

FOSTER MOM NIGHTMARE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. RUNDOWN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (2007)

A small ranch with two bedrooms. The house is a mess and in need of cleaning. Baby items are strewn all over the floor, leaving very little room to walk.

NATALIE REYNOLDS (19), plain and frazzled, sits down on the couch with a soda and sandwich. She turns on the TV and settles on a movie. Her older flip phone lies on the coffee table.

Natalie sits back and enjoys her sandwich, until the cell phone rings and interrupts her. She grabs the phone and checks the display. A young man who fits the definition of trouble is on the screen, along with the name "Cliff".

NATALIE
(into phone)
What?

CLIFF (ON PHONE)
Don't take that tone with me, Nat.
I need you to pick me and Jimmy up.
We need a driver.

NATALIE
I can't. Kaylie is sleeping.

CLIFF (ON PHONE)
Bring her with you.

NATALIE
I'm not doing that, Cliff.

CLIFF (ON PHONE)
You're doing it if you care
anything about that brat.

Natalie freezes, fear in her eyes.

CLIFF (ON PHONE)
Be at my place in 10 minutes.

Click. He hangs up. Natalie lowers the phone and worriedly looks toward the bedrooms.

INT. RUNDOWN HOUSE - NURSERY - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

A crib and a dresser. Very plain and boring.

Natalie opens the door and approaches the crib. Inside, KAYLIE (18 months) sleeps under a blanket.

Natalie picks up her daughter, still wrapped in the blanket. The toddler fusses slightly. Natalie cuddles her.

NATALIE

Shhhh. It's okay. We're going for a ride.

Natalie leaves the room with Kaylie.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A crummy area of town. DRUG DEALERS and PROSTITUTES search for their next customers. An old car held together by rust drives past.

INT. NATALIE'S CAR - DRIVING - NIGHT - SAME

Kaylie sleeps in her car seat in the rear. Behind the wheel, Natalie glances into her rearview mirror at her sleeping child.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Very seedy. Trash in the yard. CLIFF JENKINS (24), long hair and scuzzy looking, sits on the steps with JIMMY WYATT (23), similar appearance. Each wears a jacket and smokes weed.

Natalie stops her car at the curb. The men put out their joints and get in, Cliff in the front.

INT./EXT. NATALIE'S CAR - STOPPED - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Natalie eyes Cliff.

CLIFF

I told you ten minutes.

NATALIE

I had to change Kaylie first. I'm running low on diapers, Cliff. Could you buy her a pack while we're out?

CLIFF

What do I look like? An ATM?

NATALIE

She's your daughter.

CLIFF

Don't blame me for that. I told you to abort her.

Jimmy gazes at Kaylie with a smile.

JIMMY
She looks just like you, Cliff.

CLIFF
Like I care.
(to Natalie)
Get going.

NATALIE
Where?

CLIFF
The Sunoco on 4th Street.

NATALIE
Why are we going there?

Cliff loses his temper.

CLIFF
Stop asking questions and go.

Natalie reluctantly puts the car into gear.

She drives off down the street.

EXT. SUNOCO - NIGHT

The gas station is lit up but mostly deserted. There are two cars in the lot and one belongs to the employee.

Natalie parks her car on the far side of the pumps.

INT./EXT. NATALIE'S CAR - PARKED - NIGHT - SAME

Natalie reaches to the ignition.

CLIFF
Leave it running, but kill the lights.

Natalie complies.

NATALIE
What are we doing here?

CLIFF
Just stay put until we get back.

Natalie looks at Cliff with uncertainty. He grips her hair. Natalie grimaces.

NATALIE
Ow.

CLIFF

You'd better be here when we get back or I'll hunt you down, or maybe that brat will pay for your mistake.

Cliff releases Natalie and gets out of the car. Jimmy joins him. They head to the store.

Natalie rubs the back of her head. She twists in her seat to look back at Kaylie.

INT. SUNOCO - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

WORKER (30s, male) straightens up behind the counter. An ELDERLY COUPLE browses snacks and selects a few.

Cliff and Jimmy enter. They pause just inside to survey the store. The couple and worker are all within their sight. The men spread out, Cliff going to the beer section while Jimmy picks out a couple of snacks.

BEER SECTION

Cliff opens a glass door and grabs a case of beer.

BABY SECTION

Jimmy studies the packs of diapers. He picks up a couple, barely able to hold them and his snacks. Leaves the aisle.

NEAR THE FRONT

Cliff walks over to Jimmy and eyes the diapers.

CLIFF

What the hell?

JIMMY

Your kid needs them.

They proceed to the counter and lay their things on it. Worker rings them up.

WORKER

38.79.

Cliff removes a handgun from his jacket pocket and points it at Worker. Worker's eyes widen as he raises his hands.

CLIFF

This one's on the house.

The elderly couple approaches, oblivious to what takes place. Jimmy pulls out his gun and points it at them. They stop.

JIMMY

Stay there.

Cliff waves his gun at the register.

CLIFF

Open it.

WORKER

I don't have much cash this late.

CLIFF

I don't care. Open it!

INT. NATALIE'S CAR - PARKED - NIGHT - SAME

Natalie watches worriedly through the store windows as...

Worker opens the register. Cliff hurries around the counter and shoves him out of his way to gather the small amount of cash inside.

INT. SUNOCO - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Cliff sneers at the cash he holds.

CLIFF

You've got to have more here
somewhere. Give me your wallet.

Worker just stares in fear. Cliff points his gun.

CLIFF

Now!

Worker pulls his wallet from his pocket. His hand quivers as he holds it out. Cliff removes the money inside and shoves all of it into his pocket. Drops the wallet to the floor.

Cliff hurries back around to the front of the counter and goes to the elderly couple.

CLIFF

(to woman)

Your purse.

Elderly Woman looks unsure. Cliff grabs her purse roughly. In the process of taking it, he knocks her down. Her husband steps toward her. Cliff reflexively fires a shot. Elderly Man falls to the floor, dead from a gunshot wound.