

"Afterpain"

written by

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A young woman visits the house where her father committed suicide in order to look for answers, as she believes he did not die by choice.

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INT. ATTIC - DAY

A large window on the walls of a dark attic shows the view of a beautiful sunny landscape.

Beside the window, a DEAD MAN in his 50s with blood on his face sits on an old rocking chair. The chair rocks slowly.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

GRACE, an unhealthy looking woman in her mid 20s, looks through the window of her apartment. She's very skinny and looks like she hasn't slept for days.

We hear her V.O.

GRACE (V.O.)

My father was always a man who promised but never delivered. He would always make sure that my mother and I were filled with even just a tiny inch of hope. As I grew up I had to learn by myself that all he did was lie. I prayed every night for my mother to finally make peace with the fact that he wasn't going to come back for us. He just didn't care enough... One week ago my father passed away, by suicide they said. I didn't see him for seven years. He died in my grandparents' house. A house I like to call the mouth of the devil.

She sits on her bed for a moment and does some breathing exercises that seem to help for anxiety. She puts her hand over her stomach and breathes slowly as she counts with her other hand.

She packs a bag with traveling essentials and a book called "The Window". She gets ready and leaves.

EXT. OLD HOUSE - NIGHT

A car arrives at a big old house. It parks.

Grace gets out of the car along with MATTHEW, an average looking tall man in his mid 20s.

They enter the house.

INT. DINING TABLE - NIGHT

Grace and Matthew sit on a dining table facing each other. An empty plate and glass lay on each side. Silence strikes the moment.

MATTHEW

You never told me why you wanted to come back here so bad.

GRACE

This house has caused so much pain. But after pain, there is revelation. And after revelation, there is peace.

Matthew looks at her confused.

MATTHEW

And what revelation are we talking about?

GRACE

My grandpa was a writer. He wrote one last novel before he died here. I brought it with me tonight.

MATTHEW

Uhm.. okay.

GRACE

It's about a house that is just as sad as this one. Maybe it's about this same house after all.

MATTHEW

And... why is this book so important?

GRACE

It's proof that my father didn't die by choice.

MATTHEW

What do you mean?

Grace looks down at the table for a moment, as if she's thinking thoroughly about something. She quickly lifts her head and looks at Matthew.

GRACE

It's time to go upstairs.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

Grace and Matthew stand next to each other facing the window on the attic of the house. It's the same place where Grace's dad passed away. The rocking chair is still there. It's dark and silent.

MATTHEW

So what do you want to do now?

Grace takes the book out of her backpack. She opens it and starts reading out loud.

GRACE

Beginning of Chapter 8. I've decided not to go back to the attic. Every time I go upstairs the air feels heavy. Something doesn't feel right.

The rocking chair begins to move by itself.

Matthew starts getting scared.

MATTHEW

What's going on?

GRACE

(keeps on reading)
Last night was my last time there. I saw a red light coming from outside the window. It was talking to me. It was saying it was going to kill my son one day. Now every time I see the color red, I think about him.

A vibrant red light coming from outside enters the room through the window.

Matthew backs off.

MATTHEW

Grace, come here!

Grace drops the book and stares at the window hypnotized.

The window opens by itself slowly.

A bloody face can be seen emerging from the bottom of the window. It's Grace's father. He stares at her and smiles creepily.

GRACE

Dad....

Grace is completely entranced. She won't take her eyes off the window.

Matthew shouts in terror.

MATTHEW

Come on! Grace! Let's get the fuck out of here!

Two more bloody-faced people emerge from the bottom of the window on both sides of Grace's father. They are deadly looking versions of Grace and Matthew smiling just as creepily. The three begin to laugh very loud.

Grace keeps staring at them terrified.

Matthew tries to grab Grace by the arm but she won't let go.

Grace's father rapidly reaches his arm towards Grace in a very violent way.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. ATTIC - MORNING

It's the next morning. Matthew is sitting on the rocking chair as it moves. He has a very bloody face. He's dead.

Grace sits beside the chair, laying on the floor.

GRACE

After pain, there is revelation.
After revelation, there is peace.

THE END.