

The Water's Edge

By

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"THE WATER'S EDGE"

FADE IN:

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Trees shiver in the breeze, shafts of sunlight illuminate the woods, and the brown water meanders along the bank.

A toy boat, made of bark and twigs, is held up to the light.

A distant voice calls out.

JACK (O.S.)

Tommy.

Gently, the boat is placed in the water and set adrift.

JACK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Tommy!

For a moment, the tiny craft spins in an eddy, and then caught in the river's flow, it sails away.

Childlike laughter, but it's not a child.

JACK (42), a sly charmer, appears at the crest of the riverbank.

JACK (CONT'D)

Tommy?

Squatting in the mud and smiling, is TOMMY (45), a simple man.

JACK (CONT'D)

What are you doing down there?

TOMMY

I made a boat.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The forest floor. All is calm and then a MAN's foot crashes through the bracken and races away.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Jack pulls Tommy up.

JACK
Look at you. You're all dirty.

TOMMY
I made a boat.

JACK
You said that.

TOMMY
I need a bath.

JACK
Yes, you do. You do indeed.

Jack smiles in spite of himself.

TOMMY
We go home now?

JACK
Not yet. We still have one more
thing to do. Come with me.

Jack walks into the woods.

TOMMY
I made a boat.

Tommy follows him.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Saplings struggle to find light beneath the canopy of trees.

Quick breaths and then the man hurtles through the
underbrush.

EXT. CLEARING - DAY

The sun shines down through a small opening in the woods.
Jack and Tommy sit on the ground against a giant oak tree.
Behind them, the river bends.

TOMMY
We're gonna miss Superman.

JACK
No we won't.

TOMMY
I like Superman.

JACK
I know you do.

Jack checks his watch and stares off into the woods.

TOMMY
He can fly.

Tommy looks up into the sky, imagining.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The birds are silent.

The man stops to rest. He grips a briefcase.

One last deep breath and he resumes his mission.

EXT. CLEARING - DUSK

Clouds float overhead.

Tommy lies on the ground watching them.

Something stirs in the woods.

JACK (O.S.)
Tommy, wait for me here.

Jack stands in the middle of the clearing.

The man slowly steps out of the woods and into the fading light.

JACK (CONT'D)
Do you have the money?

The man holds up the briefcase.

JACK (CONT'D)
Show it to me.

The man opens the case, it's full of cash.

MAN
Where's my daughter?

JACK
That's not how this works. Now,
put the money on the ground and go
back the way you came. You'll get
another call with instructions.

The man doesn't move.

Jack pulls a gun from his jeans.

JACK (CONT'D)
Did you hear me?

TOMMY
I made a boat.

Jack turns on his brother.

JACK
Wait for me at the tree!

When he turns back, the man has pulled his own gun.

MAN
Police. Now, drop the gun. You're
both under arrest.

TOMMY
We're bad guys?

Jack smiles at Tommy and then quickly raises his pistol.

Gun shots.

The briefcase goes flying, bills flutter in the air, and the man tumbles over the riverbank and down into the water.

Jack lies dead on the ground, blood pooling and seeping into the earth around him.

Tommy falls to his knees, clutching at his brother. He begins to cry. His hands covered in blood, he screams like an animal in pain.

EXT. RIVER - DUSK

A dead tree has fallen in the water and the toy boat is trapped in the branches.

Money begins to wash up against it.

FADE OUT.