

"Bobo's Wake"

By

Bryan Pike

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EXT. PUBLIC SPACE. NIGHT.

We see a framed photograph propped up on a small stool draped in cloth. The photo is of BOBO, a snarling, smug figure in clown makeup.

The camera starts on a close-up of Bobo's face in the photo, and dollies back, taking in the frame, the stool and the the rest of the environment.

TITLES(Hovering above the framed photograph as we pull back): "Bobo's Wake"

As the camera continues to dolly back, two bunches of dead flowers are thrown from behind the camera, falling into the frame and then out.

TITLES (Fixed on a point on the ground in the path of the dead flowers): "A film by Bryan Pike"

CUTAWAY: We dolly along the ground, past the second bunch of dead flowers, as a third one is thrown on the ground.

We dolly towards three women sitting next to each other on chairs.

(Titles displaying the actresses names and characters are fixed above their heads as we dolly towards them.)

From left to right:

FRAN, the Mother. Emotionally wounded. She has a gauze pad over her right eye, held in place by a bandage wrapped around her head. She wears a white coat over a black dress, similar to the ensemble worn by Kim Novak in 'Vertigo'

PEARL, Fran's youngest daughter. Far away. A Venus-like Mother figure in a white flowing sun dress. Pregnant.

ROBYN, Fran's eldest daughter. Very angry. She clutches a baseball bat in her lap. Scratches constantly. Has syphilitic scabs on her face. Wears a white t-shirt, skirt and black leather jacket ensemble similar to Roxy Spaulding from the Gen13 comics.

They all wear Gothic Clown make-up, white foundation with black eye liner and black lipstick.

Robyn has her arm raised, as though she has just thrown the third bunch of dead flowers. She lowers her arm as the dolly comes to a stop.

There is a table just off screen to Robyn's left, with food and beverages on it.

(CONTINUED)

Fran takes a packet of cigarettes from her jacket. She removes one, puts the packet away, takes a zippo lighter from her jacket and attempts to light the cigarette. The zippo clicks over ineffectually a couple of times.

Robyn vomits blood. It causes her immense pain.

Fran pauses, taking a brief look at Robyn, then rolls her eyes and finally manages to light up her cigarette. Fran takes a drag on the cigarette.

Pearl reaches to touch Robyn's hand tenderly. Robyn slaps it away.

Fran exhales a plume of smoke. She runs her fingertips over her lips, smoothing a hand against her cheek.

Fran starts kissing her hands intensely and running the back of her hands over her face and neck.

Fran draws her hands over her body feverishly; lost in the sense memory of her time with Bobo.

CLOSE UP: Robyn slaps the end of the bat threateningly into the palm of her hand.

Fran opens her eyes. She turns to Pearl and Robyn. They return her gaze with looks of worry and resentment respectively.

Fran sneers and tosses away the cigarette. She straightens her clothes.

Robyn vomits blood.

Pearl looks down at her pregnant stomach and runs her hands over her it lovingly.

Fran looks at Pearl's stomach. Her hands tighten into fists on her lap. She lowers her face, her dark gaze showing us her barely concealed rage.

Fran turns to Pearl. She removes her pack of cigarettes and takes one out, offering it to Pearl. Pearl looks at her stomach and then back up to Fran with an apprehensive expression. Fran shrugs, tucking away the cigarettes.

Fran takes out a hip flask, unscrews the lid and offers it to Pearl. Pearl turns away from her, a look of disbelief on her face. Fran shrugs and takes a belt from the hip flask before putting it away.

Pearl looks at Bobo's image off screen, biting her lip and doing her best not to cry.

Robyn vomits blood, coughs and recovers. Shakily she lifts her left hand up to her face, admiring the engagement ring on her ring finger. She flashes it around so that Fran and Pearl can see. Robyn smiles smugly.

Pearl looks away in disgust.

Fran, seeing the ring, becomes increasingly maddened by rage, almost hyperventilating. She stares into the distance. She starts beating a fist into her gauze eye. A custard-like discharge starts gushing out from under the gauze. Fran licks it up with her tongue, and this calms her down.

Pearl and Robyn look at Fran with disgust.

Robyn vomits blood.

Pearl starts having contractions. She pants and gasps. Fran and Robyn look at each other, and then grab Pearl's arms and brace her legs with their own. Pearl grunts, cries and wheezes.

Pearl's water breaks, a putrid green slick that gushes over the chair seat and onto the ground. Finally Pearl pushes out her baby, a little malformed baby clown puppet, BOBO JNR. He falls onto the ground with a thud.

Robyn picks up Bobo Jnr., cradling him in the crook of an arm for Pearl to see. Pearl looks upon the hideous Bobo Jnr. like he's the most beautiful thing in the world.

Robyn yanks Bobo Jnr's umbilical out of Pearl. The pain catches Pearl off guard and she blows out a sharp gust of air. She looks up at Robyn like Robyn's gone mad. Robyn walks away from Pearl, carrying Bobo Jnr., moving to the table covered in food and beverages nearby. Pearl protests but Fran holds her back.

Robyn sweeps the food and drink away, clearing the table. She lays Bobo Jnr. gently down on the table and raises the bat over her head.

Pearl screams, desperately trying to get to her baby. Fran grips her tightly, stopping Pearl from getting to Robyn.

Robyn brings the bat down on Bobo Jnr.'s chest which explodes into a splatter of blood. Bobo Jnr. screams.

Robyn continues bringing down the bat, til Bobo Jnr. is silent and just mush.

Pearl howls, lost in total grief.

Mid swing, Robyn vomits blood. This time it appears to be fatal. Robyn looks off into the distance.

Robyn gives a brief, ironic laugh before dropping to her knees and dying. She falls backwards, her dead eyes staring back at Fran and Pearl.

Pearl and Fran stare back at her, in varying states of grief, hatred and icy indifference.

We dolly in on the framed photo of Bobo.