

THE END

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Late afternoon. Smoky air colors the sky a deep orange and brown. No signs of life.

Sound of rapid FOOTSTEPS.

TINA (30s) thin, dirty ripped clothes, matted hair runs along the road. SOFIE (6) in dirty jeans and a dirty pink "Hello Kitty" t-shirt holds on tight to Tina's hand. She runs as fast as her feet can go.

Tucked away from the road is a small abandoned house. Broken windows. Weeds grown up the outside walls.

Tina sees the house. A quick glance behind her confirms there's no one behind.

TINA

This way.

Tina pulls Sofie with her towards the house.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

Tina turns to Sofie, puts her finger to her lips. Sofie nods, puts her finger to her lips.

The two of them creep along the wall of the house.

At a window, Tina cautiously peeks inside. It's a mess, but empty.

They creep along to another window. Tina peeks inside.

They continue to the front door. Tina tries the doorknob.

The door is unlocked. They sneak inside.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

A former living room now dirty and in disarray. A broken lamp on the floor. Leaves. Glass. Overturned furniture.

Tina turns a sofa back on its legs. Sofie sits down.

Tina moves over to the broken window, peers out.

SOFIE

Will we be safe here?

Tina gazes with sad eyes at Sofie.

TINA

I think so. At least for a while.

Tina glances out the window again. No one's out there.

The late afternoon sun fills the room with golden light and deep dark shadows. Sofie sits in the sunlight.

Tina pushes the sofa into the dark shade. She sits down next to Sofie, puts her arm around her.

SOFIE

That lady was scary.

Tina squeezes Sofie tight.

TINA

I know sweetie.

SOFIE

Why did she look like that?

TINA

Some kind of disease...No one knows for sure.

SOFIE

What's a sidease?

Tina kisses Sofie on top of her head, smiles.

TINA

Something that makes you sick.

SOFIE

Like the flu?

Tina ponders for a moment.

TINA

Remember when Punky, your aunt Lisa's dog got sick after he was bitten by a fox?

Sofie thinks for a few seconds then nods.

SOFIE

It made him mean.

Tina nods sadly.

TINA

It's kind of like that.

They sit quiet for a moment, deep in thought.

Sofie gazes up at Tina.

SOFIE

Does it take a long time to get mean?

Tina swallows hard. Fights back a tear.

TINA

It's pretty quick...I think.

SOFIE

Is that why you had to shoot that lady?

Tina meets Sofie's gaze.

TINA

I had no choice sweetie.

SOFIE

Was she going to hurt us?

Tina nods.

TINA

Yes, she was.

Tina lays Sofie down on the sofa, brushes her hair away from her face.

TINA

Try to get some sleep. You've been up for two days.

SOFIE

Mommy, I'm hungry...

TINA

I know. We'll try to find some food tomorrow, but you need to rest first.

Sofie's eyelids get heavy. She struggles to stay awake. After a short moment she's sound asleep.

Tina kisses Sofie on her forehead then gets up.

She tip toes to the broken window, peeks out.

THROUGH WINDOW

Far away in the distance something moves between the trees.

BACK TO SCENE

Tina peels away from the window. A worried look on her face. Eyes dart between Sofie and the window.

Tina breathes heavier. Worry on her face. She gazes at Sofie then back out the window.

With shaky fingers, Tina pulls her bloody ripped shirt sleeve up. She stares at her forearm in horror.

There's a nasty bite mark on her arm. A small piece of flesh missing. Blackish veins streak out from the wound.

Tina gasps, covers her mouth with her hand.

TINA

...No!

Sweat beads on her forehead. Her lips are pale. Dry. She licks her lips. Her tongue unnaturally dark.

TINA

(whispers)

No. No. No. No.

She pulls the sleeve down. Starts to pace back and forth.

MOANS and GROANS are heard from outside.

Tina sneaks up to the window. Peeks outside.

Her eyes now slightly cloudy.

She looks over at Sofie, licks her lips.

Tina moves towards Sofie. She staggers slightly.

The MOANS and GROANS grow louder from outside.

Tina sits down on the sofa, licks her lips. Eyes fixed on Sofie. Her lips part in a snarl revealing rotten gums.

Tina leans in closer to Sofie. Mouth open. She breathes on Sofie's face.

Sofie makes a face in her sleep.

Heavy FOOTSTEPS are heard from outside.

Tina whips her head around to the door.

She whimpers, looks back at Sofie. Tears form in her cloudy eyes.

The door handle rattles.

Tina stares at the front door then back at Sofie. She snarls, licks her lips.

The front door is ripped off its hinges.

Dark human shaped shadows fill the floor in front of the doorway. The shadows shuffle into the room.

Tina glances in horror at the shadows then back at Sofie. A tear rolls from Tina's eye. She whimpers. Hugs Sofie tight in her arms.

MOANS and HISSES grow closer.

Tina pulls out a small revolver tucked into the back of her belt. She flips it open.

Only one bullet left.

She snaps the cylinder back in place. Cries out then points the gun at Sofie's temple.

Tina closes her eyes.

CUT TO BLACK:

A SHOT rings out.

FADE OUT: