

Timeless Shadows

written by

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INT. AUDITORIUM STAGE - DAY

CREATOR (M30s) stands spotlighted on a stage. He wears a black turtleneck and jeans.

CREATOR
We live in a society reduced to
every day monotony. Your job
repeats itself every single day.

He walks back and forth pretentiously.

CREATOR (CONT'D)
So we removed the boring parts.

A screen lightens in the background. We follow into it.

A pitch deck advertisement plays as the Creator continues talking.

CREATOR (V.O.)
No worries about money, as your
bank account is replenished every
morning to fulfill your needs and
leisure for the day.

The crowd OOHs and AAHs.

The screen shows a perfect utopia. ATM's being withdrawn from
and cars driving with full fuel gauges.

CREATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
No gas stations because your car
will have the perfect amount of
fuel to get you where you need.

Parks filled with events and catalogs of new movies in living
rooms.

CREATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
An endless amount of entertainment,
both outside and in to pass the
time. You never need to worry about
a thing here.

The Creator stands still to reveal the climax.

CREATOR
Some call it an unsustainable
impossibility, but I call it the
new way of life.

On the screen:

Welcome to Everlast

A diagram showing a loop at the end of every day flashes onto the screen in a glitched manner.

STATIC, BLACK, a VHS EJECTION sound.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A VHS tape falls to the floor. On the tape it reads "Your Welcome Package".

The room is dim, cluttered, and tense. LUCY (F30s) stands staring at the tape confused.

LUCY
(almost whispering)
What was that?

JOHN (M30s) stands on the other side of the room. His gaze drifts from the tape to Lucy upon hearing her voice.

JOHN
Oh... what's going on?

Lucy notices John, her confusion turning more angered. Stomping towards him.

LUCY
What is this *John*? What are you doing here?

JOHN
Oh you think I did this?

LUCY
People don't just accidentally appear places.

JOHN
This is the last place I want to be Lucy.

Lucy stares confused, then detracts.

LUCY
The reset was 4 hours early. It makes no sense.

JOHN
Yeah, and why here, I haven't lived in this house in months. I was just making din-

LUCY
Was Harry with you?

JOHN
Absolutely. It was my weekend.

LUCY
Where is he now?

They look at each other concerned. They leave the room.

Panning down to a side table, a family photo reveals Lucy and a young boy playing in a park.

INT. FRONT INTERIOR DOORWAY - NIGHT

The front doorway of a home sits quiet and undisturbed.

Two sets of hurried steps STOMP closer.

John and Lucy quickly walk to the front door.

A QUICK FLASH.

CUT TO BLACK.

The sound of a VHS tape ejecting.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The VHS tape hits the ground.

John and Lucy quickly look around the room finding one another. We are back at the beginning.

LUCY
How long was that?

John looks at his watch quickly.

JOHN
It doesn't make any sense.

LUCY
(irritated)
What time is it John?

JOHN
A little over one minute to
midnight.

Lucy is noticeably upset.

LUCY
That's all we have?

They look at each other, then rush out of the room.

INT. FRONT INTERIOR DOORWAY - NIGHT

John and Lucy reach the front door, unlock it, open it, and exit.

The door slams shut.

A QUICK FLASH.

CUT TO BLACK.

The sound of a VHS tape ejecting.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The VHS tape hits the ground.

Lucy and John meet eyes.

LUCY
We can't even leave?

Lucy begins to cry.

JOHN
We'll get through this. We just
need to keep it together.

LUCY
Keep it together? We have no
fucking idea what's going on.

They stare at each other, both with no words.

The doorbell RINGS and they look in the direction.

INT. FRONT INTERIOR DOORWAY - NIGHT

John and Lucy reach the front door and open it. They stand and look at a man that stands on the porch wearing professional attire. This is AGENT 1.

AGENT 1
There's an issue with the--

JOHN
Yes, please hurry.

LUCY
Come in, please.

INT. BASEMENT- NIGHT

Agent 1 leads John and Lucy down the stairs and into the basement. They are moving quickly.

JOHN
How can you tell there's an issue?

AGENT 1
We have monitoring equipment at every sub loop beacon.

JOHN
And there's a beacon in our-- her basement?

AGENT 1
Yes.

LUCY
(angry)
So you have monitoring equipment strewn throughout my house?

Agent 1 sighs.

AGENT 1
Yes, everything we need to maintain order on these systems.
(and)
You agreed to it when you signed on with the company. Your house is a beacon.

LUCY
I didn't agree to-

She aggressively steps towards Agent 1. He is relatively unfazed.

John stops Lucy.

JOHN
Just let him work, we can argue afterwards. We just need out of here.

Lucy reluctantly stands down.

They reach a room and Agent 1 uses a key ring to unlock it.

The door opens. Lucy notices Agent 1's ID badge. His title is Project Manager.

A simple alarm clock wired with a reactor sits on a desk in the room. It ticks down with 10 seconds left.

Lucy looks at Agent 1 in deep thought as he approaches it.

John and Lucy gather in and watch intently.

LUCY

Is there any reason I haven't seen
you around before?

Agent 1 hurriedly tinkers away, but is not concerned.

The clock shows 5 seconds to midnight.

AGENT 1

The property manager is out this
week. He's vacationing with his
family.

Lucy stares and her eyes show confusion. She interjects into Agent 1 working by attempting to block his eyesight.

LUCY

Will we be able to find our son
after this.

Agent 1 purposefully ignores the question and rushes back into working.

AGENT 1

Just one last adjustment ma'am.

Agent 1 begins to twist the screwdriver inside the reactor for the final time.

Lucy panics. She tackles him away from the reactor.

The screwdriver falls and thrusts into his chest as he lands on it. His eyes go wide, and he doesn't move.

The clock ticks to midnight.

A QUICK FLASH.

CUT TO BLACK.

The sound of a VHS tape ejecting.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The VHS tape hits the ground.

JOHN
(angered)
What the fuck was that, we were
there.

Lucy drops to her knees.

LUCY
Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god.
Was he dead?

JOHN
Why would you do--

LUCY
(yelling)
Something felt wrong.

JOHN
Something *felt* wrong?

Lucy hyperventilates for a moment and calms herself down.

LUCY
Yes, I don't think he's here to fix
this.

JOHN
You just killed the only chance of
us getting out of here on a
thought?

LUCY
No, I saved the chances of us
seeing Harry again.

JOHN
And how did you--

Lucy grabs his shoulders and looks deep into his eyes.

LUCY
The property manager is a woman.
He's lying to us.

The doorbell RINGS.

John and Lucy share a tense glance.

They rush out of the room.

INT. FRONT INTERIOR DOORWAY - NIGHT

John and Lucy reach the front door and open it. They stand and look at a man that stands on the porch wearing a professional suit. This is AGENT 2. He looks the same as AGENT 1.

John and Lucy are confused.

AGENT 2

There's an issue with your--

JOHN

Yes, please hurry.

LUCY

Come in, please.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Agent 2 leads John and Lucy down the stairs.

John and Lucy dangle behind at the top of the stairs.

They whisper very quietly to each other.

LUCY

You die in the loop, you're dead.
Nothing they can do. Remember?

JOHN

Yeah. Maybe things are more broken
than they seem.

LUCY

Or maybe they lied to us.

They continue downwards.

Agent 2 uses a key ring to unlock the door.

Lucy looks at the ID badge of Agent 2 and it's different than Agent 1's badge in name and ID number.

Her eyes go wide.

The door opens.

The alarm clock wired to the reactor sits on the desk.
There's 10 seconds left.

We pan down and see Agent 1's body on the ground.

Agent 2 does a slow turn towards the two of them. Lucy stands closest.

AGENT 2
Well what happened here?

JOHN
He fell.

Lucy and John nervously stare, trying to force the lie.

Agent 2 sighs in annoyance. He pulls back his arm, and swings at Lucy.

Lucy braces.

JOHN (CONT'D)
NO!

John shoves Agent 2's arm, stopping it from impacting Lucy.

Agent 2 and Lucy stumble backwards in opposite directions.
John falls to the ground between them.

Agent 2 regains his footing and kicks John in the face. Agent 2 lifts his foot up to stomp John's head.

A QUICK FLASH.

CUT TO BLACK.

The sound of a VHS tape ejecting.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

John and Lucy stand in the living room. John immediately holds his head in pain. His watch ticks up.

11:58:47

11:58:48

JOHN
Fuck, now what?

LUCY
I'm not sure. Need more time to think. We need to keep him outside.

They nod.

John and Lucy run towards the front door.

INT. FRONT INTERIOR DOORWAY - NIGHT

Loud, quick footsteps from outside the front door.

John and Lucy rush to the door, stopping quickly as the deadbolt lock turns and the door slowly opens up. The key ring dangles from the deadbolt. Agent 2 stands in the frame.

LUCY

You have keys to our house too?

AGENT 2

I have everything I need to shut this place down.

LUCY

So you're not here to fix it?

AGENT 2

There is no fixing the beacon in your basement. If you guys leave here and tell the world the hell you've been through, we'd never get a customer again.

JOHN

We're not going to tell anyone.

LUCY

We just want to leave here, find our son, and go back to the real world.

AGENT 2

You have two choices, I go downstairs and you seamlessly fade away, swiftly and painlessly. Or I kill you first then do the same thing.

Lucy and John reluctantly shake their head no.

Agent 2 smiles at Lucy. *Well okay.*

Agent 2 lunges for John, turning his attention away from Lucy. He tackles John to the ground landing on top of him. Agent 2 beats John mercilessly with fists.

Lucy runs for them and attempts to pull Agent 2 off of John. Agent 2 tosses her to the side, but she comes back.

AGENT 2 (CONT'D)

Get off of me, *jesus.*

He throws her harder against the wall.

Lucy lands in the corner and takes a moment to regain her vision.

AGENT 2 (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(to John)
Can't breathe?

STRANGLING STRUGGLES fill the air waves.

John's feet flail underneath AGENT 2's body.

Lucy watches on helplessly.

Lucy looks to the door still wide open. She runs towards it and slams it behind her.

A QUICK FLASH.

CUT TO BLACK.

The sound of a VHS tape ejecting.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

John and Lucy stand in the living room.

John GASPS for air, slowly regaining the color in his face.

Lucy looks down into her hands. She has the keys. John sees them as well.

JOHN
Go for the basement.

LUCY
I don't know how to stop it.

JOHN
If one of us can figure it out,
it's you.

LUCY
(crying)
John, I don't know what to do.

John grabs Lucy on the shoulders.

JOHN

Our differences tore us apart Lucy,
but deep down, I still know you're
the smartest person I know.

They share a tense glance, then she runs towards the basement.

John slowly walks towards the front door reluctantly.

INT. FRONT INTERIOR DOORWAY - NIGHT

THUD. The door shakes on its hinges.

THUD. The door begins to crack.

THUD. CRACK. The door flings open, broken on the hinges.

Agent 2 plants his foot down from the kick and stands in the doorframe silhouetted by the streetlights behind him.

John stares him down, fearful.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Lucy is quickly selecting and trying out keys.

Key after key fails, then finally she finds the right one. She opens it and enters.

INT. CLOCK ROOM - NIGHT

Lucy stares at the alarm clock and reactor. She is lost on where to begin.

SHUFFLING and THUDDING upstairs as John and Agent 2 start their fight.

Lucy looks at the reactor that is closed. Then the alarm clock. Then the reactor.

She pans her head to the dead body of Agent 1.

She rolls him over and the screwdriver sticks out of his chest. She pulls the bloody tool from the body and goes to work on the reactor.

The clock shows 25 seconds.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

John uses all of his might to push Agent 2 off of him.

John rolls in front of the fire place. He grabs a fire poker from the bin.

John and Agent 2 circle one another, John very injured and Agent 2 much less so.

AGENT 2

She left you behind to fend for
yourself?

Agent 2 smirks in a taunt.

JOHN

I trust her a lot more than you
down there.

AGENT 2

You really don't get it do you?
(and)
Once you're in the loop, there is
no leaving.

JOHN

We'll see about that.

Agent 2 laughs harder.

John swings the fire poker, but Agent 2 catches it, disarming him. The fire poker flies off to the side.

Agent 2 leads with a right hook that John dodges. Then a left gut punch that John catches with his hands. Agent 2 then kicks him in the chest, releasing the grip he had on the fist.

AGENT 2

A lot of fight in ya for a dead
man.

John runs towards him with a punch, but Agent 2 dodges it, following it up with a backside kick to John's calf. John falls to his knees, where Agent 2 grabs John's hair and makes him look him in the eyes.

AGENT 2 (CONT'D)

She's not here to save you this
time.

Agent 2 punches John and he falls back into a corner, crawling backwards until he reaches a wall.

Agent 2 methodically pulls out the screwdriver from within his jacket pocket.

INT. CLOCK ROOM - NIGHT

Lucy works effortlessly inside of the beacon, unscrewing random connections and wires.

She looks at it endlessly, searching for a solution.

She turns to the clock one last time as it ticks down from 4 seconds. Then 3. Then 2.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Agent 2 towers over John who lays on the ground. Agent 2 points the screw driver at his head.

AGENT 2

(angry)

You couldn't let the inevitable transpire. Filling your wife with a false sense of hope in her final moments was such a pathetic way to cope with your own demise.

JOHN

We didn't sign our lives away when we agreed to come live here.

AGENT 2

You were informed there were possibilities of things going wrong just like everyone else.

(and)

It's okay though, your son won't suffer. And I'm sure she will be much easier to take care of than you.

Agent 2 crouches down and holds the screwdriver in a shanking motion to John's throat cutting his sentence off, running it along his neck. John holds his hand up weakly, very wounded.

He pulls the knife back over his shoulder prepping a final stab.

AGENT 2 (CONT'D)

(soft and comforting)

Don't take this up with me, I'm just doing my job.

John squints his eyes.

LUCY (O.S.)
Might want to rethink your career
if you can't keep track of time.

Agent 2 looks confused, then goes to turn around.

CRACK

Agent 2 falls to the ground. Lucy is revealed behind him, having just hit him over the head with the fire poker.

She follows up with another blow into him once he's on the ground. She screams, letting out her aggression and anger.

INT. CLOCK ROOM - NIGHT

The clock sits on the table, 1 second to midnight.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

John's watch is stopped at 1 second to midnight.

Lucy stands tall, towering over the limp body of Agent 2.

John sits on the ground, resolve in his eyes.

JOHN
I told you you could do it.

Lucy extends her hand to John and pulls him to his feet.

They begin towards the home front door.

JOHN (CONT'D)
How though?

INT. CLOCK ROOM - NIGHT

The back of the clock has a screwdriver embedded into it.

LUCY
I just stopped the clock from
turning.

INT. FRONT INTERIOR DOORWAY - NIGHT

LUCY
Another loop would have killed us.

JOHN
All 3 of us.

They share a smile. Lucy takes his arm over her shoulder and helps him limp.

Lucy and John walk out of the door and they close it behind them.

A beat as the door sits closed. The house sits still inside.

EXT. STREET VIEW - NIGHT

John and Lucy walk on the pathway through the yard toward the street. They reach the street and turn onto the sidewalk.

We fade backwards, further and further into the sky over the land affected by time. John and Lucy travel down the street with John using her for support.

Houses far away from theirs are covered in many faint glow domes, but theirs and the surrounding block are clear.

FADE TO BLACK.