

CATCH AND RELEASE

Written by

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A 5-minute horror short

Address
Phone Number

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Overcast. Could rain any time.

Street sign: RIVERSIDE RD.
No river to be seen.

A CAR drives the road.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Packed with MOVING BOXES, suitcases, small furniture.

FRIEND

(over speakerphone)

So you guys are really gonna trying
having a baby?

MEENA

Yeah. You know, we're moving back
to our hometown and everything, it
just seems like the right time.

MEENA drives the car alone.

Late 20's, in her prime, a bit on the small side.
She looks road WEARY.

FRIEND

You just seem like, so healthy. You
know? Like you could be out there
being really active.

MEENA

You thinking raising kids isn't
going to be active?

FRIEND

(chuckles)

So have you been... trying? Yet?

MEENA

(smiles)

Not yet. But as soon as Finn gets
there tonight with the truck and
the bed...

FRIEND

Ew!

Meena smiles, writhes as much as she can in her seat belt.

MEENA
Gonna have him lay this healthy
body down...

FRIEND
I don't need to picture it!

MEENA
(laughing)
Bitch, you asked!

EXT. INTERSECTION - CONTINUOUS

Meena's car stops at a red light.

Across the street is a DRIVE THRU FAST FOOD place.
No line.

INT. MEENA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Meena sees a BANNER over the DRIVE THRU:
"LIMITED TIME! FISH SANDWICH ONLY \$4.45!"

FRIEND
So how long until you get there?

MEENA
Long enough that I have stop at
this drive thru.

She slowly drives forward as the light changes.

FRIEND
Ugh, aren't you gonna be all gross
for Finn?

MEENA
Shut up, I'm so hungry right now.

FRIEND
Alright, talk to you later.

EXT. DRIVE THRU - CONTINUOUS

Meena's car pulls up to the intercom.

INT. MEENA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Meena takes off her seatbelt.
Relieved, she stretches her back.

EMPLOYEE
(over intercom)
What can I get for you today?

The voice sounds strange.
But so do all drive thru intercoms.

MEENA
Hi, could I get the fish sandwich
and fries?

EMPLOYEE
Pull forward.

Abrupt. Meena is a little put off.

MEENA
Ah - thank you.

She rolls up to the PAY STATION.

She grabs her card from her purse in the passenger seat.
Looks in the window. Her hand hangs out the car.
It's dark inside.
Can't see anyone within.
Until -
A HAND SNATCHES the card.
Meena REFLEXIVELY pulls back.

The Employee wear a visor, face mask and glasses.
Almost totally OBSCURED.
They swipe the card.
Hand it back.

EMPLOYEE
Pull forward.

Still sounds strange without the intercom.
Almost robotic.

Meena shakes it off and takes her card.

Proceeds to the PICK UP WINDOW.
Dark, like the last one.
No one is visible inside.
Meena waits.
The same EMPLOYEE appears.
THRUSTS a paper bag forward.

Meena is uneasy.
Puts both hands on the wheel.
Glances out at the street.
Feels a wave of hunger.
CAUTIOUSLY reaches for the bag.

She grabs the bag -
Employee LATCHES HER FOREARM in a BEAR TRAP.

Meena SCREAMS -
Tries to pull her arm back -
Employee REELS in the trap with a CHAIN.
Meena RESISTS -
The trap scrapes her skin as it slides down her arm.
BLOOD falls onto the concrete by the car.

MEENA
FUUUUUCCCK!!

The trap CATCHES around her WRIST.
Employee retreats into the darkness -
YANKS Meena OUT OF THE CAR window.

She COLLAPSES onto the concrete.
Tries to find her footing -
Is pulled into the WINDOW.
Screams.

MEENA (CONT'D)
No no NONONO!!

Meena tries to resist -
She is pulled up and THROUGH THE WINDOW -

Silence.
The car engine idles.

INT. UNDERWATER

Meena SPLASHES into a DARK POOL.
She CAN'T BREATHE -
BLOOD around her -
Large SCALY APPENDAGES drag her to the bottom.
Pin her to the FLOOR -
Against a GRID PATTERN.

She struggles to free herself -
Struggles to breathe -
A FACE APPEARS -
Eyes the size of her head -
Alien, unfeeling -
Looks her up and down.

The face makes an OTHERWORLDLY SOUND.
Meena is OUT OF AIR -
Coughs.
She stops moving.
Her eyes slowly close.

PASSES OUT.
EVERYTHING GOES BLACK.

EXT. PARKING LOT - SECONDS LATER

Meena is THROWN onto the CONCRETE.

She is still for a second.
COUGHS UP WATER.
Regains consciousness.
LOUD MECHANICAL SOUNDS from off-screen.

Meena coughs some more.
Tries to lift herself with her wounded arm.
Collapses in a pool of water and blood.

She manages to SIT UP.
Looks around.
No DRIVE THRU.
No CAR.
A DIFFERENT LOT.
Meena is dazed. Winces.

It STARTS TO RAIN.

Meena stands, steadying herself on a wall with her good hand.
Shakily walks to the street corner.
She finds a street sign: RIVERSIDE RD.

Meena looks up and down the street, picking a direction.
She starts walking.
One labored step at a time.
Leaving a trail of blood, quickly washed away.

THE END