gets up and rushes into the house. Jane enters and closes the door.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

As Nick enters the house, out of breath, he sticks his back on the wall by the kitchen window, and peeps outside.

A group of ARMED MEN in dark uniforms and dogs on a leash come to the house.

Someone knocks on the front door.

Jane indicates a door to Nick.

He springs into a --

BEDROOM

NICK'S PANTING FILLS THE SOUNDTRACK

By the window, through the curtains, Nick peeps and sees Jane who's talking to the men in uniforms. She not exactly talks, but rather uses sign language.

One of the men nods. He looks annoyed.

Nick scans the bedroom. The place is neat. On a vanity table, by a petrol lamp, a brush with some blonde hair. No jewels.

A twin bed with an old handmade quilt. Cushions and a rag doll on the top.

Not a trace of any masculine presence. By the wardrobe open door, the man sees only women dresses.

A whole wall is covered by books.

The bedroom door opens slowly and Jane signs to Nick to stay still.

He peeps through the window and sees the group of men going away. He sighs, reassured.

Jane invites him to reenters the --

KITCHEN

Jane stares at Nick. It appears to be some kind of sadness in her eyes. He is about to talk when she puts her finger on his lips.

By signs, Jane "tells" him she can't either talk nor hear.

She takes his wounded hand delicately and invites him to sit down by the fireplace where the fire lightens the room.

Nick sits.

Jane rummages in a cupboard and takes bandages from a tin can. She fills a bowl with water and takes a towel.

She sits across Nick and takes his wounded hand. She looks down at the deep wound for a while. She dips the towel into the water and starts to clean the skin.

Nick scans the kitchen. The room is quite simple and neat, just like the bedroom, with a faded wallpaper and old furniture, as if the entire house belonged in the past.

On the fireplace mantle, a framed picture shows Jane, younger and smiling, with a young bearded man.

She had no scar then.

As Jane taps gently on the wound, Nick grins with pain. Patiently, she cleans his hand, under Nick's puzzled eyes. She leans over his hand with a bandage.

Now, Nick can only see her blonde hair and the white nape of her neck like it was offered to him. Her skin seems so soft. Nick's face approaches her hair and breaths in.

He closes his eyes for a while, enjoying the fragrance.

The bandage over, Jane takes his hand to her mouth and simply kisses it. She stares right into his eyes and smiles.

Nick smiles back.

He's going to talk when Jane looks up at him and puts her finger on his lips.

Jane hangs her head and gets up. She walks into the bedroom, leaving the door wide opened.

Nick hesitates for a second and, finally, gets up at his turn to follow her into the --

BEDROOM

Jane closes the door. Embarrassed, Nick does not know what to do. He stands at the foot of the bed, looking at her.

She takes quietly the cushions and the old rag doll out of the bed and puts them on a chair.

She faces Nick.

She comes slowly to him and starts to undress him.

Nick raises his hand to her face and he's about to brush her scar.

Jane grabs his hand and shakes her head with a sad smile. She puts the hand on her breast.

She lowers her eyes and keeps on undressing him --

LATER

Nick and Jane lies in the bed in the dimness of the bedroom, making love, in front of the rag doll.

It appears to have an amused look.

FADE TO BLACK:

FLASHBACK - FARMHOUSE - EVENING

Jane, younger, stands on the threshold of an old wooden farmhouse.

Amused, she watches a young bearded man (MIKE) chopping logs with a heavy ax. He sweats, apparently exhausted by the effort.

They exchange glances and talks to each other with signs language. They laugh.

Jane sees two MEN looming from nowhere, gun in hand.

They rush to Mike. He's quickly surrounded and he threatens them with the ax.

As the FIRST MAN tries to approach him, Mike swings his ax in the air and misses him.

The SECOND MAN doesn't hesitate.

He shoots at him.

A bullet hits Mike's leg. He collapses on the ground. His head falls by one of the logs.

Jane moans, horrified. She rushes to the second man, rising her nails like claws like a fury.

The second man slaps her on the cheek with his gun. Jane is thrown back to the ground, a large bloody wound on the cheek.

She grovels back, sobbing, under the men's laughing eyes.

END OF THE
FLASHBACK:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Night has fallen.

Jane rests on the bed, half naked. She fixes the ceiling, fullness in her eyes. But the blue of her eyes has turn to-- black.

She smiles. Two long fangs appear.

On the floor, by the bed, like a dismembered marionette, Nick is livid. His lifeless body looks like it has been drained of all his blood.

FLASHBACK - FARMHOUSE - EVENING

Jane grovels back, sobbing, under the men's laughing eyes.

The first man kneels by Mike and deeps his face into his neck.

When he raises his head, Jane can see he has two long bloody fangs.

Terrorized, Jane gets up and runs to the back of the farmhouse. A shot is heard.

The bullet misses her head and hits the wall.

FLASHBACK - FOREST - EVENING

JANE runs in the forest. She can hear the men's laughing.

She stumbles into a ditch, half covered by the leaves.

The two men's boots stop by her.

END OF THE
FLASHBACK:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Fully dressed, Jane steps out of the house.

She stands on the threshold and breathes in. She has Nick's prison outfit in her arms.

She approaches a brazier and throws the clothes into the flames. Black smoke raises to the sky.

Jane raises her black eyes and feels the wind on her face, breathing in and feeling good.

The color of the dark sky matches to Jane's eyes.

She walks to the pigeon house. She opens the tiny door, and takes an owl out.

Jane ties a tiny steel file to its leg, kisses it on the head, and lets the owl fly away.

EXT. DARK SKY - NIGHT

The owl glides toward the prison.

FADE OUT: