

Extinguish

2020

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FILM: EXTINGUISH (2020)

James sits across from his Therapist, James is mentally distant and seemingly uneasy

THE THERAPIST:

So James, you've been fairly quiet during our session today...where is your mind today?

James looks up as if to say something but looks down again, shaking his head

THE THERAPIST:

You know... your sister's passing was a little over a month ago, how have you been coping?

James flinches at the words sister, uncomfortably squirming, and looks up again with a somber look on his face

JAMES:

I...I don't know. *Takes a slight pause* but I've been having this...dream, every night.

THE THERAPIST:

Tell me about that.

JAMES:

hesitant pause When I go to sleep, I wake up in the middle of this hallway...its dark but oddly...familiar.

As James begins to talk about his dream, we see the dream happening in real time.

there's this door? at the end of the hall, and so I start to walk toward it. I don't know it's like I didn't want to but my body kept going...

James slowly walks down hall to the door, dread pouring through his body

I kept hearing voices and crying from behind the door...getting louder, and the door shook like someone was trying to get out...I didn't want to see what was behind the door but my hand went

for the fucking doorknob anyways...

The doorknob shakes violently and the noises grow louder, however before James could reach the doorknob, the shaking and the voices suddenly stop and the door slowly creaks open.

...the room was empty, but a box
sitting in the middle of the room, and
so I went to look and found...

James walks hesitantly to the box, and looks inside looking shocked

a box of matches...

As James looks at the matches he begins to hear breathing, almost like whimpering. Terrified, James turns around,

And that when I saw it...breathing and
looking at me.

There is a dark figure in the corner, hidden in the shadows.

DREAM FIGURE (GIRL):
Why.....Why.....James...Why does it burn?
WHY???

Cuts back to James with the Therapist

THE THERAPIST:
And what did it say?

JAMES:
looking uncomfortable ...nothing.
The dream ends.

Silence swallows the whole room for a moment as the Therapist writes and looks at James. James looks down picking charcoal from his fingernails.

THE THERAPIST:
Well James, our dreams often tell us
things we already know and show us
what we don't wanna see...but tell me
James, *Why does it burn?*

James feels a wave of confusion and horrible fear, by this dreaded question.

JAMES:
W-What?

James looks up only to see an empty chair...the therapist was never there. The only thing that sits in the chair is a box of matches. James eyes are wide, horrified.

James begins to hear the familiar sound of breathing, and two arms covered in blood and charcoal reach to grasp/touch James's shoulders.

DREAM FIGURE (GIRL):
WHYYYYYYYY?

END OF FILM