

I Dare Not Go

INT. CAR -- NIGHT

A car traveling at night on a dark highway. A small boy, 2 years old, in the back seat, he is wearing dark green, the interior of the car is dark green. The headlights of passing cars illuminate his face. h. The boy sits still. Slow music - electric guitar.

CREDITS

EXT. CRYSTAL'S TRAILER -- DAY

CRYSTAL, 12, awkward and somewhat homely. She is dressed in hot pink jogging pants and a plastic printed sweatshirt and rubber boots.

She's outside her parent's, Jeremy and Lynn's non mobile mobile home unit with extension, satellite and built on deck. The grass is patchy, a rusted out car in the front yard.

Crystal's cheap plastic stereo is plugged into an extension cord that runs in through the screen door. Crystal has a skipping rope and is skipping wildly to a pop song. The song ends, she rewinds it and plays it again. She skips wildly.

The voice over is God, an adult male who speaks in a bizarre manner; rapidly and intensely.

GOD

Crystal's brother, Davy,
died when she was six. Her
swimming teacher came to
the wake. Crystal cried
when she saw him because
she didn't recognize him
with clothes on.

INT. CRYSTAL'S TRAILER- LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Flashback: All flashbacks are Low angle POV shots from Crystal's remembered perspective at 6 years old.

Dimly lit, fuzzy shot of a YOUNG SMILING MAN among milling people. He leans into focus, his big face smiling into the camera. POV of Crystal backs up and swerves away from him.

INT. CHURCH -- DAY

Flashback:

POV of six year old Crystal sitting in a front row pew facing the pulpit. Sound of crying. UNCLE CHRIS stands reading from the bible- but all that comes out of his mouth is Donald Duck language. Then he takes out a jews harp and begins plucking away.

From Crystal's POV: LYNN, 30, attractive but hard looking. She cries hysterically on JEREMY's shoulder. Jeremy is 30 as well, pleasantly clean, balding. He stares straight ahead. Neither of them interact with Crystal.

INT. CRYSTAL'S TRAILER - KITCHEN -- EVENING

Flashback:

A close up of the white refrigerator, an older one with a fastening handle. Refrigerator motor cuts in.

Flowers fill the predominantly brown, press board kitchen. The dish rack is filled with soapy dripping casserole dishes. Lynn washes more casserole dishes. Lynn looks at Crystal (directly into the camera, Low Angle POV)

LYNN

Look at your face. Your the one we got left. What the jesus am I going to do with you? Wrap you up in tissue paper/ throw you on the elevator/. 1st floor,

2nd floor, 3rd floor, 4th
floor....

Lynn chants the last part as if a skipping rhyme.

EXT. CRYSTAL'S TRAILER -- DAY

Crystal, 12, is skipping madly.

Crystal's pop song cuts out half way through. She looks around. Lynn has unplugged the cord that was leading through the door. She throws the cord out the door and closes it.

CRYSTAL

Mom!

Lynn sticks her head out the door.

LYNN

Crystal! The house is
filling with flies.

Lynn closes the door.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- DAY

Crystal walks along the highway. A car whizzes by.

CRYSTAL

Hundred Mile per hour hero.

She says it like she thinks its a cool thing to say. She turns up a road. She passes a lot with a rusty old refrigerator out. A woman comes up and throws a bag of garbage into it. She lets it lock. Crystal does not interact or even notice the woman. She continues up the road.

GOD

Crystal wonders if there
are rumors floating around
that Davy is still alive
like Elvis Presley. Maybe,
they whisper, maybe when
Lynn wasn't looking the boy

ate a significant amount of styrofoam packing which had afforded him buoyancy and maybe he floated down the Humber River, out the Bay of Islands and never drowned at all. But Crystal knows he's really dead. She knows this because she's with him right now.

EXT. POND -- DAY

Crystal sits by the pond. DAVY, 13, a young looking "baby face" type, crawls out of the pond, his clothes are wet. He wears a red baseball hat.

DAVY

Hey sis.

CRYSTAL

Hi, Davy.

DAVY

Havin' a good summer?

Davy picks his nose.

CRYSTAL

Give it up. Sick.

Davy winks at Crystal.

CRYSTAL

Mom says I can't have a dog. Jennie got a dog. Millie got a dog. And they lives in the city.

DAVY

Tell her you'll call the dog Davy.

Crystal slies her eyes at Davy.

CRYSTAL

I wants a girl dog.

INT. CAR -- DAY

Flashback:

GOD
The family has been
visiting Grampy Randy in
the Escasoni for as long as
Crystal can remember.

Crystal's POV (Low angle 6 years old) from the back seat of the car. Lynn, Jeremy and Crystal drive along Pitts Memorial Drive entering the city of St. John's. They all sing cheerfully.

ALL
Down by the Bay, Where the
watermelons grow, back to
my home, I dare not go, For
if I do, I surely will
drown. Just like Davy,
Just like Davy, down by the
Bay.

INT. ESCASONI -- DAY

Lynn, Jeremy and Crystal, 12. Lynn carries a box of donuts. GRAMPY, elderly, kind face, lies on his cot. His three roommates wave to Crystal. Grampy's eyes are closed.

LYNN
Dad. DAAD!

GRAMPY
Lord of Christ JESUS!

LYNN
I brought you Tim Hortens,
dozen donuts. Now. You
won't tell will you?

GRAMPY
Oh, certainly not. You
haven't got me in fat camp,

you know. We're allowed to eat. Every now and then.
Hello Crystal.

Crystal stares at Grampy. Shy.

LYNN
Is you pillow comfortable,
Dad? I mean it looks-

GRAMPY
I used to change your diapers you know. Not many men my generation did, but I did.

Lynn freezes, mortified. Jeremy jumps in.

JEREMY
You playing much poker,
Randy?

GRAMPY
No.
(pause)
To tell you the truth, I lies here most of the time and thinks of Davy. Oh, Davy. He could run faster than the wind.

LYNN
Dad. It's been six years since Davy.

GRAMPY
Yes, b'y, I lies here and thinks and thinks of little Davy. Do you remember your brother, Crystal?

Crystal nods her head 'yes' shyly.

EXT. ESCASONI -- DAY

Lynn, Jeremy and Crystal walks through the Escasoni parking lot to their car. Crystal lags behind, Lynn grabs her hand and hauls her roughly.

LYNN

Don't mind him, now, he's
gone senile, no sense
talkin' to him.

INT. CRYSTAL'S TRAILER -KITCHEN -- DAY

A Close Up of the white refrigerator. The motor cuts in.

Crystal is in the kitchen with Lynn.

CRYSTAL

MOOOM! Why can't I hang around with Billy Piercey and the McKenzies? They're the only ones lives on the highway. Everybody else from school is in town.

LYNN

You can't. You stay away from them boys. Crystal!

EXT. POND -- DAY

Davy sits with Crystal. His clothes are torn and he is starting to decay.

DAVY

Funny things you can do when you're dead.

CRYSTAL

Like?

DAVY

Peel your own skin off,
take out your eyeballs....

CRYSTAL

Shut up!

DAVY
How's Grampy?

CRYSTAL
Senile. No sense talkin'
to him.

INT. LYNN AND JEREMY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

One long camera shot from Lynn to Crystal. Lynn lies asleep closer to camera than Jeremy who lies next to her and who's back is turned. Lynn's eyes fly open and she stares into the camera. She speaks in the same bizarre manner as God as if he is speaking through her.

LYNN
Lynn's greatest moment in
life has come and gone.
Her soul died with Davy and
her biggest inconvenience
is that Crystal is still
alive and she can not kill
herself and kill herself
and kill herself.

Jeremy tosses turns, gets up and walks out the door of the bedroom, down the hall of the trailer to the kitchen. Where he opens the refrigerator door, the light comes on and he looks inside. He takes out a slab of Bologna and turns to face the camera. He, too, speaks directly into the lens in the rapid and bizarre manner that God has.

JEREMY
Jeremy is a midnight eater.
The refrigerator light is
just enough to comfort but
not to wake the family he
has failed. A slab of raw
bologna is his secret
affair. His soft belly
spare tire, the lipstick on
his collar.

Jeremy goes back to bed eating a think slab of raw bologna. The Refrigerator in close up. Swing

around to: Crystal in her PJ's back up against the cupboards-scared. She looks directly into the lens and speaks in the same bizarre manner as God.

CRYSTAL

Crystal is terrified of the refrigerator. It is her worst enemy. In her dreams at night she is chased by the huge white beast opening its massive jaws to eat her in the most rhetorical of revenges.

Crystal runs at the refrigerator. She pulls the latch and viciously tries to get the door open but she can't. She screams and wakes.