

NEVER DIE ALONE

Written by

Yeong-Jay Lee

EXT. LAKE SUPERIOR - NIGHT

The full moon illuminates a barge traversing the stygian lake in the pouring RAIN. CRACKS of lightning outline the surrounding forests and mountains in stark relief.

EXT. BARGE - NIGHT

A few men wearing raincoats pace the deck as the barge slows to a stop. Lights from a town dot the horizon.

They unfasten a large tarp covering the cargo - a massive mound of coking coal.

Two dig through the coal to reveal a face buried within. They extract a gaunt young man from the pile. He bears a neck tattoo, "Beloved".

They drag him to the side of the ship. They fasten chains to his ankles and shove an iron ball into the water.

We PLUNGE into the frigid lake.

EXT. LAKE SUPERIOR - CONTINUOUS

The body sinks faster and faster until we reach the shipwreck of an early colonial trading vessel at the bottom.

The iron ball carries him through the sundered wooden hull and into the...

INT. CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

... festooned with the trappings of a wealthy and worldly trader.

The ball CRASHES into an ornate glass cabinet scattering the antique curiosities within. Among them, a black leather coffer imprinted with a cross.

As it tumbles through the water, *it unlatches*, and THE EYE drifts free. It's an impossible sapphire glowing uncannily in the darkness.

It floats toward the surface. As it rises, pull back to reveal hundreds of bodies scattered across the lake bed.

SUPER: LAKE SUPERIOR

MUSIC CUE: "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" by Gordon Lightfoot

EXT. SAULT STE MARIE - NIGHT

The spring storm batters a run-down rust belt town situated on an inlet to Lake Superior. The remnants of heavy industry line the waterfront.

EXT. SAULT STE MARIE - NIGHT

Rolling hills covered in a verdant forest surround the town.

EXT. LAKE SUPERIOR - NIGHT

A fawn drinks from the lake. It looks up as a shabby Honda Civic passes on a nearby road.

EXT. SARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

An early 2000s Fleetwood trailer home. A "Love is Love" sign decorates the sparse lawn.

The Honda pulls in the gravel drive.

END MUSIC CUE.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

A woman sits at the kitchen island smoking a cigarette. This is SARA WITHERS, 37, wispy brunette. She's as haggard as the town, wearing a "Sault Blue Devils" hoodie and sweats.

She listens to something on her phone through wired headphones.

ADAM WITHERS, 17, a dark haired, gangly beanstalk with bad skin, pokes his head into the kitchen.

Adam, and everyone else from the Sault (pronounced "Soo"), speaks with a distinctive Yooper accent.

ADAM

Hey mom.

Sara mutes a phone call.

SARA

Yes?

ADAM

Sorry - are you working?

SARA
It's fine.

ADAM
Can I go out with Jenny?

SARA
That new girl transferred to your
class?

ADAM
Yeah, but she's cool.

SARA
Where to?

ADAM
Dunno. Out?

SARA
Hm. When will you be back?

ADAM
Not that late.

SARA
12. Take your phone.

ADAM
Oh, I might've lost it.

SARA
Again Adam? How can I reach you?

Adam shrugs.

SARA (CONT'D)
Back by 12. I mean it.

ADAM
Sure mom.

He goes. Sara takes a long drag and unmutes her call.

SARA
Still with me John?

JOHN (O.S.)
(dreamy)
Yeah, I'm still here.