

CONDOLENCE

Written by

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EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Stormy. THORN (30s) stands against the wind; his black riding cape flaps behind him. His face twists with the pain of realization. He drops to his knees as he screams his denial. He lowers his head solemnly.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. FORESTED TRACK - NIGHT

Both the pre-storm winds and Thorn, the carriage driver, whip at the horses as the closed coach races around a corner. From inside he hears a woman SCREAM. Thorn pulls back the reins and the horses whinny.

INT. CARRIAGE

CAMILLE (30s), who at an earlier time was pretty, whimpers in the corner. She holds her stomach tightly and blood that covers her seems to emanate from a wound near there.

When the coach door opens she shudders. She stares at Thorn who is backlit by a burst of lightning. As the thunder rumbles, her lip quivers.

CAMILLE

I'll not make it.

Thorn enters. Concern fills his face. He brushes his hand gently against her cheek.

THORN

Another two miles. I've gone quick  
as --

CAMILLE

Not quick enough.

She grunts with pain as she squeezes her stomach. Some blood drips from the corner of her mouth. A touch of anger flits across Thorns face then perhaps guilt, a tear drops down his cheek.

THORN

You don't have to suffer this --

CAMILLE

'Twas the devil put me here and  
I'll be damned if I let him save me  
now.

She coughs, thick-sounding, bloody. Thorn is lost.

THORN

Camille. Please. Let me help you.  
Please. I can't lose you.

He leans toward her but she pushes him away.

CAMILLE

I've already lost you. And your  
son...

A pained look toward her bloody stomach before she leans back and exhales one last breath.

It's a silent moment. She's dead.

Inconsolable, Thorn pulls her body close to his, holds her tight. He kisses her lips then he rests his chin in the crook of her neck.

A flash of lightning details the fangs in his open mouth. With tightly-closed eyes and a faint sob, he sinks his fangs into her jugular.

He feasts and cries. Thunder rumbles.

INT. CARRIAGE - NIGHT - LATER

Thorn wakes with a start. He is alone. Thoughtful, he touches his lips. Hopeful, he sits up.

THORN

Camille?

EXT. CARRIAGE

The rain falls in a mist. He steps from the carriage, his excitement uncontrollable.

THORN

Camille? Are you there?

He listens to the darkness. It isn't silent, the chirping of insects, the croaking of frogs, the low grumble of a predator. The low sob of Camille.

Concerned, he calls her name once more as he moves forward.

He sees her silhouette kneeling a short way into the forest.

EXT. FOREST

She's closer. She's crying. There's something on her lap.

THORN  
Camille? What have you there?

She glares up at him; tears and rain mix in her eyes. There's blood and fur around her mouth. She lifts what remains of a rabbit from her lap, holds it out to him, bares her fangs made clearer by a flash of lightning.

CAMILLE  
I was hungry. So hungry.

Thunder rumbles. He rushes to her, disposes of the torn up rabbit from her hands. Then holds both of her hands.

THORN  
It's not an easy change but I'll help you, then ...

She pulls her hands away.

CAMILLE  
Promised you wouldn't but did it anyway, bloody bastard!

She rakes his face with her claw of a hand. Tears well in his innocent wide eyes.

THORN  
I couldn't live without you.

CAMILLE  
You. Aren't. Alive!

THORN  
But I still love!

He makes a play to grab her hands but she'll have none of it.

CAMILLE  
Then you, Thorn, are a fool...

She punches him in the face. He's stunned. She stands.

CAMILLE  
Because I'll not see you again.

She runs off. Thorn isn't far behind.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING

The rain falls heavier. Thorn grabs Camille from behind, holds her tight, restricts her struggle.

THORN

You'll adjust, it's a matter of time. Like it was with our marriage.

CAMILLE

I should never have allowed myself to be seduced by you. And once I carried your child there was no...

Thorn squeezes tighter. Camille struggles more.

THORN

You love me. Admit it!

CAMILLE

I might have once. Until I found out what you are. What I am, now.

A momentary pause. Her face twists with hate.

CAMILLE

Until I found out about that lie in my belly. Your son. Ha! A life that could never be because you've none to give. You bring nothing but death to everyone around.

She stops struggling.

CAMILLE

Let me go, Thorn.

Thorn sobs against her back.

THORN

Never.

CAMILLE

Then I'll send you back to hell where demons belong.

She pushes back with her rump and flips him over her head. Thorn lands on his back in front of her. She hops up in the air and lands both her feet on his chest. The wind is knocked out of him.

But despite this he manages to grab her foot and knock her to the ground, supine. He climbs up her back, gasping for breath as she tries to worm away.

THORN

I'm stronger than you.

She kicks back, strikes him in the crotch. He rolls off.

CAMILLE

And I'm a woman scorned.

He looks up at her. She's standing by a tree.

CAMILLE

You'll not beat that.

She sloppily tears off a branch, pointy at the edge. Then she runs toward him like a savage with a spear.

He hops to his feet runs toward her. Reaches out for her. Grabs both her arms.

They pause in a stalemate as if time has stopped.

The pointy edge of the branch moves toward his chest as they move backwards, toward the tree, in a very slow tango.

THORN

Think Camille. I saved you!

CAMILLE

Saved me?! I'm no cat up a tree--

And he shoves her against the tree. She screams, her eyes open wide.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Stormy. Thorn kneels, he raises his solemnly-lowered head. The anguish on his face is apparent. Lightning flashes.

Camille is pinned against the tree. The remnant tree limb she left while removing her spear has pushed through her heart.

Thunder rumbles.

With a scream nearing primal, Thorn hops to his feet and runs toward the tree...

...straight into Camille's arms. A quick burst of pain, then contentment.

THORN

Forever.

EXT. ABOVE THE FOREST - DAWN

The rain clouds have cleared. The sun rises.

FADE OUT.