The Short-Cut

Author

DONJA HARPER

Based on, The Long Version Script: The Desecration

Address Phone number Setting: A small rurul town situated near an old graveyard. The graveyard is enclosed with rodiron fencing. Six teenage boys are walking home from a njight of partying. One of the boys recently moved to the neighborhood. His name is Scott. Scott is the lead character. He is sort of a recluse. He takes life as it comes and deep down he feels invincible to the ways of the world.

The group is walking on road. it is late at night and they have just left a party.

MIKE:

Hey man that party was out of this world.

JAKE:

Yea, for real like i'm really hammered. And that babe in the red dress O.M.G TOO FINE!

JESSIE:

What! And you know she was checking me out majorly.

JAKE:

Yea right "jock itch" she was checking you right off the chance list. Cause ain't no way in hell you got one, especially when ole Jake the Great is on the prowl.

(howls like a wolk)

JESSIE:

You mean Jake the Snake, damn sneaky, creepy son of a B-I-ITCH! (LAUGHTER)

PHIL:

Neither one of you losers had a chance. i saw her and it looked as if she was checking out the new kid.

(oooouuuu not the new kid, they interject in unison with a slight dry laughter)

SCOTT:

Really was she, i couldn't tell.

PHIL:

Yea, maybe it was because you were to busy pounding down onthe keg.

SCOTT:

Hey i had to do something to relax, especially after i couldn't find anyone of you while i was there. Some drunk chick by the name Wendy keep saying that you guys were in a better place. By the way where were you guys?

JESSIE:

Rolling in the dirt my new friend, rolling deep in the dirt.

(he responds scarcastically)

JAKE:

Hey Gus, why so anti-social, the conversation not "DEEP" enough for you or was the chow line too congested? Ole Gussie didn't get enogh to eat.

GUS:

JAKE:

What's the matter tell ole Jakey what's your malfunction?

GUS:

Well to be honest, my intentions were to have a little dessert after that god aweful finger food they were serving but, i didn't see your mother around sooo, yeah bummer.

(ooooouuuu!!!) from the others)

Jake slaps Gus on the head, "in your dreams fat bastard."

2. SCENE 2: ACT: 2 (THE DARE)

00:01:00

(Gus stops to rub his head and turns to the group in dismay.)

MIKE:

Hey man lets cross the street i don't like walking by this graveyard.

(other kids except Scoot:
Yea, i'm with that.)

SCOTT:

What's the deal, it's only a graveyard, you know a final resting place.

JESSIE:

Really nimrod, thanks for clarifing that.

MIKE:

Yea, thanks for the geograpgy lesson, that was very sentimental of you.

The group turns to follow Mike but as Scott begins talking they pause to listen.

SCOTT:

What's so bad about this place man, that has five tough guys like yourself so afraid?

JESSIE:

You mean four, Gus was just a mascot.

(laughter)

PHIL:

Cut it out Jessie.

JESSIE:

(mockingly)

Cut it out Jessie, doesn't sound like a bad idea Phillip.

Jessie makes a menacing gesture toward Scott.

Afraid my ass green pea, just
cautious. Tell ya what though, we
will pay you five bucks each if you
are willing to walk from here and
back. So, tell me are you feeling
lucky Scott?

JAKE:

Huh, you feeling lucky are ya punk?
 (In a Clint Eastwood
 tone)

SCOTT:

Five bucks each if i walk from here and back?

They all nod in unison and reply YEP.

SCOTT:

Bet.

3. SCENE 3: ACT 3: THE GRAVEYARD

00:01:00

The graveyard in sitiuated in the center of a neighborhood. it is surround by rod iron fencing. It is a very dark even the stars are hidden under the cover of night. The Moon is full and white. The faint sound of the midnight's breeze fades in and out.

The gate is closed and locked so Scott has to climb over in order to gain entry. Scott begins his trek. Scott feels carefree and confident that he will claim an easy bet. He He makes his way along the path but, as the path starts to ascend he notices the light from the light-pole begin to flicker. Scott begins to question himself second guessing his confidence as he inches closer and closer to the peak of the path. The closer he gets the more erratic the flicking becomes. His feelings of skepticism starts to manifest into feeling of fear and confusion. Scott glances back to see if he can still see his firends but notices that they have faded away from view. He stops to asses the situation. Trying to make sense of the situation...

SCOTT:

It must be a faulty bulb. It's probably about to blow. Man, but if that happens I won't be able to see shit, he thought. Why is it flickering faster the closer i get? I gotta get out of here.

As he nears the peak of the path he notices that he can take another path ro the left that would keep him from being seen and out of view of the others. He can avoid going all the way to the far end of the graveyard.

SCOTT:

Yes! I'll just go this awy and nobody will see me, they'll think i'm courageous and i will be the man, yea.

All of a sudden, the light goes out, Scott is frozen in a state of shock. He tries to focus his eyes to make out his surroundings. His sight becomes paralyzed by fearas he scans the parameter. A pair of glowing yellow eyes appear out of the darkness. Scott's vision is held upward as though he is staring into the eyes of a giant. Then out of nowhere he hears a whoo-whoo whoo-whoo and the sound of wings in flight.

SCOTT:

Dammit, it's just an owl (sheew)

The light comes back on faintly lite.

SCOTT:

Man, I gotta get outta here

He continues down the short-cut glancing back to notice some sort of shadowy figure in the mist of the night's air. It's hard for him to make out what or who it is so he turns in hast tripping over a gravestone. Scott rolls to his side in agony.

(Awwwww, he sighs)

At that moment he hears the voices of his friends screaming

as thought something horrible has happened

SCOTT:

Mike! Jessie! Jessie! Jake! Phil!, Gus!

(Screaming in a frenzy)
Where are you guys! What's going
on!

Then all of a sudden there's silence, the screams stop, the wind stops, the atmosphere is still and quiet. Scott kneels down behind a headstone. He is he suspence. His heart sinks deep inot his chest as he takes a gulp.

SCOTT:

Awww man, what the fuck is going on? I can't believe this shit. If i get out of here i'm never leaving the house again.

He rises up feeling terrified. He notices that some kind of way he has gotten of the beaten pathand was now walking over grave sites. He glances down at one in particular. It was lit up with a single illuminated candle. The grave seemed to be a memorial, surrounded by fresh-cut flowers and enclosed in small white picket-fencing. There where five gravestones with a marker set in the memory of the deceased. It read: In Loving Memory Friends Foever. Scott eyes focused in on the names they read: Jake Thompson, Jessie Reid, Gustavo Gump, Michael Mathers, and Phillip Hill.

Scott's eyes filled with fright.

SCOTT:

What.the.fuck!

The sound of thunder rose up above and lightning filled the night's sky. The thunder roared as he got a final glance at the memorial. Then out of nowhere he heard the sound of a dog's growl. Scott did not even look to where it was coming from he just ran as fast as he could. The animal seemed to be hot on his trial but he made it to the gate and jumped back across falling hard on his stomach. Scott rolled over only to find no one around.

He got up dusting himself off and turning to face the graveyard. His friends were nowhere in sight. The only thing he noticed was a obituary blowing on the gate that read: In Loving Memory Friends Forever.

4. THE END. 00:01:00