

Night Surf

By

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Night Surf by Stephen King

SCENE #1 EXT ROADSIDE NIGHT

Sick Man is tied to a post, he mumbles to himself. Camera pans back to show Corey's leg. Needles drops a pile of sticks in front of him.

NEEDLES

This should be enough right?

BERNIE

Yeah. It's just one guy

COREY

(Somber)

No, the fire must reach the heavens
if the Gods are to be pleased.

BERNIE

If the Gods want a fire that high
they can send us more dead guys.

Corey runs in front of Bernie throwing up his hands

COREY

Thou shalt not blaspheme, lest thee
be named a heathen.

Corey fails to keep his attitude, soon cracking up into laughter with the others. Joan walks up with more sticks.

JOAN

I swear you guys are getting a sick
kick out of this.

COREY

I think of it as doing our civic
duty.

BERNIE

Yeah, disposing of harmful waste.
That kind of stuff.

JOAN

We're hardly civilians any more
Corey, there's not much left to be
civilians of.

BERNIE

I think your just not respecting
our new world properly.

(CONTINUED)

NEEDLES

Just call it what it is. We're
burning the guy.

JOAN

I just still don't get why

NEEDLES

(Shrugs)

It's not like we can just leave the
poor bugger here.

Everyone begins to pile the sticks around Sick Man. Corey
steps forward with a lit branch and lights the pyre.

COREY

And then there was fire!

SCENE #2 EXT COUNTRY ROAD AFTERNOON

The group is walking along a country road.

JOAN

How come you wanted to go to the
field Bernie?

BERNIE

(Shrugs)

Seemed like the only place to go
really. Its the end of the world
and I'm fed up with hanging around
town.

They reach a small gate, stepping through into a large
field. Corey jumps forward.

COREY

I'm free!

He runs off into the field, everyone laughing behind him.

KELLY

(Leans on Joan)

I like it, it's calm and quiet.
Like nothings wrong.

JOAN

Maybe we should stay out here, not
go back.

(CONTINUED)

KELLY

I'd like that, back to the basics.
We could have our own little house
right over there.

JOAN

Yeah, I could hunt in the forest
over there or fish in the river for
food.

BERNIE

And at night you two could lie on
the grass together and realize none
of us know how to live in the wild.

JOAN

Way to kill the mood Bernie, I was
just planning my new life.

KELLY

We're going to have to learn
sometime Bernie, we can't live off
of scavenged tins forever.

NEEDLES

If we last that long

They all go silent, Joan and Kelly break off and head toward the river edge. Bernie and Needles walk a bit further and stop. They sit down. Needles pulls out a cigarette carton and offers one to Bernie. He takes one and they both sit and smoke silently.

BERNIE

You know, I came here with an old
girlfriend once. Must have been a
year ago.

NEEDLES

Yeah? What was she like?

BERNIE

She was alright, big into trees and
nature and stuff. It was nice just
being with someone. You know?

NEEDLES

Kinda, I never really did that kind
of thing.

BERNIE

You never had a girlfriend?

(CONTINUED)

NEEDLES

Depends on how I look at it. I had girlfriends but I didn't feel any connection with them.

They sat quietly for a while.

NEEDLES

I've got it

BERNIE

Got what?

NEEDLES

A6

BERNIE

Yeah? Are you sure?

NEEDLES

Pretty sure, my head hurts and stuff. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. But.

Needles rolls up his sleeve revealing a set of red blotches up his arms.

NEEDLES

I think that's kind of the give away.

BERNIE

Okay.

NEEDLES

I don't feel so bad. I'm not freaking out you know. I guess I just learned not to think about it.

Bernie doesn't answer, he just stares into the middle distance

NEEDLES

I can tell you think about it.

BERNIE

No I don't.

NEEDLES

Yeah you do. You were thinking about it last night. Way I see it, we did him a favor. Guy didn't even know where he was.

(CONTINUED)

BERNIE

He knew alright, I think he just stopped caring.

NEEDLES

Maybe that's the secret, just stop caring.

For a while they just sit there, watching Joan and Kelly at the waters edge.

BERNIE

Do you think we'll make it? Think we'll see another spring?

NEEDLES

Don't know mate. I know I'm probably not going to make it to Christmas. I don't know about you lot.

BERNIE

It's a grim fucking world.

NEEDLES

Whatever kind of world it is, looks like our time in it is over.

Bernie lies back and closes his eyes.

SCENE #3 EXT FIELD MORNING

Corey nudges Bernie awake, Bernie pushes him away and sits up.

BERNIE

What, what do you want?

COERY

We are blessed with a new day, let's not waste it.

Corey scampers away and Bernie looks around as the othes wake up. He leans over to Needles and nudges his shoulder. He doesn't wake up.

BERNIE

Hey. Needles, come on.

He pushes him again. Bernie moves over to him and shakes him. Needles just lies there. Bernie sits back as Joan and Kelly walk over.

(CONTINUED)

JOAN
What's up with Needles?

BERNIE
(Long Pause)
He's dead.

Everyone is silent for a few moments.

COREY
Praise the lords! I'll collect the
wood for the pyre.

Bernie spins around and punches Corey in the nose. He falls back and Bernie stands over him.

BERNIE
Needles was our friend you shit, so
have some fucking respect.

Corey crawls away behind Joan and Kelly. Bernie lets out a long sigh, shaking his hand.

KELLY
Where are we going now Bernie?

For a while Bernie is quiet. He leans down to Needles body, picking out his cigarette carton and lighter. Lighting a smoke he flicks the ash off the end, it floats left on the wind, Bernie points left.

BERNIE
That way.

He walks off with the others behind him.

FADE OUT

END