

CONSUME

Written by

Joseph Harris

Dull and lifeless, a fierce grayness covers the room. We see pictures along the bookcase, TWO BOYS, ARTHUR, 17 and DAN, 17. They're both smiling proudly.

Arthur stands in the picture wearing a green t-shirt with a yellow cap on. Next to him is Dan wearing a brown hoodie along with a STAR WARS t-shirt.

Adorning the rest of the room are other garments, the MILLENNIUM FALCON stands proudly on the bookcase.

A prop shotgun lays next to a camera in a box...it points directly to the ceiling at the attic.

Entering the frame is Arthur - he's wearing black trousers, white shirt, black tie and a black jacket.

Turning all the lights off and approaching his desk where a camera, his computer and a LEGO set are waiting for him.

It's all normal, the figures are of a dad and daughter.

Arthur looks through the footage, all normal...sitting On the chair he pushes himself backwards grabs his phone.

He checks his messages. A text appears from his other friend. It reads: Hey bro, how you doing?

He pockets the phone.

SSKKRRRRZZZT -- a scratching sound from the attic.

Standing up, he unlocks his attic hatch and brings the ladder down.

Slowly he begins to climb, flashlight on...

ARTHUR'S POV:

He carefully scans the attic. Nothing there.

Except for Dan's mangled corpse hiding in the background.

INTERCUT BETWEEN ARTHUR AND ASTER.

CU: ASTER'S, 48, watch - cracked and broken. Just like him.

He looks exhausted, scruffy looking with a crinkled shirt, his dark yellow tie barely hanging on.

Strewn around the room are empty pizza boxes and alcohol.

Next to him is a TEDDY BEAR... his daughter's ASHLEY.

In his hands is a old book containing pictures of her going from a baby to a 19-year-old girl...in each picture a hint of red appears.

He grabs the bear and clenches it tightly towards his chest...just to feel something.

ASHLEY (O.S.)

Dad.

He LOOKS UP towards the mirror and standing behind him is Ashely, she looks beautiful, so full of life.

She's wearing a pink dress with purple polka dots around it - reminiscent of the wife in SHUTTER ISLAND.

The room grows brighter as he approaches her. They embrace one another. It's the GREATEST HUG OF ALL TIME.

Tick. Tick. Tick. His watch miraculously mended.

They both look similar to Arthur's figures.

CUT TO:

3

INT. ARTHUR'S ROOM - SAME TIME

3

Coming back down the ladder, his laptop turns off.

Confused. He stands up and walks towards it.

The computer looks larger in the frame.

The cupboard door slowly creaks open...

In a LOW ANGLE SHOT (like in Zodiac), Arthur walks slowly towards the computer, the ceiling bearing down on him.

BUZZ!

The computer light blinds him --

He looks at the footage...it's Dan in a stop motion-like format.

Dan is watching TV, he suddenly grabs his chest and collapses onto the floor...the red hue of the TV cascades over him.

The low sound of a heartbeat can be heard.

A TROMBONE SHOT (Vertigo), Arthur is pushed to the ground.

TAP. TAP. TAP.

He looks at the closet, a pair of boney, almost corpse-like hands appear.

Tapping against the door slowly.

The hands start approaching Arthur...they're growing longer and longer and longer.

Arthur sees the hands coming towards him.

He looks back towards the ladder and runs up it, phone in hand.

CUT TO:

4

INT. ASHLEY'S BEDROOM - HOUSE

4

As they hug, Ashley looks up at him.

ASHLEY

You have to let me go.

ASTER

I can't...I can't.

ASHLEY

Dad. I'm just bones in a box.

Aster buries her head into his shoulder, he looks up at the mirror.

Her veins are spilling BLOOD.

She starts to fall apart...

He tries to hold on but at the end the only thing he's holding is ash.

ASTER

FUCK!!!

In the background, we can see the cute pictures of a father and daughter now replaced with a tall unseen figure with his hands wrapped around Ashley.

Ashely's face is twisted and rotting.

He walks to the teddy bear and in his rage, TEARS IT'S HEAD OFF and hurls it at the wall.

He sits back down on the bed.

In the FOREGROUND is the teddy bear, the same hand that appeared in Arthur's room protrudes from the decapitated teddy bear...

It begins to crawl away.

ASHLEY (O.S.)
Dad! Help me!

CUT TO:

5 **INT. STAIRCASE/HALLWAY - HOUSE - CONTINUOUS** 5

Aster runs down the stairs frantically, the lighting is reminiscent of a Universal gothic horror movie.

BIRDS EYE SHOT: He walks around the hallway, entering each room...

...CRASH ZOOM as the bathroom door is slammed shut!

Aster rushes to the door.

LOW ANGLE: He begins POUNDING on it! He tries desperately to get inside.

ASHLEY
(her voice growing horse
and more urgent)
Dad! Help me. Please!

Aster begins kicking the door violently, we see inside the bathroom as the door begins to move...a few more kicks.

SPLIT SCREEN:

We see both characters, Aster and Arthur, Arthur hiding in the attic, the latch sealing him up there in the dark.

CUT TO:

6 **ATTIC - ARTHUR'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 6

Arthur hides in the attic, the pounding on the hatch is UNBEARABLE.

His phone buzzes again...it's his friend once again.

He's calling.

Arthur answers the phone.

ARTHUR
I'm not ok.
(voice breaking)
I really miss him, Jesus Christ.

The pounding stops.

The room grows brighter. Not out of fear but out of calmness.

The CAMERA ZOOMS OUT.

We can breathe.

SMASH CUT TO:

7 **INT. BATHROOM - HOUSE - NIGHT**

7

Aster breaks through the door.

It swings open.

Ashley nowhere to be found...

Instead he sees the bathtub filled with blood.

He sits on the floor as the blood drips onto him...

...THE HANDS APPEARS and puts their hands on his shoulders before dragging him into the bathtub.

CUT TO:

8 **INT. KITCHEN - HOUSE - DAY**

8

Placing a plate of food down is Aster, and then another plate. He sits down, he looks amazing, but his eyes say something differently.

The CAMERA TILTS UP, Ashley sits across him, she looks lovely.

The CAMERA stays on Aster.

ASTER
Maybe someday, I can let you go.

Before revealing that once pretty girl sitting opposite him is now merely a skeleton.

The creature's places a hand on Asters and the other on Ashley's.

Aster smiles whilst crying. The sound of screaming can be heard, so many others consumed.

The end.