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Mere Exchange



Logline: A precocious minx helps body robbing aliens inflict incremental horror until conscious calls her to save her mom from a macabre sylvan inferno.

SALLY, 30 and daughters; MANDY, 14; and ELLY, 7; watch apprehensively as a huge splash, a waterspout boils from the once cool pond, exposing rocks, bones, interstellar hibernation shells and artefacts.

A strange blue light flickers, flits above the new shore line as the storm rages. Tagrs; gaseous crystal double-hearts, drift free; seek energy, substance, gestalt, dominance. Isolated they can't energise, combine, reproduce, are trapped unable to (combust, achieve absolution and) return home. Unsettlingly, Uncle JAY, 33 tries to comfort Sally.

Jay leaves. Sally, frustrated, lonely, begins repairs despite the torrid summer heat. Local neighbours, lustful ISIAH, veterinary wife MARY; young adult sons innocent CAIN and charming ABEL, willingly assist the pretty newcomers.

The Tagrs flit, flickering blue, permeate, ingest their wildlife prey; coalesce to jelly, transmute to solid, as the pond slowly refills. Precocious Elly welcomes the fairies (the Tagrs), innocently supports their deadly stratagem to feed on human fear and passion. A cat dies, jellified, springs to life, bones dance, Elly ecstatic!

The Tagrs insinuate themselves into everyday life, embrace invisibly, indelibly influence, integrate, subtly plan, re-combine, gorge, Elly alone knows. Isiah narrowly avoids disaster, the men lust for the pretty girls.

Tagr's feed, but it's not enough. Sensuous Sally's frustration grows, manifests at the kitchen sink. Pubescent Mandy, plagued by lustful nightmares succumbs. The Tagrs feed on their febrile passion, but it's not enough, fear is needed.

Another jelly cat, a dissection, resurrection, terror, Mary's eye lost, Isiah mauled, Tagr's glimpsed. Sally unthinkably seduces Cain, Abel. Isiah rebuffed, seethes in frustration, mauled jelly limb now firm.

Tagr's play Sally, to call Jay (knowing her vile husband SAM will intercept). Sam arrives, the nightmare intensifies.

Elly goads the jealous men into violence. Mary intervenes, hospitalised, Sam beaten, limbs tumescent jelly. Sam takes revenge, Cain perishes, jellifies, resurrects. Sam cheats death, humiliates brother Jay.

Isiah threatens Sally. Cain combats Isiah, lovelorn Abel intervenes, Tagrs feed, fuel a deadly midnight conflict. Sally, despondent, searches, finds a human hand, a dead body, is attacked, raped, found by her daughters. Mature lady detective SUCHET investigates the missing men, blind to the horror in the pond. Two severed jelly left hands the only clues, no bodies.

Isiah attacks Sally, dies, is consumed, as she protects herself, somehow summons the police.

Sam returns with limbs of iron, leaves Jay dying, salaciously claims Mandy and Sally, Tagrs gorge on fear and passion. Elly, contrite, summons Suchet. The police attend.

Invigorated, the Tagrs animate, horror erupts. The Tagrs combust in glory, absolution earned by the horrific deaths around the pond.

Tagr triumph, a colony established, Mandy, Sally pregnant with Tagr seed, Elly her fairy friends. Suchet an embarrassment of missing persons and bodies to explain.