

THREE ON A MATCH

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FADE IN:

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

Torrents of rain pour from the sky, pelting the dilapidated structure and overgrown brush.

A van rocks in the flooded driveway. Its engine REVS. Wheels spin FURIOUSLY in deep mud.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rain pours through missing window panes. And through holes in the roof. A camp lantern is the only light source.

Light bounces off the steel spokes and frame of a wheelchair by a fireplace. Streaks of light accent the rotted walls.

FRANKLIN (65) sits in the chair, in a hospital gown. DUCT TAPE binds him to the chair at the wrists and ankles. He is bald and sickly. His eyes sunken in.

FRANKLIN

I understand what your boyfriend is going through. I really do.

He looks at MICHELE (20) who stares at him from the far end of the room.

FRANKLIN

But it doesn't have to end like this.

He struggles to free his arms but the duct tape beats him.

FRANKLIN

Can you talk?

MICHELE

I can talk.

FRANKLIN

That's good. For a second, I thought you were a mute.

She steps toward the front door, keeping an eye on Franklin. A faint smile rests on his face as he watches her.

She peeks out the door.

INSERT - VAN ON DRIVEWAY

Reverse light splits the darkness. Water SPRAYS as wheels spin. The white lights turn off. Wheels spin the other way.

FRANKLIN (V.O.)  
Terrible night to be out. Not a  
soul for miles.

BACK TO:

MICHELLE

She closes the door and looks at him. He smiles at her.

FRANKLIN  
I don't believe I caught your name.

She nervously walks back to the door frame.

MICHELE  
William said not to talk to you.

FRANKLIN  
Well that's not nice of him. What  
else did he say?

She looks all around, avoiding eye contact with him.

FRANKLIN  
He must've said something. You  
look scared.

She reaches into her pants pocket and pulls out a pack of gum. She slides a piece in her mouth.

MICHELE  
William said you killed his mother  
and father.

FRANKLIN  
I killed his mother and father? I  
don't think so. I don't remember.

MICHELE  
You don't remember?

FRANKLIN  
I killed so many people in my day.  
And it was so long ago.

He smiles her, proud of this.

The front door swings open and then closes just as quickly.

William (20) flashes a flashlight around the room. His bright yellow poncho drips with water.

WILLIAM

Van's stuck in a foot of mud, out there. It's gonna take a while.

He steps to Michele. She stares at Franklin. William notices this.

WILLIAM

What's the matter? What happened?

MICHELE

Nothing.

FRANKLIN

The young lady and I were merely having a conversation.

WILLIAM

Don't talk to her! You hear me?

William storms over to him and SMACKS him in the head with the flashlight.

He steps over to Michele and pulls her further away from Franklin.

WILLIAM

(hushed)

He's dangerous.

MICHELE

(hushed)

He's an old man.

WILLIAM

He killed over thirty people, including my mother and father.

MICHELE

He's tied to a wheelchair.

WILLIAM

I don't want him hurting you. Just keep away from him. Okay?

MICHELE

Okay...

FRANKLIN

Would it be too much to ask for a  
drink of water?

They look at him.

FRANKLIN

The medicines they give me at the  
hospital leave me very thirsty.

WILLIAM

A drink of water?

He steps over to Franklin. He rolls the wheelchair a few  
feet to the side where water slowly pours from the ceiling.

Franklin cringes under his shower.

WILLIAM

Here's your water.

William returns to Michele.

WILLIAM

I'm gonna go back to the van. You  
keep away from him.

He pulls some boards from the exposed and rotted walls.

WILLIAM

Slide these under the tires. See  
if that'll help.

He leaves. She steps to the window.

INSERT - OUTSIDE

William jams the boards under the rear wheels of a red van.  
Each step he takes, he sinks a little in the mud.

FRANKLIN (O.S.)

At this rate, he'll run out of gas  
before he gets out.

BACK TO:

MICHELE

She turns toward Franklin. He's soaking wet.

She steps up and pulls the wheelchair away from the dripping  
water. She quickly walks away.

FRANKLIN

Thank you, my dear. I didn't want to impose by asking you to move me.

He fidgets with his wrists. The duct tape doesn't give.

MICHELE

Why'd you do it? Why'd you kill William's parents?

FRANKLIN

I don't remember his parents. Who were they?

MICHELE

I never met them. I've only known William for six months... Why did you kill anybody?

FRANKLIN

There's no single reason. That would be insane... Most of them I killed because they found out about the others.

MICHELE

Why kill the original people?

FRANKLIN

Because they were weak.

Franklin wiggles his arms. The tape on one wrist begins to tear.

FRANKLIN

Their lives were failures. And rather than try fixing them, they blamed others.

(dramatic; pitiful)

Oh my life is so hard. I blame the government! I blame the church! I blame society!

(normal)

I grew tired of it.

MICHELE

So you just killed them?

FRANKLIN

I did more to improve their lives than they did.

REVVING and SPINNING is heard outside.

FRANKLIN

I made mistakes in my life, but I didn't go around blaming others for them. I owned up to them.

He smiles at her.

FRANKLIN

What do you think your William is going to do now?

MICHELE

Do now?

FRANKLIN

His plan was to kidnap me from the hospital. Kill me. And hide my body in the woods here. Right?

She looks away. GUILT is written all over her face.

FRANKLIN

But he didn't count on the rain and the mud. Kids today just don't think things through.

She walks to the window and looks out. The REVVING is louder. More desperate.

FRANKLIN

If you're going to steal a dying man from a psychiatric hospital, you should have contingency plans.

She looks to him.

MICHELE

You're dying?

FRANKLIN

Cancer. They released me from jail for 'humanitarian reasons.'

MICHELE

Thirty years?

FRANKLIN

They couldn't release a serial killer. So, they placed me in Redhon Psychiatric Hospital to live out my days.

She approaches him. He follows her with his eyes, smiling.

WILLIAM (O.S.)  
What's going on?

Michele jumps back as William steps through the door. He pulls off his poncho and drops it on the floor.

MICHELE  
William!

WILLIAM  
I told you he's dangerous! He'd kill you if he could.

Franklin steps up and shines his light in Franklin's face.

MICHELE  
You told me that he killed your parents ten years ago.

WILLIAM  
He did.

MICHELE  
But he was in jail for the last thirty years.

WILLIAM  
Did he tell you that?

MICHELE  
He was placed in a mental hospital because he's dying of cancer. The hospital that we took him out of.

WILLIAM  
He's confusing you. Trying to trick you.

FRANKLIN  
I really should complain to that hospital about its security.

William backhands him.

WILLIAM  
Shut up.

He steps over to Michelle.

WILLIAM  
What else did he say? He didn't do it? That he's a saint, maybe?

FRANKLIN

I'm the last person to claim being  
a saint..

WILLIAM

Shut up!  
(to Michele)  
We have to do this, Michelle.

MICHELE

I don't know anymore, William.

WILLIAM

Fred and Susan Brady's deaths will  
be avenged.

He grabs a roll of duct tape from next to the camp lantern  
and RIPS a piece off. He places it over Franklin's mouth.

WILLIAM

I gotta go back to the van. Be  
right back.

He leaves. She pulls the tape off of Franklin's mouth.

FRANKLIN

Thank you... Did he say his last  
name was Brady? William Brady?

MICHELE

Yes.

FRANKLIN

Billy Brady? I know him from the  
hospital.

MICHELE

From the hospital? William worked  
there?

FRANKLIN

He was a resident. We met in the  
day room. He was released about  
two months after I got there.

MICHELE

What? When?

FRANKLIN

Six months ago, I guess.

MICHELE

I don't understand. He was in the hospital? Why?

FRANKLIN

He said he set his house on fire and killed his parents. He had to be committed.

MICHELE

This can't be--

WILLIAM (O.S.)

It's not!

She spins around, practically leaping out of her shoes.

MICHELE

William!

WILLIAM

Franklin Grey killed my parents.

MICHELE

He was in prison ten years ago. He couldn't have--

William steps up. His face is lit up from the camp lantern.

FRANKLIN

I remember you. Do you want to play some cards, Billy?

MICHELE

William, your parents died in a fire. Didn't they?

FRANKLIN

I never killed with fire. I used a knife. And I didn't usually kill couples. Too much work.

MICHELE

Shut up!

FRANKLIN

The big difference between you and me, Billy, is that you felt guilt over what you did.

Williams pulls out a hunting knife from a belt sheath.

MICHELE

William, you started a fire as a kid. It was an accident--

FRANKLIN

Not what he told me. He started it when he learned his parents were getting a divorce--

William moves toward Franklin, raising the knife.

MICHELE

William, please! He didn't do it.

WILLIAM

He did! Don't lie for him!

He brings the knife up--

And slashes Michele in the throat. Blood SPURTS as she falls to the floor. Her hands fail to stop the bleeding.

He looks at her and then at Franklin. The old man smiles.

He plunges the knife in Franklin's chest. The old tenses up for a few seconds, and then slumps over.

William steps toward the front door and pulls out a cell phone and presses three buttons.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

He brings the phone to his ear.

WILLIAM

Hello Police? My name is William Brady--

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The rain pours down.

WILLIAM (V.O.)

Franklin Grey just killed my girlfriend...

FINAL FADE OUT: