

THE DARK HARE

Written by

Kenneth Vivor

EXT. TAUNTON MILL TOWN - DAY

TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS 1840

CUT TO:

AIDAN MURPHY (30 yrs old) mounted on his brown coated horse. He trots down the main road amidst the dusky and bustling mill town. He turns to the left to where his house is in the middle of the other neighboring houses. Dismounting from his horse, he pulls the stallion with his right hand to have it hitched on the right side of his house. His shoulders narrowed down, he finishes hitching his horse. The click of the front door caught his attention. Two men come out from his house, tucking in their white shirts. One of them rolled his moistened blond hair back. They wore star badges. The blonde haired man with a horseshoe mustache and gold star badge (40 yrs old) takes notice of AIDAN and smiles.

BECKETT

How goes it, Aidan? Workin' good at Davy's?

AIDAN looks away from BECKETT. He nods. He looks back at him and the other officer. He puts the brown bag inside of his pocket. BECKETT looks far right with his hands in his pockets.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

Well, I knew that. Especially your wife. She's a keeper! Compared to my hag of a wife, she's the life of the party!

BECKETT and the officer began chuckling amongst each other. AIDAN's eyes begin to water a bit. He sighs heavily after wiping his eyes with his left arm.

AIDAN

I'm glad to hear that, sir.

BECKETT slowly nods his head. Stepping from the porch, he approaches to AIDAN whilst removing a gold ring from his left ring finger. He grabs AIDAN's right hand and places the ring on it. He closes it with his fingers. AIDAN looks up to him and BECKETT grins.

BECKETT

You've earned it. Servin' this great nation.

AIDAN opens his right hand and sees the ring on his hand.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

It's Aztec gold. I know you greens likes gold. Specially in cauldrons, which I thought was a myth. If I were you, I'd sell it for at least 20 bucks. Even more.

AIDAN looks up to BECKETT.

AIDAN

I'm...thank you, sir. I guess.

BECKETT puts his right hand on AIDAN's left shoulder. He grins.

BECKETT

I'm jokin' 'bout the cauldron thing, by the way. Besides, there's plenty more where that came from. As long as Mrs. Murphy is still at "service". Think of this as your financial advancement.

AIDAN nods. BECKETT pats his shoulder and walks off with the other officer.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

You take care, Aidan. And that boy of yours.

AIDAN nods and waves. The men walk a bit sloppily down the main bustled road, laughing to themselves. AIDAN looks back at BECKETT's ring once again and puts his in his left trouser pocket.

INT. AIDAN'S HOME: BATHROOM - DAY

AIDAN is sitting outside of the bathtub at the right side of the room. His right hand pours water in a small bowl on top of his wife's (29 yrs old) hair. CIARA is sitting in the tub with her knees up. Her arms wrapping around her torso. After her lips and eyes quivers, she begins to shudder. Her sobbing gets AIDAN to stop washing her. He looks at her with watering in his eyes. And his eyebrows are narrowed. Placing the bowl down, he embraces her in his arms.

INT. AIDAN'S HOUSE: DINER ROOM - DAY

Aidan is sat at the end of the table whilst CIARA is sitting on his right and a sickly and aging woman is seated at his left. In CIARA's arms is a four month old baby boy with little brown hair like his father. The baby is sucking on the bottle held by CIARA. On the dinner bowls is red stew with chopped steak, peas, corn and basil herbs.

He faces it as his head is narrowed.

AIDAN

I want to kill 'im. I just...I wanna shoot him...so bloody badly!

CIARA turns from the baby to AIDAN. She cuddles the baby.

CIARA

(Bitter)

Why can't you just do that? Eh?

AIDAN

(Aggressive)

You know why! Because I'm nuthin' but a burden to ya! To ma! To Liam!

AIDAN somberly turns from her.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

Since when has doin' the right thing come to this? I ain't nuthin'. Good fur nuthin'!

The mother turns to AIDAN.

AISLING

The Dark Hare would think differently. For he stormed across all of the darkest nights of Ulster. Stroke fear into the wicked who acted unkindly. All within the time where witch hunts were performed in this very state. But they say...that he is still around. His body black as coal and eyes red as rubies. His ears long as mountain peaks. And teeth sharp as falcon talons.

AIDAN

(sighs)

Not this again, ma! You know that it's nuthin' but a myth! A story! It always have been.

AISLING

Oh perhaps you've forgotten who you are. What you are. For the sake of pleasin' folk who clearly don't care for any of us!

AIDAN looks up to his mother.

AISLING (CONT'D)

We had options after we left our country to seek for a better life. We all thought this country would be it, but it's not. It has to be better than this. The Dark Hare may be a myth! A story! But not his legend! Legends are made by men willin' to make somethin' of themselves. Even if it goes against something that can't even govern itself.

AIDAN turns from his mother and faces his wife and son. AISLING coughs a bit violently.

AISLING (CONT'D)

These folks talk of honesty, but don't practice it. They talk of liberty, freedom and justice. We can't continuing to expect anythin' from 'em. Will you continue to be a farmhand for a nobody? You are of Irish blood, son! Act like it!

AIDAN looks back at his food and scratches his chin. He looks at his family, especially at the baby Liam who is coddled by CIARA.

INT. AIDAN'S HOME: BASEMENT - NIGHT

Aidan sits in front of a mirror. With a decent sized brush, he dips it in a bowl of black paint and spreads it all across his face. Especially around his eyes. His entire body was already covered in black. On his right were two LeMat revolvers placed on the table.

EXT. AIDAN'S HOME: FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Aidan comes out from the house in nothing but his trousers. His naked torso and face is covered with black warpaint. He wears a holster belt with two LeMat revolvers on each side with silver bomb shells. He wears a satchel over his shoulder. He turns to his wife and holds her face.

AIDAN  
Make sure you all ride the wagon into the woods. That way, they won't follow you. I'll come back and we will sail to the Netherlands. You hear me?

After his wife nods, AIDAN plants his lips onto hers. He proceeds to place on a macabre black hare mask over his head. As he sees himself shiver, he removes the brown little bag from his trouser pocket. Valerian and shredded mushrooms inside.

CIARA  
Show them who you are. And come back to us.

AIDAN nods as he gets off from the porch, unhitches and mounts on his horse. He chews on the herbs and swallows them. Turning from his home, he gallops down the left side of the mill town.

INT. BRISTOL COUNTY SAVINGS BANK - NIGHT

AIDAN draws out both revolvers after bustling through the doors of the bank, startling the well-lived people inside. He raises his left pistol in the air, pulls the trigger as the boom of the pistol causes the people to shake.

AIDAN  
Every one of you keep your bleedin' gobs and nobody gets hurt! Get on the ground! Now! This is a robbery!

Everyone abides to his command. Undrawing his left pistol, AIDAN takes his satchel from around his shoulder and has his right pistol pointed at everyone in the room.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
Now, which one of you is the banker!?

Everybody is silent. Most are murmuring amongst themselves. AIDAN reloads and pulls the trigger of his LeMat.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
The next one will go into your heads! Now who's the banker!?

On the left side, a man in a blue coat, grey trousers and bowler raises his hand. AIDAN rushes towards the man and grasps him from the ground. He turns him around and has his right pistol pointed near the large man's right temple.

The banker leads him to the safe that is behind the counter. AIDAN shoves him towards the safe, slamming him against it. AIDAN turns back to the crowd.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
 Don't even think about running off! No  
 blue boy will help any of ya tonight!

AIDAN turns back to the banker.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
 Open the safe! Otherwise, I'll open your  
 brain cavity!

The banker hurriedly turns the combination lock in different directions. Three times on the right. One time on the left. The last turn on the right. Finally, the banker had the safe open, unveiling stacks of money on each shelf facing each other alongside gold bars. AIDAN gets inside and hurriedly goes to the left side of the safe's interior. He hurriedly puts dollar after dollar into his satchel. He turns back and still sees the banker by the door.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
 Fuck off, fatty!

The banker hurriedly goes back to the front. AIDAN continues to put as much money as he could inside the satchel that is beginning to fill up. Exiting from the safe, AIDAN took notice of what was outside the window. Officers on horses and rifles were at the back of the bank.

UNKNOWN (V.O.)  
 This is the Taunton Police! We have  
 reports of a maniac dressed like a bunny  
 robbing the Bristol Bank! Come out! Now!

AIDAN  
 Shite!

AIDAN hurriedly goes back to the front to where the hostages were still held up. He peeks his head and saw more officers at the front of the bank. His eyes widen as he sees BECKETT in the front outside.

BECKETT (V.O.)  
 Don't make this difficult! Come out and  
 surrender! Release the good folk while  
 you're at it!

Sweat begins to conjure and moist AIDAN's body and masked face. He glances his eyes at one of the hostages on the right. A young purple dressed woman caught his interest. Pacing towards her, he grabs her tightly by her right bicep and lifts her from the ground. He stands behind the door and has the gun pointed at her temple, causing her to shriek.

AIDAN  
 Nobody has to get hurt today, fellas! All  
 I wish is to take my leave! And if not,  
 I'll shoot this lovely girl I have with  
 me as well as everyone in this...heart of  
 America!

The area is quiet. Even from the outside. With the exception of a few murmurings.

BECKETT (V.O.)  
Fine, if that will make you seize!  
Release the hostages and we'll discuss  
like gentlemen!

AIDAN removes his satchel from his shoulder and shoves it into the woman's hands. He gets into her left ear.

AIDAN  
(Whisper)  
Above the Taunton mill town west from  
here, there's a forest. If you happen to  
see a wagon with a two women and a baby  
child, give them this satchel! And they  
best get it...our I will not spare you  
when I find you! You get me!

She nods. AIDAN shoves her off from him. He looks around and puts his pistol back into his holster. He looks at each man and woman he has on their knees. Their hands raised and their bodies shaking. AIDAN sighs to himself and shakes his head.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
All of ya could leave now!

With no hesitation, all the people, including the woman with his satchel, burst through the front doors. They leave behind AIDAN alone in the bank.

AIDAN (CONT'D)  
Alright! They're free! Now you could get  
me a safe passage!

BECKETT (V.O.)  
Nah. I'm sorry, friend. But that ain't  
possible. You see, this country suffered  
robberies. But not one you've caused.  
You'll be under arrest for even  
attemptin' to pull this off! Now I  
believe it's best you come out and  
surrender. I'll give you to the count of  
ten! Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven.

AIDAN unleashes one of his bombs behind his right hand. He has both hands raised behind his head; his hand holding the grenade behind his open left hand. He takes three to four deep breaths.

AIDAN  
Alright. I surrender. I'm coming out. But  
I want you to be the one to arrest me,  
Sheriff. It's only fair.

AIDAN proceeds to walk out from the bank, where BECKETT was waiting to arrest him outside of it.

EXT. BRISTOL COUNTY SAVINGS BANK - NIGHT

As AIDAN comes down the stairs of the bank, he has guns pointed at him. He sees more officers being summoned from each side of the street. He was facing the Trial Court building in front of him. His eyes everts to BECKETT who is standing in front of the squad.

Finally, AIDAN is off the steps. BECKETT approaches to him whilst holding his Colt revolver in his left hand.

BECKETT  
Who do you think you are disruptin' this  
fine night?! Some kind of joke?

As BECKETT grabs AIDAN by his left arm, He is estranged by AIDAN's right hand holding something.

AIDAN  
You're the joke. I'm just a myth.

With that said, AIDAN slams the silver shell into the ground, in which a confetti of dark grayish smoke burst out like fireworks. AIDAN is released by BECKETT's grasp. As AIDAN sees BECKETT about to shoot with his revolver, he swiftly draws out his right revolver and points it at his head. Pulling the trigger, it fires at BECKETT's forehead as blood exits the back of his head.

The horses began to shriek. Some just scattered away from the scene.

AIDAN rushes through the gunfire as he draws out his left revolver and fires back at each officer that was on both sides within the smoke cloud. Despite getting shot at the side of his right thigh, his left bicep and near his heart, he still pushes through until he finally exits from the cloud.

To his left, he saw more officers storming with their rifles and guns. Unleashing the last grenade from his holster, he tosses it right in front of them. With one last bullet in his right revolver, he fires at it, causing it to burst into smoke and flames.

AIDAN storms off to the right of the street and whistles for his horse. The whistling of the officers are sounded. More police officers are coming from the right.

Passing the bank, AIDAN finally mounts back on his horse and swiftly gallops away from the bank before he gets stopped. He sits himself up as he sees himself narrowing down due to the blood he was losing.

EXT. BOYDEN REFUGE WOODS - NIGHT

AIDAN rides through the woods miles away from the town. He removes his mask with his left. The crickets chirping through the night. Slowly but surely, he sees a wagon with CIARA, AISLING and Liam sitting in it by a streaming riverbank. AISLING notices AIDAN. And CIARA sees him as well, which prompts her to get off from the wagon. AIDAN sees that he was

She quickly runs towards him. As he was dismounting from his horse, his wife staggered as she caught him in her arms. After sharing a kiss, AIDAN winced as CIARA has his right arm holding her shoulder. He was hopping on his left leg to support his right.

CIARA  
When we get there, I'll have a look at  
you.

AIDAN

Don't worry...about me, love. Is  
it...inside?

CIARA

Yes. Every dollar to get us out of here.

CIARA has AIDAN climb onto the back of the wagon right next to his mother, child, baggages and belongings. As he is sat, he sees his horse. CIARA stands by its right side and wrapped her arms around its neck.

CIARA (CONT'D)

You're free. Thank you for bringing him  
back to us. I pray that someone will  
cherish you as we have.

CIARA finally stops embracing the horse and spansks its behind. Neighing, the horse runs off to the east away from them. She quickly gets onto the drivers seat and whips the reins of the horse drawn wagon. Turning it around, the carriage drives to the west away from the riverbank.

AIDAN turns to his left and sees his mother carrying Liam. AISLING smiles at him whilst Liam begins cooing.

AIDAN

Can I...hold him?

Looking into his face, AISLING looks back at AIDAN. She gently gives him Liam. Liam has him cradled in his right arm. He looks into his bright gray eyes. AISLING smiles at him.

Liam continues to coo with his little fingers in his mouth.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

We're going to a land...where we are in  
control. Where you could grow up and  
stand high. I promise, son. No one...is  
going to hurt you. No one will deceive  
you. Because I am here. And I will always  
be here. I will be the father I am meant  
to be. When the time is right, should  
there be a day when you feel powerless...

AIDAN lifts his head up. He looks to his left to see his wife still driving. To the right above him, he sees the stars and the moon glimmering behind the trees.

AIDAN (CONT'D)

...I will tell you the tale of the Dark  
Hare.

CUT TO BLACK.

