

BLIND EYE

By

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V7
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FADE IN

EXT. NITRO HS PARKING LOT - DAY

A 1970 AMC Gremlin sputters from parking lot and RUMBLES past the school marquee: 'GOOD LUCK CLASS OF '73!'

EXT. ROAD NEXT TO NITRO HS - MOMENTS LATER

The Gremlin SCREECHES to a halt and HONKS as a SENIOR BOY (18) and SENIOR GIRL (18), arms around each other, walk out in front of it.

INT. AMC GREMLIN - MOMENTS LATER

Through the dusty windshield of the Gremlin the teenagers stare back. The horn HONKS again. The kids flash 'Peace,' and walk O.S.

POV
Godless heathens.

EXT. ROAD - NITRO, WEST VIRGINIA - MOMENTS LATER

GLADYS PROUD (40), Gremlin driver, head forward, chin almost touching the wheel, brittle gray hair pulled back in a tight bun, guides the rickety car. Her bible is in the seat next to her.

EXT. PROUD HOUSE - DAY

Gladys maneuvers the Gremlin up her cracked driveway. It's a very small house. It could use a man's touch.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Gladys sits at the table and reads her bible. She munches on a stalk of celery. In the b.g., a TEAPOT WHISTLES as it boils.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Gladys splashes water on her face. She straightens, dries her face, and looks at herself in the mirror. Dressed only in her bra her skin looks white and papery, like a mummy.

A crucifix hangs from her neck. She pulls the crucifix to her mouth, kisses its feet, closes her eyes, and prays MOS.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - GLADYS' BEDROOM - LATER

Gladys kneels on the hard wood floor as she prays.

LATER

Gladys sleeps, lit by soft moonlight from a nearby window.

EXT. PROUD HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

A shadow covers the house. It oozes and creeps as if alive.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - GLADYS' BEDROOM - LATER

The black shadow chases the ambient light from the room. It fades... fades... fades to complete black. A beat and then...

A red glow appears under the door. Brighter... brighter...

Her bedroom door CREAKS open and the blood red light creeps over the floor, over the bed, over Gladys.

A shadow crosses Gladys, an animal-like head with curved horns.

An ethereal hand whips her blankets back. Her eyes snap open, she sits straight up, opens her mouth to scream but the same force slams her open jaw shut with an audible CLACK!

The force slams Gladys back into her bed. A MUFFLED SCREAM remains trapped behind her sealed lips. Her clothes are torn from her.

Gladys' eyes, wide and panicked, move side to side as she looks for her invisible attacker. Her body shudders as she's raped.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - GLADYS' BEDROOM - DAY

Gladys' eyes open and she sits up, blanket clutched to her chest.

A puzzled look crosses her face: *was it just a dream?*

She whips the covers aside and swings her feet out of bed. She sits in the middle of a large blood stain.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EXAM ROOM - DAY

Gladys sits on the exam table arms crossed over her chest. The door opens and the DOCTOR (45) enters. He smiles at Gladys.

DOCTOR

We have some excellent news!

INT. PROUD HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Gladys, so pregnant she's about to pop, kneels on the hard wood floor, eyes closed, and prays to a statue of Jesus on a dresser.

The statue trembles. A tear of blood forms in the corner of its eye and slowly runs down its porcelain cheek.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - GLADYS' BEDROOM - DAY

Gladys enters with a metal bucket. As she passes her closet she grabs a wire hanger and plops down on her bed.

She hikes her maternity gown over her hips and uses her feet to scoot the bucket between her legs. With fierce determination, she untwists the hanger and molds it into a new cruel shape.

She inspects the reformed hanger and, satisfied with its shape and contours, moves it towards her crotch... but stops.

She looks to the portrait of Jesus on the wall across the room. Jesus stares back, a slight smile on his face.

GLADYS

Forgive me?

Suddenly the hanger glows red hot. Gladys SCREAMS and flips the hanger away. She examines her burnt palm and looks back to the portrait of Jesus, anger in her eyes.

GLADYS (CONT'D)

Why me, Lord? Why me?

Jesus stares back, equally as angry, a slight downturn to lips.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - GLADYS' BATHROOM - DAY

Gladys lays in her tub in labor. Sweat runs down her red face. She grunts, huffs, SCREAMS. Blood pours from between her thighs as she pushes, pushes, pushes. A dull wet THUD as her baby slides out onto the tub and then...

SILENCE

Gladys leans back, exhausted. She slowly looks down at the mess between her legs. Nothing moves. Nothing makes a sound.

Her smile gives way to a CHUCKLE, to a GIGGLE, to FULL BLOWN LAUGHTER but then...

A strong GRATING WAIL as her baby cries for the first time.

Gladys's face falls.

EXT. AN UNEVEN SIDEWALK - DAY

PEYTON PROUD (5) rides his tricycle down the sidewalk THINKING over the uneven seams.

EXT. FRONT OF PROUD HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Gladys steps out on the front porch. She's aged heavily.

GLADYS

Boy, git in. Bath time.

Peyton looks at his mother and smiles.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - GLADYS' BATHROOM - DAY

Peyton stands nude in the tub and shivers from the cold. Gladys kneels in front of him and roughly scrubs him. She suddenly stops and looks down at the boy's crotch.

GLADYS
What's this?

Peyton smiles back at her. Gladys scrubs furiously at his crotch, as if she could scrub his erection out of existence.

EXT. PROUD HOUSE - THROUGH THE KITCHEN WINDOW - DAY

PEYTON (10) and Gladys sit at the kitchen table. Peyton stares out the window. Gladys points at a page in a book, sees that Peyton is daydreaming, and smacks him in the face. Peyton looks at Gladys and smiles.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gladys lights the stove, sets a kettle on the burner, picks up an empty laundry basket and walks off.

EXT. PROUD HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Peyton stands by his mailbox and looks around to be sure he's alone. He retrieves his mail and then opens the neighbor's box.

He digs around and finds a package with a plain brown wrapper.

EXT. PROUD HOUSE - BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

Gladys removes laundry from the line, folds it, and puts it in the laundry basket.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - PEYTON'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Peyton opens the plain brown package. It's a porn mag.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kettle heats up. Steam rises.

EXT. PROUD HOUSE - BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

Gladys takes the last item from the line and walks towards the house with the basket under her arm.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - PEYTON'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Peyton has the magazine spread open on the bed. His back is towards the door as he masturbates.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kettle begins to STUTTER-WHISTLE as the water boils.

EXT. PROUD HOUSE - BACK DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Gladys opens the back door and enters the house.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - PETYON'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Peyton doesn't hear the BAM! as the door slams in the kitchen.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gladys crosses the room carrying the laundry basket.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Gladys opens the door to Peyton's bedroom. Peyton stands, back to her, pants around his ankles. She sees the naked flesh in the magazine and the boys arm hard at work.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kettle SHRIEKS as the water reaches a full boil.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - PETYON'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gladys attacks the boy, her open hand to the side of his head. Peyton can't get out of the way and he stumbles to the floor. She picks up the magazine, rolls it up and starts to beat Peyton.

GLADYS
Perverted monster!

She grabs Peyton by the hair and drags him from the room.

GLADYS (CONT'D)
Filthy, unholy, bastard!

INT. PROUD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

She drags Peyton through the room. His feet, tangled in his own pants, kick ineffectively.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Gladys drags Peyton to the stove and releases him.

GLADYS
Godless monster! Abomination!

She grabs the kettle and kneels on his small form. With one hand she holds his head steady and with the other pours the boiling water first into one eye and then the other.

His SCREAM is high pitched, feminine, vulnerable.

Gladys stands, looks down at the writhing boy, and slowly pours the remainder of the boiling water over his exposed genitals. He shrieks over and over again.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - PRAYER CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

The small closet is dark except for a lit candle that flickers under a picture of Jesus. The door opens and the boy is tossed in.

GLADYS (O.S.)
 You pray to our Lord Jesus Christ that he
 finds it in his heart to forgive you
 because I know I can't.

She slams the door closed.

GLADYS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 God forgive me, I can't.

The boy lies in the semi-darkness, body heaving, wrecked face lit by the candle that sputters... sputters... and winks out.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - GLADYS' BEDROOM - LATER

Gladys kneels by her bed and prays.

GLADYS
 Give me strength, Lord. Give me the
 strength to do what I have to do.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - GLADYS' BEDROOM - LATER

Gladys sleeps soundly. The ambient light fades until the room is in total blackness.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - PRAYER CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

The boy sleeps in the dark closet. A red light seeps under the door. It grows brighter and brighter. And then...

The door CREAKS open and red light washes over little Peyton. He stirs, sits up, and holds one hand in front of his face to shield his wrecked eyes. A large smile spreads over his face.

EXT. DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE PROUD HOUSE - DAY

An unmarked 1970 Crown Victoria approaches a crime scene.

INT. CROWN VIC - CONTINUOUS

Through the front windshield, two cop cars and an ambulance are parked in front of the Proud house.

POV (V.O)
 Entire frickin' P.D.

EXT. DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE PROUD HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The Crown Vic rolls past ANDREA SINCLAIR (10). She stands in the middle of the street and watches the crime scene unfold.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

SHERIFF JAMES (38), a weathered man with a kind face, turns away from the smell of death. He pulls a handkerchief from his pocket and covers his face. He bumps into duty officer FRED WALKER (40).

WALKER

Coroner's getting a temp now.

James walks back toward the bedroom.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - HALL OUTSIDE GLADYS' ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

James approaches and stops just outside the room. His eyes widen as he takes in the abattoir that Gladys' bedroom has become.

Through the door is the edge of the bed and Gladys' blood flecked foot. On the wall, streaks of blood criss-cross.

JAMES

Whatcha got, Nate?

From inside the room comes the voice of NATE (44) the Coroner.

NATE (O.S.)

She's been dead about 27 hours, give or take. Stabbed. Maybe 30 times. Weird thing is, looks like after she was dead a few hours, he came back and stabbed her damn near ten more times.

JAMES

Damn near, huh?

A commotion comes from the kitchen area.

WALKER (O.S.)

Sheriff, we got something here.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - BY THE PRAYER CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

Cops are gathered around the closet, guns drawn.

James twists the knob, finds it locked, then steps to the side and kicks the knob with the heel of his cowboy boot. The knob breaks and CLANGS to the floor. James pulls the door open.

INT. PROUD HOUSE - PRAYER CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Flashlights beams dance over the small form of Peyton Proud.

WALKER (O.S)

It's a boy...

Peyton sits up and looks towards their voices. Where his eyes were are red blistered wounds. His frail, pale body is covered in gore.

JAMES (O.S.)

Oh Jesus.

Next to Peyton a bloody butcher knife glints in the darkness. Peyton smiles at the cops.

EXT. PROUD HOUSE - LATER

The crime scene wraps up. The Ambulance rolls down the street.

Law Officers start to move faster and faster as TIME FAST FORWARDS, seconds to minutes, minutes to hours, hours to days, days to months, months to years. In an instant the house has aged 25 years. And suddenly time slams back to

PRESENT DAY.

The Proud house hasn't been maintained, paint peels, windows are cracked, wood rots. Weeds own the yard. A weathered 'FOR SALE' sign is in the yard.

CRANE UP above the canopy of trees to see the sprawling campus of Nitro High School four blocks away.

EXT. NITRO HS - DAY

The school marquee reads 'CONGRATS SENIORS 2008! ARE YOU READY FOR THE PROM? FRIDAY 8:00 PM!'

Cars ease into the parking lot and STUDENTS stream into the ultra-modern, sprawling, high school.

INT. NITRO HS - ENTRY - MOMENTS LATER

Students push through the front doors and pass through two metal detectors into the main lobby.

An elaborate trophy case with pictures of events and people past and present is the main feature of the tiled lobby.

INT. NITRO HS - BY THE METAL DETECTORS - CONTINUOUS

TWO ARMED SECURITY GUARDS watch kids enter. A machine BEEPS an alert. A FEMALE STUDENT (16) is pulled aside, purse inspected, cell phone confiscated.

INT. NITRO HS - LONG HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Students scamper into adjacent classrooms as the BELL RINGS.

INT. NITRO HS - CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The class BUZZES with chatter as they wait for their teacher.

Girls call a greeting to PATIENCE GOODFELLOW (17). She looks up from her book to smile at them. She's innocent, virginal.

MR. CARPENTER (55) walks in and the class settles down. He has long hair, a hint of the rebel hippie in his background. He's slightly built and very serious.

The speaker above the door begins to CRACKLE.

INT. NITRO HS - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

PRINCIPAL HOOPER (60) is flustered as he fiddles with the P.A.

MS. HILL (35), attractive with an 80's haircut, tries to coach Hooper as a FEMALE TEACHER (30) stands in the b.g. and tries to conceal a giggle.

HILL

Press the button and speak. That's it.
Just press and speak.

Hooper picks up the mic and presses the transmit button.

INT. NITRO HS - CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The class covers their ears as SHRILL FEEDBACK fills the room.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

FEEDBACK fills the office. Mrs. Hill grabs for the mic.

HILL

You've gotta move back!

Hooper moves the mic away from his mouth and tries again.

HOOPER

Good morning students.

INT. NITRO HS - CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Hooper's announcement starts to break apart, riddled with STATIC.

HOOPER (ON THE SPEAKER)

Today... after the first... and
remember... to the office. Now... end of
year....

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

MR. CUNNINGHAM (35) enters from the hall.

CUNNINGHAM

It's all breaking up

Ms. Hill looks at Cunningham, smiles, and winks. He winks back as Hooper begins to fiddle with the controls.

HOOPER

And now I'll turn it over to Ms. Hill for a few additional announcements.

He hands the microphone to Ms. Hill and she begins to speak.

INT. NITRO HS - CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ms. Hill's crystal clear voice comes from the overhead speaker.

HILL (ON THE SPEAKER)

OK, gang. Members of the student council, volunteers, we need to start to get the gym into shape...

INT. NITRO HS - GYM - CONTINUOUS

The gym is huge, a full basketball court with bleachers on both sides. On either side of the bleachers are entrances to the locker rooms. The basketball scoreboard is dark.

A CUSTODIAN (30) positions a ladder next to a banner hung high up on the wall. It reads 'Nitro Dynamite Basketball: Proudly Kicking the living shit out of the competition for more than 60 Years!'

HILL (ON THE SPEAKER)

To make sure that the prom for the class of '08 is up to our usual Dynamite standards. Let's go ahead and meet after sixth period in the gym and we'll go over what needs to be done. We're still looking for volunteers...

INT. NITRO HS - CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Patience steals a glance at JOSH (17) who kids with his friends. Patience bites at her lip.

HILL (ON THE SPEAKER)

So if you want to be involved, come on down.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ms. Hill hands the mic back to principal Hooper.

HOOPER

(into radio)

And to whoever put up the banner--

INT. NITRO HS - CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The announcements start to break up again.

HOOPER (ON THE SPEAKER)

Kick the living s-word... we do not... that sort... If I find... suspension.