

Don't Look - Episode One

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Tales of the Forgotten Fiction Network

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM

NIGHTMARE (V.O.)

I watched him sleeping.

SFX: A creepy chittering sound, like a mechanical spider walking across a floor.

NIGHTMARE (V.O.) (cont'd)

I wondered if he would scream. If he'd try and use his strength to subdue me. I wondered what the look in his eyes would be when everything he tried... failed.

SFX: Man very lightly snoring. Makes sleepy noises.

DAVID (V.O.)

(gasp) I don't know what woke me up. I was so comfortable... but something was... wrong. Something was definitely wrong.

SFX: A lamp snaps on.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

My bedside lamp wasn't that bright, but my room wasn't that big either. I could see. There was nobody in here... But as my eyes darted around the familiar layout I didn't feel like I was alone.

SFX: Table drawer opening.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

I pulled out the gun I kept in my bedside table. Pulled it quickly from it's holster. I could hear my heart quickening. I took a deep breath, or tried. Maybe this was just an anxiety thing. I mean, the whole world was was fucked lately, everyone's mental health was in the toilet... yeah, yeah... that had to be it

SFX: A sheet is tossed aside. Floorboards creak as David gets out of bed.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

As soon as my feet touched the floor I realized I should have looked under the bed first. Fuck. What if something grabbed me - I dropped to the ground, my breath coming out harder than I would have liked, suddenly terrified something was going to be staring back at me....

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

There was nothing. Just dust. That stupid sock I'd been looking for. Fuck it. I reached my hand under the bed to grab it.

SFX: Low growl.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

I froze when I heard it. I'd... I'd just heard something right?

SFX: Accelerating heartbeat.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

I abandoned the sock, sitting up on my knees, hands wrapped around the familiar grip of my gun. I wasn't a cop, but I knew how to shoot. I practiced regularly. I could protect myself. Of course I could.

DAVID

Whose there?!

DAVID (V.O.)

I realized only after how stupid it was to call like that. I hated when people did that in horror movies, so why had I just done it? If someone was there, what do I think they're gonna do... answer? Hi, David, it's me, the intruder in your house here to kill you. Stupid.

SFX: Low growl.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

I was on my feet, my back hitting the closet doors next to my bed.

SFX: Back hitting wood.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

My hand started shaking. What the fuck was that? Was it a dog? Had a wild dog or something gotten into my apartment?

SFX: Chittering sounds. Another growl.

DAVID

Stop fucking around!

DAVID (V.O.)

I was becoming panicked. This wasn't good. My cell phone was on the nightstand.

(MORE)

DAVID (V.O.)(cont'd)

I could grab it. Yeah. Yeah. I'd grab it, and run through the house while calling 911.

DAVID  
(panicked)  
FUCK!

DAVID (V.O.)  
The lights went out. But... the AC was still on, I could feel the cold air blasting me. But my bedside light... it was... it just... like it was swallowed into darkness or something... Not. Good.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)  
I grabbed my cell phone off the nightstand, yanking it free of the charging cable. I almost dropped it, my hand was shaking so badly. I swiped. It was locked. My lock was a pattern. I tried it once. Fucked it up.

SFX: Growling

DAVID  
Stay away from me! Just stay away!  
Fuck... fuck... C'MON!!

DAVID (V.O.)  
Yes! Yes! Finally! I dialed 911.... no signal. What the fuck do you mean no signal!?! I had to get out of here. I didn't even know where the this thing... and I knew it was a thing, I just knew it okay... I didn't know where it was... Run. Fuck, fuck, just...

DAVID  
Run!

SFX: Cell phone clatters to the ground. Running.

DAVID (cont'd)  
I dropped the phone, kept the gun, and was right at my bedroom door when -

SFX: Door slamming closed.

DAVID (cont'd)  
No! NO!!!!

DAVID (V.O.)  
I grabbed the doorknob with one hand, yanking, yanking. It wouldn't budge. It wouldn't....

SFX: Violently banging on door.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)  
 Let me out! Let me out right now! Whoever  
 the is doing this, I will kill you man! Let me  
 out! LET ME OUT!!!

SFX: Chittering sound. Growling louder. Heavy breathing. Pounding  
 heartbeat.

DAVID  
 Oh god, oh god, oh god, oh god...

DAVID (V.O.)  
 Slowly, I looked up... I wish I hadn't.

DAVID  
 AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!

SFX: Freaky ass growl. Gunshots. David screaming. The sound of  
 David choking, like something is being shoved down his throat.

DAVID (V.O.)  
 Don't look up, okay? Don't. Look. Up.  
 Because when you look up, it gets inside  
 you and it rips you apart from the inside  
 out and then you see... you see what it is...

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)  
 (beat)  
 It's you.

SFX: Transition music.

EXT. CAMPFIRE

A group of four, mixed race people sit around a campfire. KATIE sits  
 next to her girlfriend SHELLY. Across from them are DIANA and her  
 husband NOAH.

We hear the sound of nature, and the crackle of the campfire.

SHELLY  
 The Mummy and the Mummy Returns were  
 made to awaken bisexuals. I will die on this  
 hill.

NOAH  
 (laughing)  
 Omg fuck that movie! How is a guy  
 suppose to compete with I'm too sexy  
 Ardath Bay?

DIANA

Baby, just say you thought he was hot and you're mad about it.

NOAH

I am mad about it! It's not the 80s no more, men with hair that long aren't suppose to be that sexy.

The group is laughing.

KATIE

See, this is why Shelly and I are so compatible, because Imohtep does it for her, and I am totally jumping Ardath Bay. On his horse, I don't care.

SHELLY

Confirmed. Katie is 100% a slut for that man and his smokey eyes.

NOAH

See? See? My point is proven.

KATIE

C'mon, Noah, you have the proven formula. Long hair, sexy looks, and sword fighting. Who doesn't love that shit?

NOAH

Diana. Diana doesn't love that shit.

DIANA

Here we go, just because I said I prefer your elegant Dr. Strange locks.

SHELLY

Dr. Strange, also hot.

DIANA

You can have him. Give me Scarlet Witch.

NOAH

Baby, you don't fuck crazy.

DIANA

I'm fucking you.

There is howling laughter from the group.

KATIE

This isn't just the weed talking, but I'm so glad we got to do this guys.

DIANA

Same! I missed the fuck out of both of you.

SHELLY

May I also say, I love how we sit around campfires and discuss why its amazing to be bisexual instead of telling dumbass ghost stories?

NOAH

Um, ghost stories are amazing thank you.

SHELLY

Don't you dare try to segway into a ghost story.

NOAH

(makes Halloween  
movie noises)

SFX: More laughter. Improv conversation that fades into the background of Katie's VO.

KATIE (V.O.)

I might have under sold just how wonderful it was to spend time with Diana and Noah. They lived about an hour from me and Shelly. With all our work schedules, and the generally fucked up state of the world, everybody was busy so we hadn't been able to get together as much as we wanted. Keeping in touch was pretty much done through the discord group hangout.

KATIE (V.O.) (cont'd)

(sad)

And two weeks ago I'd lost my best friend, David. The worst part is I didn't understand why. When his parents called me and told me he died of a heart attack, something about their tone didn't sit right. And the funeral had been closed casket. Shelly, because she's the worlds best girlfriend and an ER nurse has connections. She got in touch with the Coroner and what he put on his report vs what he told her... was crazy.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

CRAIG

Under no circumstances can you tell anybody I told you this.

SHELLY

Hey, you know me. You've got my word.  
We just need answers, Craig.

CRAIG

Yeah, that's the problem. We don't have  
any. We don't know what killed him,  
because we've never seen anything like it.

SHELLY

What do you mean?

CRAIG

(uneasy, clearly shook  
by what he's saying)

Something ate him from the inside out.  
And I mean ate him. The cops... they found  
organ pieces on the floor next to his body.  
Some were chewed up, had this bizarre  
pattern of teeth marks. No external  
wounds though. It... all evidence points to  
something that cannot happen - that  
something expelled his organs from his  
throat. And some of his organs were flat  
out missing. Some were... it looked like  
something was chewing on them from...  
from inside of him.

SHELLY

That's... that's impossible, Craig.

CRAIG

No shit, Shelly. No shit.

END FLASHBACK

KATIE (V.O.)

I still don't know what to do with that  
information. It doesn't feel real. It's hard,  
really hard, losing someone you care  
about. It's nearly impossible when you  
lose someone for a reason you can't wrap  
your head around. So yeah, one long, crazy  
sob story later, I really needed this time  
out with my friends, who were basically  
family.

SFX: We hear the campfire and the sounds of nature again.

NOAH

Okay. Let's do this now, so we can all cry  
together on our first night.

(MORE)

NOAH (cont'd)

(clears his throat)  
Family, please raise your joints high in honor of our good, great, friend, David.

DIANA

To David. The best Revenant Player in Apex.

SHELLY

Never figured out how a guy that nice could play a character that is such an asshole.

DIANA

Right? A man of many talents.

NOAH

That's David. He was fun. And a geek. And he'd be there for you and he wasn't afraid to show you when he was struggling, or ask for help.

KATIE

He... he had the best laugh. And the kindest eyes. He taught me how to shoot. As soon as that stupid shit happened with Roe V Wade, he called me up and said, "Babe. It's time. Let's go down to the range, cuz, I don't know what's gonna happen but you're gonna be prepared for anything."

(beat... crying)  
I miss him so much.

DIANA

We do too, Katie. We do too.

SHELLY

C'mere baby. I got you.

NOAH

(clear his throat again)  
To David. We miss you man.

ALL

To David.

SFX: Some kind of transition sound.

NIGHTMARE (V.O.)

The canopy of tree's was so thick it was a ceiling of sorts. Enough for me. I liked watching them. I liked hearing them laugh. Seeing them smile.

(MORE)

## NIGHTMARE (V.O.)(cont'd)

I liked it when they cried. I liked seeing life. It was beautiful. I listened to them talk more about, David. I watched them get sleepy, watched them retreat to their tents... They wouldn't like what happened next.

SFX: Chittering sound.

## NIGHTMARE (V.O.)(cont'd)

People always want to know why. Why them. The backstory. The mystery. Did their families summon a Demon? Use a ouja board? You want to know the reason? The only reason?

SFX: Low growl.

## NIGHTMARE (V.O.)(cont'd)

I'm hungry and I saw them first. Aren't you glad I haven't seen you? But I know you're listening. Hi. Do you want to hear them scream? Just stop listening if you don't... But you won't. Will you?

## INT. NOAH AND DIANA TENT

SFX: Sound of a tent zipping closed. Movement among sleeping bags.

## DIANA

We need to move closer to them.

## NOAH

I know, babe. We can't afford it yet.

## DIANA

(frustrated noise)

Fuck. I know. I hate that.

## NOAH

Hey, we will okay? We'll figure it out. And we'll call more. Actually get on the phone and talk to them, not just discord pings.

## DIANA

God your sweet. I love you.

## NOAH

Love you more.

## DIANA

Enough to let me put my cold feet on you?

NOAH  
Girl, gimme them ice toes, I'm ready.

DIANA  
(giggling)

SFX: Sounds of Diana and Noah getting inside their sleeping bags.

NOAH  
(shrieks)  
Why are your feet that cold?

DIANA  
Mmm. You're always so warm.

NOAH  
I was. About to die of hypothermia.

DIANA  
Kiss me, it'll take your mind off it.

NOAH  
Better be a good kiss.

SFX: Transition. At first just the sounds of nature. Then we hear a familiar chittering sound.

Diana is sound asleep curled around Noah. She jerks awake.

DIANA  
(gasp)  
What the fuck?

NOAH  
(quiet snore)

DIANA  
(whispering to herself)  
Why is nature so dark... flashlight app best app.

SFX: A low growl.

DIANA (cont'd)  
Oh fuck no, what is that? Noah. Noah get up.

NOAH  
(drowsy)  
Mmmm what's wrong babe?

DIANA  
You don't hear-



DIANA  
Oh my god.

NOAH  
Babe what's wrong.

DIANA  
No, no, no, NO!

NOAH  
Babe, what are you looking at?

DIANA  
NOAH RUN! OH GOD, NO, NOO!!!!  
(blood curling scream  
that bleeds into  
choking)

It comes down from the tent's ceiling like a viper, the monster forcing itself down Diana's throat, unhinging her jaw with a violent crack. Her screams give way to the sounds of her violently choking.

NOAH  
WHAT THE FUCK! DIANA! DIANA NO!

SFX: Transition Sound

KATIE (V.O.)  
I was no stranger to insomnia, or anxiety, but I'd never woken up as terrified as I was right now. My eyes just opened, my heart was pounding in my chest. Something was wrong.

SHELLY  
(softly)  
Babe? You okay?

KATIE  
I'm sorry, did I wake you?

SHELLY  
No. I was sleeping but I just-

KATIE  
You feel it too?

SHELLY  
I think-  
(beat)  
Yeah. Somethings-

KATIE  
Wrong.

SFX: We should hear Noah's scream but slightly distantly.

NOAH  
WHAT THE FUCK! DIANA! DIANA NO!

KATIE  
Did you hear that?

SHELLY  
That was Noah.

KATIE  
Shit.

KATIE (V.O.)  
I didn't bother throwing on shoes, I quickly unzipped the tent and got out, running over to Noah and Diana's tent.

KATIE  
Noah! Diana! What's wrong?!

KATIE (V.O.)  
Before I could get there Noah stumbled out, crawling backwards, every motion he made the motion of someone experiencing a moment of pure terror. Shelly was at my side in an instant, shining her phone's flashlight on Noah, then the tent.

SHELLY  
Noah, what's wrong? Where's Diana?

KATIE (V.O.)  
Noah was shaking, full body trembles I could see under Shelly's flashlight. I rushed to his side, kneeling down next to him. He jerked back in panic when I touched his shoulder.

KATIE  
Sweetie, sweetie it's me. What's wrong? Where's Diana?

KATIE (V.O.)  
He looked terrified. Just looking at him was heightening my own fear response. His eyes were wide, tears were coming down his face.

SHELLY  
Diana?! Diana answer me!

KATIE (V.O.)

Shelly walked towards the tent, reaching for the flap.

NOAH

NO! Shelly no!

KATIE (V.O.)

Noah shot to his feet so fast, grabbing Shelly's arm and pulling her back roughly. Shelly resisted, looking shocked, scared, trying to hold it together, her emergency response training kicking in.

SHELLY

Noah, calm down, baby. You have to tell me what happened to Diana. Does she need help? Do I need to call 911?

NOAH

(crying, panicked)

We gotta go. We gotta right now. Please. Oh fuck, Diana. Diana baby... Shelly it got her, it got her. We gotta go. We gotta go right now.

KATIE (V.O.)

I don't know why, but Craig's voice jumped into my head, describing what happened to David. My heart was beating so hard it hurt. I jumped to my feet running over to the tent and pulled back the fold.

KATIE (V.O.) (cont'd)

I wish I hadn't.

KATIE

(screams)

NOAH

Katie! Katie no! Oh god.

SHELLY

Baby!

KATIE (V.O.)

She was dead. Diana was... dead. There was so much blood and her jaw...

SHELLY

What the- oh my god. Oh my god. Noah what happened?!

NOAH  
 (crying)  
 I DON'T KNOW! I couldn't... I couldn't... Oh  
 god, Diana. No baby... not my baby...

SHELLY  
 (upset, trying to keep it  
 together)  
 Okay. Okay. Everybody calm down. I'm  
 calling 911. Katie, c'mon, don't look.

KATIE (V.O.)  
 I felt one of Shelly's hands on my arm,  
 trying to pull me back, but I couldn't stop  
 staring. Is this what David looked like? Had  
 the same thing that just killed Diana killed  
 David too? Tears started blurring my  
 vision, but my feeling of terrified unease  
 was growing stronger.

KATIE  
 We're not safe. We have to go. We have to  
 go right now.

SHELLY  
 What... busy signal? Katie, I need your  
 phone.

KATIE  
 Shelly we gotta go.

SHELLY  
 We have to call for help-

KATIE  
 Shelly, we have to go right now!

KATIE (V.O.)  
 I ran over to David, who was on his knees,  
 bent over at the waist. His hands were  
 covering his face and he was still  
 trembling. I quickly brushed my tears  
 away, and touched his shoulders as gently  
 as I could.

KATIE  
 Sweetie, where are your keys?

SHELLY  
 Katie, I need your phone I've got to call-

SFX: Wind in the tree's. Low growl. Chittering sounds.

KATIE (V.O.)

Noah had been unresponsive to my inquiry, but we all heard that sound that... growl? It snapped Noah out of it.

NOAH

That's it. That's fucking it. Katie, we've got to go.

KATIE

I know, I know. Where are your keys?

KATIE (cont'd)

He frantically patted at himself, but he was in a t-shirt and sweatpants. I saw his eyes go towards the tent. He looked devastated and terrified.

KATIE (cont'd)

I can get the-

NOAH

No, I'll do it. I'll do it.

KATIE (V.O.)

He didn't move at first, working up the nerve. After a few seconds he got to his feet and ran, disappearing inside the tent.

KATIE (V.O.) (cont'd)

I stood up, shoving my phone at Shelly.

SHELLY

Thank you.

SFX: We hear Shelly dialing 911. She gets a busy signal.

SHELLY (cont'd)

Shit. Okay. Let me grab my purse.

KATIE

I think we should just go. We'll come back for it, if necessary.

SHELLY

Baby, it's going to be okay. Let me just grab-

SFX: Low growl.

SHELLY (cont'd)

What the fuck- has to be some kind of animal.

KATIE (V.O.)

I didn't think it was an animal. I didn't know what to think to be honest, all I wanted to do was go. I grabbed Shelly's hand, pulling her towards Noah's SUV. She didn't resist this time.

KATIE

Noah! C'mon!

KATIE (V.O.)

There were fresh tears on his face, as he emerged from the tent. He had the SUV keys in one hand, and the pendant Diana always wore in the other. I felt my throat constrict, but I couldn't loose it. I couldn't. We had to get out of here first.

SHELLY

Noah let me drive, okay?

KATIE (V.O.)

He didn't argue, he just tossed Shelly the keys and we got into the SUV fast.

SFX: Sound of car doors opening and closing. The SUV peel's out down a narrow forest road.

SHELLY

Guys, keep checking your phones okay? We need to call the authorities.

NOAH

My phone is fucked. It... it happened right before...

KATIE

Did you see what did happen? Did you see what it was?

NOAH

What I saw doesn't make any sense. It makes... no fucking sense.

KATIE

Try me.

NOAH

Katie it can't be real! It can't be! It was... we were alone. We were asleep... and then we heard it... that growl or something... and we were getting out, we were coming to get you, but when I turned back to look at her...

SHELLY

Noah it's okay. Take your time. Breath slow and deep.

NOAH

Shelly, please, do not do that. You didn't see it! You didn't see it come off the ceiling and shove itself down her throat!

SFX: Silence. Just the low sound of a car racing down a forest road.

KATIE (V.O.)

I didn't know what to do with that. I could tell Shelly didn't either. She was probably struggling with this more than me. She was a nurse. She was more than likely going over in her head all the things that might be wrong with Noah, reasons he would be hallucinating. But contrary to every stupid movie out there, weed did not make you hallucinate and casting Noah as a suspect wasn't even in the realm of possible. He would never. So what the fuck just killed my friend?

NOAH

She... she told me to run. She told me to run. I couldn't help. I didn't know what to do. I didn't even know what I was seeing... I should have done something.

(Angry crying)

SFX: Noah turns in his seat and punches it, over and over again.

SHELLY

Hey, N-

KATIE (V.O.)

I put a hand on Shelly's arm, cutting her off, letting Noah take out his rage on an empty seat. It shouldn't have been empty. Diana should have been there. I felt my eyes water again, and I sucked it back. I woke my phone up, about to type in my password when something in the side mirror -

SFX: Chittering sounds.

NOAH

What the fuck? Did you hear that? You heard that right?

KATIE  
I heard it. Where's it coming from?

SHELLY  
That has to be some kind of animal.

NOAH  
I'm telling you it's not an animal.

SHELLY  
It has to be. What else could it be?

NOAH  
I know what I saw, Shelly!

SHELLY  
You don't know what you saw, Noah!  
Monsters don't fucking exist!

NOAH  
Then what the fuck killed Diana, huh? HUH?!

SHELLY  
Why don't you tell us! Tell us the truth!

NOAH  
Are you trying to say I killed her? Are you  
for real? Are you serious right now?

SHELLY  
I don't know what I'm saying okay! I just...  
monsters aren't real.

NOAH  
Well something is and it's not a fucking  
animal okay? Animals don't come off  
ceilings and -

KATIE  
Just stop! Both of you, stop! Okay? We  
are all freaking out with good reason.  
Just... how long till we're out of this  
forest?

SHELLY  
Five minutes, tops.

KATIE  
Now would be a great time for that lead  
foot of yours.

SHELLY  
If a deer-

KATIE  
Shelly. Please.

(beat) SHELLY  
Okay.

SFX: Sound of an SUV speeding up.

SHELLY (cont'd)  
Anybody got a signal yet? Noah, can you check my phone? Please?

KATIE  
I've got nothing.

NOAH  
No bars.

SHELLY  
We all had service coming up here, what the hell? You know what it doesn't matter, both of you call 911 again. Even without a network signal emergency calls should go through.

NOAH  
Busy signal.

KATIE  
Same.

SHELLY  
Shit. Shit.

SFX: For a beat, just the sound of the car.

SHELLY (cont'd)  
Noah I'm... I'd never insinuate you'd hurt Diana, okay?  
(voice cracking,  
struggling not to cry)  
I wouldn't do that. I'm sorry.

KATIE (V.O.)  
I looked over at Shelly, and quickly leaned over, pressing my lips against her cheek. Noah leaned forward, dropping his forehead against the back of the drivers seat and after a moment put his hand on Shelly's shoulder. She reached up and closed her hand around his.

NOAH  
 (whispers)  
 Something got her, Shell. Something got  
 my baby and I couldn't stop it.

SHELLY  
 I know. I know. It's okay. We're gonna  
 figure this out-

Something slams onto the roof of the car, it's impact as loud as the unexpected crack of thunder. Shelly, Katie, and Noah all shout in surprise.

NOAH  
 It's on the fucking car!

SHELLY  
 Oh god, what do I do!?

KATIE  
 Don't stop, keep going we're almost out of  
 the forest!

With a low hiss, the monster phases through the metal until it's inside the car. With them. And they don't know it.

NOAH  
 What the fuck was that?

KATIE  
 Noah! Noah, my gun case. It's under your  
 seat. Grab it.

NOAH  
 ...Got it!

SFX: A loud growl. It startles everyone again.

SHELLY  
 Jesus Christ is that in the car?!

NOAH  
 Where the fuck is it? Is it under the seat?

Katie frantically types in a beeping code. The case clicks open. She grabs her gun and slaps the clip in. We hear the click as she pulls back the slide.

KATIE  
 Noah put your feet up, just in case it is a  
 fucking snake. Babe we're through, pull  
 over so we can check the ca- Shelly what's  
 wrong? What are you looking-

SHELLY  
(terrified, whispering)  
Don't. Katie... Don't. I... I love you...

KATIE  
NO! NO!!!!

SHELLY  
(screams. Choking  
sounds)

SFX: We hear the sound of a car crashing. Then silence.

MONSTER  
(laughing)