

"THE DETECTION"

By

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FADE IN:

WAVES crashing on a beach.

DISSOLVE TO:

1

EXT. SUFFOLK BEACH - DAY.

1

WIDE SHOT of married couple, ROB and LINDA, standing on the beach. 40's, obviously from out of town. In the background we can see a scruffy OLD MAN working the beach with a metal detector.

LINDA

Why did we come here again?

ROB

It's only a short break. Get away from the smog and stress of the city.

LINDA

There's nothing here to do!

ROB

(Resigned to failure here)

I know.

Just then the wind lifts off Linda's hat and it blows down the beach towards the old man. Linda mutters expletives as she and Rob chase after the hat. With a deft touch and quick as lightning the old man catches the hat. Rob and Linda catch up to the old man and grab it back. Neither of them say anything to him. Rob barely acknowledges the old man's help and Linda doesn't even look at him.

LINDA

Lets just go. I'm fed up now.

ROB

Come, lets sit up there for a bit.

Rob and Linda turn and walk towards a piece of heather that would give them a bit of shelter.

LINDA

I bet that old man is out here every day. Scavenging.

ROB

You're probably right, dear.

The Old man just stands and stares at the pair through all this. Once the pair are a short distance away he returns to his Metal Detector.

Short montage of images of the beach and surrounding area.

Houses in far distance. Heather. Woodland. Car park.

As we view the empty car park (apart from Rob and Linda's car) another car enters and parks up. Four youths exit.

Sam, 25, Cocky and assured or even cocksure.

Grace, 22, Bit of a girl. Fancies Sam.

Mark, 27, Smartest of a poor bunch.

Steven, 24, Grace's brother. No support.

SAM

Bring the beer, then. Idiot.

SAM.

Twat.

GRACE

Bonfire, Bonfire, Bonfire.

SAM

Come on.

MARK

I've got it. Get down the beach.

Follow the youth's from the car park to the beach. The old man and his metal detector come into view.

SAM

Ooh look at Blackbeard and his fucking treasure. Alright, mate?

Sam gives the metal detector a small pathetic kick as he walks past the old man. Steven does too but even more pathetic.

GRACE

Where's the wood, then? You said there'd be wood. I want my fire.

SAM

Patience, my dear. Marky, go and get the wood.

MARK

Fuck off. Let him get it.

STEVEN

I ain't going.

GRACE

Oh for Fucks sake. Let's all get it.

WIDE SHOT of the beach to show the four youths collecting the wood for the bonfire. Old man still shuffling around the beach and the Rob and Linda sitting close by.

CUT TO:

The bonfire is all but prepped. Sam and Grace are laying on a blanket "fooling around" as Mark and Steven throw on the last bits of wood. As they do this we can see the old man in the mid distance doing his detecting.

We HEAR the Metal detector buzz go off. So do Mark and Steven.

STEVEN

Oi Sam, the Old guys got a bite.

Sam looks up from whatever he is doing with Grace.

SAM

Yeah I heard. Shall we help him dig?

Steven grins.

CUT TO:

All four youths have overtaken the old man's search for his "find," a couple of them are on their hands and knees chucking sand and pebbles behind them. The old man is silent but trying to keep in with digging out the treasure.

MARK

What have we got here?

SAM

There's nothing here, old man.

GRACE

Looking for your dinner were you?

The old man leans further in to protect his find. Steven takes exception and pushes him over.

STEVEN

Just fuck off!

The old man lays in the sand, staring at the four. He looks over to Rob and Linda who are looking but they do nothing.

SAM
Got it. Look, clear the way.

Sam removes a box from the Sand/Pebbles and the four return to their blanket and bonfire.

GRACE
Open it up.

SAM
No. Light the fire, first.

The old man picks up his metal detector and walks away into the distance.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. SUFFOLK BEACH - NIGHT

2

The youths are sitting, drinking alcohol around the bonfire. Telling ghost stories and laughing. Cans of beer are strewn about. Sam is holding court.

SAM
The stormiest night you
can imagine, right.
Lightning, thunder, hail.

MARK
I've heard this.

SAM
(Annoyed) No you fucking haven't.

MARK
Alright.

SAM
May I continue?

MARK
Of course. Sorry.

In the distance we HEAR the faint squeal of the METAL DETECTOR.

Sam continues his story but the squeal gets louder until...

Steven hears it too.

STEVEN
Can you hear that?

SAM
I'm talking. Am I going to finish
this fucking story or what?

GRACE

No, he's right. What is it?

Sam stands up to listen.

STEVEN

It's over there.

MARK

I know what it is.

A Beat.

They all look at Mark, waiting for the answer.

SAM

Well enlighten us, Sherlock.

MARK

It's the old man's
metal detector.

STEVEN

He's right. It's over there.

Steven points to an area of darkness along the beach.

SAM

Go and investigate, or are are
you chicken?

MARK

(confidently) I'll hold your
hand. Come on.

Steven follows Mark out and toward the dark area of
the beach. We continue to HEAR the metal detector.

Low shot of the Mark and Steven's feet as they walk
along the beach - walking, walking, until Mark's foot
kicks the Metal Detector, partially buried in the sand.

MARK (CONT'D)

Fuck it. Here it is.

STEVEN

Where's the old man?

Mark picks up the instrument.

MARK

Dunno, but these are worth a few
quid.

STEVEN

You better clean it first. What's
that shit dripping off it?

Mark examines the metal detector and is horrified to find that it covered in BLOOD. Mark immediately drops it to the ground as a thick whirl of mist appears out of nowhere.

CUT TO:

Sam and Grace are getting touchy, feely on the blanket. Oblivious.

CUT TO:

Mark and Steven are now surrounded by the fog. Try as they might but they cannot see a thing. Steven turns and sees it. His eyes widen in horror. It pounces and we see a slash of blood splatter over Mark's face.

Sounds of growls and screams as we are unsure what is happening in the fog. Then... silence. The fog fades and disappears back into the heather.

3 EXT. BEACH CAR PARK - NIGHT

3

Rob and Linda are carrying a blanket each and Rob still has his Ornithology book. They head towards their car.

LINDA

I told you the roof was leaking.

ROB

Alright, bloody know all.

LINDA

Men. You never listen.

ROB

What was that?

LINDA

Don't try and be funny.

ROB

No. I meant it. Did you hear that?

They both listen for a second or two but it has gone quiet.

ROB (CONT)

I thought I heard someone scream out?

LINDA

Get in the car!

Linda gets in the passenger side while Rob hesitates and looks around for where the sound came from. He eventually gets in the driver side.

4 INT. CAR - BEACH - NIGHT

4

Linda places the blanket around her and turns away from Rob, obviously in a mood.

LINDA

Now be quiet and get some sleep.

I want to be gone from here first thing.

ROB

Yes, dear.

Rob wants to read his book but there is not enough light for him to see. He switches on an interior light.

LINDA

What are you doing?

ROB

Just going to read for a bit.

LINDA

No, you're not - Turn it off.

Rob switches the light off but is not tired. He sits in darkness for a few moments wondering what to do. Suddenly, we HEAR a BANG. Linda jolts up.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Jesus.

ROB

What was that?

LINDA

Come on. Let's just go home now.

5 EXT. BEACH CAR PARK - NIGHT.

5

The mist appears and starts to swirl around the car as Rob turns the headlights on.

ROB (OOV)

Where did that come from?

Rob opens the car door and looks outside. He then exits the car as the fog gets thicker.

LINDA (OOV)

What are you doing? Where are you going?

Rob signals that he is going to the back of the car and disappears into the fog.

Linda waits...

And Waits...

LINDA
Rob? Come on. Don't bugger about.

Silence.

LINDA (CONT)
(Scared) Rob?

Linda resigns herself to getting out of the car and preps her phone torch and then exits the car. She walks to the rear of the car and sees Rob sitting/leaning against the boot (with his back to us).

LINDA
Why are you sat there?

No answer.

LINDA (CONT'D)
Rob?

Linda pulls at Rob and we see him drop round so we see his face which has been ripped to shreds and blood streaming everywhere. Linda is horrified but does not appear able to scream.

We HEAR a low growl. Linda turns and it pounces once again.

6 EXT. SUFFOLK BEACH - NIGHT

6

We return to Sam and Grace fooling around on the blanket.

SAM
Pass me my phone. And my fags.

GRACE
Yes, you're grace.

SAM
No, you're Grace.

GRACE
Where the fuck have the others got to?

SAM
Playing silly buggers I expect.
Still, we got a bit of peace.

The peace is then interrupted by the SQUEAL of the Metal Detector again.

SAM (CONT'D)
 That fucking thing. (Supposedly to
 Mark and Steven) TURN THAT THING
 OFF!

Silence.

Sam gets up and looks around. We follow him as he walks towards the detector. Grace stays on the blanket. Sam reaches the detector but is immediately spooked by the amount of blood dripping from it. He looks around again as the mist starts to appear once more.

SAM (CONT)
 Grace. Get to the car.

GRACE (V/O)
 What?

The mist has now totally enveloped Sam. He is aware something bad is going to happen...

SAM
 Just listen to me. Go to the car.

Sam looks around and spots it. His eyes widen and then we see a reddish tint of light on his face. We focus on Grace from now on as we HEAR a combination of SCREAMS, GROWLS and PANIC. Grace is now in a state. What does she do? She cannot see Sam through the mist but can hear he is in trouble. Does she go to the car as instructed?

Grace hardheartedly decides to help Sam and steps toward the mist. Then she see's it. Oh my god. She turns and runs, but not to the car. She runs along the beach looking behind her. We follow her through the beasts eyes.

There is an open beach hut. Can she make it? The beast is catching. She makes it and closes the door. We are inside the beach hut with Grace. Total darkness. We can HEAR Grace's fast breathing. This slowly turns to sobbering.

The sobbering fades...

7 EXT. SUFFOLK BEACH - EARLY MORNING.

7

We are still inside the beach hut with Grace. She opens the door. There is the early morning light to indicate she has been there for some time.

Grace peeks cautiously outside the beach hut door. Has it gone? It appears so. She makes her way out towards the remnants of the bonfire they had made. She walks on a bit further and stumbles upon the Blood soaked metal detector.

Grace turns and runs up to the car park. She tries to open the car door but she doesn't have the keys. She notices another car in the car park. Rob and Linda's car. She walks over and about 5 metres before she gets to the car, spots the blood soaked Ornithology book on the floor.

Grace picks up the book and doesn't immediately notice the mist returning all around her. She spots it late but realises the beast is there. She drops the book and flees.

The Beast is rapid in it's chase for Grace. Grace reaches woodland. There is an old shack in the distance. She runs for it. Tries the door and it is open.

8 INT. OLD SHACK - EARLY MORNING 8

Grace enters. It is sparsely furnished. Her eyes trace the room and she spots the paintings on the wall. All contain images of a RED EYED BLACK HELL HOUND. We follow her eyes round the room until they change to horror. She spots a closed basket but there is a blood stained hand that is obviously severed, poking out.

9 EXT. WOODLAND - EARLY MORNING 9

Grace immediately bolts out of the shack and runs back into the woodland. We follow her not knowing if we are looking through the Camera or the beasts eyes.

She comes up to a small bridge and starts to cross but stops halfway to catch her breath. The mist appears at the other end of the bridge where she was headed.

Graces spots this and turns around only to be greeted with the mist whirling at the other end too. She turns around again and makes a run for it through the mist. We follow Grace running through the woodland and heather. We make it appear as if the beast is catching up to her as she runs.

Just as we think the beast is about to reach her. She comes out into a clearing and spots a Milk float being driven in the distance. She smiles. Now, if only she can reach it.

Just at that instant the beast pounces and the screen cuts to Black with a distant scream.

10 EXT. SUFFOLK BEACH - EARLY MORNING. 10

WIDE SHOT of the BEAST at the top of the hill near the beach silhoutetted against the new morning sky.

Howls.

CUT TO:

The sand and pebbles. The Bonfire, no longer burning but smoking its last embers. The metal detector. A Hand picks it up. We see the Old Man's feet walk away with the metal detector. He surveys the area, then turns and walks away as we fade to BLACK.

FADE OUT.