

The Depths

By

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FADE IN

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

FOUR KIDS, middle schoolers, ride their bikes down a large hill. MACY, LUCAS, AMY, and CLEMENT. Clement gets to the bottom first. He slams on his brakes and looks back.

CLEMENT

C'mon, you're faster than that  
aren't you!?

The other three reach the bottom.

LUCAS

You beat us every time, what else  
is new?

MACY

We've gotta go home for dinner  
anyway.

AMY

See you tomorrow.

CLEMENT

I thought we were gonna play  
chicken!

MACY

I told you, I'm not goin' anywhere  
near that place.

CLEMENT

Lucas, you'll go with me. C'mon.

LUCAS

I think I'd rather live, y'know?

AMY

(to Macy)

We gotta get home!

Macy smiles as she and Amy turn and ride away from the boys.

CLEMENT

Aw, c'mon man!

LUCAS

Uh, no. I don't have a death wish.  
I'm going home too. See you  
tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

Clement watches him ride away. He turns around and looks back down the road. An OLD, DILAPIDATED HOUSE sits in the shadows at the end of the street.

Clement, disappointed, turns and rides back up the hill toward home.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Macy and Amy sit at a table by themselves. Lucas and Clement walk up.

SLAM! Clement loudly throws his tray down at the table. Amy startles.

MACY

What the hell, Clement!?

CLEMENT

Okay, listen up.

Lucas mouths, "Sorry" to Macy.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)

Everybody's always said there's a crazy old guy that lives in the depths.

MACY

You can call it a house. That's what it is. A house.

LUCAS

Depths does sound cooler.

Macy throws a french fry at Lucas. He again mouths, "Sorry."

CLEMENT

Aren't we all curious as to exactly what's inside? I've never, WE'VE never seen anything outside or inside.

AMY

But sometimes there's an old car parked in the driveway.

CLEMENT

Exactly! SOMEONE lives there.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS

My dad says homeless people wander in there and sleep there. Get drunk there. Do weird stuff there.

CLEMENT

I doubt hobos are any match for who's inside the depths.

MACY

Gahhhhh, will you stop calling it that!?

CLEMENT

Guys. Ladies. I only ask of you ONE thing. Tomorrow is Friday. Our parents'll be boozin' it up together tomorrow night. Let's sneak out and take a look.

AMY

What do you mean, "take a look?"

CLEMENT

I mean, we ride down there and just get as close as we can. Maybe we can see through a window or something.

MACY

Leave it alone, man. I'm not bringing my little sister along to get snatched up by some creep who lives in a dungeon.

CLEMENT

Ahhhh! Lucas, will you at least come with me?

LUCAS

(sighs)

Look. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't at least a little bit curious. And we gotta stick together. Ride or die.

He fistbumps Clement.

CLEMENT

Yes! You girls are missing out. But don't worry, we'll have a full report on Saturday.

INT. CLEMENT'S BEDROOM - FRIDAY NIGHT

He prepares a backpack with the essentials: duct tape, a hammer, and a flashlight. He pulls on some black gloves and snowboarding goggles.

He peaks out of his bedroom door. Light are on downstairs. Music bumps as loud laughter rises above it. He quietly shuts the door and makes his way to the window. He opens it.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Clement waits. After a few moments, Lucas shows up, looking more ridiculous than Clement.

CLEMENT

Nice getup.

LUCAS

You too.

They hop on their bikes and ride off into the night.

EXT. THE DEPTHS - NIGHT

The house looks more unsettling in the pitch darkness. Their tires roll in to frame as they look upon the house.

LUCAS

So what's the plan?

CLEMENT

We stick together, no matter what.

LUCAS

I've got my cellphone ready in case anything crazy happens.

CLEMENT

Let's leave our bikes behind this brush and make our way around back. We'll try to find a way to see inside. See if we see anything.

LUCAS

Okay. I'm right behind you.

They place their bikes down and slowly creep toward the property.

As they near the side of the house, we see an OLD CAR. Lucas motions toward it.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
What if he's home?

CLEMENT  
(whispering)  
Well that's the point, isn't it?

They keep moving around the side of the house to the back yard. There's a window that looks into the kitchen. Clement walks up to it. He looks back at Lucas.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
I need you to boost me. I can't see.

Lucas shakes his head. He walks over and puts out his hands. Clement places his foot on his hands and Lucas tries to lift him up.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
That's it! I can see inside!

LUCAS  
(whispering)  
Can you see faster, this really hurts.

CLEMENT  
(whispering)  
There's a light coming from the living room. I think he's watching TV.

Lucas starts to sway. He's losing grip.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)  
Keep steady. I wanna take a video.

Lucas loses his hold. Clement falls down, making a loud noise. He motions for Lucas to boost him up again. Lucas shakes his head. Clement pleads with him.

Lucas holds out his hands again. Clement starts to boost up to the window. He slowly peers over in to the house. The light from the living room is gone.

He looks back and forth. As he turns from left to right, a SILHOUETTED FIGURE appears in the hallway, ten feet away. Clement jolts back and falls down again.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS  
(whispering)  
What? What is it?

CLEMENT  
(whispering)  
He's in there! He's inside! I think  
he saw me!

LUCAS  
I'm outta here dude. I'm not  
messing with this.

Lucas starts to sneak around the side of the house.

CLEMENT  
(whispering)  
Lucas! You can't leave!

Lucas looks back and mouths, "Sorry." He disappears around the side of the house.

Clement is left standing alone. All of a sudden, the BACK DOOR OPENS. Clement turns and runs around the side of the house. He makes it to the front yard. He looks up at the front of the house as it looms over him. A few beats, then determination conquers him.

He rounds the other side of the house, almost making a circle from the back yard. The back door is open. No sign of anyone. He slowly creeps toward the door. He hesitates a beat, then slips inside.

INT. THE DEPTHS - CONTINUOUS

Pitch black. Clement slowly and quietly makes his way down the dark hallway, hammer and flashlight in hand. He looks into the living room. No sign of anyone or anything other than an OLD TV SET.

He turns back toward the hallway, then THUD! He smashes into the SILHOUETTED FIGURE. He loses his balance and falls backward on to the stiff wooden floor.

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN

INT. THE DEPTHS - NIGHT

Clement sits at the kitchen table, slowly regaining consciousness. His vision is blurred. He sees a MAN over by the sink. The man turns and walks toward him.

MAN

How do you feel?

Clement's vision corrects itself. The man appears short and frail. He's about fifty years old and wears an old pair of rounded glasses.

Clement scrambles out of the chair and makes his way for the door.

MAN (CONT'D)

Wait! Here, I brought you some apple pie.

CLEMENT

What did you do to me?

MAN

What do you mean? You fell and hit your head.

CLEMENT

You shoved me! You knocked me down!

MAN

I promise I didn't. You broke in to my house, after all. But I didn't attack you. You simply fell. Now please, come sit down. You're still groggy from the fall.

Clement hesitates a few beats, then sits back in the chair.

MAN (CONT'D)

Please, have some pie. I don't need to eat it all by myself. It's nice to be able to offer it to someone else. What's your name?

CLEMENT

Clement. What's yours?

(CONTINUED)

MAN

Ken. Kenneth Lawes. Now tell me, what were you and your friend doing outside my house tonight?

Clement is silent. He looks down at his shoes.

KEN

I'm not mad. Don't think I'm upset or anything. Look, I get it. Old guy who never comes out and speaks to anyone in the big creepy house at the end of the street. (chuckling) Trust me, I get it. Were you just intrigued, I assume?

CLEMENT

I mean...I guess.

KEN

Well, I'm afraid I'll disappoint you. There's really not that much to me, to be honest. I do make pretty good pie though.

Clement grabs the fork and eats a bite of pie.

CLEMENT

Wow, that is good.

KEN

(smiling)

My mother's way. She had a personality in the kitchen. Look, it's getting pretty late. Won't your parents wonder where you are?

CLEMENT

(eating)

Nah, they're drunk by now. Lucas is probably still scared shitless though.

KEN

Is that your friend? The one that was with you?

CLEMENT

Yeah. My other friends were too chicken to come. Guess he was chicken too, after all.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

Well, like I said I'm not mad. Truth be told, I don't get many visitors or have company very often. Well, ever, really. It's nice to meet you.

CLEMENT

(really warming up)

This is not what I thought I'd be doing tonight.

KEN

(chuckling)

Let me guess. There are stories about me? About me and my house and how no one ever sees me?

CLEMENT

Well, yeah. It just looks so scary down here from the street.

KEN

I get it.

Clement finishes his pie.

CLEMENT

I should probably get going and talk to Lucas. Make sure he's okay.

KEN

You're a good friend. Alright then, Clement. Be on your way, and good luck to you.

Clement gets up to leave. He pauses at the back door.

CLEMENT

Y'know if you don't get many visitors, maybe you'd like to come up to my house. For dinner or something. My mom's pretty good in the kitchen too.

KEN

Oh, I don't want to impose. I couldn't do that.

CLEMENT

Sure you could. They'd love to have you. How about next Friday night? I'll tell them and they can plan for it.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

Surely they wouldn't want a stranger showing up like that.

CLEMENT

You don't know my parents. As long as there's enough wine, they'll have anyone over. C'mon, it'll be fun.

KEN

I'll think about it.

CLEMENT

We're in the blue two story, up the hill, third on the left.

KEN

Thanks, Clement.

CLEMENT

(smiling)

Thanks for the pie!

He shuts the door and leaves. We hold on Ken for a few beats.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Macy, Amy, and Lucas sit at their table. Clement walks up.

LUCAS

Where have you been!?

MACY

We've been worried sick about you! What happened?

CLEMENT

Calm down, calm down. I'm fine.

AMY

Lucas told us what happened on Friday. We've been calling you ever since.

CLEMENT

I got home late that night and my parents took my phone away. I'm sorry. Look, I'm fine.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS

What happened after I left?

CLEMENT

Speaking of which...ride or die,  
huh?

LUCAS

I'm sorry man, I was so scared.

CLEMENT

It's okay.

MACY

Did the creep get you?

CLEMENT

I went inside and looked around.  
And he's really not a creep, as it  
turns out.

AMY

That's it?

CLEMENT

There was nothing interesting in  
there. Then, when I turned to  
leave, I slammed right into him and  
fell. I hit my head and knocked  
myself out.

Macy gasps.

CLEMENT (CONT'D)

When I came to, I was in his  
kitchen. He said he meant no harm  
and we talked. He even made me pie.

LUCAS

Talked about what?

CLEMENT

That he never has guests but is a  
really good cook. He just seemed  
really lonely, honestly. I invited  
him over for dinner this Friday.

All three of them look incredulous.

LUCAS

You are a legend, man.

(CONTINUED)

CLEMENT

Look, all I did was talk to the guy. He was really nice, and I felt kinda bad for him.

MACY

You should NOT have him over to your house.

CLEMENT

It's cool, I just told my parents a new friend was coming for dinner.

AMY

They're gonna be pissed when it's a fifty year old man.

CLEMENT

Relax, it'll be fine.

MACY

Call us and tell us what happens as soon as he leaves.

The school bell RINGS. They get up to leave.

CLEMENT

I bet ya'll are just upset you didn't have the guts to meet him yourselves.

INT. CLEMENT'S HOUSE (KITCHEN) - NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT

DAWN and CHUCK, Clement's parents, are bustling in the kitchen. Clement walks in.

DAWN

(wine glass in hand)

Clem, is tonight the night your friend's coming over?

CLEMENT

Yup. Ken.

CHUCK

And how do you know this boy?

CLEMENT

Well, he's not exactly a boy. He's kind of older.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN  
What does that mean?

The doorbell RINGS.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Go ahead and get that, that's probably him.

INT. CLEMENT'S HOUSE - FOYER/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Clement opens the door, revealing Ken. He dressed up and holds a bottle of wine.

KEN  
Hello, Clement.

CLEMENT  
Hey Ken! Come on in.

As Ken makes his way into the house, Dawn and Chuck come into the dining room with the food. As Dawn sees Ken, she stops. She stares for a couple of beats then looks at Chuck. He's staring right at Ken.

CHUCK  
You're Clem's friend?

KEN  
Yes, well we met last week. He invited me to dinner. I told him my age might scare you. I...I just thought I'd take him up on the invitation.

Chuck and Dawn exchange a wary glance. Chuck takes a swig of his beer.

CHUCK  
Of course, of course, come in, come in. What was your name?

CLEMENT  
Mom and Dad, this is Ken.

KEN  
(shaking hands)  
Hi, pleased to meet you both.

DAWN  
Please sit Ken, and we'll get started. I made two casseroles and have pork chops for us.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

That's awfully kind of you. This looks delicious.

CLEMENT

Ken's a bit of a cook himself.

CHUCK

I thought you just met him last week. You're already acquainted with his hobbies?

DAWN

Where did you meet Ken, Clem?

KEN

I live in the old house at the end of the street.

CHUCK

You don't say! The white two story?

KEN

That's the one. I unfortunately haven't had the time to keep the yard and maintenance up lately. It looks a bit rough from the outside. Well, and on the inside.

DAWN

Clem, were you down there bothering Ken with your friends? Is that how you met?

CLEMENT

Uhhh...we were--

KEN

--Oh they were fine. They made their way down to my property and I probably scared them. Clement had enough gumption to say hello.

CHUCK

Ken, are you married, kids, any of that?

KEN

No, it's just me.

CHUCK

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to bring it up if it's a sore subject.

(CONTINUED)

KEN

Oh, no problem at all. Not at all.  
Just never happened for me.

DAWN

Well, look if you ever want company  
you're welcome here. Clem, I don't  
want you down there bothering Ken  
on his property anymore. He can  
come up here and visit.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

A bolt of lightning slams down from the sky. It begins to  
rain.

INT. CLEMENT'S HOUSE - FOYER/DINING ROOM - LATER

They're finishing up dessert.

DAWN

It's been really fun getting to  
know you, Ken.

KEN

I haven't had this much interaction  
with other people in a really long  
time.

He gets up to leave.

KEN (CONT'D)

Thank you so much for having me  
over. I better get back to the  
house.

Everyone gets up.

CHUCK

(shaking hands)

Nice to meet you, Ken. Don't be a  
stranger.

Ken smiles at Chuck and Dawn. Clement walks him to the door.

CLEMENT

Maybe you can come by again some  
time.

(CONTINUED)

KEN  
I'd really like that.  
Thanks..."Clem."

CLEMENT  
(smiling)  
Have a good night, Ken.

Ken smiles then bustles out into the rain. We hold on Clement.

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN

INT. THE DEPTHS - NIGHT

Ken runs inside, soaking wet. He grabs a towel from the kitchen and dries off a bit. He stands at the kitchen sink, looking forward for a few beats. He leaves frame.

He walks down the hallway to a section of the house we haven't seen before. He opens a door and walks down a flight of stairs.

INT. THE DEPTHS (BASEMENT) - NIGHT

Pitch black. He pulls on a string that turns on a light. He walks underneath the light, illuminating his face. He takes his wet glasses off and wipes them on his shirt.

He bends over and looks at something. We see only his face. We TRACK from his face to what he's looking at, revealing MACY, LUCAS, and AMY, bound and gagged against the basement wall.

He looks satisfied, triumphant. He stands back up, turns, and walks away. He pulls the string and--

CUT TO BLACK