

REANIMATOR

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. DISSECTING ROOM - DAY

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A FLAT BOTTOM VIAL filled with a thick, GREEN REAGENT, and the empty SYRINGE sitting beside it. Everything is still and quiet, waiting...

...HERBERT WEST (23) leads BRUCE UNDERWOOD (22) into the lab.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
Is it always this cold?

West shuts the door behind them.

HERBERT WEST
(nods)
Thins the herd.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
I can tell my *father*.

HERBERT WEST
I'm talking to you. Not him.

Underwood follows West as he crosses the room, opens an ICE CHEST, and grabs a CAT suffocated in saran wrap.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
(off the cat)
What happened?

HERBERT WEST
Old age.

West unwraps the cat on the operating table.

Underwood scans the room as he circles the workspace, judging West's mess - tools and papers stained with unbeknownst fluids until...

...He reaches for the green reagent.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
What's in it, exactly?

West seizes the vial before Underwood can grab it.

HERBERT WEST
I found the cure...

West grabs the syringe and fills it halfway with his reagent.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
...That's all that matters.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
I want to believe you.

HERBERT WEST
I have the proof.

West picks up the dead cat and drops it on the table.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
How comforting...

HERBERT WEST
(scoffs)
Comfort is a lie we tell ourselves
to feel safe.

Underwood watches West insert the needle into the base of the cat's neck and inject his reagent.

West checks his watch.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
I'm not here for comfort.

HERBERT WEST
You're here because you're tired.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
What?

HERBERT WEST
All work and no credit makes Bruce
a dull boy.

Underwood snaps towards West.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
I don't know who--

HERBERT WEST
--Did you see that?

West grabs the STETHOSCOPE and hunts for the cat's heartbeat.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
See what?

Underwood tries to get a closer look.

West refills the syringe with his reagent and injects a second dose.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
Should it have happened already?

West tries to ignore him, but Underwood stares at him until he turns, and just when he's about to say something...

...A HIDEOUS GROWL fills the air.

The cat WRITHES. Hunching its back, BONES CRACKING as its joints POP back into place.

HERBERT WEST
(smirks)
I think it heard you.

Underwood cups his mouth.

West checks his watch, then grabs his NOTEBOOK and writes:

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
Re-animation in one minute.
Realignment. Eyes dilated.
Irregular heartbeat. Breathing
labored. Low vocalization -rasping.
Weak. Strange convulsions.

The table RATTLES as the cat WHEEZES.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
(disgusted)
What's wrong with it?

HERBERT WEST
It wasn't fresh enough.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
You knew it was going to react like
this!?

West grabs the stethoscope and presses it against the cat.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
This isn't what you--

HERBERT WEST
--Bastard!

West pulls his hand back, BLEEDING from claw marks, and snatches the HAMMER.

ON UNDERWOOD wincing as West KILLS the cat in a single blow.

West wipes the blood off himself.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
We have to tell my father.

HERBERT WEST
(mocking)
*Daddy the dean, is he your solution
to everything?*

Underwood turns to what remains of the cat.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
This is bigger than us.

HERBERT WEST
I conquered death.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
You brought a cat back to life...

West approaches the ice chest.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
...Not a human.

Opening the chest, West grabs a packaged syringe and a bottle containing HYDROGEN CYANIDE.

HERBERT WEST
Which is why I need you.

West returns to the operating table.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
I can't be your assistant. Not like this.

HERBERT WEST
I don't want you to.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
Then this is a waste of time.

West opens the package and fills the syringe from the bottle.

HERBERT WEST
Aren't you sick of being overshadowed?

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
What!?

West brandishes the syringe and approaches Underwood.

Underwood backpedals.

HERBERT WEST
Your surname is a prison.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
I've earned my name.

HERBERT WEST
Who cares?

Underwood runs into the wall behind him.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
Everyone uses your father as an
excuse to discredit every thing you
do.

West offers the syringe with cyanide.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
What is that?

HERBERT WEST
A step in the right direction.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
(realizes)
You can't be serious.

HERBERT WEST
Imagine what you can become...

Underwood forms a fist.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
...No more inherited expectations
or useless pride.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
Fuck you.

West sizes Underwood up, a smirk curling his lips, then turns his back and walks towards the operating table.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
If you won't go to my father, then
I will.

HERBERT WEST
What will you tell him?

Underwood snatches West's notebook.

West spins around.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
That you need him to save you?

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
He needs to know what you're doing.

HERBERT WEST
I offer you everything, but you
can't let go, can you?

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
You don't know what I want.

West transfers the syringe to his off hand as he takes a step towards Underwood and his notebook.

HERBERT WEST
Give it to me.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
What else are you hiding?

Bruce starts flipping through the notebook.

West reaches for it but Bruce pulls it out of reach.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
(off the notebook)
Is this all you are?

HERBERT WEST
Says the dean's own flesh and
blood.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
Keep pushing and I'll end all of
this before you even get the chance
to--

--West grabs the hammer and STRIKES Underwood across the jaw.

The notebook flies in the air as Underwood falls against the table behind him and hits the floor.

West crouches as he flaunts the syringe.

HERBERT WEST
You were saying?

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
Please.

West pins Underwood with his knee and injects the cyanide.

HERBERT WEST
It's only temporary.

Underwood manages a few shallow breaths before DYING on the cold, white floor.

West stands up and pushes a few things around the operating table before finding an empty syringe. He fills it with his green reagent.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
(off watch)
12:24 A.M.

He writes the time in his notebook.

West huddles beside Underwood and injects the reagent into the back of his neck.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
5 seconds.

West looks at his watch, then back to Underwood.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
Come on.
(beat)
15 seconds

West pulls the stethoscope over his ears and rummages for a heartbeat. *The silence is heavy.*

He SLAMS his fist next to Underwood's head.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
You'll see.

He rises and SCRIBBLES in his notebook.

West refills the syringe from the vial, sweat beading on his forehead. He glances over his shoulder, every second dragging on until...

...Underwood FOAMS at the mouth as his eyes FLICK open.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
Reanimation in 35 seconds!

West crouches.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
Can you hear me?

Underwood arches his back, joints CRACKING as he lugs himself into a sitting position.

West lifts Underwood's arm and lets it fall.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
(flaunts syringe)
Hold still.

West approaches Underwood and injects the second dose of his reagent into his neck with a swift, practiced motion.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
That's it... you're almost there,
just--

Underwood GRABS West's arm, JERKS his head back, and GASPS... HEAVING and COUGHING, as if he's never taken a breath before.

West pulls his hand back.

Underwood opens his eyes, blinking into the harsh light to find West CLAPPING his hands together.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
(hoarse)
What...

Underwood cowers against the far wall.

West grabs the vial of reagent and approaches him.

HERBERT WEST
Remarkable.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
Why... why am I...

HERBERT WEST
I gave you what you wanted.

Underwood clutches his stomach as a bubble of red saliva drips down his chin.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
You're a part of something bigger
than your father.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
(sinking in)
You... killed me...

West hovers above Underwood and offers his reagent.

HERBERT WEST
I gave you purpose.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
I never... no... not this...

HERBERT WEST
(off the vial)
Can you feel it?

Underwood takes the vial and SLOSHES it left and right.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
It owns you.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
Oh God.

HERBERT WEST
There is no God...

UNDERWOOD'S POV of his forearm, the green reagent flowing through his veins; GLOWING and dancing beneath his skin.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
...Only *this*.

West seizes his reagent then offers his hand.

BRUCE UNDERWOOD
Let me go.

HERBERT WEST
Your father can't save you.
(beat)
He never could.

Underwood looks at the LUMINOUS vial, then West.

HERBERT WEST (CONT'D)
There's nothing left for you but
me.

Underwood shuts his eyes and holds his breath. The world around him growing quiet, he listens to his HEARTBEAT as he slowly raises his hand and...

...Joins it with West's.

CUT TO BLACK.

REANIMATOR