



THE LAST CHRISTMAS

WRITTEN BY M. LATHROM

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The axe blade strikes the solid trunk. Chunks of bark fly. Chunks of snow fall to the bed of snow below. Some pine needles float down.

MAN (V.O.)

She was beautiful. And this is exactly the Christmas she deserves.

The blade pulls out of the trunk. A thick gash left behind.

Another strike deepens the split.

MAN (V.O.)

She'll decorate it up real nice. It's glow will warm up the whole house. Her mom and I will fall asleep on the couch under its glow. That'll be the night.

The MAN (45) pulls the axe out. He has leather skin and a long beard peppered with snowflakes. His black trench coat a bit thin for the weather. He stands in knee-high snow.

He brings the axe to his side, lifts it, swings. A loud crack.

The 8 foot high pine tree shifts, then falls away from him.

He drops his axe, grabs the tree by the trunk. Drags it off.

A lumbering man drags the oversized tree across the snowy landscape. Moonlight illuminates the edges of the world.

MAN (V.O.)

She deserves this. She deserved better. Her and her mom. They deserved better than that fucking psycho. They deserved a man who could protect them. Someone who'd have grabbed that hammer from his grimy hands and bashed his skull into little chunks with it. But they just got me. And I got to live.

The man approaches a beaten up station wagon. He lifts the tree over his head, drops it on the roof. Throws a rope over it.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The man puts the key into the ignition. Turns.

Click.

Nothing.

He turns it again. Nothing.

He leans back in his chair. Sighs. A cloud of mist puffs from his mouth.

MAN (V.O.)

I got a real good Christmas for
you, babies. Too bad you couldn't
see it. Guess I won't either.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The car sits, half submerged in snow. The tree on top. The man inside. The moon looms above as sparkling flakes of snow fall onto everything.

FADE OUT.

THE END