

HANGING AT THE DINER

Written by

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INT. DINER-NIGHT

A quiet diner late at night. The clocks in the diner read: 3:14 A.M. No customers are inside and only MARLENE, a waitress, PAULETTE, a cook, and Paulette's son ALFRED are there. Alfred sits in a booth in the corner of the diner playing with several action figures.

Marlene looks out one of the windows in the diner. On the bench that sits outside the window is a calm-looking MAN wearing a suit. He looks out toward the parking lot. Paulette looks at Marlene as she puts her apron on the counter of the diner and walks toward Alfred.

PAULETTE

You sure you don't mind watching  
Alfred?

Marlene smiles at Paulette.

MARLENE

Not at all, Paulette.

Paulette stops in front of Alfred.

PAULETTE

I appreciate it.

Paulette kisses Alfred with motherly affection. She looks at Alfred as he looks up at her. Marlene warmly watches them with admiration and reflection.

PAULETTE (CONT'D)

I'll be back soon, alright Alfred.  
I love you.

Alfred looks at Paulette.

ALFRED

I love you too.

Paulette then waves to Marlene as she walks out of the diner.

PAULETTE

I'll see you later.

Marlene smiles.

MARLENE

Alright.

Marlene watches through the diner's windows as Paulette passes the Man sitting outside on the bench. The mysterious Man looks at her as she gets in her car and drives away.

Marlene nervously looks at the man sitting on the bench before she looks at Alfred. Alfred is looking right at her.

MARLENE (CONT'D)  
Do you want anything to eat,  
Alfred?

Alfred shakes his head as he looks at the action figures for a few moments before he looks at Marlene.

ALFRED  
No, I'm fine. Thank you though  
ma'am.

Marlene smiles.

MARLENE  
That's fine. Your mom will be back  
soon. She's just got to go home  
real quick.

Marlene looks at the clock in the diner and notices the late time. After a few moments, she looks at Alfred.

MARLENE (CONT'D)  
You get to stay up late tonight.

ALFRED  
I've had to when mom's working at  
nights here.

Marlene smiles as she looks in her purse.

MARLENE  
Are you going to be alright in here  
if I go outside?

Marlene sees a cigarette pack in her purse and grabs her purse as she starts to walk toward the front door of the diner. Alfred continues to sit in the booth and play with several action figures.

ALFRED  
Yes ma'am.

MARLENE  
I'll be right outside.

Marlene walks outside.

EXT. DINER-NIGHT

Marlene walks outside the quiet diner and smiles at the Man who sits in the bench. The parking lot is empty except for Marlene's vehicle and a few street lights that illuminate the parking lot.

Neon signs from the diner shine on Marlene as she looks through her purse. Several envelopes sent from her husband, the government, and lawyers as well as makeup and a coin purse are in it. Marlene takes the cigarette pack out of the purse and looks at the Man who sits in the bench.

MARLENE

You don't mind if I put my purse  
next to you?

The Man smiles.

MAN

No ma'am. That's fine.

Marlene lays her purse on the bench. She takes a cigarette out, puts it in her mouth, and lights the cigarette. After a few moments, she offers the cigarette pack to the man.

MARLENE

Do you want some?

MAN

No ma'am. I'm trying to quit  
smoking those.

Marlene puts the cigarette pack in her purse.

MARLENE

I tried. I really have tried.

Marlene shakes her head.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

I've been so stressed lately  
though.

MAN

That happens a lot.

Suddenly, Alfred opens the door of the diner and walks outside. He looks at Marlene.

ALFRED

Can you get me a drink please?

Marlene smiles as she puts her cigarette on the bench.

MARLENE  
Yeah, no problem.

Marlene and Alfred start to walk inside the diner. Marlene looks at the mysterious Man.

MARLENE (CONT'D)  
I'll be right out.

The Man cryptically smiles.

MAN  
I'll be here.

INT. DINER-NIGHT

Marlene and Alfred walk inside the diner. Marlene walks toward the soda fountain.

MARLENE  
What kinda drink do you want,  
Alfred?

Alfred stops in front of the counter.

ALFRED  
Coca-cola, please, ma'am.

Marlene pours a glass of Coca-Cola from the soda fountain and gives the glass to Alfred. She smiles at the young boy.

MARLENE  
There you go.

ALFRED  
Thank you.

Alfred takes a sip from the glass and walks back to the booth where his action figures are. Marlene looks at Alfred as she walks toward the door of the diner.

MARLENE  
If you need me, I'll be right  
outside.

ALFRED  
Yes ma'am.

EXT. DINER-NIGHT

Marlene walks outside the diner and toward the bench. The Man is still seated at the bench.

Marlene grabs the cigarette from the bench. The Man smiles at her as Marlene takes a few calm drags from the cigarette. After a few moments, Marlene looks at the Man.

MARLENE

Do you want anything to eat or drink?

MAN

No, ma'am.

After a few moments, the Man looks around the remote parking lot.

MAN (CONT'D)

I'm just chillin' out here right now.

Marlene smiles.

MARLENE

There's a law against that you know.

The Man then smiles at Marlene.

MAN

I'm sorry then.

MARLENE

Do you need any help now though?

The Man quietly shakes his head.

MAN

No, ma'am. I don't.

After a few moments, the Man worriedly looks at Marlene.

MAN (CONT'D)

You might though Marlene.

Marlene nervously puts her cigarette out in a nearby ashtray and looks at the Man.

MARLENE

What do you mean? How do you know my name?

The Man looks down in contemplative reflection.

MAN

People are always confused by me.  
They're confused by what I do and  
what I will do.

The Man then looks at Marlene.

MAN (CONT'D)

I know a lot about people and what  
will happen to them. I have a gift  
like that Marlene Stanwyck.

Marlene looks at the Man in interest and confusion.

MARLENE

What is this gift? Are you a  
psychic?

The Man knowingly smiles.

MAN

Yeah, you can call me that Mrs.  
Stanwyck. I can know about people  
without having met them or talked  
to them. I can see their past,  
present, and future.

Marlene looks at the Man with unease.

MAN (CONT'D)

I can tell them what's going to  
happen to them in the next few  
minutes in their lives.

Marlene nervously smiles.

MARLENE

That's crazy, sir.

Marlene looks down for a few moments before she looks at the  
Man.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

I'm not sure how you knew my name.  
I can't believe that you're a  
psychic though.

MAN

Not many people do at first,  
Marlene. I have to get their trust  
and get their respect.

MARLENE

How do you do that then?

The Man quietly and reflectively looks around the parking lot.

MAN

I have my ways.

After a few moments, The Man intently looks at Marlene.

MAN (CONT'D)

I can convince them by my gift. I can tell you, Marlene about your own marriage. I can tell you about your husband Elia and the divorce that you two are thinking about getting.

Marlene nervously looks at the Man.

MARLENE

You know that. How'd you know that?

The Man smiles as he looks at the parking lot for a few moments before he looks at Marlene.

MAN

I'm here to do more than just hang at the diner, Marlene. I'm here to help you and your husband.

The Man looks down for a few moments before he looks at Marlene.

MAN (CONT'D)

You're both having a tough time now. I understand that you still love him and he still loves you and that you would want to save him.

Marlene then fearfully looks at the Man, nervously awaiting what he will tell her next.

MARLENE

What do you mean save him?

The Man intently looks at Marlene.

MAN

He's in trouble, Marlene. He's there at your house now isn't he?

Marlene frantically and nervously looks at the Man as tears start to come down her cheeks.



MARLENE

Yes. Is he alright?

Marlene looks down before she looks at the Man. She starts to tremble in fear.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

Is he going to be alright?

The Man looks at Marlene. He then looks down in thought for a few moments before he suddenly and quickly stands up from the bench.

MAN

He won't be in a few minutes,  
Marlene. I see a fire happening in  
that house.

The Man grabs Marlene by the shoulders and looks at her.

MAN (CONT'D)

Were you cooking there tonight  
before you started working?

Marlene shakes her head.

MARLENE

I don't think so. I don't think I  
was cooking anything tonight.

The Man looks down before he looks at Marlene.

MAN

Maybe he was cooking and used the  
oven tonight. Something is going  
to happen there though at 1414  
Tourneur Lane. There's a fire  
that's going to happen there in a  
few minutes, Marlene and I know  
that your husband is going to die  
there tonight unless you get there  
now.

Marlene nervously looks through the diner window at Alfred for a few moments before she looks at the Man.

MARLENE

I got to stay here though. I have  
to watch Alfred and I can't just  
fucking leave him here.

MAN

Elia will die tonight unless you  
get there in eight minutes,  
Marlene. He's going to die tonight  
unless you save him.

Marlene looks through the diner window at Alfred for a few moments before she looks at the Man. Tears continue to come down her cheeks.

MARLENE

Can you watch him? His mom will be  
here soon and I'll be back here in  
a few minutes.

The mysterious Man looks at the diner in thought for a few moments before he looks at Marlene.

MAN

What about customers though? What  
should I tell them if they show up  
here?

Marlene fearfully and frantically grabs her purse.

MARLENE

There's never any fucking customers  
in here this late at night. Just  
please watch him.

Marlene then looks at the Man.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

He's a really good kid and his name  
is Alfred

The Man quietly nods his head.

MAN

I understand, Marlene. I'll stay  
here.

Marlene looks at the Man in gratitude through her tears.

MARLENE

Thank you sir. I appreciate it.

Marlene then quickly walks toward the front door of the diner while the Man watches her.

INT. DINER-NIGHT

Marlene quickly walks inside the diner and looks at Alfred who continues to sit in the booth and play with several action figures.

MARLENE

Alfred.

Marlene walks toward Alfred, stops in front of him, leans down, and puts her hands on his shoulders.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

I have to go because of an emergency.

Marlene nods her head toward the window in the diner where the Man stands outside and looks toward them through the window.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

This nice man outside is going to watch you a few minutes.

Alfred looks at the Man through the window. The Man waves at Alfred through the window. Marlene looks at Alfred.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

Your mom will be here really soon alright.

Alfred looks at Marlene.

ALFRED

Yes ma'am.

MARLENE

Just stay in here. I'll be back soon and so will your mom. I promise. Just wait in here.

Marlene smiles at Alfred as she quickly stands up and starts to walk out of the diner. Alfred nervously watches her walk out of the diner.

EXT. DINER-NIGHT

Marlene frantically walks out of the diner. She looks at the Man outside as she quickly walks to her car.

MARLENE

Thank you sir.

MAN

No problem, Marlene.

Marlene opens the door on the driver's side and gets inside her vehicle.

MARLENE

He's a nice boy. I'll be back here really quick.

Marlene then starts to drive away from the diner. After a few moments, the Man looks through the diner window at Alfred who nervously looks at the Man through the window.

The Man then pulls out an envelope from his pocket and looks at it. The envelope reads: Mr. and Mrs. Elia and Marlene Stanwyck, 1414 Tourneur Lane, Neff, Georgia and is addressed from a divorce lawyer's office.

After a few moments, the Man puts the envelope in his pocket and pulls out a switchblade from his pocket. He raises the switchblade, viciously pops the blade out, and looks through the diner window at Alfred. Alfred fearfully looks at the Man as the Man walks inside the diner.