

Camp Midnight

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CAMP SUMMERDALE - DAY

Plenty of mid-morning sunshine, but nobody to enjoy it.

The archery range: empty. No kids by the lake. The volleyball court has no players. The net trembles in a shifting breeze.

INT. BUNKHOUSE 1 - DAY

Nobody here. A dozen unmade beds. Some blankets on the floor.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Lonely. Nothing cooking. Not a camper in sight.

INT. BUNKHOUSE 2 - DAY

KATE sleeps in bed, while MAE trembles in wide-eyed shock at the other end of the room. Both are girls are 12.

Kate stirs, blinks off sleep, slips out of bed.

Her clothes: Adidas soccer shorts and a black anime T-shirt. Her fingernails are slathered in ultra-cool gunmetal gray polish.

She peers at all the empty beds.

KATE

They ate breakfast without me?

Two steps back. A dazed scan of the bunkhouse. She spots Mae.

KATE

They left you, too?

Mae's lip quivers, but no words come out. Kate approaches.

KATE

Why'd they ditch us? Did we oversleep?

Mae shudders, basically paralyzed with fear. Kate tries to comprehend. She follows Mae's gaze toward the far wall.

Crudely scrawled on the wood in blood-red spray paint is a message: "See u At Midnight!"

KATE
Who wrote that?

Alarm mixes with confusion.

KATE
Mae? What's going on?

Kate touches Mae's shoulder. She tries to guide Mae forward, but Mae's completely rigid.

KATE
Okay, I'll get our counselor.

Mae's eyes stay locked on the ominous words in red.

EXT. CAMP SUMMERDALE - DAY

Kate wanders through the deserted camp.

She peers fruitlessly into bunkhouse windows. She knocks on doors in vain.

One of the walls has the same blood-red message: "See u At Midnight!"

INT. BUNKHOUSE 2 - DAY

Kate paces in front of Mae.

KATE
Is this a prank?

Her pace quickens.

KATE
All the food is gone. All the counselors and the kids, too.

Mae's fingers shake.

KATE
No cell phones anywhere.

Kate stomps

KATE
Why can't you talk, Mae? What happened here?

Mae doesn't blink.

KATE

Well, we shouldn't stay here by ourselves. We're easy targets.

A quick glance at the wall.

KATE

I think we should walk down the road until we find help. What do you think?

Mae is unable to respond.

KATE

Can you walk?

Mae sways slightly.

KATE

If you can't, I could leave you here by yourself for awhile.

She looks Mae squarely in the eye.

KATE

I promise that I'll find help and come back for you.

Mae shudders.

KATE

Hold on. Maybe there's another way.

EXT. BACKWOODS ROAD - DAY

Kate pushes Mae in a wheelchair with "Camp Summerdale" stenciled into the side. The hot sun and rough road make this a real chore.

Slow, hard, incremental progress.

Thick, unforgiving woods on either side of them. Mosquitos.

KATE

Maybe the counselors went insane.

Grunt. Push.

KATE

Maybe they're in a cult, like Children of the Corn. Ever see that one?

She wipes sweat off her brow.

KATE

All the counselors probably used fake names. They aren't really named Justin or Spencer--which are dumb and blah names. They're really called Malachai and Isaac and whatever else. Moses the Murderer. And they worship scarecrows and fish bones.

The sun beats down on them.

KATE

I wanted to go to film production camp this summer, but my mom sent me here instead--to slaughter camp.

Kate stops pushing for a second. There's something up ahead.

Slowly she approaches the object. It's a kid's shoe, dusty from the road.

Kate nudges it with her toe.

KATE

Maybe we're gettin' somewhere.

She pushes on.

KATE

My second option for this summer was soccer camp, but my mom thinks I'll blow out my ACL.

The road is impossibly bumpy.

KATE

I don't think she loves me.

The wheelchair rattles.

KATE

She sent me away--like a hunchback.

The chair comes to a dead stop. Kate's eyes widen with shock.

Strewn on the road are dozens and dozens of kids' shoes.

White shoes. Blue. Nikes. Sketchers. Red. Black. Colorful laces. Stipes. Pink. Some are face up or tipped to the side.

A few socks also flap in the breeze.

Enough shoes for an entire camp of children.

Kate wanders out among the discarded items, leaving Mae on the road.

KATE
How did their shoes get out here?
These are from everyone at our
camp, right?

In the wheelchair, Mae shakes and slowly, agonizingly raises her arm.

She points directly at Kate.

Kate peers into the woods. She approaches Mae and whispers.

KATE
You think the other campers are in
there? In the woods?

The breeze kicks up. It whistles through the trees. Ominous.

KATE
(whispers)
Guess I'll check it out.

With cautious steps, Kate slips into the woods. She is soon into the trees and completely out of sight.

Mae's arm remains outstretched. It trembles.

Several agonizing moments crawl by.

More wind. A screech. A scream. Panic. Footsteps.

Kate flees the woods, blood on her face and hands.

She stumbles. Back to her feet. She rushes to Mae.

KATE
Bodies! Everywhere!

She thrusts her bloody palm at Mae as proof.

KATE
Let's go back! Something's out
there!

Kate turns the wheelchair around, so it points back to Camp Summerdale.

She pushes Mae as hard and fast as she can, but the wheels get caught up in the ruts in the road. Their progress: nightmarishly slow.

Kate gulps air. Total alarm and shock. They're being hunted down.

The wheels seize up. The chair tumbles. Mae hits the dirt.

Kate tries to pick her up, but stumbles. Mae's rigid body is too awkward, too heavy.

KATE

Get up! Get up and run!

Kate glances behind her. Shock. Fear.

KATE

Something's coming...

Yank. Tug. She desperately tries to lift Mae into the chair.

They both fall. Kate's cheek scrapes the dirt.

Kate glares into Mae's frightened eyes.

KATE

I'm sorry.

She's on her feet. She's ditching Mae.

KATE

I'm sorry.

Down the road she runs, farther and farther away.

Mae's arm reaches out to Kate, the index finger extended.

Terror in Mae's eyes as Kate dashes completely out of sight.

Tears fall. Mae whimpers. A total sitting duck out here.

Completely alone.

INT. BUNKHOUSE 2 - NIGHT

Kate cries in her bed.

KATE

I'm sorry, Mae. So sorry.

Through her teary eyes, she glimpses the message on the wall-
"See u At Midnight!"

Out the window: Complete darkness.

Kate wipes her tears.

KATE

I shouldn't have left her.

The wind whistles outside. A creak. Just outside the door.

KATE

Mae? Is that you.

Nothing. No answer.

Onto her feet. Kate walks over to the message on the wall. She traces the letters with her finger.

KATE

Maybe I should go back for her.

A nervous shuffle.

KATE

I could probably find her.

A far off cry from some wild animal. Noises of the night.

Kate's voice takes on a harder edge.

KATE

Mae doesn't even like me. She hates me. She laughed at my clothes.

A moment of thought.

KATE

No. Doesn't matter.

She searches the bunkhouse. From a supply closet she removes an old croquet mallet and a flashlight.

Out the door she goes, clutching her items.

EXT. CAMPGROUNDS - NIGHT

The flashlight beam is tiny against the vast night. The light trembles with each uncertain step Mae takes.

Shadows swirl. Small noises. Wind. Nervous breaths from Kate.

In the darkness, she makes her way slowly back to Mae.

EXT. BUNKHOUSE 2 - NIGHT (LATER)

The message looms in full focus: "See u At Midnight!"

From outside the bunkhouse comes a squeaking sound--the tires of Mae's wheelchair.

The door opens.

Kate wheels Mae into the room. Kate looks exhausted. Mae remains terrified and rigid.

The croquet mallet lies across Mae's lap.

KATE

We made it.

She plops down on a bed, fatigued.

KATE

It's a miracle that I found you.

Kate rolls to her side.

KATE

I'm so sorry I left you out there.
I was just scared.

Mae stares.

KATE

So we'll stay here. We'll keep the
doors locked. Somebody will come.
They won't forget us.

They wait. They listen to the small noises in the night, every creak and groan amplified by their fears.

Kate breaks the silence, points to the message on the wall.

KATE

What do you think that means--I'll
see you at midnight?

She swallows.

KATE

What time is it, by the way? Maybe
it's midnight right now.

She shifts.

KATE

Who's coming at midnight?

The girls lock eyes.

Mae slowly raises her arm and points directly at Kate.

KATE

Stop pointing at me. It creeps me out.

Mae keeps pointing. Kate's brow furrows.

KATE

Are you deaf? Put your arm down.

No response from Mae, so Kate forces her arm down.

When Mae raises it again, Kate slaps her hard on the cheek, causing Mae to fall.

The slap seems to break Mae out of her perpetual shock.

Mae's lips waver. With great might, she spits out one word:

MAE

You...

Kate's eyes widen with surprise.

MAE

Will come...

Mae's finger is trained directly on Kate.

MAE

At midnight.

Eerie silence.

KATE

What did you say?

Mae points, but not at Kate this time. She points to Kate's shadow on the wall.

This is not the shadow of a 12-year-old girl. It's a demon's shadow, with claws and wings.

A stunned look on Kate's face.

MAE

(with great effort)
You...did...this.

The shadow demon raises its claws and flaps its wings.

MAE

You took everyone away.

Tears in Mae's eyes.

MAE

You're possessed, and you don't
even know it.

The shadow demon on the wall writhes and slashes.

KATE

You lie.

But the shadow demon shows the reality. The shadow demon slashes shadow campers, cutting them down -- a horrible review of what happened the night before.

KATE

No. I'm not....I'm not...

She lets out a demon scream. The entity hiding inside her all day has surfaced.

MAE

Please let me go! Please! You've
been toying with me all day. It's
toying with both of us.

The demon's shadow on the wall lashes out.

Kate's voice is strange, not really her own.

KATE

(in voice of a demon)

I wanted you to suffer the most.

Kate drags Mae off to the side--out of view--but the shadows they both throw against the wall tell the whole story...

The shadowy demon slashes the silhouette of Mae.

A growl. A scream. Agonizing death. Mae's shadow collapses.

The words on the wall flash into view one final time: "See u
At Midnight!"

FADE OUT: