

LEFT BEHIND

Written by

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EXT. ORPHANAGE - RAINY NIGHT

Lighting strikes a tree, illuminating the whole block. In the center, one big house towers over the smaller residences. The gothic nature of its architecture distinguishes this block from the rest of the city in the background.

"ST. NICHOLAS CHILDREN'S HOME" is written on the rusty, metal arch at the entrance of the big house.

THOMAS, nine years old, walks up the staircase. He carries a small, heavy box, rolled around a thick, beige fabric.

Thomas wears a grey hoodie, completely soaked. He places the box on the corner and takes a set of keys from his pocket.

In this set there two regular sized keys, a small key, and a bigger, rusty bronze key.

Thomas opens the door, takes the box and rushes inside.

INT. ORPHANAGE - HALLWAY - RAINY NIGHT

Thomas slowly closes the door, it creaks.

He flicks a switch, lighting up the narrow corridor.

Wooden walls and floor. A long vibrant red carpet lies In there from the entrance to the stairs.

Picture frames are set in between the doors on both sides of the hallway, in a dark green wallpaper.

Thomas slowly makes his way down the corridor, passing through pictures of a large group of kids standing alongside a grown man in priests vestments. The floor squeaks. He leaves a water trace behind him.

As Thomas approaches the stairs, the noise of a DOOR OPENING comes from the upper level. He freezes then turns to the left, exiting to the kitchen.

A beat.

SISTER MARGARETT, 40s, old lady in robe and slippers, walk down the stairs. She stares at the hallway, confused.

She approaches the light switch and looks to the water trace coming all the way from the entrance door to the kitchen.

Sister Margaret follows the water trace and turns the kitchen lights on.

Thomas enters the hallway through the right, still holding the box, and rushes upstairs.

INT. ORPHANAGE - SECOND FLOOR - RAINY NIGHT

Sister Margaret walks up the stairs. A DOOR BUMPING noise comes from the left side of the corridor.

She looks down the corridor, at a door with a glass window and name tag that reads "FATHER JOSEPH."

She steps forward, confused, but nods and enters her bedroom.

A beat.

Thomas exits Father Joseph's room, holding the box and big wooden cross on his hands. He enters his bedroom on the right side of the corridor.

INT. ORPHANAGE - ROOM - RAINY NIGHT

Darkness.

Thomas turns the lights on as he enters the small, old room. There's a bunk bed placed of the corner, next to a small closet. A wooden chair and a table on the wall in front a closed window furnish the room.

Thomas drops the cross on the table and puts the box right next to it, close to a framed picture of a smiling MAN and a WOMAN in their 30s.

He pulls the fabric away, revealing a chest under it.

As Thomas seats on his chair, he takes a deep breath and analyzes the chest. He touches its surface and blows the dust out of the top.

Thomas picks the rusty bronze key from his pocket. He looks at it and inserts it in the middle of the chest. He turns it to the left and the chest CLICKS.

He opens the chest. It's empty.

Thomas opens his drawer and picks a small leash with the name "Edgar" written on it. It contains a bell in the middle. He shakes it, ringing the bell.

He carefully puts the leash inside the chest, taking another deep breath as he closes it.

Thomas turns the key all the way to the right this time, making a bigger CLICKING sound.

A beat.

Thomas leans back in his chair, sighing.

A HISSING NOISE comes from the closet next to him. He turns and looks at it. The closet's door shakes.

He stands and walks up to the closet.

As his hand gets close to the door knob, the door shakes more and more.

Thomas steps back, scared.

A BIGGER HISSING NOISE comes from the closet. He steps back even more and leans against the wall in front of it.

The door opens, creaking.

Silence.

A black cat runs out of it.

Thomas jaw drops. He smiles, flabbergasted. Then he approaches the cat.

THOMAS

Come here, Edgar. Did you miss me?

The cat mewls. It behaves scared and aggressive as Thomas gets closer, then it runs to the corner on the opposite side of the room.

Thomas approaches the cat one more time. He extends his hands over its head.

The cat looks at Thomas. It crawls and jumps, then it scratches Thomas's hand and runs back inside the closet.

Thomas moans in pain, his hand bleeds. He rub his fingers over the scratch.

He looks at the closet, then at the cross laying on the table next to the chest.

Thomas opens the chest, now empty.

He places the cross in it and closes the chest.

Thomas turns the key, making the CLICKING sound.

The chest itself shakes. Thomas stares at it.

It shakes more intensely, falling off the table.

The closet door BUMPS and the window bursts open.

It rains inside, Thomas rushes to close the window.

The table is now wet. He picks the picture frame and dries it on his clothes. He stares at it.

FATHER JOSEPH (O.S.)

Thomas.

Thomas quickly turns to the side, surprised.

An old man sits on the bed, motionless. This is FATHER JOSEPH. He's in his 70s and wears a priest vestment.

THOMAS

(whispers)

Father Joseph.

Father Joseph stares at the wall.

FATHER JOSEPH

What did you do, Thomas?

THOMAS

I found it. I found the chest. It was at the old lady's house.

(a beat)

Right where I said it would be.

Thomas smiles. He sits next to Father Joseph, hugging him.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I missed you. Things are not the same without you around.

FATHER JOSEPH

Thomas... what did you do?

THOMAS

It's okay. You're here with me. It's gonna be alright.

FATHER JOSEPH

Why? Why are you doing this?

A beat.

Thomas puts the picture on the desk.

THOMAS

So I can have them back.

(a beat)

It brings people back from-- You know. It's the only way I can have them back.

FATHER JOSEPH

Thomas... no.

THOMAS

But I brought you back too.

Father Joseph cries.

FATHER JOSEPH

(muttering)

I have to go. I have to go now.

THOMAS

Father Joseph?

He screams. Thomas steps back.

FATHER JOSEPH

I want to go! And I want to go now!

THOMAS

Father...

Father Joseph jumps at Thomas. They both fall in front of the table. Father Joseph chokes Thomas.

FATHER JOSEPH

Bring me home, Thomas. Bring me home! Bring me home! Bring me home! Bring me home! Bring me home!

Thomas looks at the chest, underneath the table. He extends his hands, reaching out for the key.

Father Joseph continues to choke him.

The tips of Thomas's fingers touches the key.

Thomas pushes his body next to it. He picks and turns the key. The chest CLICKS and opens.

Father Joseph vanishes, leaving Thomas alone in the room.

Thomas heavily breaths. He coughs and fails to stand up. He sits on his knees, then sighs.

THOMAS

I -- I'm sorry.

Thomas picks the chest from the ground and puts it back on the table.

Thomas pulls out a heart-shaped small golden necklace from under his shirt. He brakes the chain and stares at it. Then Thomas looks at the picture

He opens it and places the necklace inside, taking one last look at it.

He closes and turns the keys to the right.

A beat.

Thomas sits on the chair and looks around the room. He then stares at the chest that remains motionless on the table.

Thomas opens it. The picture still rests at the bottom.

He closes the chest and turns the key.

He then sits again and takes another look around.

Thomas opens the chest.

Thomas closes the chest and turns the key.

He repeats it, each time more frenetically.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END