

CAN'T SCARE ME

EXT. FOREST CAMPGROUND - NIGHT

A moonlit mist shrouds the large, moss covered trees. Two tents are set-up and a large fire crackles and lights the frightened face of DUNCAN, 20s, outdoorsy type with shaggy hair.

He squeezes the hand of a dark-haired beauty, CATRIONA, 20s. She's not scared, but hangs onto every word from the speaker:

LACHLAN, 20s, macho and arrogant. He leans forward, exaggerating the stark shadows on his face. His voice is set to spook mode.

LACHLAN

When he went back to camp in the morning...

Next to him is MALVINA, 20s, light hair, fair skinned and sculpted like a Greek goddess.

LACHLAN

All of his friends were dead. Their blood, sucked dry!

MALVINA

Boo!

She turns and startles Duncan.

He jolts; tips over his camping chair and falls backwards to the ground.

The other three laugh.

DUNCAN

You guys suck!

He picks himself up from the ground.

CATRIONA

Duncan, it's just a story.

DUNCAN

I told you, I scare easy.

LACHLAN

I don't get scared.

MALVINA

If you knew what was in these woods, you'd get scared.

He shakes his head.

DUNCAN

What if you were walking, alone, in these woods and some ghostly little girl appeared? All alone.

MALVINA

And she looked up at you with hollow eyes and said, "have you seen my mommy?"

Duncan shivers.

DUNCAN

That would freak the shit out of me.

CATRIONA

It's true. On our first date, we left the pub and he swore we were being followed. He kept hearing this jingling sound.

DUNCAN

Whatever, you were scared too.

Catriona starts to laugh.

CATRIONA

No, so he grabs my hand and we run. But the jingling gets louder.

DUNCAN

She was just as scared as me.

CATRIONA

It was his bloody keys bouncing in his pocket.

Malvina cracks a smile.

LACHLAN

Dude, I'm disappointed in you.

He turns to Catriona.

LACHLAN

How are you still with this sissy?

CATRIONA

It's only been a few weeks, but I'm having my doubts...

She pats his leg, playful.

DUNCAN

Very funny. So, Lachlan, if you don't get scared, prove it!

Catriona lights up.

CATRIONA

Good idea.

MALVINA

No, not a good idea, Catriona.

She gives Catriona the stink eye.

MALVINA

It's getting late.

LACHLAN

What did you have in mind?

MALVINA

No.

Lachlan turns to comfort her.

LACHLAN

Mal, it's okay. I'll be fine, I promise.

DUNCAN

Walk to the river and back.

MALVINA

I won't allow it.

CATRIONA

Oh, come on Malvina. He'll only be gone a few minutes.

Lachlan bolts up from his chair and moves to leave.

DUNCAN

How do we know you made it all the way?

LACHLAN

I'll take a cup and bring back some water from the river.

Malvina folds her arms and huffs.

LACHLAN

Babe! I'll be right back.

He kisses her forehead then grabs a paper cup.

CATRIONA  
And no flashlight.

He pulls out his keys with a tiny flashlight attached and gives them to her.

LACHLAN  
Don't get scared when I'm gone.

He steps away from the fire and into the darkness.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Lachlan walks through the serene, moon-lit woods. Thick, imposing trees tower up through the mist.

He plods across the moss covered ground.

A faint jingle noise trails him.

He stops and looks back.

LACHLAN  
Funny, Duncan.

Nobody's there.

He continues to walk.

The jingle sounds again, quiet, but distinct. He ignores it and continues.

LACHLAN  
You're not going to scare me guys.

The jingling gets louder, closer. It sounds like jingling keys.

Lachlan stops.

He reaches in his pocket. Nothing.

The jingle sound starts back up with Lachlan stopped; it trails away.

Silence.

LACHLAN  
Malvina, is that you?

Eerie silence.

He walks on again.

LACHLAN  
You're going crazy.

Footsteps sound from his left. His head darts to the noise.

Nothing. Not even the grass or bushes move.

He shakes his head and walks on further. He nears the bank of a river.

Footsteps sound behind him, they get closer... and closer...

LACHLAN  
Not funny Duncan.

He spins --

Nothing. The footsteps are gone.

LACHLAN  
Guys?

His breathing picks up in pace.

A quiet old woman's singing hums through the air.

Lachlan spins around to the sound.

Up on the other side of the river about 50 meters is an old WASHING WOMAN. She dips rags in and out of the river.

WASHING WOMAN  
(singing)  
"The dog's spelder'd on the floor,  
and disna gi'e a cheep..."

She doesn't know he's there.

LACHLAN  
Hey, Lady!

She ignores him.

WASHING WOMAN  
"but here's a waukrife laddie that  
winna fa' asleep..."

An inhuman shriek zips through the air!

Lachlan turns, panic creeps across his face. His eyes search left. Right.

Nothing. Then back to the river.

The Woman's gone.

LACHLAN  
Catriona! Malvina!

Silence. He looks shaken up; uncomfortable.

He sprints up to the river and dips the paper cup.

He peaks inside:

The water is tinged with blood.

WASHING WOMAN (O.S.)  
"Rumblin', tumblin' round about..."

Lachlan drops the cup and looks back up the river.

She's back, but now twice as close.

With a closer view, the rags she washes are blood-stained. She has long, gray hair and wears a plain white dress.

LACHLAN  
Who are you?

WASHING WOMAN  
"Crawin' like a cock..."

She pushes the rags under the water and brings them back up. A reddish trail is swept down by the river's current.

Her head slowly glances up to him. Her eyes are white and milked-over. Her song continues.

WASHING WOMAN  
"Skirlin' like a kenna-what..."

Her mouth stops moving, but the song continues.

WASHING WOMAN (V.O.)  
"Wank 'ain sleepin' folk..."

Another shriek!

Lachlan looks behind - nothing. Back to the river.

The Washing Woman is gone!

He bends and grabs the cup and dips it once more in the river. He bolts out of there.

EXT. FOREST - ALMOST TO CAMP - NIGHT

Lachlan looks petrified, but he sprints across the woods.

WASHING WOMAN (V.O.)  
 "Anything but sleep you rogue!  
 Glow' ring like the mune..."

He glances back as he runs. Nobody's there.

The sound of footfalls chase him.

He trips; falls.

Footsteps near. He closes his eyes.

LACHLAN  
 (to himself)  
 It's all in your head. It's all in  
 your head.

A hand touches his shoulder. He screams!

MALVINA  
 Lachlan, it's me.

He looks up. It is her.

His breaths are rapid.

MALVINA  
 Wait, are you scared?!

He struggles to his feet.

LACHLAN  
 I saw some creepy lady down at the  
 river. She was washing bloody  
 clothes --

Malvina tries to hide a giggle, but doesn't do a good job.

LACHLAN  
 I'm serious. The river had blood in  
 it.

He looks around the ground. He spots it: his cup.

LACHLAN  
 I brought some back.

He picks up the smashed cup. There's remnants of river  
 water... but no blood.

MALVINA  
Looks like plain water.

LACHLAN  
I swear.

She puts her arm around him.

MALVINA  
Let's get you back to camp and calm  
you down.

She raises an eyebrow and winks.

They start towards camp, the fire is in view.

MALVINA  
Your heart's racing.

She feels the pulse in his neck.

MALVINA  
It's like a million kilometers an  
hour.

She smiles, sinister.

MALVINA  
Full of adrenaline. Extra tasty.

Her fingernail pierces his jugular.

Instantly her mouth covers the wound. She drinks his blood.

His eyes widen with pain, and fear. Up next to the campfire,  
Catriona drops Duncan's lifeless body and wipes blood from  
her lips.

The shriek echoes again.

Lachlan struggles through his last breaths.

Blood trickles out from Malvina's lips and down his pale  
neck. The crimson almost glows in the moon light.

WASHING WOMAN (V.O.)  
"That has a battle aye wi' sleep  
before he'll close an ee. But kiss  
frae aff his rosy lips gies  
strength anew to me.

FADE OUT.