

Friends of Sam

written by

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EXT. THE FOREST - DAY

October 1978, the sun begins to set on the cool, sunny afternoon. A flock of birds fly overhead in a V formation. The breeze rustles through the trees, sending the autumn leaves soaring through the air. It would be a lovely evening if not for recent events.

A piece of paper flies into frame and drifts through the wind until the breeze pins the paper against a tree. Pushing in on the piece of paper, it becomes apparent that the paper is a missing person's flyer that reads:

"MISSING: Samantha Watkins, 16 years old, 5'7, 120 lbs., long blonde hair, blue eyes Last seen October 13th, 1978, last seen wearing a white nightgown and gold charm bracelet. If you see this girl, please call..."

Pushing in further on the flyer, the image of young Samantha Watkins takes up the frame. The image is a fairly recent yearbook photo. Her hair looks soft and voluminous, and her smile is wide and radiant.

The flyer blows off the tree and is lost to the forest. Frame pulls back and reveals the search team made up of local officers and volunteers that have gathered to help find the Samantha. Amongst the volunteers are Angela and Julie, Samantha's two best friends. They hang behind the rest of the search team to talk to each other privately.

ANGELA

What are we even doing out here?
Sam never even liked the outdoors.

Julie sighs and glances at Angela.

JULIE

Well, we've looked everywhere else
for her. Do you have any ideas,
genius?

ANGELA

Don't be an ass, Jules. I'm just
saying she would never come out
here by choice...

Angela trembles, she then wraps her thick sweater around her for warmth, but that doesn't stop her from trembling.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Something bad happened, Jules. I
don't think we're gonna find her
alive out here--

JULIE

Will you stop saying shit like that. We're gonna find her. Look, multiple eyewitnesses said they saw a girl with long black hair in a white nightgown wondering around the forest. I don't know about you, but that description sounds a lot like Sam to me. I don't know what the hell happened that lead Sam out here, but there's a chance that we can find her alive. Maybe when we find her, she'll be able to explain what happened.

Angela turns her head and glances deep into the forest.

ANGELA

I hope you're right... They said she was with an older man. Do you really think she'd be taken all the way out here by an older man just to be let go?

JULIE

Well, we gotta try! What if you were the one who got lost? Wouldn't you want us to come out here if there was a chance you could be found?

ANGELA

You don't think I want to find her?

The two girls had been so engaged in their conversation that they did not notice one of the adult volunteers walk up to them.

VOLUNTEER

What are you two doing? Stop bickering and keep looking.

Julie stays silent, crosses her arms and looks away from the volunteer while Angela straightens her posture and responds.

ANGELA

Yes, sir.

The volunteer walks away to join the rest of the adults, leaving the girls walking in awkward silence. Angela keeps her head low, staring at her feet as she walks. A sudden gust of wind blows through the forest, whistling through the trees. Amongst the sounds of the wind, Angela hears a soft unintelligible whisper. Angela looks up.

The source of the whisper is unknown, but it sounds like it's coming from all around her. Angela slows her pace to an eventual stop and looks all around her. She freezes, her eyes are locked on something hiding in the woods.

There appears to be a person peaking from behind a tree. Her dirty, ghastly hand grips the bark of the tree, and her wide, dark eyes stare back at Angela.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Sam?

Julie notices Angela has stopped walking and turns around to face Angela. She sees Angela is staring at something in the woods.

JULIE

Do you see something, Ang?

Angela doesn't respond. Julie starts walking towards Angela.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Ang?

Angela starts walking into the woods, toward the figure she saw peaking behind the tree. The figure starts walking away from Angela deeper into the forest. The figure glides between the trees with ease. Her black hair and white nightgown flow in the wind. No matter how fast Angela picks up her pace, she can't catch up to the figure. She doesn't notice Julie has been following behind her, trying to catch her attention.

Angela trips over a tree root and starts rolling down a hill.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Ang!

Julie runs down the hill after Angela. Angela stops tumbling at the bottom of the hill, Julie not far behind her. Julie kneels down next to Angela as she tries to recollect herself. Nightfall is now upon them.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Are you ok?

ANGELA

Yeah...

Angela grunts as she sits up. Julie turns on her flashlight.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

I just need a second.

JULIE

What were you chasing after? Did you see something?

Angela puts her hand on her head.

ANGELA

I... I think I saw Sam.

JULIE

Really?

Julie looks around but the figure is nowhere to be seen.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Where?

ANGELA

I mean, it looked like Sam, but I don't know. Something was off.

JULIE

What do you mean?

The wind suddenly picks up again, and amongst the sound of whistling breeze, Julie hears a faint whisper. Julie turns around and shines her flashlight on the figure gliding through the forest.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Sam!

Julie quickly gets up and runs after the figure.

ANGELA

Wait!

Angela picks herself up off the ground and chases after Julie, struggling to keep her balance. Angela turns on her loses sight of Julie. Angela turns on her flashlight and points it all around her.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Jules!

Angela hears Julie scream and heads towards the direction of the scream, still struggling to keep her balance. Her vision becomes blurred, and her legs begin to give out beneath her. She props herself against a tree in one last chance to regain herself. At that moment, she points her flashlight in front of her. The figure looms over Julie with a wide open, unhinged jaw and swallows her whole.

Angela falls to the ground, dropping her flashlight as she fades into unconscious. Angela sees the figure crawling on the ground towards her. It's eyes rolled back and wide mouth in a twisted smile. However, it no longer looks like Sam, it has taken on Julie's appearance instead. Unable to move, Angela closes her eyes and awaits her fate.

FADE TO BLACK.