Killer in the Sand

The fresh crisp air was like a blessing to Kate, James, Jake and Max after they had been stuck in a stuffy, small old car for the past 7 hours. They thought that the horrible journey was going to be worth it once they had arrived at the destination. However they were sadly disappointed by the underwhelming sight that met them once they stepped out of the car. “This place is a dump” exclaimed Jake as he kicked at a rotting post and watched as it crumpled into tiny pieces on the ground by his feet. You may be thinking Jake was overexaggerating but in reality it was just an understatement. The campground they had come to was far from what they had been promised when they had booked it. There was moss everywhere, the trees were rotting and there was a smell of rotting egg in the air. “Hey Kate, you said this was like a 5 star cabin and this trip was going to be the best thing we have ever done. It feels like I’m in a huge long drop.” said Max, wrinkling her nose at the smell. “Come on guys, don't judge a book by its cover,” Kate encouraged, keeping her voice optimistic. "Let's see what wonders could be waiting for us inside.” They all walked to the door of the cabin but before she could get a good grasp on it, the door creaked open.

Kate took a step back as she saw the sight of the room, a look of horror on her face. Max, not wanting to be the last one, shouldered her way past the other three and walked into the hut. The room was dark, dank and smelled musty. She pulled a torch out of her pocket and switched it on. “Are you guys coming or are you just going to be babies and stay there?” She walked down a narrow corridor which led into a room and at the end of the room there was a door with dust all over it. To Max’s surprise the handle was slightly warm when she touched it. She yanked it open and then screamed as a bloody, rotting body came crashing onto the floor by her feet.

“AHHHHHHHHHHH” screamed Max at the top of her lungs, dropping her torch to the ground. She ran back to the others screaming “Th.. There… There was a door….. And…….. And when I opened it ……… a…. a body covered in blood fell out of it!” Kate gasped. Quickly, they all followed Max to where she found the body and when they saw it they all turned a violent shade of green.

Kate, Jake and James rushed out of the hut gagging from the smell “James, give me your phone.” demanded Kate. “I’m going to call the police.” “Hello, Hi…….. police please……. My friends and I came to this cabin to camp and we found a dead person in a cupboard…….. a man……. we’re at The lake of Desire ……… There’s four of us in total……. Yah we have a car……… Ok………. How long will you be?.......... Ok.. yes we’ll wait in the car for you…… Thank you….bye.” Kate hung up.

Meanwhile unbeknownst to the others, Max stayed back and took a couple of pictures of the body before she rejoined them. Whilst sitting in the car Max pulled out her phone and showed Jake the pictures of the corpse she had taken. The pictures were grouse but Max had noticed something very unusual. “Look at the guy's mouth she said, there's sand in it!” Suddenly Jake’s face looked terrified. “When I was younger my Nan told me about this killer,” Started Jake but then Max interrupted, “Wow what a lovely bedtime story.” Jake shot an angry look at Max before continuing. “My point is that the killer left sand in his victims mouths, it was sort of his calling card.” He became known to the public as “Sandravileous.” “He wore a black cloak with a hood and he levitated off the ground when putting the sand in the victims mouths. Sand pours out of his mouth and into the victims so the story says.

Finally the police arrived. A policeman came up to the car and tapped on the window gesturing for them to roll it down. He asked Jake and Kate to show him and his other officers the corpse. The disgusting body was examined and a driving license in the pocket revealed the victim's name was David Harp. Kate got out her phone and searched up David Harp. “It says that David went missing on April 3rd 2020. That was earlier this year. The body looked like it had been there for ages because the nails were rotting, the skin was all shriveled and pale and it stank.”

After a while, the police began to move the body, wrapped up in a body bag, out of the hut and into the police van. “You guys should probably go to the Motel near the station," suggested another police woman, "we will want to question you in the morning.” “Do you think we did it? Why do we need to be questioned?” asked Jake looking at the officer quizzically. “No. We don't think you are suspects, we just need to know what you saw and did before you got here.” “Ok I guess we’re going to the Motel on Route 48,” exclaimed Max rolling her eyes. They pulled away in the car but as they were leaving a figure covered in sand creeped out and slowly followed them.

Sadly they didn’t get very far in the car. It had always been a hunk of junk from the day Jake had stolen it from the dumping ground by his house. It was rusted and falling apart but he thought that it would be good once he got some proper tyres. However as he was standing on the side of the road looking at a huge puncture in the tyre he was second guessing himself. Max kicked the tyre in anger. “We're stuck in the middle of bloody nowhere and there is a killer on the loose!” “Calm down,” said Kate, "it will only take 10 minutes or less to change so chill out.” Max walked to the other side of the car grumbling to herself the whole time.

Ten minutes later James stood up brushing tyre grease off his hands saying “All done, lets go.” “Where's Max?” asked Jake, also standing up. He walked around to the other side of the car expecting to see her there but there was something unexpected and horrifying that greeted him instead. “Max, Max where are you!?” yelled out James. All James had to do was to point at what he had seen to make Jake and Kate start yelling and screaming for Max. Written on the side of the car and sliding onto the ground were the words Sandravileous is back, you better keep your mouths shut!

“Max, where are you?” They all yelled. They heard a scream coming from the distance. They started running towards the direction of Max's strangled screams. Kate jumped over a log but in her haste, tripped and sliced her knee open on a broken beer bottle. She whimpered as she got up to keep running. “Max where are you!?” They kept on searching but couldn’t find her. The world seemed to be getting darker by the minute.

The three were covered in dirt, sweat, scratches and, in Kate's case, blood. Finally they ran into a clearing of trees and saw Max tied to a boulder, her hands and legs bound by ropes. She wasn’t alone! The cloaked figure of Sandravileous was standing over her. Sand was coming out of his mouth and tumbling into Max’s mouth. He was slightly elevated off the ground, the sand swirling around his feet like mini tidalwaves. The sand was swirling faster and faster every second. Without a thought for his own safety, Jake circled round the edge of the tree line to get behind Sandravileous. He stepped out from behind a tree and suddenly came face to face with the evil, cloaked figure. Sandravileous sunk into the floor leaving only a pile of sand behind.

“Max” yelled James running to her side, trying to shake her awake. What seemed like forever they noticed a breath, then another. James cried with relief, wiping tears out of his eyes. At the same the rock beneath Max started to shake and split open. Jake grabbed Max, hoisting her into his arms, carrying her into the trees, laying her on the ground behind a tree telling her to wait there, then running back to the others. James had a stone, Kate had a shard of glass that had been in her knee and Jake held up his fists ready to fight.

All of a sudden, the sand around them became thicker. The bolder had cracks all over it and finally it crumbled. A tsunami of sand came rushing out of it and behind the sand came the cloaked figure of Sandaravileous. Once he had fully emerged he lifted his arms high over his head, sand winding around his fingers and wrists. He moved towards them, a tornado of sand following behind him.

Meanwhile Max was choking up lots of sand trying to stand up. Her legs gave way each time causing her to cry out in pain. She heard a fight in the distance and Kate, James and Jake yelling. That was all the motivation she needed. Max hoisted herself clinging onto a tree for balance. Kate screamed. Max pushed herself away from the tree and stumbled into the clearing. The sight that met her was breathtaking. Kate was on the ground, somewhat unconscious. Jake was pressed up against a tree, ropes wrapped around his middle, arms and neck and a gash just above his eye pouring blood and obscuring his vision. James was still standing but was in trouble. He was throwing stones at Sandravileous but know matter what he did he kept on narrowly missing him. Sandravileous was winning.

A jet of sand from Sandravileous hand sent James’ stone soaring high into the sky. Ropes flew up and pulled James onto the ground. Sandravileous walked towards him, sand starting to emerge from his mouth. Max saw the stone and she lunged for it. She threw it towards the head and struck Sandravileous, bringing him crashing to his knees. At once the sand vanished, as quickly as it had arrived.

Max rushed over to the others, helping James and Jake to their feet. One of them carried Kate back to the car where they called the police. Kate lay limp in James arms as he gently lay her in the car. Sirens rang in the silence. Then blue and red lights came flashing around the corner. With the sound of sirens and flashing lights Kate groaned and slowly sat up, peering around to find her surroundings. Max was tending to the cut above Jake’s eye when a police man came up to them and asked what had happened. They all told him every tiny detail on what had gone down that night.

Kate, James, Jake and Max sat wrapped in blankets with their arms around each other and watched as the police took Sandravileous body away to the coroner to get analysed and then cremated. Max and James went to their car to get ready to leave once the other two were ready. “You ok?” questioned James looking into Max’s eyes “Things will never be the same again, but I will be. We all will.” answered Max looking back into James.

James, Jake, Kate and Max headed back to their homes. They knew that nothing would ever be the same again. To this day they are still talking about Sandravileous and the terrors he brought on them.