

GHOSTWOOD
A Twin Peaks Story
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EXT. WATERFALL - AFTERNOON

Water cascades majestically down the White Tail Falls, as it has done for centuries.

CHYRON: Tuesday, June 3rd, 1952

EXT. COURTYARD - AFTERNOON

Summertime at the Great Northern Hotel. The owner, J.J. HORNE, pulls up to the entrance in his black saloon car. He gets out and opens the back door for his twelve year-old son BEN. They are both wearing black suits. Their faces are ashen.

BEN

Father, is Mother going to
Heaven now?

J.J. winces. After a long pause, he turns around, and walks into the lobby of the hotel without saying a word. Ben is left standing on the tarmac alone.

INT. BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Ben walks into the bedroom he shares with his seven year-old brother JERRY. There are two single beds, and above each hangs a plaque with their names, "BEN" and "JERRY" carved out of wood in large, capital letters. Jerry is sitting on his bed, head lowered. The blinds are drawn and the room is dark.

Jerry's side of the room is decorated with dozens of pictures of Buffalo Bill, Zorro, Tonto and the Lone Ranger. Magazines and comics litter the floor and the bed. Ben's side of the room is sparse, with nothing on the walls except a few framed certificates from school.

On a knitted rug next to Ben's bed, a gleaming GREEN BIKE is propped up on display, with a red ribbon tied to the handlebars. Ben reaches out and touches it softly.

JERRY

He didn't get me anything.

BEN

You didn't go to the funeral.

JERRY
I couldn't.

BEN
You didn't want to.

Jerry lowers his head again.

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

Ben is riding his new bike down the hallway of the hotel. The rubber tires make a whoosh of friction on the carpets, and leave behind dark streaks here and there. He zips by an elderly MAID who is pushing a room service cart.

MAID
What do you think you're
doing, boy?

Ben stops the bike and walks back to where she's standing.

BEN
Don't address me that way.
Call me Benjamin or Mister
Horne. And I'll do whatever I
please on my own property.

MAID
You don't own anything here,
son. Do you know what your
daddy is going to say when he
sees these carpets?

BEN
I don't care what he says,
and I say you're fired. Pack
up your things and get out of
our house!

Ben storms off, bike in tow. The maid watches him leave.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben is lying awake in bed. Jerry is fast asleep. Ben hears a gentle RINGING sound emanating from somewhere in the room, but he can't quite place from exactly where.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

Ben and Jerry are walking through the woods. Ben is pulling along his new bike.

JERRY

You know that weird kid from school, Margaret? I heard her talking about a place called Jack Rabbit's Kingdom or something like that. She said to Ms. Helmsley that she found it around here while she was birdwatching. Weird kid, right? Hey, do you think we'll find it?

BEN

I don't know. Father told us not to wander too far.

JERRY

Aw, shucks, Ben. What's the harm? Afraid someone's gonna steal your new toy?

BEN

You're just jealous Father didn't get you one.

JERRY

You're the jealous one, because Mom didn't even tell you goodbye!

Ben stops and SLAPS Jerry hard across the face. Jerry is more shocked and surprised than hurt. Ben's anger fades and a hot shame washes over him.

BEN

I had to do that. For your own sake. You're too soft, Jerry, it's not good for you. You gave me no choice.

A strange WIND moves through the trees.

Ben senses that they're not alone. He looks over and about 25 feet away, in a small clearing between some trees, is JANE, a young blonde girl about Ben's age wearing a cardigan sweater and a plaid skirt. She is standing perfectly still, watching them.

JERRY

Let's keep going.

BEN

Nonsense. Pretty girls don't just fall from the sky. When you get older you'll understand. (TO GIRL) Hello?

She doesn't react in any way. Ben props his bike up against a nearby tree and approaches the girl. Jerry reluctantly follows.

BEN

What's your name? Mine's Ben, and this is my brother Jerry.

JANE

My name is Jane. Did you come from the place at the top of the falls?

BEN

The Great Northern? Our Father owns that place. Do you know it?

JANE

No one can own a place.

Ben and Jerry exchange a confused look.

BEN

Well, our Father bought the land and built the hotel there. It opened six months ago. He wants to buy this land, too, to build houses on, but he says that the Packards own it now.

Jane examines the boys with insect-like precision.

JANE

Something happened to you.

JERRY

Our mom's gone.

JANE

She didn't want you anymore.

JERRY

No, she passed away.

JANE

Passed away. That means she died.

BEN

You go to school in town? I haven't seen you around before.

JANE

I don't go to school.

JERRY

No school, huh? Must be nice! How about that, Ben? Think Dad would go for that?

BEN

He's expecting us back by now. We have to go.

JANE

Take me with you. Show me the place you came from.

BEN

No, I don't think that's a good idea. C'mon, Jerry, let's go.

Ben puts his arm around Jerry's shoulder and tries to lead him

back the way they came. He doesn't budge. Jerry's legs are locked in place. He is staring at Jane with a look of horror.

The wind in the trees intensifies. The tree branches around the clearing begin to SHAKE violently. Leaves, dirt and loose twigs start kicking up into the air in little tornadoes. Strangely, everything in their immediate circle remains completely still. The hairs on the back of Ben's neck stand up.

With a wolfish smile, Jane reaches into her sweater pocket and pulls out a matchbook. She lights a match. It makes a loud SUCKING sound when the match head ignites, like a jet-powered vacuum. It is as if the tiny flame is sucking up all of the air and sound in their bubble.

Ben and Jerry can hardly breathe. Jane seems unaffected. Ben feels Jerry start to panic, and holds his hand tight.

Jane holds the lit match out towards Jerry. For the first time Ben notices that Jane's fingertips are blackened and dirty with soot.

JANE

Do you want to play with
fire, little boy?

Ben places himself in front of Jerry protectively. The match gets closer and closer. Jane BLINKS her eyes and her pupils turn milky white. Her mouth opens into a vicious maw.

A tiny, high-pitched voice, sounding like a man who has inhaled too much helium, cuts through the strange air with an alarming clarity.

VOICE (O.S.)

That is not your foot!

There is a blinding FLASH of light, and a CRACKLING sound of electricity. Ben and Jerry both cover their faces with their hands.

EXT. WOODS - EVENING

Ben wakes up. Next to him, Jerry is curled up in a fetal ball. They are still at the clearing. Jane is nowhere to be seen.

In the distance, Ben hears men's voices shouting their names. People are looking for them. Ben shakes Jerry's shoulders.

BEN

Jerry! Jerry, wake up!

JERRY

Wh- wha- Ben? What happened?

BEN

It's OK, Jerry. You're safe.

JERRY

Where are we?

BEN

I don't know. I don't remember.

Jerry throws himself into Ben's arms and hugs him tight. Jerry starts to cry.

JERRY

Oh, Ben! Ben, I'm scared!

BEN

I know. Don't worry, Jerry.
Brother Ben is here.

Ben cradles his little brother as the voices of the men draw closer. Flashlights dance between the trees in the distance.

High above the boys, a spotted OWL sits perfectly still on the branch of a Douglas Fir. Unblinking. Watching.

END