

# **Starlite**

Episode 1 "The Motel"

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**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Through a thick glass window, we see the FULL MOON hanging gently over roof tops of suburban homes.

In front of the window, two people sit opposite each other in identical high wing-back chairs. The moonlight shines through the glass, illuminating the face of SUSAN YORK (50s).

Away from the light - In the shadow is MR. FABER (40s)

Susan looks out the window, she is distracted.

In Susan's lap, a document with her signature. The ink is fresh, the pen trembles in her hand.

MR. FABER takes the document from Susan. For the first time, she regards him and forces a smile.

From his coat pocket, Faber takes a small METALLIC BOX. The box resembles a Compass with a silver ball in the center. He holds it in his hand and with his thumb, enters a time and destination.

In his other hand he holds a business card: The Starlite Motel

**EXT. STARLITE MOTEL - CONTINUOUS**

The rundown motel sits along a dusty lost highway. Paint peeling, light bulbs missing from the vacancy sign and a hand painted slogan reads:

We're easy to find, but a hard to leave

Crash of THUNDER heard in the far distance.

The lobby door opens, PAULINE (25) exits the motel, lights a cigarette.

A wild voice HOWLS out from the dark:

VOICE

PAULINE!

Pauline looks towards the voice.

**INT. MOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

MR. FABER opens his eyes.

He's fully dressed, laying on top of the bed.

He rolls his head towards the room's only window.

In the distance he can hear:

VOICE  
PAULINE!

FABER sits up, rubs his head.

Still in his hand the business card.

**EXT MOTEL MOMENTS LATER**

Faber walks along the motel doors and sees Pauline smoking near the lobby.

Recognizing him, Pauline trembles.

Faber stops.

PAULINE  
How did you find me?

FABER  
It's good to see you too.

In the distance we hear:

VOICE  
PAULINE!

FABER  
How you been?

PAULINE  
We haven't done anything.

FABER  
Not lately, but-

VOICE  
PAULINE ANSWER ME!

Faber gets annoyed with the voice.

(CONTINUED)

PAULINE

Please.

FABER

You're still wanted for everything else.

PAULINE

How did you find us?

FABER

You can't stay in one place too long, you eventually get caught.

VOICE

PAULINE I LOVE YOU!

Faber looks out towards the voice, to a young man wearing a letterman's jacket. A FOOTBALL TROPHY in his hand.

FABER

You have a boyfriend Pauline?

She doesn't respond.

FABER

He sounds a little drunk.

PAULINE

He doesn't know anything.

FABER

What's his name?

PAULINE

Leave him alone.

FABER

His name.

Faber waits for an answer.

PAULINE

Jeremy.

Beat.

FABER

You love him?

PAULINE

No.

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

PAULINE CON'T  
How long you been here?

FABER  
Just got in.

Her eyes dart across the parking lot.

FABER CON'T  
You can't outrun me Pauline.

PAULINE  
I wouldn't dream of it Mr. Faber.

FABER  
You still call me Mr. Faber?

PAULINE  
It's how I know you.

She smiles.

Beat.

Pauline TAKES OFF RUNNING!

Faber smiles.

**EXT. STREET CONTINUOUS**

PAULINE FRANTICALLY RUNNING

SECONDS before Faber is upon her, yanking her back by the arm.

They come to a full stop.

FABER  
I told you.

He lets her go and she holds her arm.

FABER  
You okay?

PAULINE  
I'll be fine.

She takes a breath, looks around.

(CONTINUED)

PAULINE CON'T  
What now?

FABER  
Thought maybe I'd walk you home.

She hesitates.

FABER CON'T  
Could use some fresh air.

PAULINE  
I don't wanna go home.

FABER  
Too bad.

Faber digs into back pocket for a PINT BOTTLE.

PAULINE CON'T  
What's that?

FABER  
Kentucky Moonshine.

They begin walking.

**EXT - SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER**

They walk in silence. Faber takes a few pulls off his PINT bottle. Offers to Pauline.

FABER  
Want some?

She shakes her head no.

FABER CON'T  
Tell me a story Pauline.

PAULINE  
I don't know any stories Mr. Faber.

FABER  
You must know at least one story.

PAULINE  
I'm not a very good story teller.

FABER  
Sing me a song?

(CONTINUED)

PAULINE  
I don't know any songs.

FABER  
You must know at least one song.

There is a HOWL in the distance.

JEREMY  
PAAAAUUULLLLIIINNNEEEE!!!!

FABER CON'T  
Somebody's got a major crush on  
you.

She ignores him.

FABER CON'T  
Tell me about Jeremy.

PAULINE  
Just some boy, please don't hurt  
him.

FABER  
I can't do anything without  
permission.

PAULINE  
You've done it before.

FABER  
I gave you a chance, you should  
have kept moving.

PAULINE  
Yeah, well you kinda got the  
advantage.

Faber takes the METALLIC COMPASS from his coat pocket.

FABER  
You mean this?

She nods.

PAULINE  
What did you used to say? 'Smoke  
and mirrors?' Keep them looking in  
the opposite direction...

FABER  
...so you can steal their soul from  
right in front of 'em.

He puts it back in his pocket.

FABER CON'T  
Don't you want to be free?

PAULINE  
What's the point? It's exhausting  
Mr. Faber. You think just cause I'm  
alive it means something but what  
kind of life is it when you're  
always runnin away?

Beat.

FABER  
I guess it doesn't matter.

Pauline turns her attention in front of them.

PAULINE  
Jeremy!

Up ahead, Jeremy blocks their path.

JEREMY  
Stop right there Pauline.

PAULINE  
Jeremy, get out of here.

JEREMY  
I wanna talk to you.

PAULINE  
Please, just leave.

JEREMY  
Who is that guy?

PAULINE  
None of your business.

JEREMY  
You better not be replacing me.

PAULINE  
(to Faber)  
Please don't hurt him.

She turns to Jeremy.

(CONTINUED)



PAULINE CON'T  
Jeremy, you're drunk, go home.

Jeremy approaches.

JEREMY  
Not til I talk to you.

Faber steps in front of Pauline, blocking Jeremy.

PAULINE  
No, don't!

Pauline throws herself on Faber's back, holding him back.

FABER  
What are you doing!?

Faber knocks her off and Pauline falls on her butt.

Jeremy charges forward.

JEREMY  
Don't touch her!

FABER  
In case you didn't notice she  
jumped on me.

Jeremy tries to tackle Faber.

However, Faber throws a FAST PUNCH to Jeremy's face,  
knocking him back.

Before Jeremy hits the ground, Faber is under him - holding  
him. Carefully Faber sets him down.

PAULINE  
Oh my God!

FABER  
Easy, easy, you're okay.

PAULINE  
Jeremy!

FABER  
He's okay, he's just fine.

Faber Takes out a handkerchief and hands it to Jeremy.

(CONTINUED)

JEREMY  
You broke my nose.

FABER  
I might have, yes.

PAULINE  
(To Jeremy)  
You idiot, I told you.

FABER  
Try not to be so hard on the boy,  
he's already wounded.

Faber takes out his Pint bottle.

JEREMY  
No thanks.

FABER  
It's not for you.

Faber takes a drink. Offers to Pauline, she refuses.

Faber picks up Jeremy's TROPHY, looks at it for a moment.  
Then sets it down on the cement next to Jeremy.

FABER  
Okay, Jeremy we are gonna go now.  
You are welcome to follow us but no  
more fighting, okay?

Jeremy nods.

Faber motions to Pauline and they walk away, leaving Jeremy  
on the ground with a bloody nose.

**EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER**

Pauline and Faber walk, Jeremy follows behind.

PAULINE  
You're different than I remember.

FABER  
How do you mean?

PAULINE  
That was sorta polite what you did  
back there.

(CONTINUED)

FABER  
Everybody can change Pauline.

She looks at him funny.

PAULINE  
Anything you want to talk about?

FABER  
Me?

She nods.

FABER CON'T  
No.

She shrugs.

PAULINE  
I just thought-

FABER CON'T  
I met a woman. We pretend to be  
normal again. Real people. Alive.

PAULINE  
She knows what you do?

FABER  
She does the same thing, different  
territory. We even got a place  
together. It's against the rules,  
but at some point it doesn't  
matter.

She laughs to herself.

PAULINE  
You love her?

Faber looks at Pauline, 'maybe'.

PAULINE CON'T  
Everybody can change.

FABER  
That's right.

They walk a few feet in silence.

**EXT. PAULINE'S HOUSE.**

They stop in front.

PAULINE  
What do you want Mr. Faber?

FABER  
It's not what *I* want.

PAULINE  
What does *He* want?

Faber hands her the contract with Susan's signature.

Pauline looks towards the house.

PAULINE  
Mom?

Faber nods.

FABER  
I'm sorry.

PAULINE  
I'll make a deal with you.

FABER  
Can't do it.

PAULINE  
You've done it before.

FABER  
I told you different  
circumstances...

PAULINE  
Please, I'm begging you.

FABER  
Doesn't matter-

PAULINE  
I'll do anything.

FABER  
My hands are tied.

PAULINE  
You've kept us alive this long, why  
now? What's different about now?

(CONTINUED)

FABER  
You pregnant?

PAULINE  
What!?

Beat.

FABER  
Just a hunch.

PAULINE  
I smoked a cigarette.

FABER  
I never said you were bright, I  
said you were pregnant.

In spite, She takes the bottle and a big swig, keeping it in  
her mouth.

She spits the Whiskey out.

PAULINE  
Yuck.

Beat.

FABER  
Jeremy the father?

PAULINE  
It was an accident. I'm not gonna  
keep it. I can't. There's no way.

FABER  
I think it's the reason He agreed  
to the contract. I think it's what  
saved you.

Beat.

The front door to the house opens.

SUSAN comes out into the light.

She looks out to Faber and Pauline.

PAULINE  
Mom!

(CONTINUED)

FABER

Go ahead.

She nods and walks towards the house. Susan and Pauline hold each other for a moment.

Faber stands watching, until Jeremy approaches.

FABER

How's your nose?

JEREMY

It hurts. How's your head?

FABER

My what?

Jeremy swings the TROPHY at Faber's head, knocking him down with one swift blow.

Jeremy drops the TROPHY and takes the METALLIC COMPASS from Faber's coat pocket.

Jeremy runs towards the house.

Faber pulls himself up, holding the back of his head in pain. Stunned, he sees the three of them in the doorway.

Pauline smiles back at Faber.

PAULINE

Always one step ahead.

Pauline grips her hand round the METALLIC COMPASS, spins the silver ball, enters a time and destination.

Faber watches as all three of them disappear into the night.

The wind sweeps the porch and the street is calm and quiet.

Faber takes a swig from his PINT BOTTLE, looks up towards the FULL MOON.

Crash of THUNDER heard in the far distance.

**Fin**