

SILVERFISH

A SHORT FILM

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING DAY 1

NORMAL CAMERA SPEED IN BLACK AND WHITE

JACOB MOFFIT , a 45 year old fisherman is lying asleep on his side of the bed. His ALARM goes off. He rolls over, slams his arm over it and knocks it off the bed-stand and into some nearby fishing gear.

Every room of his house is filled with fishing gear, poles and nets. They have been unused and left untouched for years.

He walks to the bathroom, takes a piss. FLUSHES the toilet and puts the lid down. Looks in his toothpaste splattered mirror and wipes it down. Shaves. Collects all the hair and neatly throws it in the toilet.

He walks through the house to the kitchen and puts the kettle on.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jacob waits patiently for the kettle to boil. Gets out two cups, puts tea bags in each cup. One sugar in one and milk in the other. He walks out of the kitchen with the two cups.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He walks to the mantelpiece and puts the cup with the milk onto the mantelpiece, next to largest photo of his deceased wife. He ignores all the other photos.

JACOB

Hello love.

CLOSE ON PHOTO OF SMILING ATTRACTIVE WIFE, ABBY.

Jacob touches the photo gently. He toasts it with his mug then walks to his big picture window. He looks at the view of the bay and his boat that is turned over.

He looks over at the photo of his wife, shakes his head.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Na. I couldn't.

He takes the cup from his wife's photo.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Don't mind if I do.

He drinks it down, puts the cups in the sink and walks back into his bedroom to start getting ready for the day.

He walks out of bedroom in fix-it man's gear, walks passed the photo of his wife.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Have a good day love. (beat) I've
got a busy one today. (beat) You
stay out of trouble.

He winks at the photo of his wife as he walks out and heads towards his car.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF ABBY - THIS TIME SHE HAS A MISCHIEVOUS LOOK ON HER FACE

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING DAY 2

ALL EXACTLY AS ABOVE BUT HE NOTICES THE LOOK ON HER FACE HAS CHANGED SLIGHTLY BUT HE TAKES NO NOTICE

And, this time, when he looks out at his boat, he can see it's turned over on it's hull, pointing out towards the bay. He leans in for a closer look. Curious but not enough to investigate, he continues on with routine as in Day 1.

Abby's photo remains mischievous.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING DAY 3

ALL EXACTLY AS ABOVE BUT THIS TIME HE DOES NOT LOWER THE SEAT AFTER HE PEES, DOES NOT CLEAR THE HAIR SHAVINGS AND DOES NOT CLEAN THE TOOTHPASTE.

When he brings the tea to his wife he looks at the photo.

CLOSE ON PHOTO OF VERY UNSATISFIED LOOK ON ABBY'S FACE.

Jacob looks closely at the photo and is clearly disturbed. He holds the photo and sets it back down on the mantel, he walks away but quickly comes back to the photo and looks at it.

10 - 15 photos in small frames surround Abby's photo. We catch a glimpse of their life through these photos. Photos of their kids, a pregnant ABBY in a wedding dress happily kissing Jacob, them laughing and many of Jacob in a row boat holding up fish.

Jacob looks at the photo of his unhappy wife.

JACOB
Well, I'll be...

He picks up the photo of her sets it on a chair. Nothing. She is still unhappy. Jacob sits down next to the frame and puts his arm around it. He looks at the photo-she still looks dissatisfied.

He gets up and props the photo up with her pillow. Nothing.

He places a plastic flower near her frame. Still nothing.

He walks out of the room and into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

He is frantically cleaning the pee, the hair and the toothpaste. He walks back into living room to check her photo.

She is still completely dissatisfied.

Jacob walks back in the room with her favorite slippers and a glass of champagne. He sets the slippers down at the bottom of the chair. He toasts the glass frame and takes a sip before setting it on the floor. He waits. Nothing.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jacob storms into the kitchen with a vengeance. He searches his full and cluttered cabinets for things that will please her. He gets food out of the refrigerator and puts it back.

CLOSE UP ON MOULDY PIE

He puts the pie back.

He goes to the liquor cabinet and pulls out a bottle of tequila.

INT. JACOB'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jacob walks to the photo with a shot of tequila, salt and lime. Lip, sip and suck. Still nothing, nothing, nothing.

Discouraged, Jacob looks out the window at the bay. His boat now has oars in it.

Curious, he goes outside to have a look.

EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

He looks inside the boat. His tackle box, fresh bait, nets, lines and an eskie are all inside the boat waiting for him. After some thought, he goes back into his house.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jacob storms into the house with purpose, he is looking for his old fishing gear. Each time he looks for something it's there, folded neatly and ready for him to take as if she had planted it there for him; waiting until he was ready.

EXT. BOAT - CONTINUOUS

He takes the photo of Abby out with him, he places the photo lovingly on the front seat.

He moves the rowboat to pier and ties it up. Nervous and pensively he gets in and rows out to the middle of the bay.

CUT TO:

SWEEPING AERIAL VIEW OF MANGROVES AND BAY UNTIL THE CAMERA COMES CLOSER TO JACOB IN HIS BOAT. CAMERA FLIES LOW, JUST ABOVE THE CALM WATER UNTIL IT SWEEPS UP AND OVER THE ROWBOAT.

EXT. LAKE - LATER

Jacob is anchored and casting over the side. He looks at the photo and he stops casting his line. He lifts the photo to the sky.

CLOSE UP OF (NOW) SMILING PHOTO

Rays of sun flare from the smiling photo of his wife. He kisses the photo and touches it lovingly one last time before he places it in the water. He watches the photo sink.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO IN WATER

We see her face dissolving into the depths of the tranquil water.

Jacob now sits alone. Uncertain of what to do next.

He waits for a sign. Nothing. Awkwardly he sits there until finally he decides that a fisherman is born to fish. He baits his hook. Throws in his line and reels. Again and again.

Finally, something big is pulling on his line, he reels it in. Whatever it is, it is hard to pull in line. Winning the battle, he reels it in. It's his wife's photo frame.

He looks at the photo.

CLOSE ON PHOTO OF A FISH

Jacob smiles as he looks at the fish. He sets the frame back in the boat and starts rowing happily back to shore.

FADE TO BLUR:

CREDITS ROLL OVER MUSIC

The End