

TOOTH DECAY

Written by

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**FADE IN.**

**INT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER, BATHROOM - MORNING**

WILLIE JACKSON looks in the mirror and doesn't like what he sees. Not the dirt and whatever stains the mirror, he doesn't even notice those. No, it's his own face that bothers him this morning.

Willie is a white man in his 60s. He has white hair with male pattern baldness. He's almost completely bald on top. He opens his mouth and stares at his teeth, yellow from smoke.

He looks a bit closer at his teeth. He pushes his tongue on one of his front teeth and it wobbles TOO much. He frowns.

He looks closer at his hair line. He reaches up and rubs it. He pulls a small tuft of hair from his head. He frowns at it for a moment, then tosses it in the dirty, stained toilet.

Willie picks up an already-open bottle of mouthwash and drinks straight from the bottle. He gargles for a second and spits it in the toilet. He flushes.

**EXT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER**

Willie limps towards an old rusty truck held together by primer. He pushes hard on the button handle and has trouble getting it to work. He's not as strong as he used to be.

He drives the truck down a dirt road and turns onto a paved road. The road is empty, but Willie looks both ways and signals as he turns.

Willie motors along the empty road, making sure to stay under the speed limit. He passes a sign that says Spring Hill is 2 miles behind him.

**EXT. STATE ROAD 50 - LATER**

Willie drives into the town of Brooksville. The sign at the edge of the town limits has been crossed out. The original sign said "Pop. 8,384." Ragged spray paint notes the population is now "0."

Willie motors through downtown Brooksville. There are no cars on the road. No pedestrians. No people active at the stores or restaurants. No pets. No birds. No squirrels. The only living thing in Brooksville is Willie.

**EXT. STATE ROAD 50 - LATER**

Willie drives under the Interstate 75 overpass. The interstate is empty.

**EXT. STATE ROAD 50 - LATER**

Willie drives into the city limits of Ridge Manor. The sign reads "Population: 4,555."

As he drives through the town, each of the front doors of houses and stores is spray painted with a big black "X." Willie drives past them without paying any attention.

He motors through the town and towards a sign that says "Ridge Manor City Limit." Just before the sign, Willie turns down a side road.

He follows it past a few houses with black X's on the doors and comes to the end of the paved road. He turns onto a dirt road and is blocked by a gate and a "Keep Out" sign.

Willie stops the truck in front of the gate. He leaves it idling as he hops and reaches into the back. He pulls out a pair of bolt cutters.

He walks up to the gate, which is chained and held closed by a lock. Willie cuts the chain and opens the gate.

Willie drives down the dirt road.

**EXT. COUNTRY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Willie parks in front of a modest one-story house. He gets out and takes a pump shotgun from a gun rack.

He walks up to the front of the house and pumps the shotgun. He pulls out an airhorn and gives it a nice long blast. He holds the shotgun towards the front door and waits.

Nothing.

He takes a deep breath, opens the door and goes inside.

**EXT. COUNTRY HOUSE - LATER**

Willie carries a box filled with cans and boxes of food and puts it in the back of the truck. It is already filled with various other boxes. One full of clothes. Another filled with partially-empty liquor bottles. Another with books. Mostly paperbacks. Westerns.

Willie goes back inside and comes back out with the shotgun. He puts it back on the rack. He reaches behind the seat and grabs a can of black spray paint.

He walks towards the house one last time. Shuts the door. Paints a big black "X" on the door.

Willie throws the spray can behind the seat and hops in. He drives back down the dirt road.

**EXT. STATE ROAD 50 - LATER**

Willie stops his truck on the side of state road 50 and gets out. He goes to the Ridge Manor population sign and spray paints over the population number. Then he paints a zero on the sign.

**EXT. STATE ROAD 50 - LATER**

Willie passes under Interstate 75 again. There are still no other cars or trucks on the road in any direction.

**EXT. STATE 50 - LATER**

Willie approaches the Spring Hill city limits. He stops and considers driving his truck home. Instead, he turns the other way and drives towards the city. The sign says "Spring Hill, Population: 1."

**EXT. SPRING HILL CITY STREET - LATER**

He drives down the street and passes City Hall. The parking lot is filled with Lexuses and SUVs and the like. But no people.

Willie pulls into the parking lot of "Kinney's Garage." A four-bay garage with a parking lot filled with classic cars in various states of disrepair: Mustangs, Cougars, Thunderbirds, similar cars. All American cars, no imports.

Willie hops out of his truck and walks inside the front office. He goes behind the front desk. He stops and stares at the time clock for a few seconds.

He walks towards the front desk and digs around underneath it. He pulls out a hammer and smiles. He turns towards the time clock and smashes it with the hammer repeatedly.

Once the clock is good and dead, Willie turns towards the front of the office.

He holds up the hammer and aims it towards the front window. He throws it at the window, smashing it into thousands of pieces.

WILLIE

Woo!

Willie walks out the door and to his truck. He pulls out the bottle of black spray paint and goes back to the front door. He paints "I quit" on the front door. He gets back in his truck.

**EXT. NELLIE'S DINER - LATER**

Willie pulls into the lot and parks right next to the front door.

**INT. NELLIE'S DINER - SECONDS LATER**

Willie gingerly steps inside. He sniffs the air. It's not too bad. The lights and air conditioner are still running.

Willie smiles and walks towards the kitchen. He turns the grill on and then walks into the freezer. He comes back with a carton of eggs, a pack of bacon and a pack of sausage.

He throws ALL the meat on the grill. He breaks open a dozen eggs and whips them in a bowl with salt and pepper. He pours them on the grill to sizzle.

Willie walks towards a cooler near the cash registers and opens it up. He pulls out two bottles of Busch beer and goes back to the grill. He pops the first beer and takes a sip. He picks up a spatula and flips the bacon.

**INT. NELLIE'S DINER - LATER**

Willie sits at a table, sipping from his third beer. He stares out the window as he eats his eggs and meat quietly.

The sun sets.

**INT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER, BATHROOM - MORNING**

Willie looks in the mirror and doesn't like what he sees. He stares at himself a bit, like he's trying to remember or recognize something.

He rubs his head. There's less hair now. He opens his mouth and stares at his stained teeth. He pushes on the same tooth as before. This time it falls out.

He picks it up and looks at it. Dry. No blood. Didn't even hurt. He throws it in the toilet and looks closer at the hole where the tooth fell out. No blood. Nothing gross.

WILLIE

Huh.

He flushes the toilet and walks out. The tooth does NOT go down the drain.

He walks into the kitchen and opens a cooler filled with ice. There's only one bottle of Busch left. He grabs it and sips a little hair of the dog.

The lights go out. Willie frowns.

He puts the beer down and heads outside. The generator has stalled. He goes to refill it, but the last gas can is empty.

**EXT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER**

Willie drives down the dirt road, the back of the truck filled with empty gas cans.

**EXT. HOGLY WOGLY GAS STATION - LATER**

Willie finishes filling up the last of the gas cans and puts it in the back of the truck. He puts the pump in the truck and sets it on automatic. He scans the stores nearby: Nellie's diner, Publix shopping center, a Best Buy, a public library branch.

The automatic pump shuts off. Willie frowns. He tries to get it started again. It won't go. He holds it out and tries to let it flow, but the pump is dry. Willie tosses the pump to the ground he gets in the truck and drives across the road to the Publix.

He runs inside real quick, but the CAMERA stays outside. He comes back out seconds later with a case of Busch bottles. And a bottle of George Dickel. Willie sticks the beer in the back of the truck, opens the bottle of whiskey and takes a swig.

Willie closes the bottle and drops it on the seat. He drives over to the Best Buy. He parks and walks inside.

**INT. BEST BUY - MOMENTS LATER**

Willie walks up and down the DVD aisles until he finds the TV section. He finds what he's looking for, complete seasons of the show "Tales from the Crypt." He pulls out the boxes and throws each one in his shopping basket until he sees the one he wants.

He pulls it out and the cover is dominated by a big picture of the Crypt Keeper grinning. Willie makes the same grin and with his thinning hair and falling out teeth, they look a lot alike.

Willie throws the box in his basket and grabs ALL the seasons of the show. He walks down another aisle and picks up a few more DVDs.

**INT. NELLIE'S DINER - LATER**

Willie sits in a booth staring out the window as he finishes the last of his eggs and bacon. He drinks the last of his glass of tea, tosses a \$100 bill on the table and walks out the door.

He goes and grabs a beer from his truck and sits on the hood sipping it. He stares at the public library for a few minutes, then he walks across the parking lot and goes inside. He brings the beer with him. All of it.

**INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - NIGHT**

It's dark outside, but Willie still wanders the stacks. Finally, he finds it. He pulls a thick white paperback from the shelf. It's covered in an odd blue and black pattern on the front.

It's "Night," by Elie Wiesel. Willie flips through the pages until he finds a section filled with black and white photos. He takes a few moments to stare at each picture in the book. He stares at the thinness. The balding men. Toothless smiles.

Willie puts the book on the shelf and pauses for a moment. He walks away, looking down at the ground. He stops for a moment. Coughs. He spits a tooth onto the ground and keeps walking.

**INT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER, BATHROOM - MORNING**

Willie looks in the mirror and doesn't like what he sees. Less hair, fewer teeth. He frowns.

He walks back into the main room of the trailer. It's filled, wall-to-wall, with movies, books, games, porn magazines, porn movies, food boxes, Monster energy drink cases, Red Bull, comics. Not particularly dirty or gross, but clutter everywhere.

Willie finds the box of DVDs he got from Best Buy and rummages around inside. He pulls out "The Day After Tomorrow" and puts it in the player.

He sits in his recliner with a cooler of beer and a variety of Doritos flavors and starts watching.

**INT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER - LATER**

Willie turns off the TV. He's finished an entire case of beer, the empty bottles surround him.

WILLIE  
Bullshit.

He takes the DVD out of the player and snaps it in half. He stacks the shards on a counter and walks outside.

**EXT. STATE ROAD 19 - LATER**

Willie does 50 miles per hour along Highway 19, even though he has the road all to himself. He's driving North and is outside the developed area. Across the grass and wetlands, he can see the nuclear power plant in Crystal River, still running. For now.

He pulls the truck into the parking lot of Carl's Classic Car Emporium. A used car lot that sells high-end classic cars.

Willie hops out of the truck, scans the parking lot and finds what he's looking for. A 1964 Mustang 289. He grins and runs inside to get the keys.

**EXT. CARL'S CLASSIC CAR EMPORIUM - LATER**

The Mustang is now on a trailer that is attached to the back of Willie's truck. He pulls out of the car lot, headed South on Highway 19.

**INT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER, BATHROOM - MORNING**

Willie looks in the mirror and doesn't like what he sees. He only has patches of hair left. A few more teeth are gone. His face is thinner, gaunt.



He spits a tooth into the toilet and flushes. After the flush, seven loose teeth sit at the bottom of the bowl.

**INT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Willie lays down on the bed and quickly falls asleep. Within seconds, he's snoring. Loud, unhealthy snoring.

**EXT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER - LATER**

Willie has the hood on the Mustang up and he's fiddling around with the engine.

WILLIE  
If that ain't it...

He gets in the car and cranks the engine. It tries to start, but it won't catch.

Willie gives up and slumps his head. He gets out of the car and VERY slowly walks towards the trailer.

**INT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER, BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Willie jolts awake. It's dark inside and out. He goes to stand up from his recliner, trips and falls to the floor.

He lands face-first on the ground and several of his teeth snap off and fall to the dingy, stained carpet.

Willie gets up very slowly and sees a half-empty bottle of vodka on the table. He picks it up and takes a swig.

**EXT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRAILER - LATER**

Willie walks slowly towards the truck and struggles to get in. Once he's in, he takes a deep breath and a swig of vodka. He gets behind the driver's seat and drives away.

**EXT. AUTO ZONE, HIGHWAY 19 - LATER**

Willie gets out of the truck and stumbles across the parking lot towards the front door. The automatic doors open before him and he goes inside.

**EXT. AUTO ZONE, HIGHWAY 19 - LATER**

Willie walks back out of the Auto Zone carrying a box that says "starter" on the side. He puts it in the back of the truck and he grabs the vodka. He takes a big gulp.

The bottle slips from his hand and crashes to the ground. He looks down, making sure to step around the broken glass.

Willie grabs the handle of the door and that's when he sees the lights.

The lights are speeding South on Highway 19. From his point of view, he can't tell if they come from a car or a truck or a low-flying craft of some sort.

He slides down towards the ground as he stares. He cuts his hand on the broken glass. He looks down to examine the wound and when he looks up again, the lights are gone.

Willie climbs into the truck, leaving bloody handprints as he gets in. He gets himself into the seat and rummages around until he finds a nearly empty bottle of whiskey. He takes a big gulp, then pours the rest on his bloody hand.

Willie screams, then he passes out.

**INT. WILLIE JACKSON'S TRUCK - DAY**

Willie looks in the rearview mirror of his truck. He doesn't like what he sees. He's almost completely bald now. He has nothing left of his teeth except for a couple of broken stumps.

He picks up the whiskey bottle, but it's empty. He throws it out the window, crashing on the parking lot surface. Willie looks around in the truck, but it's empty. He sits up with a sigh.

Then he remembers.

WILLIE  
The lights!

He reaches for the glovebox. Inside is a .44 Magnum and a box of shells. He takes the gun out and loads it. Once he's done, he starts up the truck and drives off.

**EXT. SPRING HILL STREETS - LATER**

A series of shots of Willie driving through the streets of Spring Hill looking for whatever caused the lights.

He looks high and low, commercial and residential, schools and parks. He drives past it all and doesn't see anything or anyone.

**EXT. ROCKY TOP LIQUOR SHOP - LATER**

Willie sits in the front seat of the truck. It's almost dusk. He has a new bottle of vodka now. He chugs from the bottle, then drives out of the parking lot to continue his search.

**EXT. WINN-DIXIE - NIGHT**

Willie pulls the truck into the parking lot of the Winn-Dixie on Highway 19. His bottle of vodka is empty, so he throws it out the window and parks at the front of the store. An empty table sits before the door with a sign for Girl Scout Cookies.

Willie opens the door and stumbles out of the truck.

That's when the lights hit him from behind.

Willie whirls around and points the .44 Magnum at the lights.

Standing before him are what are clearly two ALIEN CREATURES in space suits of some sort never seen on Earth. Shiny, metallic, colorful. He has to squint to see them through the bright lights of the alien craft.

WILLIE  
(slurred)  
Get the fuh away from--

ALIEN #1  
(incomprehensible)  
Jaz! Vje usa zio? Vjasa juwa zio  
caap?

Willie shakes his head.

WILLIE  
Don't understand...

He recklessly waves the .44 at the aliens.

ALIEN #2  
Xa--

Willie opens fire. He unloads three rounds into the first alien and three into the second.

They fall to the ground. Dead.

Willie stumbles towards them, holding the .44 on the aliens. They don't move.

As he walks closer, the overpowering lights fade and the CAMERA focuses on the aliens' vehicle, which is nothing but a Hummer.

Willie makes his way towards the bodies of the aliens. He looks down and they aren't aliens at all. They're humans in hazmat suits that are now QUITE bloody.

The humans wearing them are dead.

Willie spits on them.

WILLIE

Not in my U.S. of A., you fuckers  
won't!

He walks towards his truck, hops in and drives away.

**FADE OUT.**