

Perception

By

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INT. LIVING ROOM- DAY

MARCOS, 20, still in pajamas, is writing a letter. Camera gets close shot of the words "THIS IS THE END" written at the end of the letter.

Marcos folds up the note and puts it in an envelope and leaves it on the table.

INT. BATHROOM

Marcos is shaving. He stops for a moment and runs the blade across his neck, slowly, and pressing harder than normal. He stares into the mirror.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Marcos, combed hair, wearing a dress pants and a button down shirt, picks up the letter and ties it to the handle of the staircase with a string and leaves it hanging.

EXT. WOODS-DAY

Marcos is sitting by a tree. He twirls the blade in his hand and presses it against his wrist.

Suddenly, JOE, 22, dirty looking, a bit built, falls out of the tree. Marcos jumps and the blade falls out of this hand.

MARCOS

Whoa!

Marcos picks up the blade and puts it back in his pocket before Joe notices. Joe jumps up to face Marcos.

JOE

Sorry. Didn't see you there. I'm Joe, how's it going?

Marcos looks at Joe, gets up and moves to leave.

JOE (CON'T)

Wait a minute. What's your name?

Marcos tries to move around Joe but Joe keeps blocking him.

JOE (CON'T)

What brings you to our neck of the woods?

MARCOS

(Looking around)

Our?

(CONTINUED)

JOE

Yeah, me and my buddy Alex.

Joe smiles at Marcos. Marcos tries to walk away again.

JOE

What's your deal?

MARCOS

Can you please get out of the way?

Joe moves slightly to let Marcos walk by but begins to follow him.

JOE

What did you say your name was?

MARCOS

I didn't.

JOE

That's not a very good name, what were your parents thinking when they named you?

Marcos stops.

MARCOS

What are you doing here?

JOE

Well, I'm looking for my friend Alex. Was trying to get a better view from up there in the tree, but haven't spotted him yet.

Marcos starts to walk off and Joe follows him.

JOE

What about you? What are you doing out here all dressed up? Did you just come from a funeral or something?

MARCOS

No.

beat.

JOE

Well, you look like someone just died or something.

MARCOS

Is there something I can help you with?

JOE

Well, since you asked, you can help me find my buddy.

MARCOS

It was a rhetorical question.

JOE

I'll take that!

Joe pats him on the shoulder and motions for Marcos to follow him.

MARCOS

No wait, I'm not going to help you find your friend. I just want to be left alone thanks.

JOE

Why? We're playing a game. It's fun. Might cheer you up.

MARCOS

No thanks- what? A game? What game?

JOE

Well, it's kind of like hide and seek, except it's harder to find some one in the woods and once you find them, you have to catch em' or else they can get away and you'll be looking again.

MARCOS

That sounds stupid.

JOE

How?

MARCOS

What if you never find him?

JOE

I always find him. I mean Once it took me like three days, but I still found him. So you wanna help?

MARCOS
No, why would I?

JOE
Well, what are you doing here then?

Marcos stops walking and stares at Joe.

MARCOS
Nothing.

Suddenly, Marcos takes off running. Camera pans back to show Joe staring at him as he runs away.

Marcos runs up to a river, looks back. No one is behind him. He turns and sees his reflection in the water.

MARCOS (CON'T)
(To himself)
Ok, you can do this. Now or never.

Marcos pulls the blade out of his pocket. He raises his head to the sky, puts the blade to his neck, closes his eyes.

Joe swoops in swinging from a branch.

He kicks Marcos in the process of landing.

The blade goes flying into the river.

Marcos falls into the river.

MARCOS (CON'T)
(Coughing)
What are you doing?!?

JOE
What are *you* doing?

Marcos gets up and walks out of the water. He sits on the side of the river and Joe sits next to him.

beat.

JOE (CON'T)
Look, I don't know-

Across the river a gun shot is fired into the air, hits a bird. The bird falls into the water. The camera shows blood flowing out of the bird and into the water.

Marcos starts bawling and curls up into the fetal position.

Joe sits beside him. He smirks.

(CONTINUED)

JOE (CON'T)
(Almost a whisper)
Let it out man. Just let it out.

MARCOS
(still crying)
Why did the bird have to die?? It didn't do anything? Why are people so heartless? Why do they feel like it's ok to murder something?

JOE
I don't know. You know, we weren't all meant to live in harmony with each other; animals and things like that. But at the same time, it's so peaceful and beautiful out here. Makes you really appreciate life.

MARCOS
APPRECIATE life?! You look like you haven't had showered in months! You just saw a bird die. You're playing some stupid game and you can't find your friend. What if he's dead? Would you be fine with that?

Joe stands up.

JOE
First of all, dude, calm down. Being out here makes me happy, and it makes Alex happy too. It's our home and we're not the ones trying to kill ourselves. If it's your time, it's your time, but it's not fair to give yourself an expiration date.

Marcos gets up at this point too.

MARCOS
Not fair? What do you mean not fair?

JOE
I mean it's not fair for you to be so selfish.

Joe grabs Marcos and starts pulling him.

(CONTINUED)

MARCOS

What are you doing? Where are you taking me?

JOE

Just come. I wanna show you something.

Marcos gives in and follows.

Joe starts climbing up a tree.

JOE (CON'T)

(Looking down at Marcos)

Come on.

MARCOS

You mean climb the tree?

JOE

Yeah! Come on!

Marcos climbs up the tree and follows Joe. They stop and sit on a branch high enough to see a large part of the forest. Wide shot of the forest is shown.

JOE (CON'T)

See. There's no way you can't be happy living out here. Looking at all of this. Problems still exist out here, but you realize how small your problems are compared to everything else. You know?

Marcos just sits there for a moment.

JOE (CON'T)

Hey! Look, I think that's Alex.

Joe jumps off the branch and rolls onto the ground. He looks up at Marcos.

JOE (CON'T)

Are you coming?

MARCOS

What?

JOE

Are you coming to help me catch Joe?

Hesitant, Marcos smirks a little and climbs down the tree. Joe smiles.

(CONTINUED)

JOE (CON'T)
Thanks for helping me find him.

MARCOS
I didn't.

JOE
You did, But let's go, before he
gets away.

Marcos and Joe run into the direction they saw Alex.

CUT TO

INT. LIVING ROOM- DUSK

Marcos opens the door to the house, walks in and unties the
string holding the letter. He smiles.