

LAST NIGHT

by

Derek Boyes

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EXT. CLIFF, WOODLAND - NIGHT

SARAH stirs, blinking in the darkness, not sure if she is awake. Her face is grubby. She has a deep graze running down from her temple.

She turns onto her back to reveal her left eye is bruised and swollen.

There is a full moon in the sky. It illuminates the rocky cliff face above her.

She sits up gradually, wincing in pain only to discover she is not on the ground, but in fact balancing on a small ledge half way down.

Below, at the base, lies the twisted body of a man. He is partially lit by a torch that lies on the ground close to him.

SARAH

Hello? Are you alright? Can you hear me?

He does not move.

She looks up contemplating, but it's too high. She then peers over the edge again. There seem to be suitable footings below.

As she attempts to climb down, her foot slips and she falls the last ten feet, landing awkwardly on her ankle. Her legs buckle, her knees dropping sideways into a roll, tumbling down the sloping ground into the body.

She scrambles away, squeamish, fumbling for the torch and standing bolt up right, backing away towards the rock face.

She nervously checks her surroundings, making sure she is alone, before turning the torch light back onto the body.

His trousers are down by his ankles. By the awkward position of his twisted limbs, it is clear he is dead.

She approaches him cautiously and reaching out for his shoulder, pulls it towards her to reveal his blood soaked face.

She steps back in shock.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Sarah's drunken blurred point of view, dancing with GARY, the same dark stubbly man, laughing and flirting. Suddenly her friend TONY, blonde with boyish looks, pulls her away from him.

TONY
We have to go!

EXT. CLIFF, WOODLAND - NIGHT

Horrified that she knows him, Sarah flees the scene.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Sarah runs through the woodland, not sure if she's even going in the right direction. Her mind is racing...

FLASHBACK:

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

The club entrance doors bursts outwards.

Sarah and her friend TONY stumble out. Behind them lights flash through the hot steamy club, music pumping loudly.

Sarah is very drunk and can hardly stand.

SARAH
...you don't know that, he seemed lovely.

TONY
He wasn't the one Sarah, trust me.

SARAH
Why do you have to go and ruin it, again!

She hits him.

SARAH
...I didn't even get his number.

Tony looks across the other side of the road. A bus is at the bus stop.

TONY
Oh fuck!

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT.

Tony hurries across the road, supporting Sarah, reaching the bus stop just as the bus pulls away.

Sarah slumps down onto the bench looking pale, as Tony checks the timetable mounted at the bottom of the sign post.

TONY
Looks like we're walking.

Sarah throws up onto the pavement to Tony's disgust.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Paranoid, distraught and out of breath, Sarah reaches a small single lane country road. She points the torch up and down it, not sure which way to go. She hears something and holds her breath. There is a banging sound further up the road.

She quickly turns the torch off and cautiously follows the sound, limping along the tarmac. Her breath visible in the cold night air.

As she turns the bend she can see a silver TOYOTA YARIS parked at a slight angle into the side of the road.

A male silhouetted figure is trying to smash the driver's side window with a tree branch.

She approaches cautiously trying to make him out. Suddenly the window shatters. Glass fragments spill onto the road.

The figure throws the tree branch aside and leaning through broken window, pulls out a denim jacket. He turns to go but freezes seeing Sarah standing there.

It's Tony!

TONY

Sarah?

Sarah stands there, silent, vulnerable.

TONY

Where have you been? I've been looking for you for hours!

The shock of what's happened suddenly floods through her. She starts to tremble, shaking her head, tears welling up in her eyes.

SARAH

Tony please, you've got to help me.

TONY

What's happened?!

SARAH

The, the guy from the club...

She becomes hysterical.

SARAH

He's in the woods.

TONY

What?!

SARAH
...he's dead! He's in the woods and
he's DEAD! You've got to help me!
Please Tony, you've got to help me!

She grabs his arm and drags him back into the woods.

EXT. CLIFF, WOODLAND - NIGHT

They scramble through the coppice trees. Tony in front,
holding the torch.

TONY
What the fuck happened Sarah?

SARAH
I don't know.

TONY
What do you mean you don't know?

SARAH
I don't remember.

Tony is looking deeply troubled, struggling to hold it
together.

SARAH
To the left.

EXT. CLIFF, WOODLAND - NIGHT

They come down through a sloping crevasse that leads to the
base of the rock face. As they turn the corner, they both
stops, seeing the body in front of them.

There is a moment of utter silence.

Tony eventually steps forward, daring to take a closer look.
He can see that the man's trousers are around his ankles.

SARAH
I woke up on a ledge up there.

Tony points the torch up onto the rocky cliff face.

TONY
Fucking hell!

Tony gives her a disappointed look.

TONY
I told you not to get in his car! I
fucking told you!

SARAH
(confused)
I thought we left him back at the club?

TONY
You seriously can't remember anything?

SARAH
I just said that didn't I!

TONY
Well what's the last thing you do remember then?

SARAH
I don't know. ...being sick, missing the bus. Look can we just call the police and get this over with.

TONY
Are you fucking stupid?! You've just woken up next to a dead body and can't remember anything! You do realise how dodgy that sounds?

SARAH
I didn't kill him?

TONY
Well then who did?

SARAH
Nobody. It was just a stupid accident?

TONY
His trousers are around his ankles Sarah - that's no accident!

Sarah looks unnerved.

TONY
The point is, if you say you can't remember anything, you're just going to look guilty.

Sarah looks worried.

TONY
Listen to me Sarah. I'm not going to let you go to prison over some stupid fucked up night out okay? He's dead and there's nothing we can do about it, but lets not make this bigger than it has to be.

SARAH
What do you mean?

TONY
We make sure we were never here.

Sarah still looks confused.

TONY
Think about it. As far as the police are concerned, we got a lift with him only to realise he was drunk, swerving all over the place. So we got out and walked home instead. That's it! The last we saw of him, was his car turning around and driving off down the road. We know nothing else.

SARAH
But we can't prove any of it?

TONY
We don't have to. The fact that he really was drinking supports our story. There's no reason to doubt us. It'll just look like he slipped off the road, panicked and ran off into the woods, couldn't see where he was going and fell off a cliff.

Sarah is still not convinced.

TONY
Sarah, I'm not going to let anything happen to you. I mean it! We're a team you and I. We stick together!

Sarah looks confused.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. EMPTY STREET - NIGHT

Sarah and Tony walk along the unlit pavement. Sarah is struggling to walk in her shoes.

SARAH
... a year Tony, a fucking year!
How is that even possible?

TONY
It's possible, believe me!

She stops to take off her shoes, leaning onto Tony to steady herself.

SARAH
Am I really that unattractive?

He takes off his jacket and puts it around Sarah's shoulders.

TONY
Oh stop it. You're beautiful!

SARAH
Really?

She feels comforted and snuggles into him.

TONY
Of course! ...and intelligent, fun,
sexy, sophisticated...

The full beams of a vehicle suddenly illuminate them. They are momentarily blinded by the light. A horn beeps.

A grey transit van speeds past. Two drunk men whistle and jeer out of the window at Sarah.

	TONY		SARAH
Fuck Off!		Twats!	

Sarah gives them the finger. They pause and look at each other.

TONY
Okay maybe not sophisticated.

They burst into laughter.

TONY
You know what Fuck 'em!

SARAH
Who?

TONY
Men. We don't need them. We're a
team you and I. We stick together!

Sarah smiles and kisses Tony on the cheek.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Tony's face appears in front of her unexpectedly.

TONY
You okay?

Sarah is startled, shaking off her thoughts.

SARAH
Yea.

TONY

Can you hold this for me.

He puts the torch in her hand and points it down at Gary's twisted body.

Tony crouches down beside him and straightening his limbs, starts pulling his jeans back up.

SARAH

Is that a good idea? ...forensics and all that.

TONY

It doesn't matter. We've probably swapped all that in the car and the club. Finding him with his trousers around his ankles however does spark the imagination. Best to keep it simple.

Sarah frowns.

Tony puts him back in the same awkward position as he was in and stands up, brushing the front of his thighs with his hands.

TONY

Now apart from your phone and handbag, which is still in the car, are you sure you're not missing anything. A hair slide, an ear ring, a false fingernail. Because if they find anything that belongs to you here in this location, our story becomes a lie.

Sarah checks herself.

SARAH

I don't think so.

TONY

I need a definitive no.

SARAH

NO.

TONY

You sure.

SARAH

Yes.

TONY

Okay then, lets get going.

He takes the torch off Sarah and with his other hand leads her back through the woods.

Sarah is completely compliant, still troubled in thought.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. EMPTY STREET - NIGHT

TONY

We're a team you and I. We stick together!

Sarah smiles and kisses Tony on the cheek.

Another car beeps as it passes. This time Tony gives them the finger.

TONY

Fuck of you pervert!

The break lights come on and it pulls in sharply.

They both stop walking.

TONY

Oh shit!

SARAH

Tony!

The driver's door opens. They quickly turn back.

TONY

Fuckin' hell, why can't everyone just leave us alone.

VOICE

(Shouting)

Sarah!

Sarah lets go of Tony's hand and turns around. It's Gary!

SARAH

Oh my God!

Her face lights up. Tony looks deflated.

TONY

Sarah wait!

She ignores him and runs over to Gary. As she approaches him she smiles with excitement.

SARAH

We missed the last bus.

GARY
Sorry, that was probably my fault.
Can I give you a lift?

SARAH
Thought you were never going to
ask.

She gives him a flirty smile, as Tony eventually catches up.

TONY
Haven't you been drinking.

Sarah glares at Tony.

SARAH
Ignore him.

Gary shrugs.

GARY
Just trying to help.

SARAH
And it's very much appreciated!

She opens the back passenger door, scorning at Tony.

SARAH
Get in!

Sarah climbs into the front passenger seat and slams the door closed.

Tony hesitates, watching Gary with suspicion and contempt, as he walks back round to the driver's side.

Gary opens his door and looking up, offers Tony a friendly smile as he gets in.

Tony sighs and reluctantly gets in.

The car pulls away.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Tony and Sarah come out of the woods onto the country road. Gary's car is visible further up.

TONY
We still need to cover our tracks a
little.

She follows him up the road towards the vehicle.

TONY
...But we definitely need to get
home before dawn breaks.
(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)
If anyone sees us out here, it'll
could ruin everything.

Sarah nods.

FLASHBACK:

INT. GARY'S CAR - NIGHT

Gary and Sarah are getting on like a house of fire.

SARAH
(laughing)
...Oh my God that's awful.

GARY
I know! I mean I was only trying to
help the guy. Anyway we ended up in
Lashings till about six in the
morning, drinking chilli shots.

SARAH
...Oh my God I used to work there?

GARY
No way!

TONY
Lashings?!

Sarah tries to slap Tony without Gary seeing, but misses. She gives him an evil stare.

Tony has had enough.

TONY
You know what, I think I'm going to
walk after all. Can you pull over
please mate?

SARAH
What's the matter with you?

TONY
Nothing's the matter with me. I'd
prefer to walk home that's all.

Sarah bursts into laughter.

SARAH
Oh my God you're jealous?

TONY
Don't be ridiculous!

SARAH
You are, aren't you!

TONY
 (to Gary)
 Will you stop the car please.

SARAH
 Go on admit it!

TONY
 Gary!

SARAH
 Ignore him, he's being over
 dramatic...

Tony leans forward and pulls the handbrake hard.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

The front wheels lock.

The car skids, swerving into the middle of the road and
 stopping abruptly.

A moment later the rear passenger door opens.

SARAH
 Jesus Christ Tony are you fucking
 crazy!?

Tony clambers out, running into the woods.

INT. GARY'S CAR/EXT COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Sarah pushes the electric window down.

SARAH
 Tony!?

He ignores her and disappears into the dark woods.

18 Sarah opens the car door and gets out. She slams the back 18
 passenger door closed.

SARAH
 What's your fucking problem!?

She looks into the trees but Tony has already disappeared
 into the blackness.

She looks down. She is still in bare feet.

She looks back at Gary in the car. He is not impressed.

SARAH
 I can't leave him out here.

Gary is reluctant.

SARAH
...what if something happened to
him?

Gary sighs, starts the engine and pulls up on the verge. He then unbuckles his seat belt and leans into the glove compartment, grabbing a torch.

He tests it works and climbs out.

SARAH
I'm so sorry, he's not normally
like this.

Gary tests the torch is working and throws Sarah the car keys.

GARY
Look after the car.

SARAH
I'll guard it with my life!

As he passes she attempts a flirtatious smile, but he's had enough and ignores her, heading into the woods.

GARY
Tony mate, where are you?

Sarah looks pissed off with herself.

INT. GARY'S CAR/EXT COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Tony and Sarah approach the car.

Tony leans in and opens the driver's side door from the inside. He leans in and grabs Sarah's handbag and phone from the footwell of the passenger side.

He hands them to her.

TONY
Whatever you do, don't turn your
phone on. They'll try and track our
movements.

Sarah nods, unzips the bag and checks its contents. Everything seems to be there.

She puts her phone in her pocket but feels something else, pulling out Gary's car keys.

Tony sees them and snatches them off her.

TONY
Fucking hell are they for this!

Sarah hesitates.

Tony puts the keys in the ignition and starts the engine. The Dashboards lights come on. He looks at the time. It's 3:27 am.

He counts on his fingers.

TONY

Good. We've still got enough time to get home before light if we hurry.

SARAH

Why did you run off into the woods?

Tony turns on the headlights, looking a little on edge.

TONY

Even if the petrol runs out and the battery dies, it will still reinforce the story.

She is waiting for an answer.

TONY

I thought you couldn't remember anything?

SARAH

Well I remember that.

He reaches across, opens the glove compartment and rummages through it, pulling out a cloth and starts wiping down the hand brake and steering wheel.

Sarah stands in silence, thinking.

Eventually Tony steps out to admire his work.

SARAH

We are just friends aren't we?

TONY

I'm fucking faggot Sarah!

SARAH

I know, but sometimes it ...it feels like...

TONY

It was just an act Sarah. A fucking act to get you out of the car. That's all. Forget about it!

SARAH

But what was so bad about being in the car?

TONY

It was dangerous. He was drunk!

Sarah's not convinced. He holds her reassuringly by her shoulders.

TONY

Look, I know you're just trying to make some sense out of all this, but don't. It won't help.

Sarah no longer trusts him.

TONY

We can't afford to make any mistakes Sarah. Do you understand?

Sarah nods obediently.

TONY

Come on, lets get back home.

Tony takes her hand and leads her off down the road. She lets go of his hand and walks behind him. Watching him. Her mind still racing.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. GARY'S CAR, WOODLAND ROAD - NIGHT

Sarah can hear raised voices deep in the woods. They are fighting!

Alarmed, she slips her shoes on and grabbing the keys from the ignition, locks the car doors and hurries into the woods.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Sarah looks up at Tony walking in front. She eventually dares to question him again.

SARAH

What were you going to do if I hadn't have come back?

She studies his body language intently.

TONY

I'm too tired to think Sarah. Save it for when we get back.

SARAH

No.

He looks back at her. She's on to him.

TONY

I don't know? I didn't know whether to stay with the car or try and get some help, but I got so cold waiting for you I decided it was better to walk.

SARAH

Why didn't you just call the police?

Tony looks panicked.

TONY

I would have done if you weren't at home.

Sarah knows he's lying. Tony looks scared. They continue to walk in silence.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. CLIFF EDGE, WOODLAND - NIGHT

Sarah is struggling through the woods. She spies the torchlight through the trees.

SARAH

Hey!

She tries to hurry, but stumbles in her heels, eventually finding Tony and Gary on the floor wrestling.

SARAH

Stop it! Both of you!

They continue to fight.

SARAH

Gary let go of him!

She leans in to try and pull Gary off Tony who looks an emotional mess.

SARAH

I said stop it!

Tony suddenly lets go of Gary, who swings backwards accidentally elbowing Sarah in the eye, throwing her off balance.

Her horrified face disappears off the edge and into the darkness below.

She lands hard, knocking her head on a protruding rock. The impact thumps through her ears, drowning out her hearing.

She can faintly make out Tony's frightened muffled voice shouting to her above, fading off as she finally loses consciousness.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Sarah stops walking. Tony turns around.

TONY
What?

She is too shocked to speak.

TONY
Come on we have to keep going.

He tries to grab her hand, but she pulls away and steps back.

SARAH
Why are you lying to me!

TONY
What?

SARAH
You were fighting with him in the woods! I was there! I remember. You're the one that pushed me off the fucking cliff.

TONY
I didn't mean to, it was an accident!

SARAH
So what happened to Gary then? Was that an accident too?

He is not sure he wants to confess, swallowing with nerves.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. CLIFF EDGE, WOODLAND - NIGHT

Gary and Tony look over in horror, but can't see her.

TONY
Sarah!

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

SARAH
Was it?

TONY
I thought you were dead!

SARAH
What did you do?

He doesn't want to answer. She pushes him!

SARAH
Tell me!

FLASHBACK:

EXT. CLIFF EDGE, WOODLAND - NIGHT

Tony looks around to see Gary is trying to call 999. He quickly grabs a nearby rock and standing up, hits him across the back of the head.

Gary hits the ground unconscious.

Tony pries the phone out of Gary's hand and fumbles to turn it off. He is scared, adrenaline pumping.

He turns Gary over and undoes his belt, pulling his trousers down to his ankles before rolling him off the edge.

He then smashes the mobile phone screen repeatedly with the rock and throws it off the edge with the torch.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

TONY
Please Sarah. I didn't mean for this to happen. We're a team you and I!

SARAH
Not any more!

TONY
Don't say that! Please! You're the only person who's ever fucking cared about me. I don't want to lose you. I'll do anything for you! Don't you understand that?

She steps backwards in shock.

TONY
Please don't do this to me, Sarah!

She realises she has underestimated him.

SARAH
Stay away from me.

She turns to go. He grabs her.

TONY
Sarah!

SARAH

Fuck off!

She pushes him as hard as she can and runs for her life!

He hits the ground, but gets straight back up and chases.

She looks back. He is gaining on her. She heads back into the woods.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Sarah can't see anything, but continues to run blindly in the dark. She clips a tree trunk with her shoulder. She is spun around and thrown to the floor.

She gets back up, disorientated and attempts to carry on, but Tony tackles her back to the ground.

She screams! He hits her.

TONY

(ranting)

Look what you're making me do! Why would you want this? Why!?

She tries to fight him off, but he eventually manages to get his hands around her throat.

SARAH

Stop it! Please!

He is weeping.

She struggles, unable to pull his hands off.

She tries for his face, but he leans back so that her arms can't reach his eyes.

He hits her again and grabs her wrists, kneeling on them.

She is completely helpless. Fear fills her eyes as he continues to strangle her.

She wriggles and twists and turns in desperation and manages to free a hand - there's hope!

She feels around again for something, anything. Her eyes are rolling back, as she struggles to stay conscious.

She feels a ROCK embedded in the ground and claws with her nails to dig it out, but it's too deep.

Time is running out fast. Her face is turning blue. She has only seconds left of her life.

She feels around again. Nothing. It seems her luck has run out.

Suddenly the tips of her fingers touch something. She reaches out again and with her middle finger rolls it towards her, its a STICK. It has a SHARP END. She clenches it with all of her remaining strength.

Her eyes roll forward and focuses on his throat. She rams the stick deep into his neck and then back out again, leaving a deep puncture wound.

Tony lets go of her in shock. She gasps for breath, scrambling away, pointing the stick at him in defence, while coughing and spluttering.

Hot blood starts pumping out of his neck. He tries to stem the bleeding with his hand. He stands up with a look of betrayal on his face.

Sarah waits.

Eventually he stumbles back against a tree trunk and slides down to the ground. He is still staring at her in disbelief, blood seeping through his fingers and down his chest.

Eventually his arm drops to the ground. He is too weak to do anything now.

He stops breathing, his eyes fixed on her, blood still trickling out from his neck. He is dead.

She takes in deep breaths as we close in slowly onto her terrified eyes.

On her next inhale we...

CUT TO BACK:

THE END.