

NOT EVEN DEATH
by
Phil Clarke Jr.

doglebe@yahoo.com

FADE IN ON:

INT. BASEMENT -DAY

The residential basement is cluttered with boxes and other items. Diffused sunlight seeps through the small windows.

A door CREAKS open, on top of the stairs. Light shines down and fades as the door CREAKS closed.

DAVID (35) cautiously walks down the stairs. He's dressed in khakis and a collared shirt and carries a paper shopping bag.

He stops at the landing and looks around.

DAVID
Jackie?

RASPY BREATHING is heard.

DAVID
Sweetheart, it's David...

He cautiously makes his way through the basement.

He stops at a desk and opens a drawer. He pulls out a pistol and tucks it in his belt.

DAVID
Jackie...

JACKIE stands in a dark corner, surrounded by old boxes. She is still, except for her twitching hand.

DAVID
I... I went shopping, Jackie. I
got--you know, the stuff you like.

He puts the bag on a card table and pushes it toward her.

She leaps toward him. She is jerked back by the short chain secured around her neck and to the wall behind her.

She HISSES.

He jumps back half a step.

Jackie (30) is very sickly-looking. Her clothes are dirty. Her hair is greasy and matted. Her skin is dry and very cracked. Her eyes are cloudy and vacant.

Dried blood is caked around her mouth.

DAVID
 Jackie, it's David. Do you
 remember me, Sweetheart?

She steps toward him as far as her 'leash' will let her. She keeps trying to step further.

Her movements are slow and forced.

DAVID
 David...? Do you remember me?

She slaps the chain around her neck, as if to swat it away.

She stares at him with blank eyes.

DAVID
 Do you remember me at all?

He pulls two items out of the shopping bag, wrapped in brown butcher's paper. He unwraps them....

BRAINS.

DAVID
 I had to go to a different butcher
 shop than before. The old butcher--

He places two brains on her side of her table. She reaches for them, but they are just out of her reach.

DAVID
 Was getting suspicious. Wanted to
 know why I was always buying--

He slides the table toward her. She grabs one and devours it like a hungry animal.

David averts his eyes.

DAVID
 Cow brains. I was afraid he was
 gonna report me to the police.

He glances her way as she eats, but doesn't look long.

SLURPING and MUNCHING is heard.

DAVID
 I didn't want them taking you away,
 or...you know...

She keeps eating, as if unaware of him.

DAVID

The police found about a dozen zom--
people like you, at that abandoned
gas station on seventy-two... It
was on the news. I think--

As soon as she finishes the brain, she grabs a second.

DAVID

One of them was George McIntyre.
It looked like him, but I couldn't--

A fragment of brain falls from Jackie's hands, landing on the
floor with a sickly--

PLOP!

David looks at it and shuts his eyes.

DAVID

I couldn't be sure.

DAVID

Sally's been asking about you--

Jackie stops eating and looks at him.

DAVID

Wondering when she can come home
and see you...

The two look at each other. She has a sad look to her.

DAVID

Sally? You remember Sally?

He takes out his wallet and pulls a photo from it.

DAVID

You remember her, don't you--?

He places the photo on the table, near her.

DAVID

We took this picture last June,
when we went to Monsey Adventure
Park, remember?

It's a photo of David, wrapping his arms around Jackie (while
alive), and a young girl. All three are dressed casually and
smiling.

DAVID

She wanted to go on the roller coaster and you thought she would be too afraid on it... Turned out you screamed more than she did.

He CHUCKLES faintly. Jackie looks at the photo.

DAVID

Sally misses her Mommy. She wants to see you so badly... She's turning eight in a month. She told me that the only thing she wants for her birthday is to see you.

Jackie resumes eating, taking slow bites.

DAVID

I told her she could when you got better. I read that doctors in Germany may have a cure. They're--

She finishes eating.

DAVID

Still testing it, but if it works, every government will get it--

She looks at the table, almost panicky. She brushes the papers off the desk with her hands.

DAVID

And we can be a family again--

SLAP!

He looks. She SLAPS her hand on the table, looking at him.

DAVID

I was only able to get those two today--

She lunges toward him. The chain holds her back.

A GUTTURAL GROAN rises from her mouth.

DAVID

I'll get more tomorrow!

She tries another step toward him.

The other end of the chain pulls on a nail in the wall.

She angrily flails her arms at him as she jerks on the chain.
The chain pulls on the nail.

DAVID
I promise, Jackie. Don't do this!

She grabs the chain with her hand and jerks on it.
The nail loosens, and is partially out of the wall.

DAVID
Jackie, you'll hurt yourself.

She HISSSES and pulls on the chain again.
The nail is further out from the wall.

DAVID
Please Jackie. Listen to me! I'm
doing this because I love you!

She reaches for him and takes a big step toward him.
The nail POPS from the wall.
The chain goes slack.
She knocks over the card table and takes a step toward him.

DAVID
Jackie, no!

He pulls the gun out of his pants and holds it up to her.

DAVID
Jackie, don't make me shoot...

His gun hand shakes as he slowly steps back. She follows

DAVID
Jackie, please stop!

He jumps back and trips over a box. He hits the floor with a
resounding THUD, landing at the base of the stairs.

She staggers toward him.

DAVID
I love you, Jackie.

She leans over him and opens her mouth, HISSING!

The small photo lays by his kicking feet--

DAVID (O.S.)

Noooooo!

Showing a loving family.

A few drops of blood spray on it, covering David and Jackie.

CHEWING is heard.

Jackie leans over David's still body as she feeds on him. She rips flesh from his face and anxiously shoves it into her mouth, chewing like an animal.

A door CREAKS open. Light shines down the stairs. Jackie is preoccupied with her meal until--

SALLY (O.S.)

Daddy?

Jackie's head snaps up.

FINAL FADE OUT.