<u>TREE</u>

Written by

Simon K. Parker

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simonkyleparker@hotmail.co.uk

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FIELD - DAY

A large open field, the grass blanketed with thick heavy snow.

BARRY HENRY, 30, ruggedly handsome with long floppy hair and dressed in warm winter clothes marches his way across the snow towards a single oak tree, a heavy axe held in both hands.

2 EXT. TREE - DAY

2

1

Barry stands at the side of the tree, eyeing it up.

A beat.

He lets out a slow deep breath and shakes his head.

BARRY It's only going to get colder. There's nothing else I can do. My family needs me to do this. I want to protect them. I have to do this.

Barry readies himself, holding the axe up high. He swings it hard and fast.

CHOP!

Barry buries his axe into the side of the tree. Blood sprays out of the bark splattering all over his face.

Barry pulls the axe out.

More blood pours down the tree from where his axe struck.

Barry holds his axe up, ready to strike again.

He watches as the blood trickles all the way down to ground and stains the snow.

He lowers his head, sad.

BARRY (CONT'D) I can't do it.

He drops the axe and places both hands to the cut, trying to stop the bleeding

INT. CABIN - DAY.

A small one room cabin. Two beds on the right hand side with a small cooker and table on the left.

3

A log burning fire place goes unused.

RACH HENRY, 29, slender of frame with curly red hair and bright green eyes kneels in front of the fire place with a bundled up baby girl in her arms.

She glares at Barry.

RACH

What!

He leans against a closed door, and places the blood stained axe down.

BARRY There will be no more trees left.

RACH I asked you to cut it down.

BARRY

I know.

RACH You said you were going to cut I down.

He lowers his head.

BARRY

I know.

RACH But you didn't?

BARRY

It's the last tree on earth. All the forests are gone. If I cut this down man will have finally destroyed this planet, there will be no going back.

RACH We'll freeze to death without it.

BARRY

There must be another way.

CUT TO:

Barry and Rach sit on a bed together. Rach is feeding the baby from her breast.

BARRY (CONT'D) My life has no meaning.

She frowns.

RACH You're a husband. And a father.

BARRY But all our lives are is survival. Every year it's the same. We do just enough to survive.

RACH What more can we do?

BARRY I want to create a future worth living for our daughter.

CUT TO:

Barry is asleep in one bed as Rach stands over their daughter on the other.

The baby coughs weakly.

Fear fills Rach's face, she yells out.

RACH

Barry.

He's still asleep.

She turns to him, raising her voice even more.

RACH (CONT'D)

BARRY!

He blots up right in bed, groggy.

BARRY

What?

RACH She's sick.

He turns to face them.

BARRY What, who is?

RACH Our daughter, listen.

A beat.

Their daughter coughs again.

Barry gets off of his bed and kneels next to the other, peering over his daughter.

BARRY What's wrong?

RACH She's sick Barry. It's the cold. It's killing her.

He looks up at Rach.

BARRY How long has she had this cough for?

RACH What does it matter, she has it now. You have to do something.

A beat.

He thinks it over, a shake of the head.

BARRY But I don't know what I can do?

She points at the dead fireplace.

RACH

Fix it.

CUT TO:

Rach stands with her daughter in her arms, gently rocking her to sleep.

She watches Barry, kneeling in front of the fireplace he's ripping up old clothes.

RACH (CONT'D) What are you doing?

BARRY Getting us warm.

He puts the torn up clothes into the fireplace and sets them alight.

He turns to her smiling.

BARRY (CONT'D) Come over here.

She's reluctant.

RACH That's not going to do it.

He's stern with her.

Come feel the heat, warm up.

She step over to him and kneels down beside him.

RACH

This isn't going to be enough.

He puts his hands out towards the small burning flames.

BARRY Can you feel it?

She nods.

RACH

Yeah.

BARRY Then we'll make do.

She shakes her head, defeated.

RACH

We need wood.

He studies her.

A beat.

She grows uncomfortable.

RACH (CONT'D) What, why are you staring at me like that?

He smirks.

BARRY I love you, you know that right?

She turns away from him.

RACH

Yeah.

BARRY I don't know what I'd do without you.

Rach hands Barry their daughter.

RACH Hold her for a while.

He takes her into his arms.

BARRY

What's wrong?

Rach stands up and moves over to one of the beds, lying out across it.

BARRY (CONT'D) Things will be alright, you just have to believe in me.

CUT TO:

Barry walks around the cabin with his daughter still in his arms.

He looks around, Rach isn't here.

He looks back down at his daughter.

BARRY (CONT'D) Where's mommy gone?

He smiles.

BARRY (CONT'D) You're so beautiful.

He kisses her.

A beat.

BARRY (CONT'D) And you're cough, it's gone.

He looks down at the fireplace, it's still burning but it's not much.

Back to his daughter.

BARRY (CONT'D) You were just cold weren't you? But don't worry, daddy's not going to let anything bad happen to you.

Again he looks around the cabin, worry etched into his face.

BARRY (CONT'D) But where has she gotten to?

He comes over to the door, looks down at the floor, thinking. It hits him.

BARRY (CONT'D)

No.

He looks over at the bed behind him before he comes back to the door.

A beat.

BARRY (CONT'D) Where the hell is my axe!

4 EXT. TREE - DAY

4

Rach is soaked from head to toe in blood.

HACK!

HACK!

HACK!

She swings the blade of the axe deep into the side of the tree, cutting away at it.

The tree bleeds heavily, dying.

The ground all around it soaked red with its pain.

CUT TO:

From the other side of the field Barry sprints towards her with their daughter still in his arms.

He watches her, screaming.

BARRY Don't do it, it's the last one!

CUT TO:

Rach still hacks away, determined.

RACH I have to do this!

BARRY

Stop it!

Barry gets to her, with his daughter held in one arm her reaches out with the other, grabbing a hold of the axe he rips it out of Rach's hands and throws it away.

She turns to him, furious.

RACH What are you doing!

He grabs onto her, shaking her.

BARRY You can't do this.

Rach has tears in her eyes.

RACH I'm saving us.

BARRY There's no more trees left, this is it.

Rach slaps him hard across the face.

RACH You're killing us!

A beat.

He shakes his head.

BARRY I'm trying to save us.

RACH

Bastard!

Their daughter starts to cry.

Rach panics, she takes her out of Barry's arms.

RACH (CONT'D) It's OK baby, mommy's here.

Barry look at the tree, still bleeding.

Barry picks up two handfuls of snow and rubs it against where the tree is cut, again trying to stop the bleeding.

He bends down and picks up more snow, rubbing it across the trees wound.

Barry bends over to pick more up, but stops. Underneath the snow and by the roots of the tree he sees a strange looking moss.

He picks up a handful, smells it.

Barry's thinking then smiles.

BARRY

Rach!

She turns around to face him, tears still falling.

He holds the moss up to her.

BARRY (CONT'D) Look at what the tree has given us.

5

INT. CABIN - DAY 5 Barry throws the moss into the fireplace and sets it on fire. It's burns brightly, and burns like wood. He has a large bag filled with the moss behind him. He shows the bag to Rach who's sitting on the edge of one of the beds, their daughter in her arms. Rach is freshly washed, clean from the trees blood and in new clothes. BARRY We have enough to last us all winter. She smiles. RACH That's great. Again she starts to cry. He hurries over to her. BARRY What's wrong? RACH I nearly cut it down. I'm so sorry. BARRY Don't be, it's OK. RACH Have I damaged the tree too much? He shakes his head. BARRY It'll be fine, the bleeding stopped. We just have to be the ones who protect it now. RACH I nearly killed it though. He shrugs.

But if you hadn't have done it, I might never have seen this moss, and it burns just like wood.

RACH

I just wanted to save us from the winter.

He nods.

BARRY

I know. And you were right, I was the one who needed to protect us. I should never have forced you to do what you did. It was all my fault.

She shakes her head.

RACH

No.

He smiles.

BARRY But everything is going to be OK now.

RACH You promise?

They kiss.

CUT TO:

Barry and Rach sit in front of the fireplace, Barry takes their sleeping daughter from Rach and holds onto her.

Rach leans over and rests her head against his shoulder, they both look into the roaring fire.

A happy and warm family.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END