

# **Worlds End Lane**

written by

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EXT. WORLDS END LANE - DAY

From credits appearing over black, we fade in to a road sign that reads as 'Worlds End Lane'.

All around us are bright picturesque furnishings that pertain to a truly heavenly landscape - green fields, large family homes and bright blue skies.

ANTONIO (V.O)

I was searching for something, that's what I kept telling myself... I had an eye for danger, for the thrill of the chase, for something larger than life. And in this sleepy town resting at the edge of the world, that was something almost impossible to find... Almost.

As the V.O continues on, we get fleeting glimpses of a beautiful town laced with an unpleasant sickness...

FADE OUT

ANTONIO (V.O)

I'd been in search for liberation, that's what I kept telling myself.

FADE IN

We approach a large house that sits adjacent to a pumpkin patch...

ANTONIO (V.O)

I wasn't interested in finding a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow unlike certain members of the town... The man who lived beside the pumpkin patch in the big fancy house placed absolutely no value on his life beyond the silver stashed in his pockets.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

Suddenly, we witness a car speeding down the road and the sounds of a collision taking place.

ANTONIO (V.O)

They'd be the occasional collision on the road but it wasn't something you could come to rely on. And eventually, even the thrill of casual danger wasn't enough for me. I needed to look further afield -

(MORE)

ANTONIO (V.O) (cont'd)  
 much further afield to find my  
 liberation.

We pan across a blood stained street to a 'danger sign' and then across to a fence which, when looking a little further beyond, reveals an open field singing the songs of freedom...

FADE OUT

FADE IN

We walk up a hill that stands before a large lake. A footpath runs perpendicular to it, implying that we've taken a shortcut.

ANTONIO (V.O)  
 And then one day I just lost my way  
 - walked so far of course that I  
 ended up missing the path  
 entirely... I'd then arrive at a  
 lake - I didn't know where it led  
 but after smelling the stench of  
 blood from beneath the currents I  
 just had to find out...

We pick up a branch, ready to be cut into firewood. We then stare across the lake AT DUSK, soaking in the scenery...

ANTONIO (V.O)  
 I'd go searching for firewood. Then  
 I'd sit by the edge of the lake,  
 allowing the allure of fresh danger  
 to wash over me... The locals  
 always said there was something in  
 the water and, in a way, they  
 weren't wrong...

We TRANSITION to a stream which leads to a bridge...

ANTONIO (V.O)  
 I quickly discovered that the lake  
 narrowed into a stream and came to  
 a watery grave beneath a bridge...  
 That then led me to a discovery I  
 really wish I hadn't found out...

We then pan around to see a children's RABBIT TOY hanging from a tree...

ANTONIO (V.O)  
 A young boy, only eight years old,  
 had apparently been shot to death,  
 thrown into the lake and left to  
 wash up under the bridge... I  
 really wish my search for  
 liberation had ended there...

(MORE)

ANTONIO (V.O) (cont'd)  
 Instead, I was pulled deeper and deeper into what I can only describe as the Inferno, the Netherworld, the Abode of the Dead... There's no certain set of words to describe what that means. All I know for certain is that the feeling is unanimous to every-living-person.

We abruptly walk away from the lake at a pace, seeing the world literally UPSIDE DOWN.

TRANSITION TO

INT. BEDROOM - SOMETIME

Puffs of cigarette smoke rise towards the ceiling and fill the room until it becomes a thick haze. The haze appears as blood red smoke.

ANTONIO (V.O)  
 That's when I became trapped with no means and with no hope of escape - It felt like I was addicted to danger - addicted to the thrill of the chase...  
 And what came next would prove too difficult to put into words...

TRANSITION TO

EXT. WOODLAND, FIELD - SOMETIME AFTER

We open onto a field, some fifty feet away from a DARK ARCHWAY that leads into the woods just beyond.

ANTONIO - a young man with dark features - comes into frame and stands in the field, preparing himself for his coming journey.

He then proceeds to walk towards the archway as a heavy degree of tension, orchestrated by a foreboding score, dominates the scene.

EXT. WOODLAND, THE TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

As Antonio enters the dark forest, a DARK FIGURE watches him from beyond the trees - Presenting as a POV shot like what would be framed in HALLOWEEN or FRIDAY THE 13th to depict the killer. The sound of HEAVY BREATHING can be heard as the dark figure pans around, watching Antonio walk up a woodland trail...

Antonio follows this trail deeper and deeper into the woods with keen eyes and a sharp wit. From afar, he approaches

from the far end of the trail, TRANSITIONING SEVERAL TIMES at regular intervals from one spot to another - like a timelapse... Until the point he walks passed the camera.

After he's gone from view, the dark figure finally reveals himself and steps out from the trees. He appears to have a striking resemblance to Antonio himself.

We track behind Antonio as - Suddenly - SNAP! Antonio turns, sharply. There's no one behind him but... the hairs on the back of his neck are starting to stand up tall. He shakes it off and continues walking...

EXT. WOODLAND, THE FALLEN BRANCH - CONTINUOUS

A fallen tree, some thirty feet tall, lies on its side in a CLEARING. That isn't the only detail within this picture, however...

For lying over the tree is an unfriendly sight much much worse than that - For Antonio would have never predicted he'd bare witness to seeing HIMSELF lying DEAD over THE FALLEN BRANCH!

He freezes as if time stood still, gazing in awe and disgust at this unpleasant sight. - It can't be!

Antonio appears as if continuing to stand still as the camera moves towards the body. Then, as the camera reaches the corpse, Antonio appears in frame.

He proceeds to walk around the corpse to the other side, revealing the face of the man who appears to be staring, wide-eyed, directly at Antonio as if gazing into his soul. His JACKET appears the same as the one he's wearing except for the fact that it looks AGED and DIRTY.

He begins to reach down as if to touch the face of the body before stopping himself - (A wise move as connection to his potential or probable future isn't something that he wants to draw a connection to. Better this just be an alternative timeline in which some other Antonio - one who's made some poor life choices - ends up experiencing and not him.) And so he retrieves his hand.

Suddenly, he turns and walks away from the body, rejecting this whole encounter as a hoax.

HOWEVER; Once he arrives back on the woodland trail, the camera SWIRLS around him, going wild, as a great moment of epiphany rains over him, cutting back and forth between a POV swirling shot and a CLOSE UP facial shot of Antonio looking pained and uncertain of what to do... The camera comes to a halt once it reaches the path ahead of him.

This is the only way forward! - His addiction has gotten the better of him and he's now realised, he can't turn back now.

He recomposes himself, puts his best foot forward and continues on.

EXT. WOODLAND, THE CURVED PATH - CONTINUOUS

The sticks and stones on the ground appear sharper than ever before from a very low angle. The land is dry and uneven. The ground shakes as footsteps approach like a stampede.

We pan as Antonio walks passed us and a loud, sharp and screechy increase in sound causes Antonio to come to another halt. (This is the non-diegetic rush of sound which only the audience can hear.)

This time, it isn't a dead body that Antonio sees before him, but is instead a living, breathing and angry-faced (ALT ANTONIO) who waits for him up ahead. He's wearing the same dirty version of the jacket like the doopleganger on the branch.

The camera zooms into Antonio's eyes...

ANTONIO (V.O)

(almost humourous)

Yeah, no, this is point I decided to run.

ALT ANTONIO suddenly disappears, appears, disappears and reappears again while edging closer and closer to Antonio - whatever this entity is, it doesn't need legs. It's shifting through reality like a GHOST and continues until ALT Antonio is right up in front of the camera and his eyes are the only thing visible. (This shot literally mirrors the V.O shot from Antonio mere moments ago.)

We cut to a wide as Antonio runs as fast as he can back down the woodland trail.

EXT. WOODLAND, A PLACE TO HIDE - CONTINUOUS

He slows down and comes to a halt once he reaches a small opening in the trees. He looks back to see ALT Antonio shifting through reality, dipping in and out of existence but, nonetheless, always getting closer!

Antonio's face appears from behind a tree.

Like a hungry dog, ALT Antonio scours the scenery in search of his prey, looking ahead, behind and all around him.

Nothing.

After several moments, ALT Antonio continues on, flashing in and out of existence.

Antonio makes a sigh of relief and leaves his hiding spot.

He steps back onto the trail. Thankfully this alternate entity is nowhere in sight.

We zoom into Antonio's eyeline again.

ANTONIO (V.O)

What was that spectre doing in the woods?... Why had I seen what could be my body after death, phasing in and out of reality and staring right back at me from the dying bark of a conifer tree?... These were uncertain questions with likely only one definitive answer.

EXT. WORLDS END LANE, STREET - NIGHT

Antonio walks down a dark street beside the road. A handful of cars pass him by and streetlamps light up the way forward.

We track forward from a low angle, tracking Antonio from above his waistline. The streetlamps flare above his head.

ANTONIO (V.O)

The night closed in fast that day. Whether I'd been asleep for the remainder of the afternoon or I was knocked out cold by that thing in the woods, that was something I couldn't determine... Atleast, not at this moment in time. Pretty soon though, the truth would appear before me, clear as day.

Up ahead, Antonio comes to a halt on a raised patch of grass just in front of a 'danger sign'. He seems exhausted after the trails and tribulations of the day.

As traffic passes him by, Antonio turns his head to see a familiar entity walk towards him. Hard to tell who it is going by the lack of light but highly predictable given the day he's had. ALT Antonio looks directly at him on his approach but Antonio doesn't bat an eyelid. He appears to be moving like a real human being this time. He's also wearing a CLEAN JACKET like Antonio, unzipped, with a white shirt underneath.

ALT Antonio walks up the raised patch of grass even further revealing a few houses just beyond, illuminated by streetlamps.

Antonio stands up and watches ALT Antonio walk towards the houses, unsure of just what the hell he is doing.

ALT Antonio comes to a halt outside one of the houses.

Antonio takes a step forward, curious of his next move.

ALT Antonio waits for a few seconds, then turns his head as a MAN (PLAYED BY MYSELF) shouts out: "HEY!"

BANG!!!

ALT Antonio jolts backwards in shock!

Antonio also jolts backwards and ALT Antonio steps back so that the camera can see his abdomen. The shirt underneath his jacket is now filling up with blood. He places his hand on the wound and stares at his blood-stained hand. The colour disappears from his face.

Antonio watches as ALT Antonio collapses to the ground. There's no spectacle to the fall, just a quiet loss of consciousness and the fleeting flash from life to death.

Antonio runs over to the corpse and collapses to the ground before him. All diegetic sound then drowns out as a familiar voice-over continues...

ANTONIO (V.O)  
I finally found what I'd been  
searching for... Just that by the  
time I did, it was too late.

Antonio lies glued to the ground in his moment of despair. Lights from the cars by the side of the road dart passed him and he closes his eyes, now filled with tears...

TRANSITION TO

EXT. WORLDS END LANE, BRIDGE - NIGHT (SOMETIME LATER)

Antonio sits on the footpath by a bridge with his back against the railings, frozen in time in a state of shock.

A MAN (PLAYED BY MYSELF) walks passed, seemingly not noticing that Antonio is even there.

ANTONIO  
Hey!

The man continues to walk passed without batting an eye, reaffirming that Antonio has long since perished from this world.

BUT, as Antonio turns away from the man to bury his head in his arms, the man stops and turns his head slightly to the side - Did he hear him?

... No. The man continues walking away.

As the man walks further in the unknown, the frame starts to fade into a blur, leaving him as a disfigured silhouette.

CUT TO BLACK.