

Faded Into Blue

Patrick M Heffernan

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5 ÚñMí mñX'ci hcZ\]gf][\hgcWñYñ'Í Mti k Ubhk \Uñ

=ñck YfYXñ.Yf]ÚY"

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h.Yk]bX]bj UXYh.Y\c`YgřfYg `h]b[]b UgbchU`YX`
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g bžVi h h.fci [\ h.YVfUWžh.YfYk UjUŮ]WYf`cZ][\h`

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Ī K \mXc:nci `bc`cb[Yf`UbXh.]gbYWgd.fnš

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Xccfk UhUbXntb_YX`ci hUŮgž `cZfcchZfca h.YXi bY"

o ch.

Aglim e be ond. A c ack in he face, no coming o ha e. I an ed o nchi, ea he he c , a o i e i, b ea he he ilica ai. E o hied m ckge f om m chin in lo che , angling a o nd m h oa and colla ing m a chea. The ind had no he e o go, o i d gdee and e ed, a e i ed bomb e off b m o n agnanc .

Io ened he doo , and he man i h onl a mo h en e ed.

Wi e o fee , I old him. Yo al a lea e foo in e e he e.

He eaked m elcome ma i h g ain-fed m d. Hi oe o ld ne e hine, b i did he job. No ha I ca ed m ch. M fee e e len di oo.

Thank o . I d o ed o me ice c be an a em ed al age mi ion in o m ea and ook a fe good i .

Dea me, he hi e ed h o gh a g in, i i e da k in he e. I feel like ome iggling ea h o m, and I m e o do oo. Do o mind if I o en he blind ?

Yo can e en ee.

He h gged and le he ligh in h o gh m fo - aned indo .

Th ee ho o e e on he all. One old, one ab en , and one ne . The old a of an infan o ing hi ffd bea do n he ai . Hi laid o e all e e o a e h o gh he n ained bl e inge. The ab en a a ock ho o onded b a ea- hell fame. A do i o elf ma e iece made f om a do i m a ki . The ne a of a beach, clean and oli a i h moon ock i ing f om he lain. Rain-jacke a mo o e a e -logged kin.

Wh a e o he e again? I a ked. I eem a li le de o ho nanno nced.

If I a n an ed, e ha i o ld be.

Yo a e n an ed.

Yo fa ade i cha ming, ho e e dele e io . No ma e . A mo e e ing ma e i a hand i eem . So, if o don mind me a king, h he knife?

I fel a m in m hand. Ten inche of e a ed eel a c`XYX]brc UÚbY'dc]bñ'ónhY'df]W]b[cZa mñi a Vgž i hadn been ha ened in ea , b i ill o e.

I hink I an o be id of o , I aid. Seem Úh]b["i

Yo don an o be id of me. Yo an o be id of ha I can ho o . He ook a e o a d me, la ing one la ed oe do n a a ime. Yo need me. Yo e no ha i ho me.

I m no ha i h o .

I m o onl connec ion o he ime o lef .

Yo e a i o he ime I ha e lef .

He g abbed m hand and b o gh he blade o hi h oa . Then kill me. Kill he onl hing o ha e lef .

Eigh -fo hook , ca b ed eel od , b o ed in o me. Thei ba b ome eble, ome jig ca gh me. The ing a held a gh . The e a no e I co ld ake i ho being lled back. The e a no ho gh I co ld hink i ho being anked back o he head.

Yo need o ee, he hi e ed.

I an o be done i h hi .

Yo belong he e. Le me ake o back.

I can go back on m o n. Wi ho o .

He la ghed. Ho ill of o , m dea . Do o eall belie e ha ? He hed he knife again hi kin. Yo ill ne e be ha f ll again. B if o l an o, go ahead, g a a o a . J emembe ha I am o onl o ion fo ome hing mo e.

A if o e gi ing me an hing mo e han a .

Wha I ho o i eal. When o ee, o e l he e.

I can do be e han o .

Then kill me. D ag ha blade ac o m h oa , a ch me die, and emembe ha i a o ha he a a o onl chance a life.

I ee ed he handle.

I m o onl a age o ha momen , o onl a of ac ali ing o aim.

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1'7%-%.**"&\$%"<'B'.B./3'B'5&A3'B.\$'6.+8.,.'*0'G.\$+7/'
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gYd]b[j b r c ů f f y b k u h f " Ĥ Ŷ Y ů g j ` k U j \ Y j m ĭ
Ī 7 i ĥ Ĥ Y ů ů f v g l b X f i b ĥ c k \ Y f Y \ Y ů b ů ĥ ů b X m a i ž ĭ

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