

The Call

Author

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Inspired by 1 Kings 19:1-14

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1. INT. NEW YORK APARTMENT - DUSK

Eli stands over a body laying on the floor. He is tense and breathing heavily from some physical effort. His hands are bruised, possibly bloody.

He blinks several times, his mind coming back to the present moment. He looks at the body on the ground. He looks around him.

2. INT. NEW YORK BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Eli washes his hands wincing from the pain.

He wraps his hands in bandages

3. INT. NEW YORK BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Eli paces with a phone to his ear.

ELI

We need to talk. I think I've made a big mistake. Please call me when you get this.

4. INT. NEW YORK APARTMENT - LATER

Eli wrapping the body in a blanket. The body is heavy and unweildy. He is not making short work of it.

He grabs a car key off the table not seeing the wallet partially covered by some papers.

5. INT. STAIRWELL

The thuds and grunts of sliding an uncooperative body down the stairs. Eli leans out peaking up the stairs checking his back.

6. EXT. NEW YORK STREET - NIGHT

After looking up and down the block Eli heads back inside.

7. INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Eli tries to quickly drag the body out the door.

## 8. EXT. NEW YORK STREET - CONTINUOUS

The trunk of the car shuts with a click. Eli checks to see if anyone has entered the block. He is agitated. He checks his phone. He makes another call. No answer. As he turns around . . .

JEZEBEL

Eli!

ELI

. . . Jez.

JEZEBEL

What are you doing? Are . . . are you going on a trip?

ELI

No. I . . . I just need to get away.

JEZEBEL

Get away from . . .

(Pause)

I tried calling you.

(Pause)

Whoa. What happened to your hands?

ELI

Nothing. I . . . I fell. I . . . I got to go.

Eli gets into his car as quickly as possible at the sound of the door closing

CUT TO:

## 9. EXT. THE ROAD - NIGHT

MONTAGE: Leaving the city, Driving out in the country, ETC.

## 10. INT. CAR

Eli reaches for his phone, looking for a message. He's not paying adequate attention to the road. . . HONK!!! . . . A large truck barrels past the drivers side window.

## 11. INT. REST STOP - MORNING

Eli takes a lone sausage and egg biscuit out of the warmer. He hands the biscuit, an orange juice, and a banana to the cashier.

CASHIER  
Nine seventy-three.

Eli reaches for his wallet. It's not there.

ELI  
Sorry. I must have left my wallet  
in the car

12. EXT. REST STOP - CONTINUOUS

Eli searches his car. The center console, the glove box, under the seats and finally around the body. In a last ditch effort he checks the body's pockets.

13. INT. REST STOP - CONTINUOUS

Eli places some change on the counter. He looks desperate.

ELI  
Is this enough for the banana?

The clerk looks Eli over. He rings up the banana and places it in a bag. He then puts the biscuit and juice in the bag as well and hands it to Eli.

Eli slowly takes the bag. He doesn't say anything. He nods to his benefactor and leaves.

14. EXT. THE ROAD - DAY

The car is no longer on a highway but a small country road.

Eli has stopped at an intersection. He is out of the car holding the cell phone over his head, staring at the screen. He lowers the phone

CLOSE UP OF SCREEN

Eli sends 2 text messages. "Where are you?" and then "I need to talk to you."

15. EXT. CABIN - DAY

The car pulls up the driveway. The modest cabin is surrounded by woods overlooking a valley

Eli gets out and checks his phone. No signal.

16. EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Sounds of a shovel striking the earth cut through the still air.

Eli is bent over his work, a modest pile of dirt beginning to form

17. EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Eli stands over a hole that is finally big enough. He drags the body to the hole and dumps it in. as the body is dumped, the sheet covering it's face falls loose. It's Eli's face. It's wearing Eli's clothes.

Eli stands over his body staring down.

He begins to fill in the hole.

18. INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Eli sits in a chair. He is covered in dirt. His phone rests on the table in front of him.

19. INT. CABIN - MORNING

Eli sits in the same position. The phone beeps. A text message. He grabs the phone off the table.

CLOSE UP OF PHONE

From Josh: Go outside.

20. EXT. CABIN - MORNING

Eli comes out on the porch. He looks around but no one is there. He is completely alone.

The wind gently rustles the trees. Is there a whisper on the wind?

Looking out over the valley below Eli begins to weep.

BLACK