

THE GLOAMING

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EXT. MOUNTAIN - Day

A large dark mountain. A cloud passes across it. We hear a motorbike approaching and the clatter of tin cans.

BLACK SCREEN - WHITE TEXT - 14th MARCH, 1983

EXT. ROAD - Day

A motorbike races along the empty road. A couple are on the motorbike. She is wearing a simple summer skirt and top. He is in jeans, t-shirt and rucksack.

Tin cans clatter behind the bike, a 'Just Married' sign hangs off the light.

The WOMAN passenger's hair blows violently in the wind. She brings her arms up around the MAN's shoulders resting her head by his neck. She kisses him.

EXT. ROAD - Day

The bike is spluttering along.

The bike judders a few times. The engine falls silent.

The MAN coasts the bike to the side of the road.

BLACK SCREEN - WHITE TEXT - "THE GLOAMING"

EXT. ROAD - Day

The MAN tries to start the bike. The WOMAN looks around down the road. She moves back nervously next to the MAN.

The bike does not start. The WOMAN walks over to the MAN. The couple look at each other. The WOMAN kisses the MAN.

EXT. ROAD - Day

The MAN begins to push the bike along.

The WOMAN has fallen quite far behind the man and the bike.

The MAN stops and looks at her. The WOMAN takes off her high heeled shoes and continues walking.

The MAN waits for her. She gets on the bike and he pushes her along on it.

EXT. ROAD HILL TOP - Day

The MAN rolls a cigarette. He lights it and passes it to the WOMAN. She takes it and smiles. The MAN strokes the back of her neck.

EXT. HILL TOP ROAD - Day

The MAN stands by the side of the road looking he has his arm outstretched with his thumb up. The WOMAN sits by the edge of the road and watches him.

The WOMAN stares off into the distance. Then she stands, turns and walks off into the woods behind her. She grabs the rucksack.

The MAN watches her walk off. Then he runs in after her.

INT. WOODS - Day

The MAN follows the WOMAN. He catches up with her. He grabs her and spins her round.

They play fight and kiss running through the trees like animals.

EXT. WOODS - Day

A small clearing. The MAN and the WOMAN walk around it. They look at each other. She screams. He tries to scream louder. They smile at each other and indulge in louder and louder screams.

The WOMAN jumps into the mans arms and the fall to the floor.

The MAN and WOMAN kiss passionately.

The WOMAN lies on her back the sunlight dappled on her face. A small crucifix glints in the light.

The MAN moves on top of her occasionally casting a large shadow over her coming in close to kiss her.

The sound of the woods builds to a beautiful crescendo of birdsong. The woman winces with a sharp pain. The birds are silenced.

INT. WOODS - Day

The sunlight filters through tree branches.

The MAN and the WOMAN lie in the dappled shade of a large tree. They are covered in small pieces of grass.

The MAN looks over to the WOMAN. She breathes deeply with her eyes shut. He stares at her a while.

The MAN sits up. He looks around. He watches a flower blow in the wind.

He picks the flower and lays it on the WOMANs chest. He stands and walks over to another tree.

The WOMAN opens her eyes. She sits up. She watches the MAN.

The MAN sees something in the distance - an old camper van.

EXT. SCRUB LAND - Day

The MAN and WOMAN run towards the camper van on the horizon.

EXT. CAMPER VAN - Day

The MAN and the WOMAN catch their breath outside the old rusty camper van. Torn curtains billow at the windows.

They walk around the van and look in through the windows.

The MAN pushes the door. He forces the rusty hinges.

INT. CAMPER VAN - Day

The MAN enters the camper slowly followed by the WOMAN. The floor is covered in crushed up balls of paper.

The MAN makes his way into the drivers seat. He tries the ignition. The battery is dead.

The WOMAN looks at a typewriter in on the table. A piece of typed paper is inside. It has the end of a paragraph and the words - THE END.

The MAN climbs back into the living area. He looks at the bed. He pulls back the sheet to reveal a body that seems to have been there for years.

The WOMAN recoils in shock. The MAN looks at the body.

The WOMAN moves over to the body and holds it's hand.

The MAN picks up a bottle of scotch. He takes a swig and leafs through a large pile of typewriting pages on the desk.

The MAN passes the bottle to the WOMAN. She refuses the drink. He pushes the bottle towards her again. She takes a difficult swig.

EXT. CAMPER VAN - Day

The MAN opens the bonnet and tugs out a small hose.

EXT. CAMER VAN - Day

The MAN syphons out the petrol from the tank. Enough to half fill the bottle. As he does so he watches the WOMAN standing in the middle of the field.

The WOMAN looks up to the sky.

EXT. CAMPER VAN - Day

The MAN and WOMAN walk away from the Camper Van. The WOMAN walks a little slower. She turns and looks back. She runs back towards the camper van.

She dives inside. The MAN stops and looks back. The WOMAN comes out of the Camper Van with the clutch of type written pages held desperately tight to her chest.

EXT. SCRUB LAND - Day

The MAN and WOMAN walk back with the petrol bottle. The WOMAN lags a little behind obviously haunted by what she has seen.

EXT. SCRUB LAND - Day

The WOMAN follows the MAN. She is singing to herself and holding her head. She tries to get the image out of her mind by dancing and singing.

She spins around and around. The MAN continues walking in the distance.

She spins. A scream. The MAN isn't there anymore. She runs over to where he was.

INT. WOODS - Day

The WOMAN runs dizzily across the scrub land. She finds a large drop. The MAN is at the bottom of it.

She makes her way down. She holds his head and kisses him. His face tells her he is in agony.

She looks over his body. He pushes her hands down to his ankle.

INT. WOODS - Day

The MAN tries to stand annoyed at the WOMAN trying to help. He falls and screams. She rushes over but he waves her off.

He crawls along on all fours trying to move forward.

He pulls himself up and tries to walk again. Again he crumples to the floor.

He falls on his back and looks to the sky. A flock of birds pass over head.

INT. WOODS - Afternoon

The WOMAN carries the MAN through the woods, his leg bandaged with cloth from her top.

Strange unidentifiable animal noises filter through from a great distance away.

The struggle through very dense dark woodland.

INT. WOODS - Afternoon.

The MAN rolls another cigarette. He lights it and offers it to the WOMAN. She refuses. She paces around looking into the distance.

The WOMAN grabs the cigarette from the MAN's mouth. She smokes. She looks at him as if trying to find the solution to a puzzle.

INT. WOODS - Afternoon.

The WOMAN tears off a piece of cloth from her top. She ties the piece of material on to a tree.

She takes out a small box from the ruck sack and hands it to the MAN who is resting under a tree.

The WOMAN picks up the MAN and carries on into the woods.

INT. WOODS - Afternoon

In the undergrowth small pieces of coloured paper sparkle. They are pieces of confetti.

The MAN sprinkles confetti behind them as she carries him through the wood.

INT. WOODS - Dusk

The woods are dark, only silhouetted by the faint blue of the sky.

A small orange glow darts amongst the trees.

It comes closer. It is the WOMAN with a flaming torch. Her dress is torn. She is holding up the man as they lurch along. The MAN still has the petrol bottle and the rucksack.

The WOMAN leans the MAN up against a tree. She walks off in to the distance with the torch looking ahead for a way out.

The MAN moves his arm to his side. He winces. He holds himself up against the tree.

The WOMAN comes up close to the MAN. She stares at him deeply, not in the eyes but all over like she is making a judgement.

The WOMAN picks up the MAN.

EXT. LAKE EDGE - Dusk

The WOMAN stands by the edge of a great lake her flaming torch reflected in the water. The MAN is slumped on the floor. There seems no where else to go.

INT. WOODS - Night

The WOMAN desperately tries to light the edge of a large piece of fire wood with a small match. The wood does not catch.

The MAN stares at the WOMAN.

The WOMAN pulls the pages of the novel manuscript from her bag.

She flicks through them slowly. She guiltily crumples them up and puts them under the wood. The fire lights with ease.

The words warp and bend as they blacken and fall apart.

INT. WOODS - Night

The MAN and WOMAN sit either side of a small fire. They open small napkins in their hands. They contain pieces of wedding cake. Small pieces of confetti fall out.

The MAN stares deep into the fire. There is a small crack in his glasses that reflect the flames.

Wind whistles through the trees.

INT. WOODS - Night

The MAN sleeps uncomfortably on the floor lit by the embers of the fire. The woman wipes the hair from his face.

The WOMAN sits by the fire desperately trying to keep awake. The sounds of animals moving reverberate through the air.

She looks up into the sky and sees a shooting star pass by over head. She holds her crucifix and - eyes closed - mumbles desperately to herself

Animals calls swell in the distance.

The MAN's eyes open and watch her back lit by the fire.

EXT. LAKE - Dawn

The WOMAN lies asleep by the embers of the fire. The dawn chorus is almost deafening.

Her eyes begin to open.

EXT. WOODS - Dawn

A beautiful sunrise breaks the sky. A scream echoes around the woods.

EXT. LAKE - Dawn

The WOMAN looks around her. She is totally alone. She looks all around her. She looks over to the lake. There seems to be something floating in the middle of it.

The WOMAN, crying, follows the trail cautiously into the water.

She goes as far out as possible before needing to swim. She reaches the object.

She grabs it. It is the MAN's shirt. She is silently hysterical.

EXT. LAKE - Dawn

The WOMAN shivers and she removes her soaking clothes. She opens the rucksack. She pulls something white out. She puts it on. It is her wedding dress.

She grabs the petrol bottle and starts to move but she notices something on the floor.

His wedding ring. She picks it up and puts it on. A tear wells in her eye.

INT. WOODS - Day

The WOMAN struggles through the deep foliage holding the petrol can. The branches tearing at her wedding dress as she goes.

She stops to look around. She sees the small piece of cloth from earlier still attached to a branch. She sees some confetti.

She walks on.

INT. WOODS - Afternoon

The WOMAN continues to stumble through. She is exhausted. A noise in the distance. She stops to hear. Another noise. A car driving fast.

The WOMAN gets up and RUNS.

INT. WOODS - Afternoon

The WOMAN runs as fast as she can bashing the foliage out of the way.

EXT. DESERTED ROAD - Day.

The WOMAN emerges on the road. She is still carrying the petrol bottle and rucksack.

EXT. DESERTED ROAD - Dusk.

Later. It is now raining. She is soaked through. She walks as if she has been on the road for hours.

She stops and looks to the side of the road. She sees something.

It is the motorbike. Their motorbike.

The WOMAN looks to the long road in front of her. She starts to cry. She looks back into the wood.

The WOMAN opens the petrol bottle and douses the bike in petrol.

She strikes a match and sets the motorbike on fire.

Her hair sticks to her face in the rain. Her eyes are illuminated by the blaze.

She turns and walks back into the woods.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - Dusk

The cloud passes fully across the mountain.