

The Unknown

By

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v09 March 9, 2019
V08 January 13, 2019
V07 December 07, 2018
V06 November 16, 2018
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EXT. FARM HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

The sun rises over a white farm house nestled in the woods. It's a dreary morning.

PRE-LAP: An alarm clock RINGS.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

ALEX opens his eyes. Alex is in his mid twenties, a farmer living alone in a rather large house.

He reaches over and turns off the alarm. 6:50AM. Behind the alarm sits a photograph of Alex and his late wife. A ring sits in front of the frame.

Alex gets out of bed.

He puts on slippers.

PRE-LAP: A tea kettle BOILING.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

The tea kettle boils.

Alex picks it up and pours a cup of tea, he then walks over and turns on the radio. A shot gun leans against the kitchen counter.

RADIO

That was an excerpt from the president's state of the union address on Monday. The time is 7am January 19, your Saturday morning news is coming up.

RADIO TUNE

Alex walks over to his calendar, he crosses off the previous day, January 21st, 1963.

RADIO

Upcoming this hour, news on the Mercury Atlas 9 launch, NASA announces a possible launch window in April. This spaceflight will be the first to evaluate the effects on the astronaut of being in orbital flight for 24 hours.

He pours cereal and grabs milk from the fridge.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Alex, wearing a brown coat, heads to a red barn across the yard from his house.

He unlocks the barn door.

INT. BARN - DAY

As the barn door slides open, light pours across the floor.

Alex walks in then closes the door behind him. He picks up a toolbox and heads over to a large red tractor.

He crawls under the tractor and starts working on the underside.

PRE-LAP: Tractor engine trying to start.

LATER

Alex is in the cab and tries starting it, it does not start.

PRE-LAP: Classical music PLAYS.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Alex sits at his table eating a sandwich, listening to classical music on the radio.

EXT. FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON

Alex, wearing his coat, walks out the front door and down to the mailbox.

Alex opens it, takes out a couple letters.

CLOSE on the Mailbox as Alex closes it.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

FRONT DOOR OPENS. Alex walks in the house.

The radio goes to static with electrical, a lamp near the radio starts to flicker.

Alex walks over to the lamp.

There is a faint sound of a TRACTOR STARTING.

Alex looks to the back window.

INT. BARN - AFTERNOON

The tractor sits running.

Alex walks in, looks around.

He opens the cab and turns off the engine.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Night has now fallen over the house. The kitchen lights are on, but those are the only lights in a sea of dark. We can hear the sound of onions being CHOPPED on a cutting board.

RADIO (O.S.)

Tonight on radio WBKT's live performance theater, brought to you by the generous donations from listeners like you, we have for you a broadcast of Orson Welles's original performance of the War of the Worlds from 1939.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Alex is sitting at the table eating dinner

RADIO

Then something resembling a little grey snake, about the thickness of a walking stick, coiled up out of the writhing middle, and wriggled in the air towards me--and then another. A sudden chill came over me. There was a loud shriek from a woman behind. I half turned, keeping my eyes fixed upon the cylinder still, from which other tentacles were now projecting, and began pushing my way back from the edge of the pit.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The alarm clock RINGS. Alex opens his eyes wide. Sweat on his brow.

He reaches over and turns off the alarm. 6:50AM.

Alex gets out of bed.

He puts on slippers.

PRE-LAP: A tea kettle BOILING.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

The tea kettle boils.

Alex picks it up and pours a cup of tea, he then walks over and turns on the radio.

RADIO

More people across central Indiana have been reporting electrical disturbances in their homes, utility company Indiana Electric said in a public statement, they believe it has been caused by solar flare activity. In other news, Robert Johnson of Muncie Indiana has been reported missing by his wife Lillian. Lillian said Robert was working outside in the barn late last evening when he went missing without a trace. She immediately called the police. The time is 7 am January 20, your listening to WBKT's Sunday morning news.

Alex is standing next to his calendar, he crosses off the previous day, January 22nd, 1963.

RADIO TUNE

He pours cereal and grabs milk from the fridge.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Alex, wearing his brown coat, heads to the barn.

He unlocks the barn door.

INT. BARN - DAY

As the barn door slides open, light pours in.

Alex walks in then closes the door behind him.

Alex walks back and grabs a snow shovel.

PRE-LAP: SNOW SHOVELING SCRAPING SOUNDS.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Alex is shoveling snow in the driveway.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Night has now fallen over the house. The kitchen lights are on. We can hear peppers are being CHOPPED on a cutting board.

RADIO (O.S.)

Tonight on radio WBKT's live performance theater, brought to you by the donations from our generous listeners like you...

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Alex is standing next the counter chopping onions. There is boiling water on the stove, pasta to the side.

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

we have for you the story of one man, living alone in rural Indiana, encountering visitors from outer space.

Cheesy space and alien SOUND EFFECTS from the radio.

Alex stands by the counter, unbeknownst to him a light flashes behind him, a shadow appears then disappears.

LATER

(CONTINUED)

Alex is sitting at his table eating.

RADIO

He continued down the long driveway, the snow crunching under his boots as the wind rustled the empty tree branches. Jim slowly made his way to the mailbox at the end of the driveway. It was a cold January night with a full moon shining down. Jim finally reached the mailbox

Alex looks at the mail holder. Empty.

He gets up out of his chair and heads outside.

RADIO (CONT'D)

and opened it, pulling out several letters, taking a close look at each as he pulled them out. As he turned away from the mailbox he saw...

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Alex walks out the front door, putting his coat on as he walks down the driveway. Behind Alex (he does not notice) the barn lights are flashing through the barn windows.

Alex opens the mailbox, grabs a couple of letters, then turns around. He sees the lights flashing in the barn.

He squints his eyes in confusion. He starts heading back up the driveway, passed the front door.

DINING ROOM - SAME

The dining room, empty, as we hear the radio PLAYING.

RADIO (CONT'D)

Staring at the flashing lights coming from the barn, Jim approached cautiously, unaware of what was lying inside.

FRONT YARD

Once around the corner of the house, he notices the barn door is open a couple feet with lights flashing and electrical sounds coming from inside, he stops in his tracks. He looks around nervously.

(CONTINUED)

He approaches the door slowly.

MYSTERIOUS POV sees Alex standing in the yard.

BACK TO SCENE

Alex slowly pushes forward.

Now ten feet from the barn door, behind Alex the house lights start flashing.

He turns and gasps.

All the lights begin to shine brightly.

The mail drops from Alex's hand and flutters toward the ground.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Alarm clock RINGS. Alex opens his eyes wide.

Breathing heavy. Sweat on his brow.

He reaches over and turns off the alarm. 8:43AM.

Alex looks from the clock to the well lit sky outside.

PRE-LAP: A tea kettle BOILING.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

The tea kettle boils.

Alex picks it up and pours a cup of tea, he then walks over and turns on the radio.

RADIO

NASA announced that two contracts for the Apollo Project have been awarded, one for a lunar charting service by the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and the other for an exploratory study of guidance system techniques in an emergency abort operation of the Apollo lander during lunar landing, awarded to Ling-Temco-Vought, Inc.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RADIO (cont'd)
of Dallas Texas. Now moving onto
some more unusual local news. It
was reported last night that Robert
Johnson of Muncie, Indiana has been
located. His wife Lillian told
police that..

Alex walks to his calendar, he crosses off the previous day,
January 23rd, 1963.

RADIO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
when she returned home from
searching the surrounding counties,
she found him asleep in bed.
Lillian said he had no recollection
of the past week or where he had
been. Robert stated his last memory
was working in their barn. State
police have yet to issue a
statement on the matter.

Alex pours cereal and goes to the fridge for milk. He pours
the milk. He makes a pungent face. He walks to the sink and
pours it out.

RADIO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
In other news, utility company
Indiana Electric still hasn't
released an explanation for the
disturbances in power across
central Indiana. A spokesman for
the company said that all of their
power plants are functioning
normally and that they are looking
for unusual causes for the
disruptions, possibly more solar
flare activity but they are not
completely sure as of now.

RADIO TUNE

Alex looks up, out the window.

The barn door is open.

Alex grabs his shot gun, and heads outside.

CLOSE ON: Calendar with the 23rd crossed off.

RADIO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You're listening to WBKT's Sunday
morning news, the time is 9 am,
January 27th. Weather is up next.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Alex heads to the barn.

Alex sees the lock is broken

INT. BARN - DAY

Alex walks in the barn. He opens a cabinet to make sure everything is still there.

He notices a light flashing and electrical noise coming from the back room.

He approaches the room slowly.

He looks in the room, empty except for his tractor.

He flips the light switch.

The flashing and electric sounds stop.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

The house sits under the darkness of night.

RADIO (O.S.)

Tonight on radio WBKT's live performance theater, a continuation of last week's story about a man living in rural Indiana.

PRE-LAP: Sounds of vegetables being CHOPPED.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Alex is standing next to the counter chopping vegetables. There is boiling water on the stove.

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

Today we see if he is able to escape what haunts him. Not knowing what is after him, sometimes the unknown is the scariest.

LATER

Alex is sitting at the table eating his soup and salad.

(CONTINUED)

RADIO

Finally dinner is ready. Jim sets the food down on the table and sits down alone. He says a prayer then leans over and turns on the radio. Music fills the silent house.

We PUSH IN on Alex.

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

After a couple of bites there is a sudden thud heard upstairs.

Suddenly, a THUD upstairs.

Alex puts his spoon down. He looks over at the hallway leading to the stairs.

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

Jim stops eating. He looks toward the hallway leading to the stairs. He sits petrified, waiting.

FOOTSTEPS walking down the stairs.

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

The floor lights begin to flash and the radio starts cutting in and out. There is another thud, then another.

Lights start flashing in the other room.

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

Jim jumps up out of his chair. The hair on his arms begin to raise as an electrified feeling spreads across the room.

Alex stands up, hands trembling.

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

In the darkness a figure begins to appear in front of Jim. Fight or flight kicks in. Terrified he grabs his coat and runs for the door.

The radio CUTS OUT as ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE comes through the speakers.

All the lights are flashing.

Alex takes off through the kitchen, grabs his coat and runs out the door.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Alex runs out the back door, putting on his coat while running through the yard.

RADIO (O.S.)

Once outside Jim heads for the woods. He feels a presence following just behind him. When he makes it to the tree line he stops and turns around, terrified as a figure forms in front of him. Then a bright flash and an electric sensations comes over Jim as he disappears into the unknown.

Alex runs past the barn toward the woods.

Lights start flashing in the barn as he passes.

The ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE on the radio FADES.

RADIO (O.S.)

You have been listening to WBKT's live performance theater. Join us next week at the same time for another tale.

The lights in the barn increase intensely.

Alex disappears.

The forbidding January wind is all that remains.

ROLL CREDITS