

REVIVER

by

James I. Roper

(Based upon the short story
'The Green Dress' by *unknown*)

THE SOUND OF A TRAIN CAN BE HEARD.
WHITE ON BLACK WRITING DISSOLVES ONTO THE SCREEN:

revive' v. bring, come back to
life, vigour, use etc. -revi'val n.

1. EXT. TRAIN STATION PLATFORM - DAY

A train arrives from the right of screen and slows to a stop. As the train doors slide open school students pour out onto the platform. All are wearing the same blue school uniform. The camera moves onto a group of boys who are talking to each other and laughing, their conversation is drowned out by those around. The shot tightens onto one of the boys, JACOB, whose attention is drawn away from his friends.

CUT TO:

A girls hand feels at a bag strap on her own shoulder as she walks. She is wearing a DARK GREEN JUMPER, and has AUBURN hair.

JACOB doesn't take his eyes off her. The girl, with her back to the camera, boards the train and the doors slide shut.

2. INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - DAY

A girl, ALICE, with blonde hair in a ponytail wearing a blue school uniform walks up to a full-length mirror on the wall.

CUT TO:

A blue shirt, school tie and jumper on a bed.

CLOSE UP of ALICE taking the bobble out of her blonde hair and brushing it.

3. INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALICE and JACOB finish a kissing. They are sat cross-legged on a bed facing each other, ALICE on the left, JACOB on the right. JACOB seems to be lost in thought.

ALICE
What's wrong?

JACOB
Nothing.

He feels her hair in his hand.

JACOB
You ever thought of dying your hair?

ALICE

Why?

JACOB

I saw this girl she....

ALICE

A girl?

She holds his wrist and looks at him with mild anger.

ALICE

There's nothing wrong with my hair.

JACOB

Forget it....I'm going to miss
you, you know?

ALICE

It's not as if I'm leaving town or
anything.

JACOB

I know.

ALICE

Are you okay?

She smiles and hugs him.

CLOSE UP of JACOB who looks as if his mind is elsewhere.

4. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, LOUNGE - DAY

ALICES MUM walks past ALICE and to the front door.

ALICE'S MUM

I'll see you this evening. Bye!

She shuts the door. ALICE watches through the window as her mum's car drives to the right, down the street. ALICE walks into the kitchen, she is distracted by something in the MIRROR. The camera shows us the reflection in the MIRROR of ALICES MUM entering the kitchen with a plastic bag in each hand. She puts one on the table and looks up to the camera.

ALICE'S MUM

(phonetically reversed speech of
dialogue in Scene 16)

ALICE turns to the kitchen to see her mum not actually there. She looks down at her blue school uniform on the table. She picks it

up, opens the washing machine door and puts it in.

5. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

ALICE is washing some dishes. She hears the SOUND OF A TRAIN and looks out through the window behind the sink. Looking to the left we see the TRAIN on a track on an EMBANKMENT just beyond the garden fence at the back of the house. As the TRAIN passes parallel to the house a PERSON is seen falling from an open door of the TRAIN.

CLOSE UP of ALICE'S astonished face. She puts her hand to her mouth. ALICE then picks up the phone and dials 999.

6. EXT. TRAIN TRACK EMBANKMENT - DAY

A POLICEMAN looks around in the grass just as another POLICEMAN comes over the embankment.

POLICEMAN
(shaking his head)
Nothing over that side. I'm not
sure what to make of this.

7. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, LOUNGE - DAY

The two POLICEMEN stand opposite ALICE.

POLICEMAN
Are you a hundred percent sure of
what you saw, it is a little
unusual?

ALICE
Yes!....I think...I mean...

POLICEMAN
I'm sorry but I don't think
there's anything more we can do.
We can check the train company,
see if they've reported anything.
Apart from that.

ALICE
(looking unsure)
Okay then.

8. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT.

ALICE is on the phone.

ALICE
See you tomorrow Jacob.

She puts the phone down. ALICE'S MUM comes up to her.

ALICE'S MUM
Did you tell him about it?

ALICE
Yes.

ALICE'S MUM
Did he believe you?

ALICE
I don't think so.

ALICES MUM holds out an envelope.

ALICE'S MUM
This is from school.

She takes it off her. ALICE drops it and while bending down accidentally knocks a VASE over and it smashes on the floor.

ALICE
Damn....I'm sorry mum.

ALICE'S MUM
Get the dustpan and brush.

9. EXT. EMBANKMENT - DAY

ALICE is stood at the gate looking around, down the railway line that stretches off into the distance. Turning around she walks through the garden and into the house.

10. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

ALICE is sat at the kitchen table reading a newspaper. She hears the SOUND OF A TRAIN and goes to the window behind the sink. She watches as the train passes.

CLOSE UP of an AUBURN HAired GIRL wearing a DARK GREEN JUMPER falling from the train.

LONG SHOT of THE GIRL falling down the EMBANKMENT and out of shot. ALICE runs out of the kitchen.

11. EXT. EMBANKMENT - DAY

ALICE runs up to the fence and quickly opens the gate and looks around to where she presumes THE GIRL should be. There is nothing there. ALICE looks urgently around as the TRAIN disappears into the distance. ALICE goes up onto the track and looks on the other side. There is no body to be seen.

12. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT.

ALICE is on the phone.

ALICE
See you Jacob. Bye.

She puts the phone down. Her mum comes up to her.

ALICES MUM
Did you tell him about what you
saw again?

ALICE
Yes.

ALICES MUM
Did he believe you?

ALICE
Definitely not this time.

ALICE'S MUM holds out an envelope.

ALICES MUM
This is from your new school.

She takes it off her. ALICE drops it and while bending down as she stands up she notices the VASE on the table, apparently mended. ALICE looks at it confused.

13. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, LOUNGE - DAY

There is a knock on the door. ALICE goes out of the room and comes back in. The two POLICEMEN enter the room.

POLICEMAN
We contacted the train company and
they reported no accidents of your
description of any kind. You
didn't seem a hundred percent sure
of what you saw, it is a little
unusual. But we have to check up
things like this.

ALICE
I think I saw someone fall, again,
a girl, in green...

14. EXT. THE EMBANKMENT - DAY

One of the POLICEMAN looks around in the grass as the other POLICEMAN comes over the embankment.

POLICEMAN
(shaking his head)
Nothing over this side.

15. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

ALICE is washing some dishes. She hears the SOUND OF A TRAIN and looks out through the window behind the sink. ALICE averts her eyes back into the room until the train comes close to the back garden and she decides to look back out. Looking to the left we see the TRAIN just beyond the garden fence. As the TRAIN passes parallel to the house the AUBURN HAired GIRL wearing a DARK GREEN JUMPER is seen falling from an open door of the TRAIN.

MEDIUM SHOT of the GIRL falling from the train. Her AUBURN hair blows about her face in the wind as she drops.

ALICE steps back and stares out of the window. ALICE then picks up the phone and about to dial stops herself and puts it down again.

16. INT. ALICE'S HOUSE, LOUNGE - DAY

ALICE watches through the window as her mums car drives to the left, down the street. Her mum parks the car in the driveway. ALICE walks into the kitchen. ALICE'S MUM is heard coming through the front door. ALICE looks into the MIRROR. The camera shows us the reflection of ALICE'S MUM entering the kitchen with a plastic bag in each hand. She puts one on the table and looks up to the camera. ALICE turns to face her mum.

ALICES MUM
(forward version of reversed
speech she says in the mirror in
Scene 4)
Here's the uniform for your new
school.

She looks down at her new DARK GREEN SCHOOL UNIFORM on the table as her mum takes it out of one of the bags.

17. INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALICE and JACOB finish a kiss. They are sat cross-legged on a bed facing each other, JACOB on the left, ALICE on the right. ALICE seems to be lost in thought.

JACOB
What's wrong?

ALICE

Nothing.

She feels her hair in her hand.

ALICE

I thought I'd dye my hair?

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JACOB

There's nothing wrong with your hair.

ALICE

Forget it....I'm going to miss you...you know?

JACOB

It's not as if I'm leaving town or anything.

ALICE

I know.

JACOB

Are you okay?

He smiles and hugs her.

CLOSE UP of ALICE who looks as if her mind is elsewhere.

18. INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - DAY

CLOSE UP of ALICE brushing her now dyed AUBURN coloured hair.

CUT TO:

A white shirt, DARK GREEN tie and DARK GREEN JUMPER on the bed.

CUT TO:

ALICE stands in front of the mirror with her new DARK GREEN UNIFORM on.

19. EXT. SMALL TRAIN STATION PLATFORM - DAY

A train arrives from the right of screen and slows to a stop. As the doors slide open school students pour out onto the platform. All are wearing the same blue school uniform. The camera moves onto a group of boys who are talking to each other and laughing, their conversation is drowned out by those around. The shot tightens on JACOB whose attention is drawn away from his friends.

CUT TO:

A girls hand feels at a bag strap on her own shoulder as she walks. She is wearing a DARK GREEN SCHOOL UNIFORM, and has AUBURN hair. The camera raises and we see it is ALICE.

JACOB doesn't take his eyes off her. ALICE, with her back to the camera, boards the train and the doors slide shut.

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pal'indrome' n. word, verse or sentence that is the same when read backwards or forwards

REVIVER

screenplay by James I. Roper
(2001)