

STAY THE NIGHT

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Episode 1

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INT. BASEMENT SURGICAL ROOM - NIGHT

NARRATOR

RACHEL opens her eyes in a fog. Heavy white light washes out her face. She looks around waking up from a drugged haze and squints her eyes. The smell of bleach stings her nostrils. She's laying on white sheets on a metal hospital bed. Rachel tries to move, only to discover her wrists and ankles are tied up with rope. A man's feet thumping down a flight of rickety basement stairs. The rope cutting her skin as she struggles.

Rachel begins letting out small guttural grunts as she struggles. Rachel yelps getting a wrist free.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Rachel manages to get one wrist free. The footsteps stop. She hears the attacker's footsteps come closer and closer. She sits up and yanks the ropes tying her ankles to the bed. Rachel looks around. Everything is blurry, and white; she can make out an old fashioned hospital room. Large white tiles from the 1950's on the floor. Everything looks as if she's gone back in time.

Clomp, as the foot steps reach the bottom of the stairs.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Rachel has one foot free, and claws at the rope that still confines her to the bed. A surgeon stands in the door way, in a full tooth paste green surgical scrubs, gloves, and mask. He's a towering older white man with steely eyes. Rachel pauses, squinting at him through the bright light, in her drugged state. The Surgeon comes closer. Rachel's eyes widen in terror. She slides her ankle out of the last rope and leaps from the bed. From a cart of surgical tools, Rachel grabs a scalpel as the Surgeon lunges for her. She stabs him in the leg.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Bright red blood squirts onto her face and across his scrubs.

He lets out a deep groan in pain.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Rachel starts to back up as he stumbles forward with the scalpel still lodged in his leg. Rachel pushes through the large heavy metal doors and runs. The Surgeon wraps his latex gloved hand around the scalpel and yanks it out his leg.

INT. KITCHEN NIGHT

NARRATOR

Rachel bursts from the basement into a dated 1950's kitchen. Rachel spots the back door and dashes towards it.

Ext. NEWMAN HOUSE - NIGHT

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

She emerges from the large two story house. And sprints to an old beat up maroon Chevy pick-up truck. Rachel tries to open the car door. The silhouette of the Surgeon fills the doorway. Rachel crouches down, hiding by the other side of the truck. Rachel peeks from behind the car as the Surgeon scans the back yard with his cold eyes. He sees her foot prints on the dirt around the truck. She drops on her belly and shuffles under the car. His large feet walk around to the side where Rachel was hiding. He pauses and starts to look somewhere else.

SURGEON

Gotcha!

Rachel lets out a shriek.

NARRATOR

The Surgeon yanks Rachel out from under the car.

RACHEL

No! No! No!

NARRATOR

He drags her by her hair back towards the house. Rachel grabs the door frame pulling herself away from him. He yanks harder and harder. Rachel's scalp begins to tear. The Surgeon falls down with a chunk of hair and scalp in his hand. She run for the woods, sprinting as fast as she can.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

NARRATOR

Rachel makes it from the clearing into the woods. She looks behind her, the attacker is not in sight.

METAL CRUNCH BONES SNAPPING

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

An old rusty bear trap clamps down on her ankle snapping into her bones. She tries to pull the trap apart. The Surgeon stands above her.

Rachel lets out a blood curdling scream.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

STAY THE NIGHT!

Credits.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

NARRATOR

Spring pollen dances in the sleepy cul-de-sac of a suburban neighborhood. A modest two story house is nestled between lush trees. The red shutters match the front door.

INT. AVA AND BEN'S HOUSE - DAY

NARRATOR

AVA in her early 30's, is 8 months pregnant, long hair, bright eyes. She's glowing. Her maternity business suit is stretched tight across her belly. She's putting her pearl earrings as she waddles down the hall.

AVA

Ben?

NARRATOR

Ava opens up a white bedroom door. Inside BEN is painting the room pink. So far only half of the room is done. Ben is in his early 30's. He is the kind of man you'd call when you need help moving, or a ride to the airport. The windows are open and Ben has his headphones on. He dances around with the paint roller in one hand, bobbing his head to the music. He dips the brush into the bucket and continues painting the wall. Ben takes an earbud out.

BEN

What are you doing?

NARRATOR

He rushes Ava out of the room, gently putting a hand on her back.

BEN

The paint fumes, they're not good for the baby.

AVA

I was calling your name.

BEN

I couldn't hear you.

AVA

I just got a call. The Roger's accepted the offer. I'm officially going to close on my last house.

BEN

Congratulations! How does it feel
to be retired?

NARRATOR

Ava walks down the hall towards the
staircase as Ben follows.

AVA

I'm not retired yet. I've got to go
over the contract and get
everything signed. They don't
believe in e-mails so everything
has to be done in person. But they
waived all the contingencies, so
there's no way they can back out of
this deal. A few more meetings and
I'm done!

NARRATOR

Ava gives Ben a kiss and walks down
a flight of stairs. Ben stands at
the top looking at her from over
the railing.

BEN

Do you want me to drive?

AVA

I'll be alright. I'm not due for
another month.

BEN

You sure?

AVA

Yes. Totally sure.

BEN

Ava?

BEN (CONT'D)

You're not retiring, you're taking
on the hardest job in the world;
Mom.

NARRATOR

Ava smiles. She steps out and shuts
the door.

INT. CAR - DAY

NARRATOR

Ava is driving her sedan. Her belly is wedged against the steering wheel. The car stops at a red light.

A car crashes into Ava's car, sending it toppling over.

INT. CAR - DAY

Ava awakens from her nightmare.

BEN

Did you have that dream again?

AVA

Yeah.

BEN

It's been five months.

AVA

I know. I know. I can't help it.

Ava's phone starts ringing.

BEN

You should answer, it could be a job offer.

AVA

Can we stop?

BEN

We're making great time.

AVA

I just, I just, need a break from being in a car. The dream, it got me.

BEN

Yeah, of course, we can pull over.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

NARRATOR

The sun beams down on a black sedan as it whips pass the state lines.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

A sign reads: WELCOME TO SOUTH
CAROLINA SMILING FACES BEAUTIFUL
PLACES.

INT. CAR - DAY

BEN

We made it to South Carolina.
Smiling faces happy places, that's
a good state motto? Right?

AVA

That's what the sign says, but the
official motto is 'Dum spiro
spero'. While I breathe, I hope.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

NARRATOR

Ava and Ben pull up to a quaint old
fashioned gas station.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

NARRATOR

Inside, Ben is paying at the
register. Ava comes out of the
bathroom. DEPUTY NELSON is behind
Ben in line holding a couple of
items to purchase.

BEN

I want to pay for his stuff too.

NELSON

No no, it's alright.

BEN

You guys do so much. It's the least
I can do.

NARRATOR

Ava suppresses a smile watching Ben
pay for the cop.

NELSON

Thank you.

NELSON (CONT'D)
I thought I knew everyone in this town. Are your new around here? Or just passing through?

BEN
Passing through, my wife and I are on a road trip.

NARRATOR
Ben looks around and spots Ava.

BEN
(To Ava)
Ava come over here.
We're headed to Florida.
(To Ava)

Ava walks over.

NELSON
Nice to meet you. I'm deputy Nelson.

AVA
Is someone missing?

NELSON
Just putting out some flyers.

AVA
What do you think happened?

NELSON
Most likely, she's fine.

BEN
We're looking for hotel tonight. Could you recommend something?

NELSON
There's a bed and breakfast about ten miles from here. Owned by a family in town. But, there's a catch.

AVA
What's the catch?

NELSON

Martha makes dinner for her guests every night and she gets awfully upset if you don't have seconds.

AVA

Oh, I don't know if that's um.

BEN

Sounds great. Right honey?

AVA

Well, couldn't we, just. There isn't a motel, or something?

NELSON

Not a lot of motels in these parts. I'm sure if you drive far enough you'll find a motel 6 or somethin'.

BEN

What do you want to do?

EXT. NEWMAN HOUSE - DAY

NARRATOR

Ben and Ava pull up to a gravel driveway. The large house overshadows them.