

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

The Radio King

Written by

Hannah and Bing Bishop

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Final Draft

info@afatalfameproductions.com

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"My father, my father, and dost thou not hear
The words that the Erlkönig now breathes in mine ear?"
"Be calm, dearest child, 'tis thy fancy deceives;
'Tis the sad wind that sighs through the withering leaves."

"Erlkönig"

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1782)
Translation by Edgar Alfred Bowring

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The lifeless body that once belonged to JOHN MORRISON (40s) sits limp at a kitchen table. A bullet shot from a .38 SPECIAL CALIBER REVOLVER that now lays on the vinyl floor has just perforated the skull. Fresh blood paints the otherwise dark and dim-lit kitchen bright red. STATIC plays on the KITCHEN RADIO.

SUPER: THE RADIO KING

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

A BLUE 1989 JEEP GRAND WAGONEER is leaving the town of Nowhere, Massachusetts. Population: 16,662. The town, with its indiscernible, yet quaint, architecture, similar to most its size, has about one of everything and two grocery stores. Although, something seems off. Why does everyone keep staring at this Wagoneer?

NOWHERE RADIO NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Today marks the sixth anniversary of the tragic Nowhere murder suicide, the town's most brutal crime to date. Local residents are gathering today in the square to commemorate the loss of their loved ones, including the death of six-month old baby Joan, on that night out of he--

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

Two brothers sit in the Wagoneer. MATTHEW MORRISON, 22, is driving. Although MARK MORRISON, 19, is asleep in the passenger seat, Matthew doesn't want to remind him what day it is. The sixth anniversary of their father, his girlfriend and their half sister's deaths. He changes the station.

DJ NO ONE (V.O.)

Tune out the bad and tune in the good. Forget the troubles of the world and let the beauty of the music take you on a trip out of Nowhere.

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - LATER

An hour goes by, but it feels like forever. As much as the brothers want to avoid it, the day looms on them. At least they are making their way out of Nowhere, out of Massachusetts. Thank God.

INT. CAR - MOVING - SAME

MARK MORRISON

Ugh, we there yet?

MATTHEW MORRISON

In, like, twelve hours. You were only asleep for an hour.

MARK MORRISON

Fuck me... this better be worth it.

MATTHEW MORRISON

You know, I think it's for real this time. Mom seems happy. I mean, really happy.

MARK MORRISON

Like how she was happy with the last Tom? And the Dick before that? And remember Harry? He was "the one" too!

MATTHEW MORRISON

I don't know. She seem--

MARK MORRISON

Wait. I just realized she has legitimately dated a Tom, a Dick AND a Harry. Holy shit.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Ok. That's actually funny, but poor mom... I can't imagine.

MARK MORRISON

Poor mom!? Are you fucking kidding me!? Don't you know what day--

MATTHEW MORRISON

Of course I know what day it is! Of course.

MARK MORRISON

She really couldn't have picked a worse time to do this.

MATTHEW MORRISON

I don't think that was her intention.

MARK MORRISON

I do.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Look, I know this time of year is hard for you. Hard for us--

MARK MORRISON

We don't have to talk about it.

MATTHEW MORRISON

You sure? You know I'm here--

MARK MORRISON

Yeah. I'm sure.

MATTHEW MORRISON

...I heard about Ashley.

MARK MORRISON

Is this drive going to be a fucking therapy session?! I'm fine!

Mark KICKS the dashboard and a screw falls out.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Yeah, you seem great.

MARK MORRISON

Ha! This piece a shit is falling apart.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Hey, look, Emily might be a piece of shit, but she's my piece of shit. You got that, you little shit?

The brothers have a light-hearted tussle before Matthew notices a SONG on the radio.

MATTHEW MORRISON (cont'd)
Oh shit, it's Jester! These guys are
so fly!

SONG ends.

MATTHEW MORRISON (cont'd)
Damn.

DJ FOX (V.O.)
Yo, it's DJ Fox on 104.7 FM The
Sludge! Your home for the newest of
the new in independent music. You
heard it here first. Screw the
labels! Up next we have--

STATIC.

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)
You lovely child... all grown up...
come with me... we can be together
for eternity.

MUSIC begins playing.

MARK MORRISON
Um... Did you hear that?

MATTHEW MORRISON
What?

MARK MORRISON
You didn't hear it?

MATTHEW MORRISON
Hear what?

MARK MORRISON
What do you mean what?! You didn't...

Mark hoped that Matthew heard the voice. That he recognized
it. And heard it before too. But he didn't.

MARK MORRISON (cont'd)
I don't know. It was nothing. Maybe
we just picked up another station.

MATTHEW MORRISON
Oh. I didn't hear anything.

But Matthew makes a face at Mark... Did he hear it? They sit
in silence. MUSIC still plays.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

It's been a few hours since. They need gas. And a break. The brothers pull into a gas station and drive up to the pump. Matthew and Mark get out of the car. The RADIO is playing over the speakers at the gas station.

MARK MORRISON
I'm gonna take a piss.

MATTHEW MORRISON
I need a snack.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

Mark is forced to confront what he believes is his worst fear when he approaches his reflection in the mirror.

MARK MORRISON (V.O.)
This is not happening to you. Dad was a fucking psycho. Not you. The voice is not real.

In an attempt to move past it, Mark proceeds to the toilet to take a piss.

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)
My lovely boy... won't you come with me? I have someone you would like to meet...

MARK MORRISON
(At the same time as
Unknown Voice)
Shut up. Shut up. Shut the fuck up!

Mark tries to finish peeing quickly. He walks out of the bathroom while zipping up his pants.

EXT./INT. - GAS STATION - SAME

Mark meets Matthew at the check out counter. Mark is visibly upset. They hurry to finish up at the gas station and continue on their drive. As they're leaving, Matthew notices a STRANGE MAN.

INT. CAR - MOVING - LATER

Mark is fidgety in the passenger seat while Matthew drives.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Are you sure you don't want to talk--

MARK MORRISON

Actually, I do.

MATTHEW MORRISON

...Ok. Shoot.

MARK MORRISON

It's going to sound crazy. I mean, it is crazy. I think I'M crazy.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Dude, we're brothers. You know you can always talk to me. What is it?

MARK MORRISON

I hear voices. A voice. I've heard it before, awhile ago, but I'm hearing it again. I always do around this time or when things are going bad.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Is this about what you heard earlier?

MARK MORRISON

Part of it, yeah. But not just then. I heard it again at the gas station.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Well, what does it say?

MARK MORRISON

I don't want to--

MATTHEW MORRISON

Dude, you can tell me.

MARK MORRISON

I don't know. It says--

STATIC.

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)

I've always loved you... I can feel you against me... My daughters want you inside of them.

MATTHEW MORRISON

(At the same time as
Unknown Voice)

What? Mark?

MARK MORRISON

No! No!

Mark starts to sway back and forth in his seat. He rests his head in hands and begins to cry.

MATTHEW MORRISON

Hey! I'm going to pull over. Ok? Just hold on.

UNKNOWN VOICE (V.O.)

If you won't come by choice, I WILL TAKE YOU BY FORCE!

Mark gasps. Looks over at Matthew. It is not Matthew anymore.

UNKNOWN VOICE AS MATTHEW MORRISON

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

UNKNOWN VOICE AS MATTHEW MORRISON reaches over and grabs Mark. Mark fights back.

MARK MORRISON

NO! You're not going to take me!

Mark begins wrestling with actual Matthew. Matthew is losing control of the car.

MATTHEW MORRISON

You're gonna make me crash the car!

Mark punches Matthew. Headlights close in on a tree.

INT./EXT. CAR CRASH - NIGHT

Hazards flash. Smoke floods from the engine. Mark slowly comes to consciousness, lifting his bloodied head from the dash. That "falling apart" dash that somehow managed to stay together through the crash. He looks over to see Matthew unconscious, or worse, dead. He must get help. He starts to make his way out of the car and stumbles to the ground. He looks up to see feet...legs...oh God.

UNKNOWN VOICE AS STRANGE MAN

You're mine now.

Matthew flutters open his eyes and sees the Radio King reaching for Mark. He opens his mouth to scream.

THE END.