

THE HEAVEN TUNNEL

Written by

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INT. VICTIM 1'S CAR - NIGHT

An angled shot of an unsuspecting driver from the passenger seat suggests the film to be shot off of a smart-phone camera. The driver, VICTIM 1, is taking long drags from a vape pen while one hand hangs loosely off the bottom of the car wheel. Victim 1 carries the aesthetic of a tall, confident, teenager with large sunglasses protecting his vulnerable corneas from the harmful rays of moonlight. It takes victim 1 a few drags in silence for the cinematographer, VICTIM 2, to call to attention victim 1's likeness on camera.

VICTIM 2
(chuckling in
anticipation)
Hey.

Victim 1 glances over to face the camera before turning back to the road with a sly grin.

VICTIM 1
What's, uh, what are you doing?

VICTIM 2
I'm filming you.

VICTIM 1
Why?

VICTIM 2
...It's like blackmail.

VICTIM 1
Blackmail?

VICTIM 2
Yeah.

Victim 1 breaks into a chortle.

VICTIM 1
No, you see, it's my
inhaler.

VICTIM 2
Your inhaler?

VICTIM 1
Yeah, my guy. It's so I don't get,
like, uh, asthma on my way to, you
know, bible study.

VICTIM 2
 What're you, uh, what're you
 studying in bible study?

VICTIM 1
 Uh... Matthews 4:20, my guy.

VICTIM 2
 (chuckling)
 That's a good passage.

VICTIM 1
 Yeah. (beat) There's actually,
 like, no THC in this which sucks
 ass.

Phone swings to lap of victim 2 before cutting to black.

EXT. MOON-LIT LAKE - NIGHT

Victim 2 holds the camera-phone, standing at the edge of a lake in the pale moonlight. He attempts to captures the pristine stillness of the water Through an 8 megapixel camera. The night is silent, save the faint sound of a trickle of water from off-camera.

VICTIM 1
 (off-camera)
 The tunnel's got a history. Oh
 yeah. You know what the church kids
 say? Church kids say that this
 tunnel is a kind of gateway.

VICTIM 2
 Gateway? Gateway to where?

VICTIM 1
 Gateway to heaven, man. The
 immortal frontier. Rumor has it you
 can even see angels down there.
 It's like, the heaven tunnel.

VICTIM 2
 Doesn't sound really intimidating.

VICTIM 1
 (beat) Hey, you know how kids are
 like, inherently innocent? So they
 just get, like, a free pass to
 heaven?

VICTIM 2
 I'm agnostic.

VICTIM 1

The point is: if God determines our fate from birth, is he or she the one that makes us evil? You get what I'm saying? Like, are they responsible for all of our... like, evildoing.

VICTIM 2

I don't know.

VICTIM 1

You'd probably go to heaven.

VICTIM 2

Why would you say that?

VICTIM 1

'Cause you're such a fucking baby.
(beat) You're not filming me, are you?

The camera turns slightly to face the back of Victim 1, standing amidst in brush, relieving himself.

VICTIM 2

You have a wide stance, my guy.

VICTIM 1

(mockingly)
These are nice shoes, my guy.

Victim 1 begins to finish up with a few quick hops and a zip.

VICTIM 1 (CONT'D)

(back still turned)
Shit. Does piss stain? Do you know?

VICTIM 2

I don't.

Victim 1 begins walking toward the camera.

VICTIM 1

(looking down at shoes)
God damn it. You ready?

VICTIM 2

Yeah.

VICTIM 1

Alright, let's go see some angels.

EXT. DRAINAGE PIPE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Victim 1 sits at the entrance of a human-seized drainage pipe. He slaps the head of the dysfunctional flashlight until it becomes lit.

VICTIM 1
Uh... you got battery in your phone?

VICTIM 2
Yeah, why?

VICTIM 1
(sly smile, gesturing to flashlight)
I just don't know how long this thing is going to last us.

VICTIM 2
(anxious)
Don't - don't do that.

VICTIM 1
What? Hey, if you don't want to go then we don't go.

VICTIM 2
No, I'm fine. I'm just... Yeah, I mean - well, yeah. But just like, you know, shut up.

VICTIM 1
So are you coming?

VICTIM 2
Yeah.

VICTIM 1
Good. I'll meet you at the end.

VICTIM 2
What?

Victim 1 dives through the tunnel and begins sprinting down the seemingly infinite length of concrete darkness.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
Wait! Fuck!

Victim 2 dips into the tunnel, seeing the faint light in the distance fade into the black.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)

Shit.

Victim 2 fumbles with the camera, activating the flashlight adjacent to the lens. He then starts quickly sprinting through the length, flashlight guiding him through.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Yo, Dan!

His shouts reverberate off the walls. He continues to run, eventually looking back to a void - no exit in sight.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)

Fuck.

(shouting down tunnel)

Yo! Wait up!

A slight hesitation before he continues sprinting.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Come on, man! Don't do this!

The sound of heavy breathing and water splashing underneath fills an otherwise eerily silent tube as Victim 2 continues sprinting anxiously. It's all dark. The longer the sprint, the more stressed the cinematographer. He begins turning the light behind him often, in case of something following. It takes a few seconds of straight running before Victim 1 jumps into the light, startling Victim 2.

VICTIM 1

Boo!

Victim 2 trips over backwards.

VICTIM 2

Fuck! You piece of shit!

VICTIM 1

(chuckling)

You make it too easy, my guy. Come on, it goes deeper.

VICTIM 2

(exasperated)

You don't say.

Victim 1 turns on his flashlight and both continue down the tunnel, Victim 1 making the Inception sound with his mouth echo through the tunnel.

VICTIM 1
(shouting down tunnel)
Echo... Echo... Paging doctor
Connor. Doctor Conner?

VICTIM 2
(shushing Victim 1)
Can you... shut up?

VICTIM 1
(shouting down tunnel)
Hope there's no murderers lurking
in shadowy depths of this here
tunnel looking to knife-rape some
troublesome hooligans!

VICTIM 2
(aggressively)
You done?

VICTIM 1
(regular tone of voice)
Nobody's here, my guy. Calm down.

VICTIM 2
(beat) My shoes are soaking.

VICTIM 1
Yeah, I think it gets drier deeper
in. Are you still filming?

VICTIM 2
Yeah.

VICTIM 1
You know that's going to, like,
drain your battery?

VICTIM 2
No, I'm full.

VICTIM 1
Just want to make sure - watch your
head.

Both victims dip under a slight depression in the ceiling.

VICTIM 1 (CONT'D)
Just want to make sure that you're
fine for-

VICTIM 2
You abandoning me again?

VICTIM 1
 (snickering)
 I don't know what you're talking
 about.

VICTIM 2
 I swear to God, if you pull that
 shit again...

Cut to black.

INT. UNDER SEWER GRATE - NIGHT

Both victims are seated in under a sewer grate about a fourth
 the way through the tunnel. The rumbling sound of cards
 treading above can be heard through the grate.

Both characters sit opposite of each other. Victim 2 again
 filming victim 1, who stares solemnly at his phone, back
 against the wall.

VICTIM 2
 Do you actually have signal?

VICTIM 1
 No. Just, uh... No.

Victim 1 pockets the phone, and breaths deeply.

VICTIM 1 (CONT'D)
 I want to... I want to propose a
 hypothetical.

VICTIM 2
 Shoot.

VICTIM 1
 Let's say, hypothetically, you were
 to die in these tunnels.

VICTIM 2
 (nervously defensive)
 Well, that's not going to happen.

VICTIM 1
 (beat) I know it's not going to
 happen, that's why it's a
 hypothetical.

VICTIM 2
 Yeah, well - that's not
 hypothetically... possible.

VICTIM 1
Well, it kind of is, right?

VICTIM 2
Can't this wait 'till we're
outside, and not in, you know...

VICTIM 1
...You could trip, the ceiling
could collapse, there could be,
like, a fucking murderer lurking in
the shadows.

VICTIM 2
The point is that none of that is
going to happen, so why even
consider it, you know?

VICTIM 1
I'm not saying that's going to
happen.

VICTIM 2
Yeah, but you're asking me to
consider it.

VICTIM 1
Yeah.

VICTIM 2
I don't want to. I don't want to
consider it.

VICTIM 1
(beat) You're really fucking
scared, aren't you?

VICTIM 2
Yeah, I kind of am. I can't see
shit, I can't move, there's no
signal, so yeah - I guess you could
say that I'm pretty fucking
terrified.

VICTIM 1
What are you so afraid of?

VICTIM 2
(stressed)
Nothing! I'm just being rational.
I'm rational!

VICTIM 1
You know they call this place the-

VICTIM 2
-“Heaven Tunnel”. Yeah, I heard you
the first time.

VICTIM 1
You’re literally scared in the
“Heaven Tunnel”.

VICTIM 2
Name doesn’t mean shit.

VICTIM 1
You wanted to do this.

VICTIM 2
I thought, you know, that I’d be
better. (beat) I want to go back.

VICTIM 1
You want to go back?

VICTIM 2
Yeah.

VICTIM 1
Well, I mean there’s no point now.
Tunnel just goes on for like, I
don’t know, about ten more minutes.

VICTIM 2
I kind of want to go now.

VICTIM 1
Okay, well - I kind of want to go
to the end and then come back.

VICTIM 2
What? Haven’t you been, like, here
before?

VICTIM 1
Not to the end, no. Look: I’m going
to go to the end - do you want to
come with me? No? Okay - then I’m
going to go, right? I’ll meet you
outside.

VICTIM 2
Wait, hold on-

VICTIM 1
 (interrupting)
 I'm only going to be 10 minutes and
 I'll meet you outside. Alright? Can
 you wait 10 minutes? Please?

VICTIM 2
 ... Yeah. Okay.

VICTIM 1
 Good.

Victim 1 nods and begins making his way into the depths of
 the tunnel. Cut to black.

EXT. DRAINAGE PIPE ENTRANCE - LATER IN THE NIGHT

Victim 2 exits the entrance and takes a deep breath of night
 air. He chuckles in relief.

EXT. MOON-LIT LAKE - EVEN LATER

Victim 2 paces furiously around the outside of the tunnel.
 Various cuts to scenery as he fiddles with the camera in
 anticipation.

EXT. DRAINAGE PIPE ENTRANCE - EVEN MORE LATER

Victim 2 shouts into the tunnel looks with his camera-light
 deep into the dark abyss of the tunnel. He takes a few deep
 breaths before venturing hurriedly inwards.

VICTIM 2
 (nervously shouting)
 Dan!.. Dan!.. You there? It's me!

His voice reverberates off the concrete walls, with no
 response.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
 (shouting)
 I'm coming in, Dan! Please, please
 don't fucking jump in front of me.
 I really don't want to see that. I
 really don't want to see that right
 now.

Victim 2 continues down the tunnel quickly, shouting as he
 goes. Eventually, he passes the grate where he last saw his
 friend.

He pauses momentarily to gaze upwards at the thin streaks of light falling thinly from the grate. He then continues running. Cut to black.

When the recording device turns on, Victim 2 stands still, gazing down the length where, in the far off distance, one can make out a faint light emanating from the dark.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
(more anxious)
(beat) Dan! Dan - are you okay?

Victim 2 cautiously approaches the light.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
(calmly)
Dan, I want to make this very clear: if you pull some jump-scare bullshit on me, I'll shove your flashlight so far up your ass they'll call you the human-fucking-glowstick.

Eventually, the point of origin of the light can be identified as victim 1's flashlight - laying on the concrete. Victim 1 stops just ten feet away from the flashlight.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
(gasping)
Dan?

Victim 2 stands still, considering his options.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
Oh, fuck this.

Victim 2 immediately turns around to begin walking back. As he does so, the light pans over a blotch of red against the concrete that victim 2 hadn't noticed before. He gasps upon seeing it.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
Dan?

The splotch of red continues as a trail leading deeper into the tunnel.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
God damn it.
(shouting loudly)
Dan! Dan! Where are you?

Victim 2 starts hurriedly following the trail of red that leads deeper and deeper into the cave.

Victim 2's light reveals the trail of red continuing as victim 2 becomes increasingly more anxious to reach the end of the trail.

In an instant, a raised light reveals farther down the tunnel, Victim 1. He is with his head against the wall, dragging it along the concrete at a terrifyingly slow and precise pace, leaving a trail of blood in it's wake. Victim 2 stands stunned.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)

(very softly)

Dan?

(slightly louder)

Dan? Are you okay? You feel good?

(softly again)

Dan?

Victim 2 stops in his tracks - head still against the wall - back turned to Victim 1. Victim stands pondering his options until he comes to a decisive decision. He then begins slowly back peddling out of the scene until Victim 1 disappears from sight.

Victim 2 then turns around quickly and begins sprinting in the direction of the exit. He is without breath, going as quickly as he can in absolute silence. Until the sound of footsteps reverberating through the tunnel puts him in an utter panic. He sprints to just under the grate and jumps into a small indent against the wall before turning the light off, blanketing the scene in a pitch-black concealment. The sound is the heavy breathing of victim 2 interrupted by the sounds of feet against concrete.

Camera light lit, a still Victim 1 stands, figure depressed, right in front of Victim 2 facing down the tunnel length. The head of victim one has a clear puddle of blood and red mass pooling in an indent on his head. He is without emotion.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)

(whispering)

You alright?

The character of victim 1 slumps downwards and collapses like a rag-doll on the tunnel floor. His eyes are lifeless. A kind of divine chorus echoes through the tunnel and the camera shudders as victim 2 tries to get a point of origin of the sound. The music stops abruptly. Victim 1's body is suddenly pulled off screen, away from the exit, by an unknown source. Victim 2 gasps. Victim 1's lifeless body is pulled into the dark. A few seconds pass until a shuddering victim 2 gazes down the tunnel where his friend disappeared and, seeing nothing but the plain void, begins running in the opposite direction down the tunnel. Cut to black.

Deeper down the tunnel, it's obvious victim 2 has been running for quite some time. He stops to breath, when a splash behind him forces him to quickly turn the camera and light and hold his breath. He doesn't wait 2 seconds before continuing his sprint in the opposite direction.

Suddenly, a bright light at the end of the tunnel. It brings victim 2 to a temporary halt.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
Oh thank God! Hello? Hello? Can,
can you guys call someone? My
friend is hurt!

Victim 2 starts quickly running towards the light, tripping once along the way.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
My friend is hurt. My friend is
hurt.

The same divine chorus from earlier begins to pick up.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
Is that you guys? Is that you guys?
Please - where... Where is it
coming from?

The chorus increases its volume proportionally to victim 2's increasing stress.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
Please.

The bright light goes black in an instant. The music cuts.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
(terrified)
Hello?

A fiddling with the camera and the camera-light ignites to reveal a cluster of angels. Humanoid figures with perfect, pale-white faces glazed eyes. Mouth hanging half-open. They block the tunnel together, all facing victim 2. Victim 2 can only let out a snuffle, before collapsing to his knees.

VICTIM 2 (CONT'D)
Please.

A grinding sound behind him and he quickly turns around for the light to reveal Victim 1 charging him from down the tunnel at speeds unfathomable - grinding his head against the wall as he was first found while in this state. His body contorted into obtuse angle with his head against the wall.

His eyes are lifeless. His body limp save his fast-moving legs. Victim 2 stays silent. Cut to black.

End.