

'La Dolce Vita'
(Supernatural Spec)

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EXT. LAKE, CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

JOHN (20) sits next to a campfire with a group of FRIENDS. He's quiet, focused on the ground instead of the chatter.

PETER

He's over you, Stephanie. Stop trying to remind us all that you made-out with our poor boy once underneath the bleachers.

John turns away from them. Embarrassed.

STEPHANIE

Oh come on now, John. We're just joking around. You don't have to be so serious all the time.

CHAD

Don't worry. He's long over you--dude has a date set up for next week.

STEPHANIE

Who's he going out with?

CHAD

Annie.

John walks away from the fire and down the beach. He picks up stones and skips them across the water.

PETER (O.S.)

Who's Annie?

CHAD (O.S.)

You know Ann, trust me.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)

I don't know her...

PETER (O.S.)

I know one person with that name and John can't possibly be desperate enough to date my sister.

Peter and Chad argue in the background. Stephanie angrily gets up from the campfire.

EXT. LAKE, WATER'S EDGE - NIGHT

John tosses stones harder and further than before. Skipping across the moonlit lake.

Stephanie approaches John and wraps her arms around him from behind.

He shrugs her off.

JOHN

Get off me.

She stomps around.

STEPHANIE

I swear to god, you're so emotional all the time. We can just have a little fun.

Stephanie tries to kiss his neck and pull him towards the tree-line.

The rippling sound of a stone skipping across the water catches John's attention. He pushes Stephanie away.

JOHN

Did you hear that?

STEPHANIE

Hear what?

John slowly walks towards the water's edge. He sees ripples far off in the lake.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Ugh, you're such a freak. Why can't you just be normal like other guys?

John doesn't listen to her. He stares at the water.

JOHN

What'd you say?

Stephanie grunts angrily and storms off down the beach.

STEPHANIE

Fine. I get it. Go off and hang out with Annie then. I'm sure it'll last more than two seconds between you two.

EXT. LAKE, CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Stephanie plops herself down next to the fire. Kicks at the sand.

STEPHANIE
I don't know why we still hang out
with him all the time.

CHAD
We were just all thinking that about
you, Stephanie.

Chad throws her a can of beer across the fire.

PETER
Just give him some time to cool off.
He'll be back caring what you think
by tomorrow.

EXT. LAKE, CAMPFIRE - DAY

Stephanie wakes up in her sleeping bag on the beach.

EXT. LAKE, WATER'S EDGE - DAY

She throws water on her face and looks around. A FIGURE is
asleep down the beach.

STEPHANIE
Hello?

No answer. She tiptoes to it.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
John?

He's motionless--feet in the water and clothing dripping
wet.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
John, did you go swimming in this
weather? It's freezing.

Stephanie reaches John. His face is buried in the sand. She
turns him, softly.

John stares up at her smiling, his face blue with death.

Stephanie screams.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM, INDIANA - DAY

It's the same kind of back-road musty motel you've seen a million times.

DEAN packs a small bag on a bed. Sam sleeps nearby.

Dean throws a pillow at his brother's face.

SAM jumps up with a knife in his hand.

DEAN
Good, you're awake.

SAM
I told you to stop doing that.

DEAN
Gotta get that blood pumpin'. It's better than coffee.

SAM
You can wake me like a normal human being.

DEAN
What's the fun in that? And what's normal to you? That chirping bird alarm your cell phone makes at exactly 6:59 every morning?

SAM
It's serene.

DEAN
It's a pain in my ass.

Sam looks at his phone: 6:00 am.

SAM
Why are you awake so early anyway?

Dean smiles and throws Sam a bag to pack.

DEAN
We got a case.

SAM
We just finished off that ghost last night. Can't get a day off?

DEAN
(grinning)
Not when lives are at stake.

SAM
Can't lives be at stake tomorrow? Or
like after breakfast?

Dean smacks Sam on the stomach.

DEAN
Can't have you gettin' soft on me.
So...no.

SAM
Where are we heading?

DEAN
That's a surprise. Pack up. I'll be
waiting in the car.

Dean leaves the room with his duffel.

INT. IMPALA - DAY

Sam drums the dashboard of the impala.

DEAN
Stop treatin' my baby like a bongo.

SAM
Where are we going, Dean?

Sam spots a sign as they drive by it.

SAM (cont'd)
And why are we in Minnesota?

Dean grins.

SAM (cont'd)
What about this case is making you
smile so much? It's kind of creepy.

DEAN
I told you. It's a surprise.

SAM
You hate--

Dean turns sharply at the next exit.

SAM (cont'd)
Wait. You can't be serious. We can't
be...You hate that place.

DEAN
I love that place.

SAM
We're going to the lake aren't we?

DEAN
There are too many lakes in Minnesota
to count.

SAM
There are actually 11,842.

DEAN
So the guy that called it the state
of 10,000 lakes got a little lazy?

SAM
You're taking us to the lake that dad
brought us to that one summer when we
couldn't go to Bobby's?

DEAN
It was our favorite.

SAM
You hated it.

DEAN
Well, now that I have a few more
aches and pains it seems like a good
idea. You know, sitting by that
crappy lake with a beer and a fishing
pole.

SAM
You don't fish.

DEAN
Fine then two beers.

SAM
What about me?

DEAN
I never said you were invited on my
dream vacation.

Sam gives him a look.

DEAN (cont'd)
Fine. Three beers. But you have to
catch us dinner.

SAM
Is there even a case here?

DEAN
Of course.

Dean tosses a newspaper on Sam's lap.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Sam and Dean park the Impala. Come out in suits.

They walk towards the water's edge and past caution tape.
Local POLICE shuffle around the scene.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS (60s), a straight laced old cop, beckons
them over.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
You boys in town for a vacation or
something?

SAM
Not in this place.

Dean glares at Sam for a moment.

Sam and Dean show their FBI badges. Flip them closed before
the Sheriff can get a good look.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
You can't go swimmin' in those shiny
shoes and not with the fall chill
comin' early this year.

Dean lifts his badge again to the Sheriff's face.

DEAN
We're FBI, Sheriff.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
I got one of those out of a cereal
box once too.

SAM
Sheriff, please don't make us call
our Supervisor.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

Oh fine, come on, gentleman, don't get your panties in a twist. There's no case here. The boy just drowned is all.

SAM

That's exactly what I was trying to tell my partner.

DEAN

We don't get to say what is a case or not. We were assigned this and have to write up a report. You have to understand that.

SAM

But--

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

--All you'll need is the body then.

DEAN

All we need is the body and we're out of your hair.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

The hospital is one town over. He'll be in the basement.

DEAN

Thank you.

Sam and Dean walk off down the beach.

SAM

What are we doing here, Dean? He said it himself. This was just a normal drowning.

DEAN

Nothing is just *'normal'*.

SAM

You're telling me a kid drowns and it's supernatural. What are we gonna do? Salt every bathtub and steak every rubber duck?

DEAN

If the rubber duck likes to murder once a month then I'd steak that son-of-a-bitch before my next bubble-bath.

SAM

Once a month? But the Sheriff said--

DEAN

--I know what he said.

SAM

So?

DEAN

There is a drowning once a month... even more depending on the time of year. All over Minnesota, all near the lakes.

SAM

People drown near water. It's a pretty common thing.

DEAN

You're not getting it.

SAM

You think something is jumping from lake to lake killing people?

DEAN

Bingo. What's better? You have thousands of locations--a bunch of small towns that will brush it under the rug.

SAM

Is there anything else?

DEAN

Mostly young men, some women.

SAM

That's all? You don't have any idea of what is doing this or how?

DEAN

That's what you're here for.

(beat)

Let's go see the body.

Dean walks off.

INT. HOSPITAL, MORGUE - DAY

Sam and Dean show a CORONER their badges. He pulls a sheet off of a body on a slab.

A Coroner cleans up make-up from a metal table.

CORONER

I was just trying to add some color.
At least he has a smile though.

The Coroner leaves.

Dean looks at John's remains. His cheeks are poorly highlighted in blush. His face is still bright and blue.

DEAN

What is this gonna be...A smurf funeral?

Sam reads the clipboard next to the body.

SAM

The autopsy says it was a normal drowning. Isn't anything strange about the death.

Dean snaps a pair of rubber gloves. Tosses them at Sam.

DEAN

The charts not gonna give us anything. Do the digging thing.

Sam puts on the gloves.

SAM

Blood work is clean too. Besides a whole lot of alcohol...

DEAN

Don't say it.

SAM

...which could have led to his drowning.

DEAN

You said it!

Dean pulls the blanket off John's bare body. Small thin marks cover the chest and arms.

SAM
What are those? Scratches?

DEAN
They aren't deep enough to be scratches...

Sam notices Stephanie watching them from the doorway. He motions to Dean.

DEAN (cont'd)
Hey!

The girl runs off.

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - DAY

Dean chases after Stephanie.

DEAN
I'm gettin' to old for this! STOP!
FBI.

She stops at the end of the hallway. Spins.

DEAN (cont'd)
Thank god.

He jogs up to her. Panting. Takes a moment to catch his breath.

DEAN (cont'd)
I said 'Hey'. 'Hey' does not mean run. Why does everyone run?

STEPHANIE
Are you really FBI?

Dean tosses her his badge.

DEAN
Depends what you know.

INT. HOSPITAL, MORGUE - DAY

Stephanie sits, legs crossed, on a chair. She eats a second cup of jello. Sam and Dean wait for her to finish.

SAM
You gave the same statement to
police?

She nods. Slurps at her jello noisily.

DEAN
Why'd you come down here then?

STEPHANIE
To see John one last time. Why are
you here? He just drowned.

DEAN
(sarcastic)
Wanted to see John one last time too.

STEPHANIE
How progressive.

SAM
What my partner means to say is, we
have reason to believe it wasn't an
accident.

She fidgets nervously in her chair.

STEPHANIE
I...I don't know why you'd...

Dean trades a look to Sam.

DEAN
Clearly it's not just a simple
drowning, Stephanie. We know what's
going on here. Right, Agent?

Sam pulls handcuffs from his pocket. Stephanie's eyes go
wide.

SAM
Clear as day.

Stephanie puts her hands up. Drops her jello.

STEPHANIE
I didn't mean to.

DEAN
What didn't you mean to do?

STEPHANIE
Kill him.

SAM
You drowned John?

STEPHANIE
Well, no. I caused it...but it wasn't
my fault.

DEAN
You're going to have to make sense of
this for my partner. He's slow.

Dean takes out a notepad.

STEPHANIE
He was really beating himself up that
night, and was distracted, and weird.
And then I found him. And I knew he
must have been thinking about me when
he died. He was so happy. I've never
seen him like that before.

SAM
You're talking about the smile,
right?

STEPHANIE
Not just that.

Stephanie stands up and walks over to John's body. She tears
the sheet off further to reveal his lower extremities.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
That's why. He was thinking about me.

Dean and Sam stare for a moment and turn away.

DEAN
That's one happy dude.

SAM
You can go now, thank you, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE
I'm not under arrest?

SAM
No.

Stephanie leaves.

Sam turns to Dean.

SAM (cont'd)
Biologically, it is possible to be
that "happy" after death.

DEAN
Dude, why do you even know that?

SAM
The internet...

Dean gives Sam a judgmental look.

DEAN
You're saying even in the cold water
that this is 'biologically' possible?

SAM
That seemed weird to me too.

DEAN
If we think that there's even a
chance something's still at that lake
we we gotta go back.

SAM
So we'll be nice moving targets?

DEAN
It's what we're best at.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Sam and Dean enter a musty motel room.

SAM
It looks just like...

Dean grins.

DEAN
Just like it used to, right? These
places never change.

Sam tosses his bag on a bed.

DEAN (cont'd)
Dude, what are you doing?

SAM
You can't honestly want that one just
cause I put my stuff here first.

DEAN

We're on our old stompin' grounds.
We're gonna be sleeping under the
stars.

SAM

Why would we want to do that?

DEAN

Fresh air, Sammy. We have the lake,
some marshmallows...

Dean punches Sam's arm.

DEAN (cont'd)

...and my brother. What else should I
want?

Dean pulls out a jumbo bag of marshmallows and fills his
mouth.

SAM

Then why'd we even get the room?

DEAN

Nostalgia... and the bathroom.

Dean goes into the bathroom and closes the door. After a
moment, he grunts loudly--a mix of pain and pleasure.

Sam cracks a window and leaves the room.

SAM

I'll be outside.

INT. MOTEL, BATHROOM - DAY

Dean takes a pocket knife out. He uses it to scratch at the
caulk on a tile in the corner. The tile pops out and Dean
smiles at a small opening.

EXT. TOWN, STREET - DAY

Dean and Sam walk along the sidewalk. It is an old and
forgotten town--showing its age with peeling paint and faded
colors.

SAM

Not exactly the season for this
place.

DEAN
I don't think this place has a
'season'.

Dean runs over to a rusty mailbox outside a local store.

DEAN (cont'd)
Tell me you don't remember this?

SAM
I don't. What is it? Some place you
broke your leg? Do you have some fond
memory?

Dean grins and keeps walking.

DEAN
It was 3 sprained fingers and I got
ice cream for a week cause of that
thing.

They walk further down the road. At a store, Dean pauses
again.

DEAN (cont'd)
And this is where...

They look closer at the store window. It is an 'Adult Toy'
store.

DEAN (cont'd)
Nope, that's not the same.

Sam laughs and pulls Dean back in front of the window.

SAM
Awe, come on. Tell me the fun times
you had in there as a kid.

DEAN
Hey I don't judge. Everybody has
their own kind of vacation.

SAM
Yea, maybe John stopped by before he
went to the lake.

DEAN
Too soon.

Sam sees a path head at the edge of the woods.

SAM
I do remember this though.

They enter the path.

EXT. LAKE, PIER - DAY

Sam and Dean exit the path from the woods to a solitary fishing pier at the water's edge.

DEAN
What's this?

SAM
Do you remember when dad left us here alone for a week to go north to smoke a ghost?

DEAN
Talk about fond memories.

SAM
He was here the whole time.

DEAN
What? That's not true.

Sam and Dean walk down the pier.

SAM
It is. I saw him here fishing.

DEAN
For five days?

SAM
He always said that hunt was quiet.

Dean considers this, nodding. They pause to take in the scenery.

Dean points across the lake at a small yellow building.

DEAN
Is that the--

SAM
--the motel? Yea.

DEAN
So he was watching us the whole time?

They laugh.

SAM
Damn. It even smells the same.

DEAN
Is that a good thing?

SAM
No.

Sam's foot falls through rotten wood. Dean laughs.

SAM (cont'd)
What?

DEAN
I wanna come back here, over and over again. This is the perfect crappy vacation place to bring a family.

SAM
I think you need to find a girl first for that...

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Sam and Dean walk up the front steps of a house.

DEAN
You think these guys can tell us more than the girl?

SAM
I think we need a second opinion.

Sam knocks on the door. Chad opens it.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Sam and Dean sit across the table from Peter and Chad.

SAM
We're sorry you lost your friend. But we need your help to understand what happened exactly.

PETER
We were just on a vacation. Chad's parents said we could stay here for a few days.

DEAN

You couldn't get the tickets to a warmer place for spring break?

SAM

What he means to say is, it's unusual that your friend would try to go swimming at night when it's so cold out. Could he have been under the influence of--

CHAD

--John didn't drink.

DEAN

We have the lab work to prove he did. We aren't asking to check your IDs to see if you're over 21. We just want to know what happened.

PETER

Trust me. He never drank, and definitely not that night.

Sam and Dean trade a look.

CHAD

I heard him laughing though.

SAM

Laughing?

CHAD

Yea, I woke up and heard him laughing for some reason. I thought he was probably with Stephanie or something.

DEAN

Did you hear or see anything else?

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Sam and Dean walk down the front steps.

SAM

You think some creature could have done something to him? Maybe it's showing up in his blood work as an alcoholic compound?

DEAN

There were dudes and chicks and alcohol...at night. I think that means we literally can't believe a thing that came out of their mouths. Back to square one.

SAM

It narrows it down a bit.

DEAN

The guy dies with a smile on his face, horny, and laughing. That sounds like a good way to go but it doesn't tell us what did it to him.

SAM

The other drownings didn't have anything we could work with?

DEAN

I wish.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Dean finishes building a crooked tent by a small fire near the water. He crumples up the empty marshmallow bag and sits down.

Sam cocks his gun nearby.

SAM

Salt? Silver? What do you think for a monster we know nothing about?

Dean blows up a floaty tube. Sam turns at the squeaking noise.

SAM (cont'd)

Dude, what are you doing?

DEAN

Just a dip in the water.

SAM

You can't be serious.

DEAN

It's not dark out yet.

Sam tears the floaty out of Dean's hand and throws it.

SAM

What are we doing here, really? You hated it when we were younger.

DEAN

It was a lake, Sammy. A lake in the middle of nowhere next to a thousand lakes that were the same. It wasn't the ocean, with the boardwalks or the people.

SAM

Exactly. You'd always try to run off.

DEAN

Those vacations here were just the three of us. Like always. And yes, I'd hate it. I just wanted to see some bikinis, dude.

Sam chuckles.

DEAN (cont'd)

But after everything I want this now. Just this. Quiet and family.

SAM

So you wanted a boring vacation? Fine. What's with the case? It could just be--

DEAN

--It's not fake. You heard those boys. Something was out there with that kid. He was killed by something in the water and it wasn't a fish.

SAM

A case doesn't make this a quiet vacation then.

DEAN

No, but it's damn normal. It's supernatural, Sam, I can feel it. It's more *normal* than anything for us.

An RV pulls up to the lake just down the beach. A SUBURBAN FAMILY of four jumps out and sets up camp.

Dean adds a stick to the fire and watches the family.

DEAN (cont'd)

Now that's what I call a vacation.

The father from the RV walks up to them.

FATHER

Hello, boys. Hope you don't mind that we're sharin' the beach with you two tonight.

SAM

Not at all.

FATHER

We'll be making s'mores later if you want some!

DEAN

We'll take you up on that.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Dean eats a s'more with messy chocolate-covered fingers.

Sam tries to look through a pile of old newspapers and books. He glares angrily at Dean.

DEAN

Don't look at me like that. You said you didn't want one.

SAM

I lost my appetite.

DEAN

It's delicious I don't know what you are talking about.

SAM

I like the marshmallow when it's all burnt.

DEAN

You're disgusting. It needs to have that perfect golden brown color.

SAM

I like it black.

DEAN

You're just eating charcoal!

Dean swallows the last bit of s'more and licks his fingers. He lays out a sleeping bag on the ground.

SAM

I thought you were joking about sleeping outside.

DEAN

We can sleep in shifts. I didn't bring one of those couples sleeping bags.

SAM

We're gonna sleep here in the dirt instead of at the motel?

DEAN

Aren't you tired of the same damn motel beds? Too small. Creaking. A slot for a quarter. They've all got the same rusty springs and I'm gettin' old.

SAM

And rocks are better?

DEAN

You don't have to put any quarters in them.

SAM

You can do whatever you want. I'm gonna head to the motel. We can come back tomorrow.

DEAN

Just give me one night under the stars with my brother. Something like old times.

SAM

When dad used to bring us here there weren't monsters.

DEAN

There were monsters everywhere.

SAM

And so now you want a boring vacation with some monsters on the side. You can't have both. You can't go sleeping under the stars and not expect to be killed.

Sam gets up to leave.

DEAN
I wanted to bring my kids here.

Sam stops short.

SAM
What?

DEAN
You heard me.
(beat)
And I wanted them to bitch at me the
same way I did at dad. I wanted to
just ignore them and fall asleep in a
hammock with my hot wife wearing a
bikini.

SAM
Who's wearing the bikini? You or the
hot wife?

Dean glares at him.

SAM (cont'd)
Is that really what you still want?

DEAN
I don't want them to know about the
monsters in there.
(motions to the water)
Or there.
(motions to the trees)
I don't want them worrying about
every horrible evil thing out there.
(beat)
But it's impossible for us or
anything near us to not be dragged
into that reality.

SAM
Have you been going to the sperm bank
again?

DEAN
Dude--NO! It's just when we were here
I was bored out of my ass. And maybe
I want that sometimes. Even if I have
to find a monster in the middle of
nowhere to find an excuse to. I'm
kind of jealous that dad got moments
that that. When do we get those?

SAM
You really think we still can?

DEAN
Maybe not in this reality. But maybe
for a night.

SAM
Fine.

DEAN
Fine, what?

SAM
We can have one night under the stars
sleeping on the ground.

DEAN
Good!

Dean tosses Sam a flashlight and gets comfortable in the
sleeping bag.

DEAN (cont'd)
You'll take the first shift.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Dean wakes up to a child SCREAMING. Dean and Sam run up the
beach towards the RV.

DEAN
I thought they weren't gonna show.
They should have been at another
lake.

They reach the campsite.

DEAN (cont'd)
(to Sam)
Get the kids!

Dean runs off towards dark FIGURES further up the beach.

EXT. LAKE, CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Sam checks on the family. The two kids and wife are hiding
near the fire pit.

SAM
Are you alright? It's okay, I won't
hurt you.

WIFE
He just went crazy. I couldn't reason
with him.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Dean approaches the Father and a WOMAN in shadow further up
the beach.

DEAN
Get away from the water.

The Father turns to Dean, tears in his eyes.

FATHER
I have to.

The Woman leads him further into the water.

DEAN
No you don't.

A GROWL echoes from the Woman.

EXT. LAKE, FIRE PIT - NIGHT

Sam hears Dean scream.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Sam tries to shake Dean awake.

SAM
Dean. Dean, wake up.

Dean's eyes flutter open.

DEAN
Is he okay?

SAM
Everyone's okay. What did you see?

DEAN
They're alright?

SAM
We need to get them out of here.

Dean tries to stand, but falls over.

SAM (cont'd)
You're hurt. What did this?

DEAN
I'm fine.

Dean crawls along the beach.

SAM
Your head is bleeding. You were
fighting something.

DEAN
I don't remember.

SAM
Come on, we gotta go.

INT. HOSPITAL, ROOM - DAY

Dean wakes up in a hospital. Freshly sewn stitches itch on his forehead.

He rips an IV from his forearm, grabs his clothes, and looks into the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - DAY

Sam talks with the Mother from the RV.

MOTHER
Thank you so much for all your help,
Agent. I don't know what came over
him. The moment he's better we'll
head home. This is all too much
vacation for us.

SAM
We're happy we could help.

MOTHER
And your partner will be okay?

SAM
He's not as fragile as he looks.

MOTHER
She wasn't either.

SAM
She?

Dean, further down the hallway, walks out from his room fully dressed. He hurries off in the opposite direction of Sam.

MOTHER
Yeah. But I suppose my eyes were just playing tricks on me. It must have been a bear like you said.

SAM
That's what I shot at.

MOTHER
It scared him too much. That has to be the explanation.

Sam and the Mother look into a nearby hospital room. Inside, the Father from the RV is strapped in a straitjacket and fighting against restraints.

MOTHER (cont'd)
Thank you again.

Sam hands her a card.

SAM
If you remember anything else, call me.

Sam walks away. Goes to Dean's hospital room.

INT. HOSPITAL, ROOM - DAY

Sam finds Dean's bed empty.

SAM
Dammit, Dean.

A NURSE walks by the doorway.

SAM (cont'd)
Excuse me, Miss.

She stops.

NURSE

Yes?

SAM

Did you see my partner leave? He's
about...

Sam estimates Dean's height against his own. His hand drops
to his lower chest.

SAM (cont'd)

This high. Smells like whiskey.

NURSE

I think I saw him heading into the
gift shop.

SAM

The gift shop?

NURSE

I didn't ask.

The nurse leaves.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Sam leaves their motel room. He tries to call Dean.

SAM

Dean, where the hell are you? Why'd
you leave the hospital? Call me back.

Sam gets in the Impala. Drives off.

EXT. TOWN, STREET - DAY

Sam drives through town.

He spots Dean in a diner.

INT. DINER - DAY

Dean sits at the counter eating breakfast. Sam comes in and
sits next to him.

SAM

Dude, where have you been? You can't just check yourself out of a hospital and disappear.

DEAN

You know I can't eat eggs at a hospital, Sammy.

Dean makes a wide food-filled grin at the WAITRESS.

DEAN (cont'd)

Why'd you bring me to a hospital in the first place?

SAM

You were bleeding like crazy. You got 17 stitches, Dean.

Dean touches the stitches, as if he didn't notice the pain until now.

DEAN

Why couldn't you just sew me up with a needle and whiskey like normal?

SAM

I thought you said you were getting old?

Dean brushes that off.

Something catches Sam's eye on the stool next to Dean.

SAM (cont'd)

What's that?

Dean smiles and claps his hands together.

DEAN

I found her.

SAM

Great. I wanted to talk with you about that--the monster at the lake-- I have an idea about what...

DEAN

What are you talking about?

SAM

The monster at the--

DEAN
No, that's not what I'm talking
about.

Dean grabs a bouquet of flowers and chocolates from the
stool.

DEAN (cont'd)
I found her, Sammy.

SAMMY
Who?

DEAN
A woman.

Sam laughs. Takes the stool next to him.

Dean drops the flowers and chocolates on the floor. He
angrily pulls a ring from his pocket and slams in on the
counter in front of Sam.

SAM
Where'd you get that?

DEAN
You don't recognize it?

SAM
It looks like--

DEAN
Mom's ring.

SAM
You're convinced you found a girl you
wanna marry? I couldn't find you for
like an hour, dude. What's gotten
into you?

DEAN
It's not like that.

SAM
So what's it like? What? You're
engaged? Does she even know?

DEAN
Basically...

SAM
I don't think that's how it works,
Dean.

(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)
You can't just wanna marry the first
person in 100 miles that can make a
decent pair of eggs.

Sam pushes Dean's plate away from him.

DEAN
Don't be silly. I'm not into the
waitress.

Dean nods an apology to the Waitress and takes a large bite
of food.

SAM
So it's someone at the hospital then?

DEAN
It's hard to explain. Let's just
leave it at that.

SAM
That's not a no.

Dean puts cash on the counter, grabs the flowers,
chocolates, and ring. He leaves. Sam follows him.

EXT. DINER - DAY

Sam grabs Dean's shoulder.

SAM
Dean, wait up. I'm sorry. Look, I'll
listen. I just need to understand.

DEAN
You can't.

Sam brushes that off.

SAM
I never thought you'd be a flower and
chocolates kinda guy...

DEAN
I don't have to be that kind of guy
to know that's what a woman wants.

Sam gets a call. Picks up.

SAM

Hello?

(beat)

Yes, this is Agent Crosby.

(beat)

Really?

(beat)

We'll be right there.

Sam hangs up.

DEAN

Who was that?

SAM

The woman from the RV. Her husband is dead.

DEAN

How?

SAM

He severed his spine trying to get out of his straitjacket.

DEAN

Damn.

(beat)

So we gotta go back to the lake?

Dean smiles. Jumps in the car.

SAM

No. Of course not.

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY - DAY

Dean and Sam walk towards Sheriff McGibbons.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

There's no water here, boys. The FBI can't have already assigned you to this as well.

SAM

His wife asked us to come. We have reason to believe this is connected.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

The first body wasn't enough for you? Anything you wanna share with the group?

DEAN
We have jurisdiction here.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
Right, right...your Supervisor...

SAM
We can help.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
You're in way over your heads. Trust
me, Agents.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Sam and Dean walk towards the Impala.

SAM
He knows something. We shouldn't have
just left.

DEAN
Sheriff said it himself, it's our
case. We'll get to the bottom of
this.
(beat)
We can assume Mr. No-Spine had
similar blood work as the first guy?

SAM
No cool, dude.

DEAN
What? We can!

Sam shakes it off.

SAM
What did you see at the beach that
night? What do you remember?

DEAN
I don't remember anything.

SAM
The wife mentioned a woman.

Dean stiffens.

DEAN
There could have been.

SAM
I have some theories.

Sam pulls out a list from his pocket.

SAM (cont'd)
A dozen or so, but I'm sure we can narrow it down.

DEAN
We can do that later. We gotta be someplace.

SAM
Where?

INT. IMPALA - DAY

Sam and Dean park near the lake.

SAM
Why are we back here? We have work to do.

DEAN
I told you I finally found a girl. That's a bit more important than RV guy.

Dean picks up the chocolates and flowers.

SAM
I thought she was at the hospital?

Dean gets out of the car. Sam follows.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

DEAN
Do you remember the summer of 1991?

SAM
That's why we're in town, isn't it?

DEAN
Dad had just finished up a hunting trip killin' 3 vamps in Maine.

SAM
I remember, kind of.

DEAN

Yeah, you were in bed with chicken-pox and yapping about them so much I had to leave.

SAM

So you just walked out?

DEAN

I came out here to the beach and heard dad cursin' up a storm. So much so that people were driving their RVs further up the beach, you know? He had missed a lead on yellow-eyes and it nearly broke him. He threw mom's wedding ring straight into the water. He was so drunk he didn't even remember it the next day.

SAM

He always said he lost it.

DEAN

I spent the next three days nearly drowning myself in that water trying to find it...and I did--and I didn't give it back. The fire took everything from us. Not this.

Dean holds up the ring in the light.

DEAN (cont'd)

And it didn't take us either. So all that must be worth something.

SAM

Then it's great that you think you have someone to give it to. I just need you to slow down a bit and think about this. You're acting crazy.

DEAN

But she's waiting for me.

SAM

Who?

Dean points to the water. Sam follows his gesture. Ripples cross the surface deep in the lake.

SAM (cont'd)

We gotta get out of here.

Sam tugs at Dean's shirt. He doesn't budge.

SAM (cont'd)
Something's done this to you.

DEAN
(grinning)
I let this happen. I've been waiting
for this.

The rippling comes closer.

Dean walks towards the water. Sam pulls him back and they scuffle.

DEAN (cont'd)
Stop! I thought you understood...

SAM
I understand that you're out of your
freaking mind.

Dean crawls towards the water's edge. Sam hits him across the head--Dean's stitches break open. He falls in the sand, unconscious.

Sam drags Dean to the Impala.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Dean is handcuffed to the bed, asleep.

Sam talks on the phone while pacing. Nearby, a table is covered with open books.

SAM
So you think this is a different
creature than--
(beat)
Right, the water
(beat)
But they could--
(beat)
I know...ok. Thanks.

Dean wakes up. Sam hangs up.

DEAN
Why are we back here? I gotta get
back to the lake.

SAM
You're under some kind of spell. I
just don't know what kind of creature
is doing this to you.

DEAN
Don't you dare call her a creature!

SAM
So what is she then?

Sam brings his laptop next to Dean. He shows him images of various supernatural legends.

SAM (cont'd)
What'd she look like? What did she do
to you?

DEAN
(in a stupor)
She was perfect.

Sam slams his computer.

SAM
Well, that's no help at all.

DEAN
Long pretty hair...wearing a bikini
too.

SAM
Did she come from the water?

Dean's focus is off. He stares deeply at an empty wall. A drunk smile on his face.

SAM (cont'd)
Dean?

Sam claps his hands in Dean's face. Dean snaps back.

DEAN
What?

SAM
I need you to tell me what you
remember! I'm lost here.

DEAN
You and me both!

Dean looks around the room. Notices the restraints on his hands again. Pulls against them.

DEAN (cont'd)
Why am I all tied up?

SAM
I'll untie you if you give me some answers. Real answers.

Dean bounces the squeaking springs on the bed and kicks at the air. Tries to free himself.

Sam comes over and puts a quarter in a machine next to the bed. The mattress vibrates.

DEAN
Real mature.

Sam leaves the room.

EXT. LAKE - SUNSET

Sam drives up to the lake in the Impala.

A man sits nearby next to a fire--it's Sheriff McGibbons.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
She's gone by now probably.

SAM
Who?

Sam walks over to the Sheriff.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
I knew you got your badge from a cereal box.

Sam sits down next to the fire.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS (cont'd)
The creature will be off to another lake soon enough if not already.

SAM
How do you know about this? What is she?

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
Have you seen a monster before, boy?

SAM

A few.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

Not enough to not sleep at night,
yeah?

SAM

I was thinking this was a curse.
Maybe a spirit. But the marks on Dean
and that boy's body make me think
it's a more physical entity...

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

You're making up nonsense, aren't
you?

SAM

You're not a hunter?

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

Only in deer season.

SAM

Then I'm making up nonsense...just
stories.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

What's in those waters isn't a story.

SAM

Then what is it?

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

A mermaid!

Sam let's that sink in. Tries not to laugh.

SAM

What makes you think that?

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

Cause it goes around with a singin
crab, what do you think?

SAM

You've seen it then? It has a...umm.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

A tail? Well not really. Maybe
sometimes. Not when they are in the
trees.

SAM

Trees?

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

Of course. If you find monsters I'm sure they're gonna have surprises up their sleeves.

Sam takes out the list from his pocket

SAM

That sounds familiar.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

I've been huntin' this thing for years, I know what I'm looking for.

SAM

In Eastern Europe there used to be a creature. A woman of the water, she seduces men and drowns them. Sometimes she hides in trees when--

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

--What is it called?

SAM

It's a Rusalka. She's like a siren. As she drowns men she tickles them-- that must have been the marks on John.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

But the second death wasn't near water.

SAM

That could have been the spell. He must have been trying to get back to the lake and hurt himself in the straight jacket. Died in the struggle.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS

So it's not a mermaid?

SAM

Not exactly. But this could mean that I can stop whatever spell they've put on my brother.

The Sheriff stands.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
She's claimed him?

SAM
I think so, but we can do something
about it.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
You've left him alone?

SAM
He's locked up and safe. He wouldn't
hurt himself to get out of the cuffs.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS
You're saying there isn't a drop of
water anywhere near him where she
could get to him? This whole town is
surrounded by lakes. He can't be
safe.

The Sheriff starts packing all of his belongings. He kicks
sand onto the fire.

SHERIFF MCGIBBONS (cont'd)
And if she has claimed him, then she
hasn't left yet. None of us are safe.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dean struggles against his cuffs in the bed. He pulls at the
restraints, leaving a deep cuts in his arm.

A soft, yet growing, dripping noise comes from the bathroom.
A tree outside scratches the window.

Dean becomes alert.

DEAN
Hello. Is anyone there?

He pulls harder at the cuffs on his wrist.

A HAND--female--touches his chest. He calms at the touch.

DEAN (cont'd)
I knew you'd come.

We don't see her face, only the back of her head. Her voice
has a softness to it, a song--the hint of a slither:

RUSALKA
You didn't come back to me.

DEAN
I tried. I came to the lake...but--

RUSALKA
--I know.

DEAN
Sam tried to...

She places a finger to his lips.

RUSALKA
Shhhh.

Dean nervously digs through his pockets.

She steps back. Walks through the room. In a mirror we see her for the first time--a beautiful young woman. Eyes like glass--her demeanor dark and other-worldly.

DEAN
I have something for you.

RUSALKA
A present?

Dean pulls his mother's ring from his jacket. He slips it on the Rusalka's finger.

RUSALKA (cont'd)
Why?

Dean smiles, lost in euphoria.

DEAN
'Cause you're perfect.

She giggles, sweetly--her wet hair bobbing softly with the motion.

DEAN (cont'd)
I like your laugh.

RUSALKA
And?

DEAN
You're perfect.

RUSALKA

Do you know why you feel this way?

Dean is taken aback. He considers this for a moment and shakes it off.

DEAN

It doesn't matter.

RUSALKA

Why?

DEAN

It's a secret.

RUSALKA

Tell me.

DEAN

Sometimes I can't remember what my mom looked like. And sometimes I can't stomach looking at the pictures.

The Rusalka holds Dean's hand. It compels him further.

DEAN (cont'd)

I don't remember Dad's laugh when he hustled a guy at pool--or Bobby's smell when he came in a room.

(beat)

I don't know why I'm still fighting.

(beat)

But since I saw you last night I feel all that flooding back.

With a twist of her wrist, the cuffs snap off Dean's wrists.

RUSALKA

You have to come with me.

DEAN

Where?

RUSALKA

You know.

DEAN

You won't hurt me, will you?

RUSALKA

Never.

The Rusalka whispers something into Dean's ear.

Sam bursts through the door. The Rusalka jumps back and smiles at the interruption.

RUSALKA (cont'd)
You'll work nicely too.

SAM
You look just like--

DEAN
Dude, she has a sister. We'd be like brothers.

SAM
We already are brothers.

DEAN
We'd be double brothers.

SAM
Shut up!

Sheriff McGibbons runs from the bathroom. Guns drawn. He shoots at the Rusalka. She spins wildly. Gives a wet snarl.

RUSALKA
(smiling)
Ohh. That burns a little bit...

She rushes the Sheriff. Barely a blur. Snaps his neck.

The Rusalka drops the Sheriff's body to the floor.

RUSALKA (cont'd)
(to Dean)
Tell your brother what you told me, sweetie.

Dean tears up.

DEAN
I can't--

RUSALKA
Do it.

DEAN
I CAN'T!

Dean falls to the floor.

RUSALKA

Do what I say.

Dean chokes back his words.

The Rusalka growls again.

DEAN

Sam.

Sam shoots at the Rusalka. She dodges the bullets.

DEAN (cont'd)

No! Stop!

SAM

Dean?

DEAN

Do you remember what Jessica looked like? What she felt like? How you felt around her?

Sam's hand drops to his side.

DEAN (cont'd)

I've forgotten everything. I've forgotten why I'm still fighting and what for.

SAM

She's messing with your head.

DEAN

You don't remember either, do you?

The Rusalka laughs.

RUSALKA

You'll understand too. Soon enough. My sister will show you.

Sam shoots at her again.

RUSALKA (cont'd)

That has no effect on me.

SAM

No, but you said the heat burns.

Sam rips cords out from a socket and sparks them together. She runs from the heat, sprints from the motel room.

DEAN

No!

Sam runs to Dean's side.

SAM

It's okay, she's gone.

DEAN

No. That's not okay.

Dean's face hardens. He grabs Sam's gun and stands over him.

DEAN (cont'd)

We have to go to them.

Dean hits Sam over the head with the gun.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - LATER

Sam wakes up. Clutches his bleeding head.

He stumbles from the room.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Dean sits at the edge of the lake, his bare feet in the water.

Sam drives up on the sand. The fire the Sheriff set is still burning.

SAM

Dean, get away from the water. It isn't safe.

DEAN

She told me I had to wait here for you.

Sam sees splashes deep in the water. The ripples carry the moonlight.

SAM

She's going to kill you.

DEAN

She promised she wouldn't hurt me. She wouldn't lie.

SAM

Come on, Dean. Who else has made that same promise? Dad, Mom, Cas...you.

DEAN

I wanna make it up to you, Sammy.

Sam rushes to him. Tries to pull him from the water's edge.

SAM

You've promised to protect me over and over again since before I can remember.

DEAN

I'm so sorry.

Dean breaks his gaze on the water. Softens. Looks to Sam-- something in him breaking.

SAM

How many times have you failed? How many times have we both been dead or worse? Whatever you think it waiting for you in that water is just a lie too.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)

Sometimes that's what people need.

Sam turns, before him, walking out from the tree-line is another Rusalka, one that appears as JESSICA--thee Jessica. Tall, blonde, and not dead on the ceiling.

Sam steps back, surprised.

SAM

Get back from the water, Dean.

Sam grabs a branch from the fire and waves it in front of Jessica's path.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)

You want the same life that Dean wants. I know that more than anyone. I wanted this for us too. You left your family to get away from this life.

SAM

Get away from me!

Jessica approaches him quickly, a blur in the moonlight. Her hands, dripping wet, touch Sam's cheek.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)
Put that down.

Sam drops the fire on the sand, it begins to fade. Sam's eyes go wide. Looks to his trembling hands--barely able to control them.

SAM
You aren't her. You aren't Jessica.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)
I'm whoever you want me to be.

Jessica kisses him.

Sam looks back to the sand, but Dean is nowhere in sight.

SAM
Where is my brother?

Jessica turns Sam back to look at her.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)
He's fine. But I want you to focus on me right now.

Sam is lost in her dark unnatural eyes.

SAM
Okay.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)
Come with me to the water.

SAM
Of course.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)
Why?

SAM
Because you're everything I've ever wanted.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)
Good.

Jessica leads him to the water's edge.

Dean comes up from behind.

DEAN
Hey, bitch.

Jessica turns.

Dean throws a flaming branch at her.

JESSICA (RUSALKA)
That's impossible.

She screams and tries to put out the fire. She runs towards the water, but Dean grabs her ankle and drags her towards the campfire.

Sam tackles Dean, trying to free Jessica from his grasp.

SAM
Stop Dean. You're hurting her.

DEAN
That's the point.

SAM
Why are you doing this?

DEAN
Don't you ever say I lied or hurt you--at least not intentionally. All I've ever done was try to protect you.

The ash-stricken Jessica crawls across the sand.

Deep within the lake a horribly tragic SHRIEK shakes the surface.

Dean body-slams Jessica into the fire. He ignores the flames nipping at his skin.

DEAN (cont'd)
You've gotta forget about her, Sammy.
We have to forget all this that keeps holding us back.

Sam falls to the ground as if his heart is being ripped from his chest. He screams in pain. Jessica shrieks in the fire and goes out with a burst of flame--crumbles to ashes.

A figure runs from the water towards them.

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

When Sam comes to, Dean is nowhere in sight. He hears screams and splashing from the water.

Sam grabs a gallon of gasoline and a flare from the car. He runs into the lake.

EXT. LAKE, WATER - NIGHT

Dean wrestles with the Rusalka in the water. She pulls him deep under the surface and they struggle.

Sam pulls Dean up for air. The creature attacks them again.

Sam pours gasoline on it. Dean sparks the flare. The creature dives under the water. The gasoline and flames consume it.

Under the water, the fiery figure thrashes and sparks.

The Rusalka dies.

Sam and Dean swim out of the lake in silence.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Dean packs his bag on the bed.

Sam walks in the room with breakfast and coffee.

SAM
We're leaving already?

DEAN
I'm not staying in this town one day longer than I have to.

SAM
But I thought we were having a vacation?

DEAN
We did. It sucked.

SAM
It didn't.

Dean gives him a disgusted look.

SAM (cont'd)
Well, maybe a little bit.

DEAN
A little bit is a splinter or poison
ivy. Not a freakin' Rusalka.

SAM
I thought that was the charm in this
place. You liked how crappy it was.

Dean picks up his bag, takes a donut from Sam's hand, and
leaves the room.

DEAN
Vacation's over, Sammy.

Sam hurries after him.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Sam follows Dean to the Impala. Dean tries to put his bag in
the trunk but Sam holds it closed.

DEAN
Dude.

SAM
Just because we've had sucky
vacations here doesn't mean we can't
take one.

DEAN
Our vacations have generally included
hell, purgatory...or heaven on a bad
day.

SAM
I liked it here.

DEAN
What?

SAM
I loved coming here as a kid. I liked
everything about it. The rocky beach.
And the smell of the garbage dump the
next town over. I liked it cause you
and dad were here. And you're still
enough for me.

DEAN
How long will that last?

Sam tosses Dean an unopened bag of marshmallows.

SAM
You're enough for me if I can't get anything better.

DEAN
Awe, thanks.

SAM
Well, it's not like you're walking around in a bikini.

DEAN
You don't want to see that, dude.

They share a smile.

SAM
So we'll stay?

DEAN
Until something better comes along...

SAM
Good, cause we have to go swimming.

DEAN
Swimming? The water is freezing.

SAM
Mom's ring is somewhere in the lake again. With both of us looking we might just find it.

Dean smiles.