

Zachary and Mildred
(a zombie love story)
by
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EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The antique film sputters and pops, coming in and out of distort. Our view is on the naked earth beneath the two wooden chairs. As we rise up from the ground view we see the back of two nude women sitting in the wooden chairs.

Voodoo dance chants and drums fill our ears. The film continues to fight its way along, groaning and hissing as it tries not to scramble itself.

One woman is blond. The other, a brunette. Their hands are loosely bound by a ceremonious hemp tether. The bound hands hold one another. The brunette has an I.V. tube which leads to an I.V. bag on a pole.

In the distance beyond the women is a bonfire. Dancing directly in front of the women, saying an ancient and dark chant, is a witch doctor. He holds an amulet into view. Shaking it between the women's heads.

Another male figure comes into view, but it is shadowed so that we can't make it out.

The ancient film show real finally falls to pieces and burns out.

EXT. CITY - DAY

The fog is thick in the cold birth of the November morning. The commuter traffic angrily pushes forward on its way to work. We find a certain reaffirmation in the grind of the day. We have lived through the night.

EXT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

We look up at the high rise urban apartment complex.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The lobby of the apartment complex is a throw back to earlier times. The colors are warm and earthy, yet obviously manufactured and urban.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The elevator climbs to the top floor.

**INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/DINING ROOM - MOMENTS
LATER**

The plate of bacon and eggs sits on the dining table. A hand lifts the metal fork and gathers a bite of breakfast. The food is lifted up to ZACHARY's mouth. He chews with great concentration as he stares across the table with troubled, saddened eyes.

Zachary looks to be a sweaty-toothed madman. He is grizzled and withdrawn. His greasy hair sticks up in places, avoiding the obvious brushing it has received. He looks like a man who has fought too many battles and seen too many nights without sleep or comfort.

We continue around him as he lifts his glass of milk from the table. He pauses before drinking and his rusted-metal voice says:

ZACHARY

You haven't touched your food,
darling.

We now look from behind Zachary to see MILDRED across the table.

ZACHARY AS MILDRED

I guess I'm not hungry, dear.
Feeling a bit wobbly to my
tummy this morning.

ZACHARY

Says Mildred... Oh no, Mildred.
I'm sorry to hear that! Maybe
your pregnant.

Silent pause.

Mildred is propped up in her chair. Her dead eyes stare across the room at nothing at all. Rigamortis has clearly set in. Her skin looks pale and almost light-blue. She is a very pretty for a dead girl.

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CONTINUED:

A kitchen knife has been buried between her breasts, and her once pale yellow shirt is now soaked in drying blood.

ZACHARY AS MILDRED

You're a silly man... Zachary darling, would you be a dear and pour me a bath. A little freshen up, and I'm sure I'll feel right as rain.

ZACHARY

Of course, honey.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sunlight beams through the frosted window and gives the room an ethereal quality as we hear the gentle sound of water in the tub. Zachary kneels beside the large, white, porcelain tub. The bloody kitchen knife sits on the tile floor next to him.

The water in the tub is red from the blood as Zachary uses a washcloth to bathe Mildred's dead body. We can see the wound from the kitchen knife. It is open, but no blood comes out of it due to the lack of a beating heart.

ZACHARY

There we go, honey. Good as new.

He drops the cloth into the water and begins to use his hands to slowly wash over her. His focus seems less than pure-minded.

ZACHARY AS MILDRED

Don't get fresh now. I'm plenty clean. Now you're just being a filthy little boy.

ZACHARY

Can you blame me? Come on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZACHARY AS MILDRED

There's a time and a place
Zachary. My body is a temple.

Zachary slumps back away from the tub. He lays on his back on the bathroom floor. He picks up the kitchen knife and inspects it.

ZACHARY

Right you are. Right you are,
darling... Right you are.

**INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS
LATER**

Zachary's hand puts the needle onto the spinning record. After a couple of crackles and pops, a beautiful old love song fills the air.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zachary has dressed Mildred in a silky nightgown. He holds her up and drags her feet in a slow dance. Her body seems awkward for him to handle, but has a beauty to it as he sways with her. The mid-day sun shines through the window.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The record's love song continues as Zachary pulls back the comforter and lays Mildred down on the bed.

ZACHARY

I've missed you so much...

He kisses her.

ZACHARY (CONT'D)

I miss you so much.

Zachary makes love to Mildred's corpse.

The music continues.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

When it stops, all we hear is Zachary reaching climax inside of the dead girl's body.

He rolls off of her. His breathing is huge. He begins to cry. He sobs and wales as we exit the room.

EXT. CITY - DAY

We look out over the busy city. Life keeps on humming along. The traffic on the highway. The business-as-usual pace of the day.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - DAY

Zachary sleeps restlessly in the bed. HE WAKES AND SITS UP SUDDENLY!! His breathing is as though he has just escaped a hideous nightmare!! Perhaps this has all been a dream?

Zachary BOLTS FROM THE BED AND DASHES TO THE WINDOW, THROWING OPEN THE CURTAIN!!

We look out the window. The sun has not gone down yet, but it will very soon.

Zachary breathes deep. Relieved. He looks back to the bed. Mildred lies in repose upon the bed. Zachary brushes the hair back away from her face. He stands and admires her beauty like the proud owner of a fine work of art.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zachary puts the flowers in a vase on the bed side table.

He stands there for a moment, soaking it in and building up his hopes.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zachary ties Mildred's hand to the bed post with a hemp rope.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zachary ties Mildred's foot to the bed post.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Other hand.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Other foot.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zachary slumps down to the floor against the wall...

He produces the kitchen knife.

His face is fraught with worry.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/LIVING ROOM - SUNDOWN

The sun sets out the window.

We pan the room and see that record player is still spinning with the needle circling the center. We see a framed photo of a younger, healthier Zachary holding a different woman. They look very much in love. Next to the photo is the voodoo amulet that we saw in the opening film show.

EXT. CITY - SUNSET

The sun sets.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mildred's dead body is tied to the bed. Her silky nightgown hangs from her pale, lifeless body.

We travel up her body to her face. Her dead eyes are closed, and for a moment she almost looks to be just asleep.

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CONTINUED:

Her eyes open. She breathes in the breath of life. Confusion sets in. Worry streaks across her face. She pulls her hands to her face, but discovers that they are tied. SHE IMMEDIATELY STARTS TO STRUGGLE!!!

MILDRED

What the fuck!!?!?! HELP!
HEEEELLLPPPP!!! AAAAHHHHHH!!!!

Zachary springs to his feet and stands over Mildred. He watches her struggle for a moment, until she sees him and stops.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

Hey! Help me! Untie me!!
UNTIE ME!!! HEY!!! HEY!!!
UNTIE ME PLEASE!!! HEY!!! WHY
AM I TIED!!?!?!? WHY AM I...
Who are you?

ZACHARY

Welcome back, Mildred darling.
I've missed you terribly...
Terribly.

Mildred pulls hard against her tethers. No avail.

MILDRED

My names not Mildred. Who the
fuck are you!!?!? MY NAME IS..
MY NAME IS NOT MILDRED, YOU
FUCK!!! WHO THE FUCK ARE
YOU!!?!? UNTIE ME YOU
GODDAMN..

Mildred ceases her struggles. She begins to cry softly to herself.

ZACHARY

Shhhh. It's ok, honey. It's
ok.

Zachary sits on the bed next to the crying Mildred. He wipes the tears from her cheeks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ZACHARY (CONT'D)

There there honey. There
there.. I'm here. Zachary's
here.

At the sound of his name she CONVULSES OUT OF
CONTROL!!!

He hops from the bed and takes the knife off of the
bedside table.

Once she subsides..

ZACHARY (CONT'D)

I got you some flowers,
darling... the man delivered
them this morning with the
groceries.

MILDRED

Oh my God! Oh my God, please
don't rape me! PLEASE DON'T
RAPE ME!! PLEASE DON'T RAPE
ME!!!! HELP!! HELP!!!!
HEL....

Zachary puts his hand over Mildred's mouth!

ZACHARY

Don't say that!! DON'T SAY
THAT!!!... Shhhh shhhh.
Mildred. Mildred, we don't
have time for this. WE DON'T
HAVE TIME FOR THIS MILDRED!!!!
MILDRED!! Mildred, shhh.
Shhh, honey. Shhhh. It's ok.
It's ok. It's ok. It'll all
be ok...

Her struggling gives in and stops.

ZACHARY (CONT'D)

Mildred.. Mildred we lost the
baby. We lost the baby,
Mildred.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Zachary slumps over and begins to cry on Mildred's chest.

MILDRED

My name is Julie.

Zachary sits up. He looks confused and affronted.

ZACHARY

Why do you always say that?!!!!?

MILDRED

My name is JULIE!!

She shrieks!!!

Zachary is on his feet. He paces with the kitchen knife. Mildred/Julie sees the knife and takes in his dismay. She is now scared and thinking strategically.

MILDRED/JULIE

Zachary? Zachary. It's me,
Mildred. Zachary. Zachary,
untie me. I feel better now.
I feel better, Zachary. It's
me..

Mildred/Julie convulses as if dry heaving a vomit. Her face flushes and she starts to shake like a vibrator. Her voice groans out in pain and begins to shift to the sound of a demon.

Her flesh has changed. She looks like a three-day-dead demon corpse. Her eyes are now evil and possessed.

MILDRED/JULIE/ZOMBIE

ZZZAAACCHHHAARRYYYY....
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZACHARY! I'm gonna
eat your fucking shriveled,
uncircumcised, penis! I'm
gonna rip you throat open and
piss in the hole!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Zachary backs himself up against the closed bedroom door. Tears stream down his face as he holds the kitchen knife at ready.

Mildred's voice becomes all distorted and she begins to speak in tongues.

MILDRED/JULIE/ZOMBIE (CONT'D)

RRRUUMPFLOOMBT! RIZZ CASS
SHIENDEL HAMOFERY

She begins to struggle against the ropes.

MILDRED/JULIE/ZOMBIE (CONT'D)

ZADOK SHEZZEL MILEFORDZINE!!!
MILEFORDZINE!!! SHEZZEL!
BIELZEL!!

One by one the ropes snap.

Zachary sits in the ready with his kitchen knife.

Finally the zombie is freed from her bonds! She snaps into the attack ready position!

Zachary readies his blade.

Mildred/Julie/Zombie leaps from the bed onto Zachary!!! His blade sinks into her chest!! Blood covers the floor. Zachary balls and cries in his mournful loss of his companion.

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INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The lobby of the apartment complex is a throw back to earlier times. The colors are warm and earthy, yet obviously manufactured and urban.

The elevator climbs to the top floor.

INT. CITY/APARTMENT BUILDING/KITCHEN

A skillet sizzles bacon grease. Zachary's hand cracks an egg and pours it into the skillet. He does another.

THE END