

THE BARD

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SECLUDED DIRT ROAD - LATE AT NIGHT

A small FIGURE draped in a black, tattered cloak LIMPS along the edge of the woods on a seemingly deserted dirt road with the aid of a large, moldy branch being used as a walking stick.

The chilly October wind SWIRLS dry, DEAD LEAVES all around him as wetter ones stick to the ground below in scattered puddles of muddy, murky water.

Suddenly bright HEADLIGHTS are seen as a VERMONT DAIRY TRUCK rounds a corner in a fork in the road up ahead.

INT. DELIVERY TRUCK

A scruffy male driver, DARYL (40s), talks to his bitchy MISTRESS on his cell phone.

MISTRESS (O.V.)

(upset)

Do you even want to see me tonight?

DARYL

(into cell phone)

Of course! But can I help it if they wanted me to make a delivery all the way to east bum-fuck?

The shinny gold wedding ring on his finger rubs against the top of the steering wheel as he steers onto the straight-away.

The little figure on the side of the road is barely visible amongst the darkness.

MISTRESS (O.V.)

Well if you're not here soon you'll never make another stop anywhere near my house ever *again!*

This gets his attention. He SPEEDS up.

Suddenly the small figure STEPS OUT into the middle of the road, STARTLING Daryl.

He SWERVES the truck to try to avoid hitting him.

EXT. SECLUDED DIRT ROAD, DELIVERY TRUCK

The front tires HIT a large pile of WET LEAVES and the truck LOSES CONTROL.

It TUMBLES OVER--

SPIRALING down a STEEP EMBANKMENT into a heavily wooded area until it finally

SLAMS into a TREE--

BREAKING Daryl's NECK on IMPACT and catching FIRE.

MISTRESS (O.V.)

Oh my God-- what's happening?
Daryl? *Daryl!*

ONSTAR (O.V.)

We have detected a problem with the vehicle... We're notifying emergency crews now...

MISTRESS (O.V.)

(screams)

DARYLLL!

The truck BLOWS UP.

EXT. SECLUDED DIRT ROAD

The figure is now on the other side, seemingly unaware of the wreck it just caused as it LIMPS towards the fork up ahead.

CUT TO:

EXT. VERMONT COLLEGE TOWN, FRAT ROW - MOMENTS LATER

Further away in the next small, picturesque New England college town a "Night of the Living Dead-themed" party is RAGING at the biggest Colonial-styled house on frat row for Halloween.

INT. FRATERNITY HOUSE

Lots of drunk, horny COLLEGE KIDS dressed as zombies, Goth's, mummies, and skeletons are seen.

The frat is decorated like a large graveyard with life-size dead bodies, skeletons, and ice-packed coffins full of kegs scattered about.

WAYNE ST. FRANCIS (20), the "stud" of the crowd even dressed as a corpse, approaches FRATERNITY BROTHER #1 (20) dressed as a skeleton.

WAYNE

Hey-- have you seen Josh yet?

FRATERNITY BROTHER #1
No, but if he's going to try to top
the entrance he made the last time
he visited, then I'm sure I will.

Wayne looks worried about that possibility.

ALICIA DAWSON (19), a real beauty in her vampirish black
lipstick, stands nearby, overhearing.

In a playfully drunken state she caresses Wayne's chest with
her long black fingernails seductively from behind him as she
puts her lips next to his ear.

ALICIA
(whispers)
I know what we could do to keep
your mind off waiting...

She bites his neck gently with her fake fangs.

He tries to resist her, but he's pretty wasted too.

WAYNE
Alicia-- are you sure you want to
go down this road again?

ALICIA
(whispers)
What? Don't think you can handle
it?

WAYNE
I can if you can...

She sucks on a spot on his neck that is obviously his
weakness-- a fact she seems to know well-- which also makes
her answer a clearly demonstrated "yes, I can."

If they both weren't drunk this all probably wouldn't be
happening, but now only hormones are making their
decisions...

His finally give in and he KISSES her passionately, then
pulls back, looking for a place to go for some privacy. And
by the look on Alicia's face this is exactly what she wanted
to have happen as well...

He leads her to a large storage closet off of the main room
where the party is going in FULL SWING.

STORAGE CLOSET

They step inside and start to TEAR OFF each other's costumes as they lay down in a decorated coffin in lieu of a bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. SECLUDED DIRT ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Further back on the straight-away in the opposite direction that the truck came a beat-up, 1989 Oldsmobile SPEEDS along as we hear two of it's inhabitants ARGUING.

CARRIE (O.S.)

Do you even know how to get there?

JOSH (O.S.)

(sarcastically)

Sure-- it's either to the left or the right when we get to the fork up ahead.

INT. OLDSMOBILE

Now see FIVE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS dressed up like Goth's.

CARRIE WRIGHT (17), one of the two pretty females sitting in the back seat, is the only one who isn't currently LAUGHING and drinking alcohol. She's the most sober-looking one of the two girls-- and she definitely makes the best-looking Goth out of all of them.

She looks concerned as she watches the cute, cocky driver, JOSH ST. FRANCIS (18) place his opened beer bottle between his legs as he drives.

CARRIE

(to Josh)

Are you sure you should be driving if you're gonna start drinking now?

JOSH

(sarcastically)

I'm driving? I thought it was Garrett's turn--

He pretends to pass the wheel to GARRETT MILLS (18), an average looking academic-type, sitting shotgun beside him and the car INSTANTLY VEERS OFF the road--

STRAIGHT towards the SAME EMBANKMENT the delivery truck went over MOMENTS BEFORE.

They all look SCARED as Josh quickly STRAIGHTENS THE WHEEL and GAINS CONTROL-- but not before spilling some of his beer on his pants.

Again, everyone but Carrie LAUGHS.

JOSH
 (to Carrie)
 Relax-- it's only my first
 one--

Suddenly LOUD SIRENS from the emergency crews are HEARD APPROACHING in the DISTANCE-- but they can't tell from where.

Now they *all* look concerned.

The figure and the fork gets closer.

Carrie is the only one to seemingly notice the figure on her side of the road.

CARRIE
 (yells)
 Josh-- watch out!

JOSH
 (annoyed)
 I hear them!

CARRIE
 No-- THAT!

She points toward the figure, but just as the others start to look to where she's referring to the figure DISAPPEARS into the woods and they don't see anything.

JOSH
 What?

CARRIE
 There was someone there-- on the
 side of the road--
 (confused)
 You didn't see 'um?

JOSH
 (sarcastically)
 And how many have you had?

CARRIE
 I know someone was there!

CHRIS WILLIAMS (18), an attractive jock-type sitting between her and the other pretty female cheerleader-type, MICHELLE MOSS (17), teases her as he takes a swing from an already mostly-empty bottle of vodka.

CHRIS
 Maybe it was a ghost-- after all,
 it *is* Halloween!

GARRETT
 (teases)
 Maybe it will reappear for you at
 the "night of the living dead"
 party.

The SIRENS get louder, but they still can't tell where they're coming from.

Josh looks nervous as he tries to hide his beer under the seat.

JOSH
If we make it there!

Just then the BRIGHT LIGHTS from the emergency vehicles APPEAR on the left hand side of the fork in the road now DIRECTLY in FRONT of them.

Their BRIGHTNESS almost BLINDS Josh as he tries to stay on the road--

He makes a SHARP TURN to the RIGHT--

JUST BARELY MISSING the chance to be seen by them.

Whew-- that was *CLOSE!*

CUT TO:

INT. STORAGE CLOSET - A SHORT TIME LATER

Wayne and Alicia have just finished. And for a brief moment afterwards they lay together like a couple in love, both looking very content.

Alicia suddenly realizes they're in a coffin.

ALICIA
 Wow, this is a first...

WAYNE
 And we thought we'd never be able
 to say *that* again.

As soon as the words come out of his mouth it seems something about the memory of everything about their past now rushes back to him, and it's not all pleasant-- for him anyway.

Suddenly there's a loud CRASH heard from outside.

WAYNE

What the--?

He moves off of her, fast, and uses this as his excuse to pull on his pants and shirt quickly as he leaves.

Alicia tries not to look disappointed, even though she is.

FRATERNITY PARTY ROOM

As people RUSH to look out the window toward where the crash came Fraternity Brother #1 approaches Wayne.

FRATERNITY BROTHER #1

I think your brother's here...

CUT TO:

EXT. FRATERNITY HOUSE, PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

The Oldsmobile has side-swiped two other vehicles in the parking lot before coming to a halt. So this is why the car is so beat-up.

The kids stumble out of the car, unhurt.

Carrie and Michelle look mad, but Garrett and Chris think it's hysterical. They high-five each other like they just got off a daring ride at a theme park, then pass the bottle of vodka to Josh, who immediately takes a few swings.

GARRETT

Man! That was better than the "Hurricane" at Six Flags!

Carrie hits Josh, hard.

CARRIE

I told you to slow down!

JOSH

I did!
(adds sarcastically)
After I hit the first one.

Wayne approaches, upset.

WAYNE

You're gonna have to pay for both of those to get fixed!

JOSH

(to Chris and Garrett)

See? I told you we needed to come up with a more unique greeting to associate with Halloween...

(to Wayne)

But I don't think that one's ever going to catch on, bro... it's too specific just to me.

When Wayne gets closer he can smell the beer all over his pants.

WAYNE

Jesus-- you *drove* like that?

JOSH

(annoyed)

You're sounding more and more like Mom every day.

WAYNE

That's because you're acting more and more like Dad!

This obviously hits a nerve, for both of them.

JOSH

Then the real party must just be getting started!

He finishes the bottle of vodka and then starts to walk towards the frat house, but Wayne stops him.

WAYNE

Oh no it's not, it's over. You've *all* had enough. Come on.

He motions for them to follow him in the opposite direction. They don't.

JOSH

But I promised my friends a good time tonight!

WAYNE

And you delivered because at least you're all still alive!

He continues walking. The others follow, reluctantly.

CUT TO:

EXT. FURTHER AWAY, NEAR THE WOODS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN

The figure from earlier comes out of the woods, LIMPING along with the use of his stick.

CAMPUS FOOTPATH, NEAR WOODS

Alicia tries to walk straight as she wipes away tears from her now make-up smeared face. It's obvious she couldn't handle what took place between her and Wayne before, even if she thought she could.

The wind PICKS UP.

She wraps her black cape around herself to keep warm, now looking eerily similar to the black-clad figure.

She suddenly realizes she's approaching a SECLUDED part of the MOSTLY WOODED AREA and there's no one else around.

She walks on, cautiously...

THUMP-- *rustle, rustle*-- THUMP!

She stops-- *what was that?* She listens...

THUMP-- *rustle, rustle*-- THUMP!

It sounds like something is being HIT against the ground, then DRAGGED, then gets THUMPED down again...

It's coming somewhere to the right of her, but she can't tell exactly where in her drunken state. She only sees blurry images of darkness around her.

Suddenly the sound STOPS.

She waits, listening. Nothing.

Was she just imagining it...?

She walks on.

The THUMP is SUDDENLY heard again... this time, CLOSER.

She stops again. The sound also stops.

She HURRIES on, truly afraid now--

She has to get back to the dorm-- FAST!

FURTHER AWAY ON CAMPUS FOOTPATH

Wayne and the others walk along in a somewhat drunken-stupor.

Josh and his friends do not seem happy that they missed out on going to the party.

JOSH

Why even be in a fraternity if
you're gonna live all the way
across campus from where the action
in the house always is?

WAYNE

If I lived in all that "action" I
wouldn't have made dean's list the
last three semesters-- and I also
wouldn't have had coed showers.

This perks all three boy's ears up.

JOSH

Coed?

Carrie and Michelle look annoyed with their fixated interest.

Suddenly Carrie sees someone in a dark cloak walking alone up ahead-- but wait-- is it the figure or Alicia?

CARRIE

Hey-- that's the person I saw
earlier on the side of the road!

The others look to where she's pointing and see it too.

She hits Josh.

CARRIE

And you just thought I was drunk!

JOSH

You are-- but let's still go say hi
to your new little friend!

He runs ahead before Wayne can stop him.

WAYNE

JOSH!

As Josh gets CLOSER the person seems to SENSE someone is FOLLOWING them and QUICKENS their pace.

Josh runs FASTER and FASTER until he's RIGHT ON--

Their HEELS!

He REACHES OUT and GRABS them--

CAUSING the person to SWING around towards him as they let out a DEAFENING SCREAM.

It's a very scared ALICIA-- who now also STARTLES Josh when he sees her FANGS and SMEARED black and white make-up. She's not exactly looking her best anymore...

Wayne recognizes who it is and runs up to them.

He pushes Josh away from her.

WAYNE

What are doing-- scaring her like that?

JOSH

Her? She's the one wearing fangs!

ALICIA

(trying to act fine in front of Wayne)
So this is the one you were waiting for, I assume?

WAYNE

Yeah... my infamous little brother, Josh.

JOSH

(flattered)
Infamous?

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

Nice to met you.
(she looks at Wayne flirtatiously as she adds...)
And thanks for being so late tonight.

Josh looks confused as to what she means by this, but before he can ask anything more Wayne interjects.

WAYNE

We're heading back to the dorm now.

ALICIA

Me too.

She's glad to join their group now-- and be with Wayne.

FURTHER AWAY UP THE PATH

The figure draped in black sits down under a large OAK TREE.

The wind picks up, BLOWING the tattered fabric of his cloak back just enough to reveal TWO DISFIGURED HANDS as they LIGHT UP a well-worn pipe.

The figure SMOKES it, then begins CHANTING in a mixture of ANCIENT LANGUAGES.

THE FIGURE

(chants)

*"Confessionem esse veram, non
factam vi tormentorum,
apaurusheya... Confessioneum..."*

The group of drunken kids approach, curious--

What is this...?

JOSH

Hey, I bet what he's smoking isn't legal-- and for the right price some could have our name on it!

He starts to walk toward him. This time Wayne has time to stop him.

WAYNE

Oh no you don't-- you've already done enough illegal activities for one night--

GARRETT

What's he saying?

They all try to listen closely.

THE FIGURE

(chants)

*"Confessionem esse veram, non
factam vi tormentorum,
apaurusheya... Confessioneum..."*

MICHELLE

Sounds like gibberish.

ALICIA
I think it's Sanskrit...

CARRIE
Mixed with Latin.

They all give her a surprised look.

WAYNE
(impressed)
Somebody must have done well on her
S.A.T's.

He starts to approach him slowly.

Alicia stops him.

ALICIA
Do you think it's smart to disturb
him? I mean, what if he has a gun?

WAYNE
I don't think someone who smokes
pot and quotes Latin and Sanskrit
together would be the type to own a
gun...

He continues to approach.

They all follow slowly behind Wayne as they SNEAK UP on the
CHANTING figure.

It appears to be in a TRANCE and doesn't notice them
approaching.

THE FIGURE
(chants loudly)
*"Confessionem esse veram, non
factam vi tormentorum,
apaurusheya... Confessioneum--"*

Suddenly it LEAPS FORWARD on the last WORD--

CAUSING the cloak to FALL OFF it's FACE, REVEALING A--

END OF SAMPLE PAGES