

THE LAKE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Behind a desk in flannel shirt and jeans, JACK REYNOLDS (42) tired eyes and wrinkled brow, looks at a framed photo of himself as a teen with his twin brother Matt.

In the photo they stand at the end of a dock, Jack with a pole in his hand, Matt holding up a big fish.

With effort, Jack gets up and shuts out the light.

HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

As he approaches the front door a RECEPTIONIST (40), smiles cheerfully when he walks by.

RECEPTIONIST

Hope you catch a big one, Jack.

JACK

(emotionless)

Thanks. See ya next week.

INT. FORD PICK-UP - MORNING

It's peaceful. No other cars in sight on this winding road surrounded by a forest of towering pines.

Both windows are wide open blowing Jack's salt and pepper hair. He takes in a deep breath of fresh air.

Up ahead, a street sign marks a narrow dirt road. Jack slows down and turns.

Dirt billows around the car, he closes both windows.

FLASHBACK

INT. STATION WAGON - DAY

Jack (10) and his brother MATT laugh and bounce around the back of the car as it turns down the same dirt road.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Modest cabin, set back in the dense woods, overlooks a beautiful lake.

Jack parks the truck, gets out and grabs a duffel bag, fishing pole and bouquet of flowers from the back.

He stops to gaze at the lake. A worn tire swing hangs from a branch of a tall tree.

FLASHBACK

EXT. CABIN

Jack (16) watches as Matt swings over the lake on the tire. He jumps off, doing a back flip. SPLASH.

The sound of hands clapping comes from the opposite side of the lake.

LAURA ROBINSON (16), a girl of simple beauty, stands at the end of a small dock and cheers Matt on.

He pops out of the water, throws his hands up in victory.

JACK

You're a show off, Matt!

MATT

Let's see you do better!

Jack accepts the challenge. He climbs on the swing, gets a good speed going then jumps off, completing a double front flip. SPLASH. Laura claps excitedly.

Any fun in the game has worn off for Matt. He scowls but Jack doesn't notice. He only sees Laura smile.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

The flowers are now in a vase on the table.

Jack puts a couple more logs on the fire then walks into the bedroom.

BEDROOM - LATER

Jack is asleep although he doesn't look peaceful.

DREAM SEQUENCE

EXT. STATION WAGON - NIGHT

The car is parked in a clearing that overlooks the lake.

In the distance, lights glow from each of the cabins on both sides of the misty lake.

The windows of the car are steamed up. Moans along with the muffled sound of the radio, come from inside.

Leaves crunch under foot as someone approaches the car.

A hand slowly reaches for the handle and opens the car door. A female screams. Her voice echoes over the lake.

BACK TO SCENE

BEDROOM

An owl SCREAMS, it sounds eerily like the scream in Jack's dream.

Startled, he wakes and quickly sits up. His eyes wide open, he's sweaty and out of breath.

He exhales, puts his face in his hands.

EXT. LAKE - AFTERNOON

Jack fishes off the end of the dock. He stares reflectively at the dock and directly across the lake.

A fish tugs on his line.

FLASHBACK

Jack (10) and Matt fish off the end of the same dock. Matt has a big fish in his bucket, Jack has none.

Suddenly a tug on Jack's line.

JACK

I got a big one!

He begins to reel it in. Both boys watch intently, waiting to see what comes up.

LAURA (O.S.)

Looks like you caught a whopper!

Both boys look up at Laura (10). She waves.

LAURA

I'm Laura. My family just bought this place.

The boys are dumbstruck, love revealed in their eyes.

BACK TO PRESENT

Without emotion, Jack reels in a big fish, unhooks it and puts it in the bucket.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Jack sits at the table and eats his fish dinner. A bright light briefly shines in the window.

He looks out, sees a car pull up to the cabin across the lake. The headlights turn off and the shadow of a person gets out of the car and walks to their cabin.

He looks towards the flowers, takes a deep breath and returns to his meal.

EXT. CABIN - MIDNIGHT

A full moon lights the way as Jack walks to the dock carrying the bouquet of flowers.

FLASHBACK

INT. STATION WAGON - NIGHT

The windows are fogged and MUSIC plays from the radio as Jack and Laura kiss passionately in the front seat.

The driver's door opens, startling them. Standing at the door is Matt, look of heartbreak on his face.

EXT. DOCK - LATER

A full moon shines down on Matt, who stands at the end of the dock. He holds a large black rock bound in rope which is tied to his ankle.

The station wagon pulls up to Laura's cabin across the lake. Jack and Laura get out. They look over and notice Matt standing on the opposite dock.

The three of them make eye contact. Jack sees the rock, then the rope. A look of terror washes over his face.

SPLASH.

Laura screams. It echoes over the lake.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. DOCK

Jack stands at the end of the dock. He waits.

From out of the darkness, Laura (42) walks to the end of her dock and stands directly across from him. She too holds a bouquet of flowers.

They exchange sad smiles as they gaze at one another from afar. Simultaneously they throw their flowers into the dark lake.

Laura wipes a tear from her cheek. Jack's pain is unmistakable.

He puts his hand up to gesture goodbye, Laura does the same.

They both turn and walk up their docks and into the darkness.

The flowers drift peacefully through the misty, moonlit lake.

FADE OUT