

"The Woman In The Blue Dress"

by

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FADE IN:

It is late evening. In complete darkness, a voice of restlessness quickly builds into a piercing shriek of terror as Sarah's face is illuminated momentarily, perhaps by moonlight coming through a window. She takes a moment to calm herself, than lays back down on her side of the bed. On the other side of the bed, a light turns on, illuminating Greg who is sitting up.

GREG

Okay, ummm...I just want you to know that these earth shattering screams in the middle of the night, they scare the shit out of me. We should work on that before we get married don't you think?

SARAH

(Buries under a pillow)

I'm sorry, okay.

GREG

Hey don't get mad. I was only...half joking.

(pause)

I'm going to take a wild stab at this...you were having another nightmare, right.

SARAH

Wow Greg, way to put those two years you spent in the pyschology department to good use.

GREG

It was about her, wasn't it?

(No answer)

Sarah, you've been dreaming about this person for the last month now.

SARAH

Three weeks and 2 days.

GREG

Right. Three weeks and 2 days. You've been having this recurring-

SARAH

I don't want to talk about it.

GREG

It's unhealthy, and it's never going to stop until...

SARAH

I already know what you're going to say. You think I should see your father, right?

(No answer)

God Greg, you're as predictable as a tv dinner"

GREG

My father is regarded as one of the top psychiatrists in the country.

SARAH

The last thing I want your father to think is that his son's fiancée is crazy.

GREG

That word is not in his professional vocabulary.

SARAH

I'm not talking about his professional vocabulary.

GREG

Sarah, he thinks the world of you.

SARAH

And I want to keep it that way.

GREG

(Beat)

I wish you could have known my mom. She would have liked you too.

SARAH

I wish I could have known your mother.

GREG

Me too.

SARAH

(Beat)

Greg. It was different this time.

GREG

How?

SARAH

She was coming at me. There was blood all over her face.

GREG

That's what you always dream about.

SARAH

She got close this time, and I...

GREG

What?

SARAH

I looked into her eyes. I saw fear in them. I had never seen that before. Then an ax came down on her and that's when I screamed and woke up.

GREG

Yeah, I would have too. Same blue dress?

SARAH

Same blue dress. I don't think she was after me this time. I think someone was after her.

GREG

Sarah, listen. A lot of people believe that when you dream about death, you're actually dreaming about starting a new chapter of your life and closing the door on an old part of it. It can be exhilarating and frightening at the same time. It makes sense, I mean our wedding is only a few months away...

SARAH

Two months and seventeen days.

GREG

Right. Our wedding is two months and seventeen days away and you're probably just getting nervous about it.

SARAH

Greg, nervous is sweaty palms and pacing back and forth. Nervous is not having a recurring nightmare about some gruesome bloody woman in a blue fucking dress chasing after me!

(Momentary pause. Then she starts to laugh, nervously)
Listen to me. I am completely loco.

GREG

My father could help you. Even if you don't want to see him, you could see one of his associates. At the very least, he can prescribe some pills.

SARAH

Maybe you're right.

(Looking at him)

I'll call. Okay. I can't promise you anything, but I'll call.

GREG

I love you.

SARAH

(Beat)

(more)

SARAH (CONTINUED)

Thanks for talking to me about this. You know, you sound like your dad when you're talking all that psychology mumbo jumbo. Although I can't imagine you in a tie and cardigan.

GREG

I know. My dad is a cross between Sigmund Freud and Mister Rogers. Chances are I will probably inherit his fashion sense. Like father like son, you know.

SARAH

Like father like son.

(Beat)

Greg.

GREG

Yes?

SARAH

(Long pause)

Good night.

(Sarah turns off her light and curls under the covers. Greg stares at her for a moment, then turns off his light. Blackout)

SCENE TWO

(Lights up on Sarah's Bedroom. There is a large wardrobe SR. Sarah's bed sits Center. Sarah enters with a gym bag. She drops the bag on the floor and picks up the phone and dials)

SARAH

Hi...Mr. Fitzgerald? Yeah, it's Sarah. Yes. Listen Greg didn't answer his home phone so I thought I would call to see if he was over there. I hope I'm not disturbing you. He is? Great. Thank you.

Sarah picks up the remote and turns on the TV while she waits. We hear a news report

Hey. Just wanted to let you know I'm home from my workout. I don't know. I'm pretty tired. Do you want to come over here? I'm going to take a shower and just curl up in bed, maybe watch some tv. Ok. I'll see you in a little bit. Greg. I love you. Bye.

Sarah turns up the volume on the TV and watches for a bit. As her eyelids become heavy, a news report is heard

NEWS REPORT

This in local news. The body of Amanda Sperling, a Tara Falls resident who was reported missing for over three weeks has been found by local authorities.

News report fades out as Sarah falls into a deep sleep. Lights fade to blackout

SCENE THREE

Later that night, the TV is off and Sarah is wrapped up in a blanket. It is very dim, but we can make out the silhouette of her bedroom window as it falls softly on her. After a few moments, we see the silhouette of the window slowly open. Sarah turns over, still asleep. Crying is heard. From out of the darkness, a woman appears but we cannot make out her face. She comes closer to us. Suddenly a flicker of light and her bloody face is revealed. More light, and we see her holding an ax. She slowly crosses to the side of Sarah's bed. The woman leans in towards Sarah and let's out a violent scream. Sarah screams back in horror. The woman drops her ax. Suddenly the woman's right arm goes up, as if someone is tugging on it. Then her left arm. She is now standing like a cross. One more violent tug on her body than she screams again and lights go to black. In the darkness we hear Sarah scramble for the light. She finally finds it and looks around. Nothing. Sarah turns on as many lights as she can possibly find in her room. She then picks up the TV remote and turns it on. Noise blares through the TV causing Sarah to jump. She quickly turns the volume down and we can make out the local news. Sarah picks up her phone and dials.

SARAH

Mr Fitzgerald? Hi, it's Sarah again. Has Greg left? How long? Ok. Thank you. No, everything's ok. I mean, I'm just a little scared. I'm sorry to bother you. I'll talk to you soon. Thanks.

Sarah calms herself down, crosses to the wardrobe and opens it. Sarah pulls out a bathrobe and goes offstage. We hear a shower turn on. After a short moment, we hear Sarah scream

SARAH (OS)

Dammit! Where did all the hot water go!

Sarah enters in her bathrobe. She carries on a bottle of lotion. She sits on the bed, applying lotion to her legs as she watches the News.

NEWS REPORT(V0)

Earlier this evening we reported that the body of missing Tara Falls resident Amanda Sperling was found. We now have further details of this recent discovery. On the crime scene is detective Lamberty.

DET. LAMBERTY (V0)

The body of Amanda Sperling was found at the residence of Doctor Theodore Fitzgerald. The body was discovered unclothed, and bludgeoned.

REPORTER (V0)

Detective Lamberty, can you confirm that Amanda Sperling was a patient of Doctor Fitzgerald?

DET. LAMBERTY(V0)

That's all the details we have for now. Thank you.

Sarah pulls herself together. She crosses to the large wardrobe, throws open the doors and screams in terror as she sees a blue dress, bloody and torn, hanging in the middle of her wardrobe. Sarah composes herself and slowly crosses to the wardrobe and reaches for the dress. Suddenly there is pounding at her door.

GREG(OS)

Sarah? Are you in there? I left my key at home. Will you let me in? Sarah?

Sarah cautiously walks back to the wardrobe as she shuts the doors, Mr. Fitzgerald appears from behind one of the doors. Sarah screams.

SARAH
Mr. Fitzgerald? What are you..?

MR FITZGERALD
I heard screaming.

SARAH
But..I just called you.

MR FITZGERALD
(Pulling out a cell phone)
Call forwarding.

GREG(OS)
Sarah! Are you alright? Let me in! Sarah!

SARAH
So you were just in the neighborhood?

MR FITZGERALD
No, I meant to come here. Greg tells me you've been having some nightmares. I came right over. You know, I don't usually make house calls, but since you'll be part of the family soon, I made an exception.

SARAH
They're looking for you.

MR FITZGERALD
Who?

SARAH
You know who. You killed her. The woman on TV.

MR FITZGERALD
Amanda Sperling? She wanted to die. She told me so during her therapy sessions. Like her dress? It was pretty at one point. I had to take it off of her though.

SARAH
Why?

MR FITZGERALD
So you can wear it next.

SARAH
Oh my god!

MR FITZGERALD

She's a whore Sarah. Slept around with everyone, even me. Poisoned her body with methamphetamines and alcohol. She wanted to die and I helped her. I'm a doctor.

GREG

Sarah! Sarah!

MR FITZGERALD

Now, I'm going to help you.

Sarah starts backing up towards the door.

MR FITZGERALD

(continuing)
Don't let him in Sarah.

Sarah continues to back up, getting closer to the door.

MR FITZGERALD

(screaming)
SARAH!!!!

Mr. Fitzgerald reveals a blood stained ax.

MR FITZGERALD

(continuing)
Does this look familiar? Seen this in your nightmares perhaps?

SARAH

Oh my god.

MR FITZGERALD

Don't open the door Sarah. Don't involve Greg in this. It will just get messier than it already is.

SARAH

You're his father. He's already involved!

Sarah throws open the door and Greg rushes in.

GREG

Sarah! Are you ok?

Sarah buries herself in Greg's chest.

SARAH

He killed her! He killed the woman...in the blue dress!

Dad!

GREG

Greg places his hands on Sarah's face and looks at her, calming her with his eyes. He slowly slides his hands down, smearing her face with blood.

GREG

(continuing)
Dad, I told you I wanted to kill her.

SARAH

Greg!

GREG

I love you Sarah. We could have had a wonderful life together, but you seemed to be a little hesitant about marrying me.

SARAH

Maybe it's because you're a sick fuck!

MR FITZGERALD

I don't think she's going to wear the dress now Greg.

Mr. Fitzgerald grabs Sarah's face.

MR FITZGERALD

I told you not to involve Greg in this. He's not as careful as his old man.

They each grab an arm and lock her into place. She has nowhere to go.

MR FITZGERALD

He's always leaving a mess. At first I frowned against using this ax. It just seemed so uncreative.
(Whispering in her ear)
But nothing beats the sound of bones crush when you strike it with an ax, Sarah. We both like that sound.

GREG

Yes we do.

MR FITZGERALD

Like father...
(Passing the axe to Greg)

GREG

...like son.

Father and son pull Sarah's arms, as she lets out one final scream. Blackout.