

They Know

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - EVENING - CHRISTMAS EVE 1992

The forest is blanketed by snow - whiteout conditions.

A bright red and green glow shines through a clear part in the sky, just above the forest.

Nature's Christmas lights.

A car is slowly driving down a narrow road through the forest.

The road is barely visible under the unplowed fresh snow.

THE VAILS are a family of 4.

PAUL (mid 30s) is driving.

His eyes squint through the blinding squall.

Behind the whiteout is a hint of the red and green glow.

EDIE (early 30s) is mesmerized by the lights.

EDIE

Look boys! Santa's sleigh! How cool?

The boys are Alan 5 and Vincent 7. Their eyes bug out, and mouths hang open. Children experiencing bliss on Christmas Eve.

The lights descend slowly, yet expand.

The parents' excitement turns apprehensive. Confused.

PAUL (WHISPERS)

Aurora borealis?

EDIE

I guess? That low, though?

The car shakes, and rocks.

PAUL

What the hell?

The lights inside the car, blink, dim and then burn out.

The car stalls.

Paul tries to restart, but the engine won't budge. It's dead.

The lights expand the entire background of the forest. No longer just above.

The family looks on in amazement.

A dark shadowy figure runs in the distance.

Its movement flickers the lights.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Jesus, what is th-

EDIE (FORCED EXCITEMENT)
Santa!

Paul nearly gets whiplash at his wife's response. Before he could speak-

EDIE (CONT'D)
Look! Look! You see him? Oh you're the luckiest kids in the world! You see him, Paul?

The kids buy it. Mesmerized.

She gives her husband the "play along" nod. He complies.

PAUL
That sure was him! I saw the beard!

Paul scratches the back of his head revealing a digital watch.

It reads 6:30 p.m.

Three figures walk toward them from a distance.

All of them just silhouettes, but appear identical. Small, and frail with abnormally large craniums.

Paul and Edie try to move, but can't. They grunt and gasp, but no luck.

They both open their mouths to scream, but something forces their lips shut.

The children are asleep.

The figures get closer.

As they step into a brighter spot, we see that they are extraterrestrials. THE GREYS.

Although not intimidating in size, their menacing presence more than makes up for it.

Paul and Edie are stunned. Still struggling to move - terrified.

One of the greys jumps on the hood of the car.

It bends over, studying and scanning the couple. As if they were specimens.

The windshield disintegrates - startling the couple.

The creature slowly crawls toward the front.

It is face to face with Paul, as if to grill him. It squints its giant eyes, then quickly crawls over to Edie.

The other two creatures head toward the back where the children are. The helpless parents notice.

They cry out but only muffled grunts escape. Their lips still forced shut.

A bright light engulfs the area.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT: SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - EVENING - Christmas Eve 1987

A young couple with a toddler and a newborn, are out for a walk. It is Paul, Edie and the two children.

It lightly snows on an already blanketed ground.

Christmas lights flicker and glow on every house in the neighborhood. A true winter wonderland.

Both kids are in a double stroller. The awe and wonder in their eyes is something out of a commercial.

The parents are no different. Just overgrown kids themselves, basking in the moment.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Looks like everyone worked together.

Not only is every house decorated, but synchronized. As if the neighborhood itself is meant to be a collective experience.

EDIE

Beautiful, isn't it?

PAUL

Sure is.

A subtle red and green glow highlights the stars.

EDIE (KNEELS DOWN TO THE CHILDREN)

Look at how pretty!!

The kids remain mesmerized. Especially the toddler - Vincent.

EDIE (POINTING AT THE SKY) (CONT'D)

That's Santa and the reindeer
delivering presents to all the boys
and girls!

He smiles. The Christmas lights and glow light up his eyes.

Paul looks at his watch and sighs.

PAUL

You're right! Look at that! Better
get home so we can be in bed before
Santa comes!
(Mouths 8:00 to Edie as he points
to his watch)

Edie sighs. Disappointed, but accepts it.

VINCENT (POINTS TO THE SKY)

Sampa!

The family turns a cul-de-sac and heads back to their car.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRANCE - CAR

The young family arrives to their beat up sedan, parked on
the side of the road in a different neighborhood.

An eye soar.

None of the homes have lights or are decorated.

As Paul and Edie get the children into the car seats, a door
slams in the background.

An old man in his 70s exits the home the family parked in
front of. He's clearly not happy about it.

A sourpuss complete with folded arms. A 70 year old
kindergartener with a pout.

OLD MAN

You park here again and I'm calling
a tow.

They first look at each other and then the man.

Paul bites his lip wanting to express more of how he really feels, but restrains.

PAUL (PRETENDING TO BE CHEERFUL)
Sorry! Sorry! Won't happen again!
Just wanted to show the kids the
lights.

OLD MAN
Next time, they'll see the lights
of a tow truck.

PAUL (ROLLS EYES)
Merry Christmas.

The family drives off.

The old man shakes his head and goes back into the house.

The red and green glow expands in the sky - getting brighter.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY- EVENING

The family is walking down a dingy hallway.

Overhead lights flicker, but not in the same fun way as the Christmas lights.

They get to their apartment.

The wooden door has seen better days. The Big Bad Wolf could probably blow it in.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

The inside of the apartment isn't much better than the outside.

The lights are dim, the walls desperately need to be redone and the carpets scream 1965.

Both kids are out cold.

Eddie holds baby Alan and Paul, Vincent.

They head to the childrens' room

INT. CHILDREN'S ROOM

Paul gently lays Vincent on his bed.

He kisses the top of his son's head and tucks him in.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Merry Christmas, Vinny.

Eddie does the same with the baby.

PAUL (CONT'D)
I'll get started.

EDIE (SMILES)
Okay, Santa. I love you.

PAUL
I love you too.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Does Mrs Claus want a drink?

EDIE
Several.

They both laugh and kiss. A couple clearly in love. A happy family despite not having much.

Paul says good night to the baby and exits.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Paul walks through the living room toward the master bedroom.

The shot focuses on the window.

The red and green glow is brighter and larger outside.

Three figures outside speed by the window, following Paul.

Paul comes back to the living room with a large, bulky black bag lugged over his shoulder.

He now wears a Santa hat.

He places the bag next to a small Christmas tree and begins to take out gifts.

He listens to new voicemails on the answering machine, as he plays Santa.

The first message is from an older man. Paul begins placing gifts.

VOICEMAIL
Hey Jay, it's Frank. Listen, I
uh... I understand why you had to
do what you had to do.

Paul heads toward the kitchen as the message continues.

VOICEMAIL (CONT'D)
Just be careful, okay?

Paul takes two glasses from the cupboard and places them on the table.

INT. CHILDREN'S BEDROOM

The voicemail keeps playing as Edie sits in a chair and opens a book.

Both children are asleep.

We switch back and forth between the bedroom and living room while the voicemail continues.

VOICEMAIL (CONT'D)
Those communes can be...well...
anyway, that's not my business.
Gimme a call at my office Monday
and we'll finalize everything.

INT. KITCHEN

Paul opens the freezer and pulls out a bottle of whisky and an ice cube tray.

There are two large objects that take up most of the freezer. Both of them round, and wrapped up in plastic wrap.

As we look closer at the objects, we see that there's something off. Something very wrong.

The first thing we notice is that both of these objects have eyes.

The freezer closes

VOICEMAIL (CONT'D)
Merry Christmas to you, Olivia and
the kids. Take care.

We zoom in on the mail, unpaid bills and other junk on the kitchen counter.

Most of the junk is contents of a wallet. Checks, credit cards, IDs and photos.

We focus on one photo in particular. A happy family.

We immediately see Vincent and Alan, but mom and dad are different from Paul and Edie.

The names on the IDs are JASON DRAKE and OLIVIA DRAKE. Pictured are the adults from the family photo. NOT Paul and Eddie.

INT. CHILDREN'S BEDROOM

A satisfied smile paints Edie's face. She opens to the first page of a book and begins reading aloud.

As she does so, the red and green glow appears in the sky from the window behind her.

Three shadows watch from outside.

EDIE

'twas the night before Christmas
and all through the house...

EXT. OUTSIDE OF APARTMENT - NIGHT

The three watching shadows are Paul and Edie from 1992, and one of the Grays.

The apartment is on the ground floor. The blinds are open, so there is a clear view into the living room.

Paul places gifts under the tree.

Edie takes a sip of her drink in the background - smiling seductively.

They don't see the three of them outside.

Paul and Edie watch their past selves in shock, but slightly nostalgic.

The creature glares at the couple.

It speaks, but face is hidden in darkness. A black silhouette.

GRAY

You took their children. Their
lives...

Their eyes shift toward the creature.

Panicked, but still unable to speak.

GRAY (CONT'D)

There's no going back. Now you will
provide.

(MORE)

GRAY (CONT'D)

We will continue to blind the
authorities, but you WILL provide.
We are watching. We always have
been, and we always will...

The apartment lights turn off, but the flickering colored
bulbs from their Christmas tree remain.

GRAY (CONT'D)

This will not go unpunished. While
the children dream the eve of every
holiday, birthday and milestone
they should have experienced with
their real makers - you'll be with
us. Your experience will not be
pleasant - theirs will. We have
some catching up to do...

It takes a step toward the quivering couple.

We pan out, blinded by the heavy snowfall. The voice of an
older woman begins to speak.

OLDER WOMAN

My husband and I did a horrible
thing. We got away with it for
years.

To be continued...

FADE OUT