

The Veil

By

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08/05/2019

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FADE IN:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Sun glints through the trees illuminating the beauty of the graveyard, creating the illusion of an idyllic, untroubled world.

ABI, 60, messy hair, scruffy clothes, walks through the graveyard holding a wreath and a carrier bag.

She places the wreath against a gravestone and goes to sit on a bench opposite.

The wreath is revealed; large letters on it spell "CUNT".

Sound of a can CRACKING open. Abi is sat on the bench, swigging from a can of lager. After her swig, she gives the grave the middle finger.

A disgruntled looking PRIEST approaches and noticing him, Abi scurries off.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Abi walks along, swigging from her can.

A ghoulish DRONING noise stalks her, watching from the trees.

Abi turns and is startled to see the DRONING thing behind her. She drops her can and runs, and the DRONING thing pursues, chasing her through the forest.

She hides behind a tree, and the DRONING stops.

Her back against the tree, Abi takes deep breaths. Exhausted, she closes her eyes for a moment. Opening them, she is startled as the DRONING thing swoops down from the trees above her and the chase begins again.

Abi takes fearful glances back at the DRONING thing.

She takes a glance, then looks forward and finds herself heading to the edge of a high CLIFF. She stops, balancing on the edge. She looks down to see the long drop.

Composing herself, she steps back, away from the edge, then scurries off.

EXT. PATH - DAY

Abi walks along, scared and confused.

Someone brushes past her: a VEILED LADY in a black Victorian dress.

Abi carries on walking, but the Veiled Lady stops, turning solemnly towards her.

VEILED LADY  
You must forgive--

ABI  
(turning/giving middle  
finger)  
Piss off!

Abi carries on walking. The Veiled Lady stands there, staring after her solemnly.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Abi sits on a roundabout, drinking another can from her bag, looking confused and depressed. Hearing CLAPPING, she turns to see a MOTHER sat on a bench, her little GIRL, 8, and a FRIEND, 8, standing nearby, playing patty-cake.

GIRL  
You must forgive, you must forget, your anger controls the path you've set. Let go, move on and start anew or the spirit will make a home in you.

FRIEND  
You must forgive, you must forget, your anger controls the path you've set. Let go, move on and start anew or the spirit will make a home in you.

The children laugh. Abi looks down at her can, feeling ashamed to be drinking in front of them. She looks back up and jumps as the children are right next to her.

ABI  
What the--

The children laugh. They grab hold of the roundabout and start spinning it around.

ABI  
Stop it!

The children just giggle, staring creepily back at Abi. Abi becomes disorientated as the roundabout spins faster.

ABI  
Stop it.

(CONTINUED)

The children continue spinning it and staring at Abi, giggling creepily. Abi becomes very distressed and disorientated, feeling dizzy like she may pass out.

ABI  
Please, stop it.

Abi's vision becomes blurry as she spins faster.

ABI  
(shouting)  
Stop it!

The roundabout has stopped as though it never started, and the playground is silent. The children are by Mother as though they never left, and they all stare at Abi in confusion. Distressed, Abi gets up and hurries off.

EXT. PATH #2 - DAY

Walking long, Abi stops as she spots the Veiled Lady in the distance, sitting on a bench, staring at her. Determined to give her a piece of her mind, Abi heads towards her.

EXT. BENCH - DAY

Abi joins the Veiled Lady on the bench.

ABI  
What's going on here? I know  
you've got something to do with--

VEILED LADY  
You must forgive him.

Abi pauses in shock for a moment, then her anger returns.

ABI  
Why should I? He doesn't deserve  
it, the drunken old bastard.

Abi takes a sip from her can, and the Veiled Lady looks at her, drawing attention to her hypocrisy.

ABI  
What? It's him that's driven me  
to this.

VEILED LADY  
You must forgive. Let go of your  
anger, it controls you.

ABI

I have every right to be angry!

VEILED LADY

No you don't.

ABI

Who're you to tell me that? You don't know what he did.

VEILED LADY

It doesn't matter.

ABI

Doesn't matter!

VEILED LADY

What he did was wrong. I know it caused you great pain. But if you don't forgive that pain will never leave you.

ABI

Pain. Pfft. You don't know what you're talking about. I was fine until you showed up.

Abi drinks from her can (reminding us she was not fine).

VEILED LADY

You must forgive him, or you will become what you hate.

ABI

(very angry)

I could never be like him!

VEILED LADY

You grow more like him every day.

Abi, furious, goes to slap the Veiled Lady.

ABI

You bitch!

HUSBAND (V.O.)

You bitch!

Abi stops herself before hitting the Veiled Lady and is shaken, ashamed of her actions. Distraught, she runs off.

VEILED LADY

(shouting after Abi)

Let go of your anger! It is how the spirit has found you! Your anger controls you!

(gravely to self)

Now it does too.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Abi angrily walks along, next to a road.

Some distance away, the Girl from earlier is sat on the grass, making daisy chains. She looks up to see Abi. Seeing she's upset, she heads over to her.

LATER

Abi walks along, and the Girl approaches and hands her a daisy chain, smiling.

ABI  
(grabbing the daisy chain  
and throwing it away)  
Leave me alone!

Abi carries on her way, and the Girl is left standing there, staring after her, upset. The Girl runs into the road.

Abi is walking along. A horn BEEPS! Startled, Abi turns.

A car speeds towards the Girl. Abi runs into the road, pushing the Girl out of the way but Abi is left in the road, staring at the car like a rabbit in the headlights.

The broken daisy chain lies by the roadside as the sound of the IMPACT is heard.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

An ominous BELL TOLLS as dandelion seeds float above the rows of graves.

Abi hobbles through the graveyard on crutches. She's tidied up her appearance, looking clean and better dressed, and she holds a wreath.

She places the wreath against the same gravestone from earlier and goes to sit on the bench opposite.

She sits down, and something grabs her attention. The Veiled Lady is in the distance; her veil lifted, smiling.

Abi smiles back. She looks at the grave. The wreath says "I Forgive You". Abi looks up and is surprised. The Veiled Lady has vanished. Abi gives a big beaming smile.

FADE OUT.

THE END