

SUCCUMB

A Short Psychological Horror Film

Logline

After witnessing a mysterious figure lure a stranger into the woods, a man becomes obsessed with uncovering the truth—only to discover that whatever is out there doesn't force you... it waits for you to come willingly.

Synopsis

Jake Hayes, a quiet suburban man, notices something strange late one night—a lone figure sitting on a park bench across from his home, and something emerging from the woods to meet them. There is no struggle. No fear. The person simply stands and follows it into the darkness.

When police dismiss his account and find no evidence, Jake begins to question what he saw—until a missing-persons case nearby surfaces with eerie similarities. As he digs deeper, he learns the unsettling truth: others have seen it too. And like him, they weren't afraid.

What begins as curiosity turns into obsession. Jake spends sleepless nights watching the bench, convinced the thing only appears under cover of darkness.

Until one night... it does.

And this time, Jake is ready.

Tone & Style

Succumb is a slow-burn, atmospheric psychological horror driven by tension, stillness, and implication rather than spectacle. Minimal dialogue and grounded performances create a sense of realism, allowing the horror to unfold through behavior and silence.

The film leans into unease—what is not shown becomes more terrifying than what is. The camera observes patiently, letting moments linger just long enough for discomfort to settle in.

Themes

- The quiet pull of obsession
- Curiosity vs. self-preservation
- The illusion of control in the face of the unknown
- The idea that some forces don't take—they invite

Production Overview

- Format: Short Film
- Genre: Psychological Horror
- Length: ~10–14 minutes
- Locations: 2 primary (house, park)
- Cast: 2–4 principal roles
- Budget Level: Contained / Low-to-Moderate