

The Terrible Old Man

Written By

Jamie Thrasivoulou

Based on, H.P. Lovecraft's The Terrible Old Man

Address

Phone Number

In Black.

HEDGES (V.O.)  
Why aren't you with Dad DEC?

OLD DEC (V.O.)  
Cause some jobs ain't worth the  
risk lad...

1. EXT. LAKE - MORNING

A man in his fifties, CHARLES HEDGES, runs out of the woods & stops at the edge of a lake & looks around. His clothes are slashed as if by swords and he is bleeding. He is carrying a gun/baton. He looks around.

OLD DEC (V.O.)  
...my old man warned me, & his old  
man did the same. How much of it is  
real I don't know, but it's said  
that a Pirate Captain made a pact  
with Neptune...

CHARLES HEDGES  
What the fuck is going on? I should  
have listened. This ain't fucking  
real. Fucking can't be.

An invisible force is moving across the lake & the man fires at it. A noose appears about his neck & he is raised up. His stomach slices open & his guts fall out.

During the story, there are Inserts of the Captain and the three pirates, a chest of gold & THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN sat smiling with yellow eyes.

OLD DEC (V.O.)  
...The ship with no name had  
managed to outrun the Naval fleet.  
Neptune, had whipped up a monstrous  
storm to aid their escape. It was  
so violent that the pirate ship  
scuttled at Skeggy wash. Only the  
captain & 6 of his crew made it  
ashore; each carrying a chest of  
gold. Knowing the local militia  
would be hunting them, they chose  
to split up & head inland. Peters,  
Spanish Joe & Mate Ellis were  
caught the first night. With no  
time for trial, they were hung &  
their necks snapped!

CUT TO:

2. INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

HEDGES wakes up & sits bolt-up-right sweating. He hears some mail arrive, gets out of bed & goes to collect the mail.

CUT TO:

3. INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

HEDGES opens an envelope, & reads it as he goes back to his bedroom; it is a Bailiff's letter for £1,300.

3A. INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hedges sits down on his bed

HEDGES  
Fucks Sake!

His phone rings.

WORK SUPERVISOR  
Lee, you're not required to come in today as the company has gone into administration. We're not sure whether or not the employees pay will go through this Friday but any wages owed to employees will be authorized and paid as soon as possible. Lee? Mr Hedges?

HEDGES throws the phone on the floor.

CUT TO:

4. INT. LOAN SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

HEDGES is sat opposite the LOANS MANAGER.

LOANS MANAGER  
Mr. Hedges, I'm afraid that you have also been declined on our very smallest loan amount. I assure you that this is not uncommon in the current financial climate and I would advise you to keep on paying those bills by direct-debit, this will help that old credit-rating to move up a couple of decimals. I really cannot stress the importance of regular payments. Until next

(MORE)

LOANS MANAGER (CONT'D)

*time* Mr. Hedges.

HEDGES

Thanks I'll bear that in mind; you know of any other loan-shops in the centre like?

LOANS MANAGER

Yes there's one just up the street; you'll see the signs!

HEDGES

Yeah great, ta, see you.

LOANS MANAGER

Good luck: You'll sure as hell need it.

HEDGES leaves.

CUT TO:

5. EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

HEDGES is walking down the street looking at his phone. There is a RELIGIOUS NUT holding a sandwich board with 'SINNERS BEWARE; YOUR TIME IS OVER' on it.

RELIGIOUS NUT

He knows you are coming, he sees what you do and he has a special place for you. You, you there, the abyss will be your eternal home sinner.

HEDGES

Fuck off you twat!

HEDGES carries on walking & sees JOHNNY BRISCOE and CALVIN SIMPSON doing a deal from a car. BRISCOE is lent out of the window with SIMPSON in the passenger seat. A "Drug-scorer" can be seen scarpering off from the car.

SIMPSON

(laughing) Ha-ha  
Easy 'Edges, no fuckin' work lad?  
You skiving off?

HEDGES

Fucking company's gone into administration, I knew it was fucked: we had a big deal hinging on remaining in, but I dint think

(MORE)

HEDGES (CONT'D)

it'd be this fucking quick.

SIMPSON

Fucking shame that lad, corporation  
'n' that eh? Don't take it  
personally, on the plus side at  
least we got those foreign cunts  
out now ay lad?

HEDGES

Well, you know I don't really,  
well-

BRISCOE

What the fuck are you then Edges; a  
fucking IMMO-lover? Next you'll be  
telling us you like puffs and  
fucking feminists too, you fucking'  
P-C Twat; equality's out the  
fucking' window now brother!!

BRISCOE and SIMPSON laugh. HEDGES shakes his head but laughs  
along. BRISCOE turns the music up, which annoys SIMPSON who  
turns it back down.

SIMPSON

Listen Lee, we might have a bit of  
work for you if you're interested?  
Meet us down the boozier later on,  
about 8:00 and we can chat then.

HEDGES

Err, fucking, err yeah, that's  
fucking great, I'll take a walk up  
then.

SIMPSON

Catch you later Mate!

SIMPSON & BRISCOE wheel spin off.

CUT TO:

6. INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

HEDGES is getting ready to go out, he is checking himself  
out in the mirror trying to look his most impressive  
Gangster style pose. He turns to leave & spots the picture  
of his father on the side. He looks at it & pauses to  
reflect. He has to go on this job, so puts the picture down  
& leaves.

Inserts during the voice-over of a noose around the necks of

JACK and LONG TOM, SCARFACE drinking from a tankard & a gibbet cage.

OLD DEC (V.O.)

Jack & Long Tom felt the tight grip of the noose & were gibbeted the following night. With only two men still at large, the militia sent out notices around the county. Scarface made it all the way to King Sterndale & was unlucky to get caught. The Bow Street Runners out of Castleton were pursuing the notorious Highwayman, Black Harry & raided The Bull I' Th' Thorn.

CUT TO:

7. EXT. BRITISH COUNTRY PUB - NIGHT

BRISCOE and SIMPSON are in a car; BRISCOE is showing SIMPSON a handgun which he is placing inside the glove box of the vehicle. Both are smiling. HEDGES is approaching them. They get out of the car and enter the pub.

CUT TO:

8. INT. COUNTRY PUB - MOMENTS LATER

HEDGES is setting up the balls on the pool table. SIMPSON is chalking a cue. BRISCOE has 3 pints and approaches from the bar. They are dressed like career criminals in various football hooligan branded attire.

SIMPSON

I say we go for it. Take all for ourselves if the man's loaded. You'll never know if the fruits exist unless you try picking them.

BRISCOE

Yeah screw it man, I'm in. If the old codger's got that much about him then I'm happy to liberate it. No point in letting it rot-away with him after-all! You in LEE? Can we count on you as our driver?

HEDGES

Err, Yeah sure, yeah, But all I'm doing is driving yeah?

SIMPSON and BRISCOE look at one another, smirking.

SIMPSON

Yeah sure LEE, you'd only go and  
mess it up if you got too involved!

SIMPSON and BRISCOE both laugh. HEDGES makes eye-contact  
with OLD-DEC who is heading in the direction of the three;  
pint in hand.

OLD DEC

You lot want to pipe-down over  
here, scheming away like you  
know-what's-what: Bunch of  
whipper-snappers, the lot of you.  
But you Lee, what would your OLD  
MAN have said? Not even fucking  
quiet about it.

SIMPSON

Fuck-off old man. Who is this  
HEDGES?

HEDGES

He's me DAD'S old pal.

BRISCOE

Well tell the fucking minging cunt  
to do one.

HEDGES

We've heard it all before DEC,  
about the Old-man, but that's, got  
to, you know, be a load of  
bullshit; no one's ever fucking  
lived as long as you lot say he  
has; not even JESUS or whatever you  
know?

OLD DEC

You'll please your fucking self by  
the looks of it then laddie. Even  
dafter than you fucking look and  
that's really bloody saying  
something. I'll expect to see your  
bodies washed up in yon river then  
shall I? Good job your old man  
ain't here to see what a  
dippit-cunt his son is! And as for  
the rest of you's: Plastic-fucking  
Gangsters' nowt-more, nowt-less.

SIMPSON nods to BRISCOE who squares up to OLD DEC, he points his forefinger into OLD-DEC'S nose. OLD-DEC stands smirking and unfazed.

BRISCOE

Listen you fucking minging old bastard, no cunt gives a fuck about what you think or do: the past's the past, and you two were more like a couple of never has-beens! His loots ours n there's fuck-all that anyone round here's going to be able to do about that pal!

OLD DEC

Aye, right you are then me duck, you's can all dig your own graves for all I care.

SIMPSON

Fucking do one you old prick.

OLD DEC heads back to the bar laughing to himself. SIMPSON, BRISCOE and HEDGES drink their pints and depart. HEDGES walks with his head down whilst SIMPSON and BRISCOE perform their best *Hard-man* walks out of the establishment.

9. INT. CAR - NIGHT

The trio, wearing balaclava's pull up in the motor in a wood near to the TERRIBLE OLD MAN'S house. SIMPSON takes the gun out of the glove box.

HEDGES

What the fuck man?

BRISCOE

Chill the fuck out Lee; its to show we mean business.

HEDGES waits in the car as SIMPSON and BRISCOE get out and enter the gate.

CUT TO:

10. EXT. GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

BRISCOE flanks left whilst SIMPSON heads straight to a window through which can be seen THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN talking to himself by candlelight. BRISCOE appears and motions for him to follow him around the side of the house.

CUT TO:

11. INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

HEDGES starts to nod off.

OLD DEC (V.O.)

The Runners wasted no time with Scarface; he was hung outside the The Bull I' Th' Thorn whilst they discussed what to do with the gold. The next morning, as they were leaving, they saw two bright yellow lights in the mist rising from the old mermaids pool...

CUT TO:

12. EXT. BRITISH COUNTRY PUB - MORNING

The Pirate captain appears out of the mist. The Bow Street Runners charge at him & a fight ensues; all are slaughtered. The Captain walks over to the gallows & utters a few words. Instantly, the body of Scarface disappears. The Captain walks back to the pool carrying a wooden chest & holding a lead pendulum in the other hand. As he reaches the pool, he looks back towards the pub & smiles, his eyes glowing yellow.

OLD DEC (V.O.)

...the pool is said to be connected to a series of underground rivers which run all the way to the Atlantic. The Captain was never seen again, nor the Gold, but they say that The Terrible Old Man is one of his descendents, some say he actually is the Captain & the gold is down there with him; a tribute to Neptune in exchange for longevity.

CUT TO:

13. INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

HEDGES wakes up with a jolt. He sees two small yellow lights blink in the woods.

13A. EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

He decides to go up to the house to see what's going on. He stops to look at some very old tools & hears the sound of the front door unlocking. He goes to the door & opens the

latch.

13B. INT. CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Using his mobile phone as a torch, he walks down a corridor which has stuffed animal heads hanging on the wall. He can hear the sounds of someone being beaten ahead of him.

CUT TO:

14. INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN is tied to a chair. Six glass-jars are on the table containing pendulums. There is also a small cloth pouch with gold coins spilled on to the table. HEDGES enters.

HEDGES

Lads what the fuck?

SIMPSON

What the fuck are you doing out the car more like?

HEDGES

Yeah, well you didn't say you were going to hold the poor bastard hostage in his own home!

BRISCOE is holding a bat which has blood on it. The OLD MAN sneers, he has been badly beaten & his nose is bloodied; it is running down his lips, he licks it.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN

Worse things happen at sea Master Hedges! (Laughs)

HEDGES

How the fuck do you know my name?

BRISCOE

Go and get back in the car Lee for fuck sake lad.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN

I recognise the son of a mutineer.

The OLD MAN looks in the direction of five other jars on the mantle piece. There are labels with names on them: Angelo Ricci, Joe Czaneck, Manuel Silva, Howard Phillips and Charles Hedges. LEE HEDGES takes off his balaclava & looks at the jar.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN  
A swing from the yard arm soon put  
a stop to that recusant!

HEDGES hits The OLD MAN.

HEDGES  
You killed my Dad?!

BRISCOE  
And you said you only wanted to  
drive (laughs).

SIMPSON  
Ignore him Lee; senile old cunt has  
been talking bollocks since we got  
here.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN  
Mate Ellis; call all hands aft at 3  
bells in the last dog.

One of the glass jars shatters. A mist starts to form.

SIMPSON  
What the fuck?  
Now tell us old boy, where the  
hell's the loot? We know you've got  
gold, and slabs of the stuff at  
that! You ain't freaking me with  
your stupid laughter or party  
tricks!

SIMPSON holds the barrel of the gun to his throat & pushes  
it into his flesh. The TERRIBLE OLD MAN closes his eyes,  
clenches his fists; muttering some words which are barely  
audible.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN  
Peters; ready the hempen cravat.

Another glass jar shatters. The mist is growing. Everyone  
stops & looks at the table.

BRISCOE  
Let loose old man, it'll do you no  
good keeping quiet; we ain't  
fucking about!

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN  
Articles of War: 30th, All robbery  
committed by any person in the  
(MORE)

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN (CONT'D)

fleet, shall be punished with  
death...

SIMPSON pistol whips THE OLD MAN, who spits out a tooth.

SIMPSON

For fucks sake old man we ain't  
messing around; tell us where your  
loot is!

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN

...or otherwise, as a court  
martial, upon consideration of the  
circumstances, shall find meet.  
Death indeed, but first, I think...  
a lick of the cat!

SIMPSON cocks the pistol & aims it at THE OLD MAN ready to  
fire.

SIMPSON

Fuck it; you's having it!

The ringing of a ships 'Three bells' are heard echoing  
through the house. Once it dies down, a bosun's call can be  
heard coming from a distance but getting closer.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN

All hands to witness punishment.

The remaining jars shatter. The room is now heavy with a  
mist. SIMPSON see's the shadow of somebody move and fires  
two shots before the gun is ripped from his hands. Suddenly  
BRISCOE is pulled through a wall as if into another  
dimension. SIMPSON checks the wall where BRISCOE  
disappeared. There is the sound of a whip cracking & men's  
voices counting & laughing.

HEDGES & SIMPSON are frozen to the spot.

HEDGES

Huh? What-the-hell?

BRISCOE'S body then reappears from the wall and is tossed  
across the room; his back is covered in welts and he has a  
noose about his neck. He tries to reach out but is suddenly  
strung up. His neck snaps & the lads run off into the next  
room.

CUT TO:

15. INT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

SIMPSON is hiding behind a chair whilst HEDGES hides under a table.

SIMPSON

What the fuck man, what is this?  
What the fuck? That minging old  
bastard was right man; he was  
right.

SIMPSON looks over the chair and ducks as the shadow of JACK enters.

The shadow of JACK walks into the next room; SIMPSON makes a sharp dash for the unoccupied room but is suddenly lifted off the floor by an invisible hand.

15A. INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

He is then carried along the corridor with stuffed animal heads..

15B. INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...back into the kitchen & starts to wet himself before he is thrown to the ground. He looks up, his balaclava is pulled off his head by invisible hands & he is met by THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN'S smile.

SIMPSON

Please...

Silhouettes of men descend upon SIMPSON slicing at him with cutlasses. The old man watches on and admires the blood splattering around his kitchen.

CUT TO:

15C. INT. LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

HEDGES heads off in the opposite direction, but finds himself in...

15D. INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

...the same corridor, he looks through the door to see THE OLD MAN smiling. No matter which way he goes he keeps ending up back at THE OLD MAN. He stops to catch his breath.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN

Now Master Hedges, what shall we do  
with you?!

HEDGES runs to a door & struggle to open it, it finally

gives.

16. EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

HEDGES runs out of the door & turns to run back to the car, but is met by two bright yellow eyes. HEDGES darts towards the woods which are located behind the TERRIBLE OLD MAN'S house. He can hear many footsteps chasing him but can't see anyone behind him. Once inside the woods he hides behind a large tree and tries to catch his breath.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN (V.O.)  
Articles of War: XIII. (13th) Every  
person in the fleet, who through  
cowardice, negligence, or  
disaffection, shall forbear to  
pursue the chase of any enemy...

HEDGES can hear the voice getting closer & carries on running until he is met by the eyes again, he scrambles into an overgrown bushy area. Again he tries to catch his breath.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN (V.O.)  
...or shall not relieve or assist a  
known friend in view to the utmost  
of his power...

HEDGES starts running back towards the house and the car.

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN (V.O.)  
being convicted of any such offence  
by the sentence of a court martial,  
shall suffer death!

HEDGES gets in the car, starts the engine, turns on the headlights.

CUT TO:

17. INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN'S eyes are glowing yellow and he is singing a sea shanty (Down among the dead men). He raises a glass of rum to the shadows of SCARFACE and his crew who are gathered around the kitchen table, and then necks it back.

CUT TO:

18. EXT. RESERVOIR - MORNING

The mutilated body of the three robbers are laid on the shore of the reservoir. HEDGES has a noose about his neck.

OLD DEC (NARRATOR)

THE TERRIBLE OLD MAN continues to go about his business as normal despite the interrogations of his character. I tried my best to warn them of the potential dangers. Some cunts' will never listen. And as I see it they got what they deserve. Like father: like son.