

EVERYTHING YOU BELIEVE

BY

Cupid Delorian

DARKNESS

Voices are heard.

VOI CE #1
Thanks for coming.

VOI CE #2
What's this about?

VOI CE #1
Did I ever tell you about the
time I met the Grim Reaper?

VOI CE #2
No.

VOI CE #1
It was incredible. She told me
life's big secret.

VOI CE #2
She?

VOI CE #1
Yeah.

VOI CE #2
I see.

FADE IN;

INT. SAUL'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Night. The room is still. SAUL TAYLOR is asleep in bed.

The clocks in the house begin to stop at exactly eleven
twenty-two; his digital clock flashes once and turns off. A
red-haired figure stands at the end of his bed. Saul opens
his eyes.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

Saul stands at the mouth of a well-furnished hotel
corridor. A blinding light beams from the other end,
blurring any certainties. A red-haired woman dressed in a
hospital gown emerges from the light.

VOI CE #1/SAUL (V.O.)
She just came up to me and
offered her hand.

Saul lowers his arms from his face and sees the red-haired woman, THE GRIM REAPER, walk towards him, her hand outstretched. Saul stares at her hand.

VOICE #1/SAUL (CONT'D)
Of course, I was apprehensive.

Saul continues to stare at her hand, fearing its touch. She re-assures him.

THE GRIM REAPER
(smiling)
It doesn't quite work like that.

The two shake hands and meet eyes.

VOICE #1/SAUL (V.O.)
I shook it.
(Beat)
I didn't die.

VOICE #2 (V.O.)
(Sceptical)
And this wasn't a dream?

INT. SAUL'S BEDROOM - EVENING

The room as it was before, dark and still.

Saul's bed is empty, the duvet thrown back.

VOICE #1/SAUL (V.O.)
No.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY

Saul and The Grim Reaper are still holding hands, motionless.

VOICE #2 (V.O.)
How can you be sure?

VOICE #1/SAUL (V.O.)
You know. You know what's real.

VOICE #2 (V.O.)
So what's this secret she shared?
Life's big secret?

The Grim Reaper is suddenly cautious and nervous; she withdraws her hand and steps back slowly.

THE GRIM REAPER
There is no such thing as death.
It's a well-constructed lie.

SAUL
What?

THE GRIM REAPER
You don't die. No-one does.
You're still alive. You just
go... somewhere.

SAUL
The afterlife?

THE GRIM REAPER
No. In real life. We take you.
When you're ready.

SAUL
Where?

THE GRIM REAPER
You know I won't tell you that.

Saul begins to get tired and confused, irritated.

SAUL
This doesn't make any sense. What
are funerals then? And bones,
skeletons. Burials.

THE GRIM REAPER
Not what it seems.

SAUL
(Offended)
Hey, I've lost people.

THE GRIM REAPER
And you can find them again.

The blinding light from behind The Grim Reaper suddenly
fades, leaving the corridor in near total darkness.

THE GRIM REAPER (CONT'D)
Find out for yourself.

SAUL
How?

THE GRIM REAPER
You know how.

INT. BASEMENT - EVENING

Saul, visibly tired, is sat at a small table in a dimly-lit
basement. The room is a mock-up of Saul's bedroom, exact to
the layout, with everything seemingly a shade darker. There
looks to be a body asleep in the bed.

Sat opposite the table is FREY CASSAN, Saul's therapist-of-sorts. Both are dressed in dark suits. Smoke fills the air.

VOICE #2/FREY

So now I see why you called me here.

SAUL

I want you to help me, Frey.

FREY

(Beat)

Okay. But my actions are not with my endorsement.

SAUL

I didn't think they would be.

Frey stands up from the table and walks over to Saul, who is removing his jacket.

SAUL (CONT'D)

How are we doing this then?

Frey pulls a needle from his inside jacket pocket, along with a small pot of fluid.

FREY

A small dose of this and you'll go, that's it, lights out.

Frey begins to fill the needle with fluid from the pot.

FREY (CONT'D)

Then you'll have forty-five seconds, that's forty-five as in, forty-five. I can't give you anymore than that. The longer the heart is stopped, the harder it is to get beating again. So how long have you got?

SAUL

Forty-five seconds.

Saul has pulled up the sleeve of his arm and held it out, ready for Frey's injection. He stops just before the needle enters the vein.

FREY

No, forty.

Frey enters the needle before Saul can respond. He grimaces, and then relaxes. Seconds pass by. Suddenly he convulses and a large drilling sound is heard.

The room shakes releasing dust from the ceiling. Frey hears several pairs of dense footsteps coming down into the basement. Saul's head flops as he collapses in the chair.

Fade out. A commotion is heard but not seen.

Darkness.

INT. WHITE CORRIDOR

Saul is lying on the floor of a pristine white corridor. He blinks hard and spits as he slowly gets up. The corridor is long with many doors either side of him.

The sound of footsteps from behind him. Muffled shouts.

Disorientated and dizzy, Saul stumbles to the end of the corridor, the clean white wall design giving way to a more regal, red furnishing as the corridor changes. The footsteps and commotion behind him edges closer.

Saul arrives at the end of the corridor; a secretary sat behind a large desk with heavily-decorated golden doors either side of her.

She briefly glances up at Saul.

SECRETARY

Which one?

Saul leans against the right wall, mumbling.

SAUL

What?

The secretary looks up from her documents and sighs impatiently.

SECRETARY

Which door are you going through?

Saul glances left to right at the doors. A loud banging is heard from behind him. He looks round; the lights are turning off one at a time, the darkness working its way up the corridor towards them.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

I'd hurry if I were you.

Frey's voice is faintly heard in the darkness, calling out to Saul. Saul turns back to the doors and hurriedly walks into the middle of the corridor.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Only a few seconds left, Saul.
Left or right, come on.

The lights go out around Saul. He begins his way to the left door before being totally engulfed by the darkness.

The drilling sound is heard again.

INT. HOSPITAL SIDE ROOM - MORNING

Saul is in a hospital bed surrounded by doctors.

DOCTOR #1
Mark the time of death at eleven
twenty-two.

DOCTOR #2
Eleven twenty-two.

They begin to leave the room. They pass Frey in the corridor who is at the window looking in at Saul, emotionless. The design of the window distorts his reflection.

Frey makes his to the door but stops short, as if suddenly presented with an invisible force. He looks back in at Saul and walks away.

Taking Frey's place at the window almost immediately is The Grim Reaper, smiling. She looks in at Saul with pride before making her way into the room.

The door slams shut hard.

FADE OUT