

WRAITH WOODS

Written by

Craig Morrow

FADE IN:

INT. CHILD'S TENT - NIGHT

SARA's (9) head shoots up and she pulls her sleeping bag up to her chin as she hears the tent's zippers being pulled.

The front flap is opened and her father CONOR (39) is panting, sweating and looking over his shoulder on the other side.

CONOR

Did you hear anything?

Sara shakes her head.

A shadow passes behind the tent and Conor grabs his daughter and rushes her out with only her socks on.

EXT. CAMP GROUNDS - NIGHT

Conor pulls Sara quickly past the low flame of the firepit and a family set of lawn chairs.

He stops and looks at the car that's only a few meters away but shakes his head and rushes on.

Sara looks to her parents tent as she passes it. The door flap is unzipped open and it's empty.

SARA

Where's mom?

CONOR

Something took her.

They race to the edge of the camp site and see broken trees and bushes along a barely beaten path that continues into the darkness of the forest. A "Do Not Enter" sign is posted to a tree nearby.

SARA

What did?

The wind blows and the fire blows out.

CONOR

Come on.

The two pick up the pace and are lost in the deep of the woods.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Twigs snap under their feet as they make their way through the brush as fast as they can.

SARA

Why did you let the monster take
mom?

CONOR

I didn't. We went to bed and the
monster pulled her out of the tent.
I woke up and they took her this
way.

A tree creaks and begins to fall in front of them. Conor picks up Sara and they watch it crash to the ground.

SARA

(whispering)
The monster lives in here?

CONOR

(whispering)
No one lives here. No one's allowed
this far.

Conor slowly steps over the downed tree and puts his daughter down.

CONOR (CONT'D)

There's no such thing as monsters.

Sara nods and so does her father.

He takes her by the hand and continues into the forest.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Sara wanders along in the dark. Shadows and silhouettes pass in front and behind her. She freezes in fear and starts to talk to herself.

SARA

Dad?

A sound emanates from just ahead of her in the thick of the woods. Sara's eyes open wide and she gasps.

SARA (CONT'D)

Da!--

Conor's hand clamps over her mouth and he spins her around.

CONOR
Shh. Don't be loud.

SARA
Did you find mom?

CONOR
Not yet. This is the wrong way.
Hurry

Conor nods towards the other way.

EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

The trees open up to a small clearing leading to a decaying one room shack.

The two climb the rotting stairs and open the door.

INT. SHACK - NIGHT

Bugs scatter as they step into the door.

The entire place is no more than a work bench and a stool with cabinets along the walls.

The door whips closed behind them and the roof creaks and moans.

SARA
I didn't think the monster lived in
a house. I thought maybe it was
camping -- like us.

Conor looks around the house and out the window.

CONOR
(under his breath)
I didn't think there would be
anything for miles.

Faintly, Sara hears the muffled sound of her mother in distress.

She finds a handle on the floor and starts to lift a heavy trap door.

SARA
Because it unzipped your guys' tent
and kept so quiet when it came to
take mom.

Sara gets the door all the way and looks down into a pit where her mom lays -- bound and gagged.

The sound of something being torn echoes in the small room. Sara turns around and a piece of silver duck tape gets forced over her mouth.

Conor is kneeling eye to eye with her.

Something scrapes against the walls outside and the wind howls through the cracks in the old shack.

Sara tears up.

CONOR

You think you're scared? I have to walk back to the car all by myself.

FADE OUT.