

AFTERSHOCK

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FADE IN:

EXT. WOODSEN HOUSE - DAY

TISHA WOODSEN watches the street anxiously; her teenaged son ANDREW, with some note of disgust. There is a humid, swollen moment looking at the empty street, and then

A CAR APPEARS.

Quickly, Tisha jumps to her feet. She's all laughter and tears when her other son, KENDRICK, rolls out of the passenger side of the car.

TISHA

There's my baby, look at you. You got so tall!

MARTIN, the boys' father, follows him up the walk.

MARTIN

Your grandfather says he wore you out.

KENDRICK

Yessir, he did that. Just about starved me, too.

TISHA

I made all your favorites, meatloaf, macaroni and cheese...

She starts toward the house. Andrew, who's been standing off from all of this, gets caught in the swell of motion when Martin reaches out for him.

MARTIN

Did you tell your brother hello?

They stare at each other sullenly. There's a strange moment of tension between them, then Kendrick breaks it, looking around broadly.

KENDRICK

Where's Blue Dog?

TISHA

You know, I haven't seen him since this morning. C'mon, baby, let's eat.

Tisha and Martin disappear inside. Kendrick takes another look around for his dog, then squints at Andrew.

KENDRICK

What?

Brushing past Kendrick, Andrew doesn't respond at all.

INT. WOODSEN HOUSE - NIGHT

Long shadows play on the ceiling as the boys settle in for the night in their shared bedroom. They're quite for a long moment, then Kendrick stretches out to kick the frame of Andrew's bed.

KENDRICK

What's wrong with you?

ANDREW

Shut up and go to sleep.

KENDRICK

What did I do to you, huh?

ANDREW

Maybe I've got a problem with you coming home like some hero. I know why you had to go to granddad's farm.

KENDRICK

How long am I supposed to suffer 'cause I screwed up one time?

ANDREW

I dunno. Some of us are real busy doing the right thing all the time.

Andrew throws himself back down in bed and rolls away.

EXT. WOODSEN HOUSE - DAY

Uniform in a white shirt and navy pants, Kendrick checks around the side of the house, whistling for his dog.

KENDRICK

Blue Dog! C'mon boy, where are you?

Andrew comes outside, wearing the same uniform. He doesn't wait.

EXT. SCHOOL STEPS - DAY

Standing outside, students pour into the school before the bell rings. Kendrick, though, hesitates. He stands out in the sunlight, apart from the others. He looks desperately alone.

So he's startled when a small hand falls on his shoulder. He turns, no one, then turns the other way to find PARKER standing there behind him, touched with wry amusement.

PARKER

Did you miss me down on the farm?

KENDRICK

I missed a lot of things.

PARKER

I see how you are.

She feigns walking away; she's delighted when he catches her hand and pulls her back.

KENDRICK

Since I just got back, how could you?

PARKER

What if I only liked the old you?

KENDRICK

Take away the fighting and I am the old me.

PARKER

Maybe.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Late, Kendrick runs down the hall to get to class. He nearly careens into the school's DEAN when he rounds a corner.

DEAN

Not a very promising start to the year,
Mr. Woodsen.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

As the day drags on, Kendrick looks more and more ground down. He passes through the hallways under scrutiny.

When he comes to his locker, he opens it, weary, then digs into his backpack for his books.

The locker door SLAMS shut, and we see Shawn standing behind it. Summoning up all his fortitude, Kendrick ignores him, and spins the combination again.

Kendrick starts to lunge, then forcibly pulls himself back.

KENDRICK

I said I'm not doing this.

SHAWN

How about I take it out of your brother,
like you did mine?

KENDRICK

Leave Andrew alone.

People gather; the small crowd ripples with anticipation.

SHAWN

Your choice, man.

Kendrick looks around; most of the people are just there for a fight. Parker's standing at the edge of the crowd- maybe she's a little more excited than she should be.

It's stupid, but...

KENDRICK

Meet me in the boiler room.

And just as the words are out of his mouth, Andrew arrives. He hears nothing except for the throw down, and he's disgusted.

Before Kendrick can say anything, he turns and walks away.

INT. BOILER ROOM - DAY

Beneath an odd twist of pipes and the high WHINE of machinery, a small crowd gathers. They knot around Kendrick and Shawn, eager for blood.

The boys start to circle each other, Kendrick still reluctant, Shawn almost *delighted*, but then the SOUND in the boiler room changes.

Kendrick stops.

SHAWN

You pussing out on me?

KENDRICK

Shhhh.

SHAWN

Let's go!

There's a low, THUNDEROUS roar. The ground starts to move and the first thing Kendrick does is start pushing people toward the door.

KENDRICK

Get out of here, get out, get...

The EARTH SHAKES. Girls SCREAM. Suddenly, the boiler room is PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS.

KENDRICK (CONT'D)

Get down! Get down! Under the shop table, get down!

In the dark, things CRASH to the floor; we hear shelves COLLAPSING and pottery SHATTERING.

The destruction goes on and on, and then, is suddenly silent.

Still in the dark, tentative voices start to rise. They're a jumble of panic and worry.

VOICE 2

Was that an earthquake?

VOICE 3

Why is it so dark?

VOICE 4

What is that? Do you hear that?

There's the faintest HISSING sound in the BACKGROUND. As everyone starts to stand, they're still shrouded in mostly dark.

PARKER

I have a lighter, hold on.

Kendrick is still for a moment, but just as Parker holds up the lighter to strike it, he clamps his hand down on hers.

KENDRICK

That's gas. There's a leak.

PARKER

We gotta get out of here.

Hurrying to the door, Kendrick pulls it. Tries to force it. He even manages to get Shawn- reluctantly- to come help him. It's stuck fast.

Something in the distance FALLS AND CLATTERS, sending up another round of terrified SHRIEKS.

KENDRICK

We'll have to take the service tunnels
out.

SHAWN

What the hell are you talking about?

Grabbing a flashlight from the debris, Kendrick clicks it several times
before it lights.

KENDRICK

Just come on.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Kendrick leads the group through the corridor. The flashlight is dim,
offering only the scantest of light.

VOICE

My... my feet are wet.

Light reflects off water on the floor, and Kendrick shoves them along
with urgency.

The SOUND of rushing water grows louder.

KENDRICK

The pool's leaking. The pool's leaking,
run. Run!

And they do.

Through dark corridors, crashing into doors that are locked! Blocked by
debris they have to mount!

They twist through the darkness, dim flashes of their faces, and then
Parker cries out! She falls! Water SPLASHES.

KENDRICK (CONT'D)

Parker, get up.

She's crying, clutching her thigh. When Kendrick raises the lantern, we
see a flash of

DARK BLOOD COURSING DOWN HER LEG

Something dark juts from it, but we only see a glimpse of it in the
dark. They kneel in deep water; the sound of it RUNNING echoes.

PARKER

Oh god, pull it out.

KENDRICK

No. No. You'll bleed too much. We just gotta get you outta here.

Thinking quickly, Kendrick pulls off his tie and he wraps it around her thigh- not as a tourniquet, just as a bandage, fixing the wound in place.

He helps her up, and the group hurries, hurries down another passage way, and another!

Panic starts to set in, in earnest, when they hit yet another sealed door.

KENDRICK (CONT'D)

Just keep moving.

They run down another corridor and Shawn rushes up on a door lit by an emergency light.

He reaches for the knob. It turns, but Shawn jerks back.

SHAWN

It's hot!

Smoke boils beneath the door, rising ominously. Kendrick turns, quickly, demanding.

KENDRICK

Somebody's gotta have a cell.

PARKER

No signal. We're underground, Kendrick. There's no signal, there's no way out, we're gonna die in here!

Looking around at the frightened faces who have followed him this far, Kendrick wears the weight of the situation heavily.

There's fire on the other side of the door- there's water rising on this side-

What is he gonna do? What the hell is he gonna do??

Then suddenly, commanding, certain, he says,

KENDRICK

We're getting out. Just do as I say.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

In the school yard, Andrew, the gathered students and the Dean stare at the school in horror. The lot is littered with rubble, and smoke twists out into the daylight.

ANDREW

There are people in there. My brother's in there!

He lunges, as if he's going to run inside, but the Dean holds him back with a heavy hand.

Struggling, Andrew trembles under the enormity of it. He throws up his hands when the doors

SUDDENLY CRASH OUTWARD

A great plume of smoke billows out, and then the students trapped with Kendrick start to stagger out in pairs.

The boys are all shirtless. They've soaked their tops in water and covered their face and a girl's face with it to escape the building.

CRIES of relief rush through the crowd, but Andrew is NOT relieved. The last of the pairs stumble from the school and Kendrick is not among them.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Kendrick? Kendrick!

He grabs Parker as she weaves by, coughing.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Parker, where's my brother?

PARKER

I don't know. I don't... the last time I saw him, he told us to cover our faces and run for the door.

It seems like an eternity when they look toward the school. SIRENS sound in the distance. The world slowly comes back to life, SOUNDS and motion again.

Andrew looks wrecked. Absolutely wrecked.

And then the

DOORS CRASH OPEN AGAIN.

Staggering from the building, sharing a soaked shirt with Parker, Kendrick all but carries her out, and thrusts her into Shawn's arms.

Kendrick makes it to the bottom of the steps before he collapses.

Andrew runs over and sinks down beside him. Shaking him, he tries to get him to look up.

ANDREW

Get up. Get up already. You get up, you hear me?

KENDRICK

'Drew.

ANDREW

What? Jesus, Kendrick, get up!

KENDRICK

When we get home, you better help me find my dog.

ANDREW

Your dog?? You, you...

And we PULL BACK as Andrew helps Kendrick to his feet. People start to move in around him, smoke swirls in the background.

Dirty, wet, ragged, soaked in someone else's blood Kendrick doesn't look much like a hero, but for the first time since he got home, he stands tall like one.

FADE OUT:

THE END