

THE DEVIL'S GRAVE

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - BACKYARD - EARLY MORNING

A MIDDLE-AGED MAN wearing a tie staggers from the backdoor, pressing a hand against his bleeding side.

Behind him, an attractive young WOMAN, horrified, holds a bloody kitchen knife. Coughing, she rubs her throat.

Wobbling toward the back fence, he collapses, face-down.

An ATHLETIC MAN, early thirties, stumbles out next, bruised and bleeding. He runs to the body and rolls it over.

ATHLETIC MAN

Helen, I think he's dead!

HELEN (WOMAN)

Shush! You think or you know?

He looks about and dashes to the shed.

She drops the knife and begins to break down.

He returns with two shovels. Next to the body, he stabs the spade into the soil.

HELEN

Oh my God, Kyle. We're going to go to hell for this.

KYLE (ATHLETIC MAN)

It's jail I'm worried about. Dig.

Immediately discovering something, he drops to his knees.

INSERT - GROUND

With his hands, he unearths the face of a second dead man.

BACK TO SCENE

KYLE

Damn, Helen. How many times have you been married?

HELEN

(beat)

Fuck you!

Scanning around, a look of astonishment washes over him.

WIDE SHOT - DOWN ANGLE - YARD

The bodies lie in the center of a twelve-foot, perfect circle of missing grass.

BACK TO SCENE

KYLE

You have a crop circle in your backyard?

HELEN

No. I mean, I don't know. I tried but nothing grows here -- so I just decorated around it.

KYLE

Jesus! Must be this body!

HELEN

What?

KYLE

It must be toxic as hell!

HELEN

But I'm out here all the time.

KYLE

Helen! Who is this?

HELEN

Probably Apache? No, Blackfoot, haw.

KYLE

What? No! Looks like he was buried this morning.

HELEN

Can we just get this over with?

He gives her a suspicious look.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SCENE - LATE MORNING

Their hole is now five feet across and two feet deep.

The two bodies now lie under a tarp, a short distance away.

KYLE

You don't look so good.

With dark rings around her eyes, she glares at him.

HELEN

Told you he was on to us. Can't believe I killed my husband for you.

Considering what to say, he abruptly becomes mildly offended.

KYLE

He could've killed me if you hadn't. And you were next. And it's not like he wasn't cheating, too.

HELEN

But I only asked you here to end it.

KYLE

What? I thought we were past that.

Helen looks away. Taken aback, he resumes digging.

KYLE

Guess he died for nothing, then.

HELEN

Maybe a UFO did touch down here, haw.  
(choking up)  
Probably landed on that poor Indian!

KYLE

Stop it. Circle can't be that old.

Tossing a scoop of dirt, he looks down and halts, stunned.

INSERT - GROUND

He brushes dirt from a preserved dinosaur egg/hatchling.

BACK TO SCENE

HELEN

Oh my God. Why isn't it rotted?

A thousand thoughts race through Kyle's eyes before a look of astonishment and misgiving come over him.

KYLE

Because even the bacteria are dead.

HELEN

You don't look so good either.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SCENE - AFTERNOON

Helen, detached, sits and watches Kyle frantically dig. The two have visibly deteriorated.

KYLE

Odd coincidence that Robert would drop dead in the exact center of this circle. There was not even anywhere back here for him to go.

HELEN

I think it's a flying saucer buried.

KYLE

(resting)

No. This place... It seems to draw death to itself.

HELEN

Probably crashed through Earth's molten crust before Adam and Eve times; and still shooting deadly cosmic rays up through my lawn.

He looks to her fondly but then grows disheartened.

KYLE

I don't think you're very bright.

His SHOVEL strikes SOMETHING HARD, causing a METALLIC RING.

They look to each other with unease.

He slams his weight onto the shovel and breaks through into an open space beneath. He barely catches himself and scrambles up with no help from Helen.

INSERT - HOLE

There is a LOW WHISTLE from the BLACKNESS.

BACK TO SCENE

Mesmerized, Helen tips forward but is grabbed by her hair.

KYLE

Careful, damn it!

She whips out her knife and presses it against his throat.

HELEN

Touch me again and I'll kill you, too.

KYLE

(leaning in)

Do it.

They abruptly note the dark cavity and come to their senses.

KYLE

What the heck is down there?

She drops her knife into the opening and they listen for a sound that never comes.

HELEN

An abyss.

KYLE

Like a bottomless pit?

HELEN

In The Bible, The Abyss is the abode of The Beast and the common receptacle of the dead. Hell.

KYLE

Perfect.

(stepping toward tarp)

They'll never find him down there.

Peering into the void, she gasps. Kyle rushes back.

KYLE

What!

Shaken, she retracts from him.

HELEN

Thought I... something pale -- deep down -- moving in and out of the light.

Ill at ease, she moves toward her husband's body.

KYLE

You were right, Helen.

She halts with her back to him.

KYLE

I will divorce her if you still want me to.

She sighs and slowly turns to him with a defeated face.

Kyle is gone.

HELEN

Oh my God.

Glancing about, she lurches to the hole but stops herself.

DISSOLVE TO:

SAME SCENE - LATER

Sobbing, Helen tugs Robert's body, wrapped in the tarp, toward the abyss.

HELEN

I just wanted my husband back.  
Guess I'll see you down there,  
haw. Save a toasty spot for us.

Her attention snaps to an ODD NOISE from inside the PIT.

Unnerved, she shoves Robert in, who jolts.

She winces and covers her ears as ROBERT'S bone-chilling SCREAM ECHOES until heard no more.

She is now alone.

Aghast, she stands at the edge and looks down. Succumbing to the urge to step in, she tips forward.

There is another NOISE and she halts at the last instant.

She seems to see something disturbing within.

Mesmerized, she slowly stoops and reaches into the dark.

Something latches on to her, nearly pulling her down.

With all her strength, she heaves upward.

Kyle, drenched in blood, is yanked clear of the hole.

Helen embraces him tightly.

She finds him bug-eyed and in deep shock.

HELEN

What did you see?

He tries to speak but cannot.

The EARTH SHAKES. A STRANGE, ERRATIC SOUND rises.

She looks down into the black and is overcome with terror.

She frantically drags Kyle away.

SOMETHING MASSIVE BURSTS up from BENEATH.

CUT TO BLACK.

HELEN (O.S.)

OH MY GOD!!!

THE END