

DROWNED

8/4/2007

EXT. CREEK - NIGHT

Jimmy's tent is set up a few yards from the creek. Inside is the glow of a flashlight. It's also raining.

INT. JIMMY'S TENT - NIGHT

JIMMY (13), CLARK (12) and RYAN (12) sit circled around a brand new hunting knife.

CLARK

Wow...

JIMMY

I can't believe my daddy got it for me. I've wanted it forever.

CLARK

Can I touch it?

JIMMY

Yeah, but be careful.

Slowly, Clark reaches down and takes the knife out of its white box. He touches the pearl inlay on the handle.

CLARK

I'm gonna ask my daddy if I can get one too.

RYAN

Me too. It's the best birthday present I've ever seen.

Outside, it thunders, and they hear a scream.

CLARK

What's that?

JIMMY

Probably my brother.

He quickly crawls out of the tent.

EXT. TENT - NIGHT

TYLER (10) tries to run away.

JIMMY

Come back here, you little bitch!

Jimmy chases him, and finally tackles him. They land in the mud.

JIMMY

Why are you spying on us?

TYLER

I wasn't!

JIMMY

We heard you!

TYLER

I was just bored and wanted to see what y'all were doing.

JIMMY

Mamma told you not to bother us. Now go home.

TYLER

I wanna stay here.

JIMMY

No!

Tyler, head down, slowly walks away.

INT. JIMMY'S TENT - LATER

The three boys are asleep. It's still storming. Slowly, the flap opens and as quietly as he can, Tyler sneaks in. There isn't much room with everyone lying down, but he's careful.

The knife, in it's white box, lies in the middle of the tent.

Tyler reaches out, touches it. Jimmy's eyes dart open and he grabs Tyler's hand.

JIMMY

Caught ya!

Tyler's eyes widen, and he tries to pull away.

TYLER

I'm sorry, Jimmy! I'm sorry!

For a split second, Jimmy takes his eyes off the knife. With Tyler's free hand, he grabs it, yanks free of Jimmy, and runs out.

EXT. CREEK - BANK - NIGHT

The three boys chase him out. He's cornered at the creek. He looks behind him, at the roaring waters, and at his brother and his friends. Then he looks at the creek again.

JIMMY

Come on, Tyler. I'm not mad.
Just come away from there.

TYLER

You are mad at me.

JIMMY

No, I'm not. We'll make room
for you in the tent. I swear.

CLARK

(whispers)
There ain't no room.

JIMMY

(to Clark)
Shut up!
(to Tyler)
Please, Tyler, come on.

Tyler steps forward, but then the thunder scares him, and he falls and lets go of the knife. It rolls out of the box and into the creek.

TYLER

No!

Tyler jumps for it. Jimmy jumps for Tyler.

JIMMY

Stop!

Tyler jumps in the roaring water, but he's carried away by the current. Jimmy swims after him. Clark and Ryan stare at each other.

INT. CREEK - NIGHT

Jimmy floats down the creek and scans the surface. He can't see Tyler.

JIMMY

Where are you, Tyler?

Then - Tyler. He's face down. Jimmy kicks and strokes after him, coughing up water on his way. He manages to grab Tyler's foot and bring him close.

Jimmy struggles with Tyler's body, but manages to get him to the creek. Clark and Ryan help.

JIMMY

Go get my dad!

Clark and Ryan run away. Jimmy puts Tyler on his back. He's bruised a bit, and not breathing.

JIMMY

God damnit!

He doesn't know what to do, but tries CPR. Nothing happens.

CLARK (O.S.)

They're over here!

LUKE (40s) and RUTH (30s), still in their pajamas, rush to Jimmy's side.

LUKE

What happened?

JIMMY

He tried to take the knife,
and I was kinda mean, and he
dropped it and went after it.
I'm so sorry, dad, I'm so
sorry.

LUKE

It's okay. Let's just bring
him inside.

Luke picks him up. Ruth cries. They walk to the house.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JIM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JIM (now 30) lies in bed with LISA (late 20s).

LISA

That's awful.

JIM

Yeah, all because some stupid
hunting knife. I wasn't able to
sleep for months afterwards.

LISA

Do you still have nightmares?

JIM

Yeah, I do.

LISA

I'm sorry, Jim.

JIM

That's why I really don't
like the water.

LISA

But it'll be a nice trip, I
promise.

JIM

I guess.

LISA

So you'll go?

JIM

Yeah, but don't expect me to swim.

She laughs.

EXT. DOCKS - DAY

An ugly blue houseboat sits at the marina. Jim carries a suitcase and a cooler. Lisa has her suitcase.

JIM

This is it?

LISA

Yep.

JIM

I thought you said it was nice.

LISA

It used to be. Maybe you can fix it up.

Jim gives a mock laugh. They walk on board.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - CABIN - NIGHT

Lisa lies in bed. Jim comes out of the bathroom. He snuggles up to Lisa. She kisses him, and they cuddle.

LISA

I'm glad you came.

JIM

Me too.

They fall asleep.

EXT. CREEK - NIGHT (DREAM)

Splashing water. Falling rain. A boy's cries.

JIM (V.O.)

Tyler!

INT. HOUSEBOAT - CABIN - NIGHT

He's sitting up. Lisa wakes.

LISA

Are you okay?

JIM

Yeah, just a bad dream.

LISA

About Tyler?

JIM

Yeah.

LISA

I'm sorry, baby.

Jim settles back into bed. Lisa falls asleep. From the hallway, he hears footsteps and dripping water.

JIM

Did you hear that?

LISA

Hear what?

JIM

Just listen.

Jim listens, but he doesn't hear anything else.

JIM

I swear I heard something.

LISA

It wasn't anything.

Jim gets out of bed. Walks to the hallway.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jim looks toward the stern. He walks to the sliding glass door that leads to a wooden deck.

Stars and the moon shine clearly. The deck is dry. He opens the door and steps out.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - STERN - DECK - NIGHT

He looks down. The water's flat. He walks back inside the hallway.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - CABIN - NIGHT

He crawls back into bed.

LISA

Where'd you go?

JIM

Bathroom.

He tries to go back to sleep, but he hears the dripping again. He opens his eyes and looks up.

Tyler, still 10, stands before Jim, soaking wet. His crystal blue eyes look larger without skin around his sockets.

JIM

Tyler?

TYLER

Hello, Jimmy.

JIM

You're not real.

To prove him wrong, Tyler strokes Jim's cheek. He shudders.

JIM

What do you want? Revenge?
It's been twenty years.

TYLER

Come with me.

He puts out his hand and leads Jim to the stern.

EXT. HOUSEBOAT - STERN - DECK - NIGHT

It's the middle of a storm. The boat heaves with the waves. Water splashes onto the deck. Jim keeps his grip on the railing.

Tyler stands perfectly still while the boat rocks back and forth. He speaks plainly over the roar of the storm.

TYLER

Don't be scared.

JIM

Why?

TYLER

Come closer.

Jim struggles against the wind as he walks toward Tyler.

They stand face to face. Suddenly, Tyler pushes him into the lake.

EXT. CREEK - NIGHT

Jimmy eyes the waves for Tyler. He sees him floating on his stomach. He swims faster, swallowing water, but doesn't care.

He picks up by his waist and carries him to the bank. Clark and Ryan help him.

EXT. BANK

Jim puts his fists together and slams them on Tyler's chest. Twice. Three times. He coughs up water and inhales a gulp of air.

Luke and Ruth rush to his side.

LUKE

What happened?

TYLER

It's okay. I'm okay.

Ruth hugs him. Jimmy collapses.

EXT. HOUSEBOAT - STERN - DECK - NIGHT

The deck's dry. The sky's clear. Jim lies on his back, soaking wet. Lisa kneels beside him.

LISA

Wake up, baby.

JIM

Tyler!

LISA

Tyler isn't here. It was all a bad dream.

JIM

I saved him.

LISA

There's no one to save, honey. Let's get back to bed.

They walk back in the cabin and climb in bed.

EXT. CREEK - DAY (DREAM)

It's a clear day. A healthy Tyler waves good bye as we...

FADE OUT.