

Late Night Drive

By

Andy Romero

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FADE IN

INT./EXT. DELIVERY VAN/COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

LEWIS, 30's, drives down the empty road. The radio's on, he sings to an 80's rock ballad. His PHONE buzzes on the hands free.

ON THE PHONE: BETH CALLING

He turns the music down and answers the call.

LEWIS

Hey Babe.

BETH

(O.C)

Hey. What time are you back?

LEWIS

About an hour I reckon. Why, what you got on?

BETH

I made spag bol.

LEWIS

Spag bol, you absolute gem. Garlic bread as well yeah?

BETH

Garlic bread as well don't worry. I'm on an early tomorrow though, so keep the noise down yeah?

LEWIS

Don't worry sleeping beauty, I know the drill.

BETH

That means no Fifa.

LEWIS

No fifa? I'm afraid I can't make that promise babe.

BETH

Just keep it down. I don't want you keeping me up.

LEWIS

Will do gorgeous, love you.

BETH
Love you too.

Beth hangs up. Lewis turns the music back up. He head bangs along.

Then-- His EYES WIDEN, he swerves suddenly to the right but it's too late. A huge something SMASHES into the front bumper. Something BIG.

The van comes to a screeching stop, rock music still playing. Lewis is in shock. He turns the engine off.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD. NIGHT

Lewis closes the door, stands in the middle of the road. He looks at a BUSH on the side of the road.

It GLOWS. A white LIGHT. The light pulsates, almost like a heartbeat.

Lewis runs to the front of the van, inspects the damage. The bumper is crushed, one of the headlights is smashed, barely working, the bonnet has a large dent.

He turns his attention back to the bush and approaches with trepidation. The intensity from the light becomes weaker.

Lewis pauses at the foot of the bush, nervously separates the branches. He stares, blinks several times in disbelief. We don't see what he sees. Lewis gasps, turns away, puts his hands on his head in horror.

His hands shake as he watches the light from the bush go out. Alone in the darkness.

LEWIS
(Quietly)
No. No, no. It can't be.

Lewis approaches the bush and looks again, almost throws up.

He takes a deep breath. Pulls apart the brambles once more and there it is. We see it now.

A UNICORN.

It's eyes are rolled into the back of its head, it's huge glistening HORN protrudes from it's forehead and it's mane is covered in multi coloured sparkles which are rapidly losing their shine.

Lewis gets on his hands and knees, strokes the top of its head, distraught. He lies down next to it, rests his head on it's body in grief.

LEWIS
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

The unicorn begins to GLOW a shade of orange. Lewis abruptly snaps up to his feet, a burning sensation on his hands and face.

The unicorn begins to DISINTEGRATE.

He watches in awe as the unicorn turns completely into a pile of ASH and FLIES AWAY into the night sky. Lewis SCREAMS in a confused panic.

INT. DELIVERY VAN - MOVING - NIGHT

Lewis drives. No radio, no nothing. He stares out at the open road.

EXT. CAR PARK - SUPERMARKET DEPOT - NIGHT

A CAR PARK on an industrial estate. Lewis pulls into a bay, gets out. He walks towards the entrance and enters two double doors.

INT. OFFICE - SUPERMARKET DEPOT. NIGHT

Lewis sits opposite his manager, TONY, 40's.

TONY
A horse?

LEWIS
Yes.

TONY
A fucking horse, Lewis?

LEWIS
Yes, did ya not hear what I just said?

TONY
Well how'd you manage that? How did you not see it?

LEWIS
It just ran out. I didn't hit it on purpose did I!

TONY
Well where is it now?

LEWIS
How am I supposed to know? It ran off.

Tony shakes his head.

TONY
Come on then, show us the damage.

EXT. CAR PARK - SUPERMARKET DEPOT. NIGHT

Tony and Lewis stand in front of the van. There is NO DAMAGE.

TONY
This a windup?

LEWIS
The bumper, the headlights, they were...

TONY
Look, are you feeling alright mate?

LEWIS
Tony, I'm fine.

TONY
Cause you're acting like a proper weirdo, even more than usual.

LEWIS
I'm telling you I got out, I looked and...

Lewis looks back to the front of the van. Immaculate paintwork.

TONY
Lewis I'm gonna ask you something now and you have to tell me the truth.

LEWIS
Go on.

TONY
Are you on drugs?

LEWIS
No I'm not on drugs!

TONY
Then what is this, eh? Am I on candid camera? Am I being pranked? I like those shows but I never want to be on one..

Tony looks around for hidden cameras.

LEWIS
You're not being pranked.

TONY
Who was it? Benji? Did he put ya put up to this?

LEWIS
No. I... I don't know what's going on.

BEAT. Tony gives him a disapproving look.

TONY
Well whoever it was, tell em' they'll have to do better next time.

Tony scoffs, chuckles to himself, walks back towards the office. Lewis stares at the bumper of the van in confusion.

EXT. LEWIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A detached house in a quiet suburban neighbourhood.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LEWIS'S HOUSE. NIGHT/MORNING

Lewis sits on the sofa, stares into space. The only light comes from a small lamp in the corner of the room.

TIME CUT

Lewis stares at the exact same spot, in exactly the same position. Daylight pours into the room from the window and the patio doors.

BETH, 30's, Lewis's girlfriend and wife to be enters. She gathers her purse and keys, sees Lewis not moving.

BETH
There you are. I was wondering where
you'd got to. Did you have to stay
late?

Lewis doesn't answer.

BETH (cont'd)
Hello? Earth to Lewis? Have you been
here all night?

Lewis looks at her, tired and confused.

LEWIS
Beth.

BETH
Yeah?

LEWIS
You know we can talk to each other
about anything, yeah?

BETH
Yeah. Why, what's wrong?

LEWIS
I... I don't know if you'd believe me
if I told you.

Beth sits next to him on the edge of the sofa.

BETH
Try me.

Lewis swallows.

LEWIS
Well in the van... last night...

BETH
Yeah?

LEWIS
I was driving and I... I hit
something.

BETH
Oh God. Lewis please don't tell me...

LEWIS
It wasn't that.

BETH
A dog?

LEWIS
No.

BETH
Then what?

Lewis looks down, knowing what he's about to say is ridiculous.

LEWIS
It doesn't matter. Forget I said anything.

BETH
Yes it does matter, tell me right now!

LEWIS
It was a unicorn alright!

BEAT. Beth laughs, playfully slaps him on the shoulder.

BETH
You bastard. You really had me going then. Right, I better head off.

Beth goes to stand up but Lewis pulls her back down and looks her dead in the eye.

LEWIS
I'm serious.

BETH
What?

LEWIS
(Almost crying)
It's eating me up inside. I don't know what to do.

Beth's confused.

BETH
Have you taken something?

LEWIS
No..

BETH
Are you on drugs?

LEWIS

No I'm not on drugs. Why does everyone think I'm on drugs?!

BETH

Have you been hanging out with Jamie? You know I don't approve of his lifestyle.

LEWIS

No!

BETH

He's slipped you something hasn't he?

LEWIS

No he fucking hasn't! I haven't seen Jamie in years.

BEAT. Beth knows he's serious.

BETH

Did you tell Tony?

LEWIS

Yeah but, the van wasn't damaged when I got back.

BETH

But, you hit this... thing... with the van?

LEWIS

Yes, yes I hit it. Really hard and I watched it die. It died in my arms.

BETH

Well... what happened after you hit it?

LEWIS

It sort of... dissolved into dust or something and... flew off.

Lewis is distraught. Beth looks concerned. She stands up.

BETH

OK well, maybe call in sick today. Perhaps you'll be thinking a bit more clearly later on.

LEWIS

I am thinking clearly!

Lewis stares at the wall, angry, upset and confused all at the same time.

BETH
Don't forget your spag bol's in the
fridge.

Lewis is zoned out. Beth gently lifts his chin, puts her face close to his.

BETH
Hey, I love you.

LEWIS
I love you too.

Beth smiles, gives him a peck on the lips and leaves.

INT. DELIVERY VAN. DAY

Lewis drives as if on autopilot. No music. Zoned out.

INT. BEDROOM - LEWIS'S HOUSE. NIGHT

Beth and Lewis lie in bed. Beth is fast asleep beside him. Lewis is wide awake.

INT. STUDY. NIGHT

Lewis sits at his cluttered DESK. Pages and pages of PAPER sit on the desk as he scribbles furiously on another piece of paper in front of him.

ON THE PAPER: The dead UNICORN. It's brilliantly drawn.

Beside him are many other depictions of the same image, all slightly different.

Beth enters. Lewis doesn't look up from his drawing. She stands bewildered. Lewis's is in a trance like state.

BETH
Baby?

Lewis jumps, almost dropping his pencil.

LEWIS
You scared me. What do you want?

Beth approaches the desk, looks at the pages.

Beth inspects the pages.

BETH
I didn't know you could draw like
this.

LEWIS
Neither did I. Good isn't it?

BETH
Why are you doing this?

BEAT. Lewis contemplates his answer. He's not sure himself.

LEWIS
It was pure....innocent. And I killed
it.

Beth nods with sadness.

BETH
Lewis you're scaring me.

LEWIS
I'm telling the truth!

BEAT. Beth pauses by the door.

BETH
Don't stay up too late. You need some
rest.

She leaves. Lewis looks at his desk covered in his drawings.
Wide eyed, almost possessed.

INT. BEDROOM. MORNING

Lewis lies in bed, stares up at the ceiling. We hear the
sound of keys jingling, various items being picked up.

BETH
(O.C)
Can you mow the lawn today? You've
been saying you'd do it for months
now.

Lewis continues to stare at the ceiling.

LEWIS
Will do.

END OF EXTRACT