Written by Marla Newborn
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With vampires currently enjoying their all-media heyday, it remains a challenge for writers and filmmakers to put a new and different spin on the bloodsucker story. Acclaimed Canadian writer Douglas Smith delivered just that, coming up with a unique twist in his short story “By Her Hand, She Draws You Down.” When producer/writer/director Anthony G. Sumner and producer Alan Rowe Kelly read the tale, they contacted Smith and got his blessing to turn the disquieting story into a short film, and BY HER HAND, SHE DRAWS YOU DOWN is now hitting the festival circuit—and worth seeking out.

BY HER HAND, SHE DRAWS YOU DOWN follows an artist named Cath (played in a feminine yet haunting style by Zoe Daelman Chlanda) and her husband, Joe (a masterful and intense performance by Jerry Murdock), who travel from seaside town to seaside town so that Cath can draw portraits of tourists as they pass by. You see, Cath has a particular “hunger,” which is satisfied by literally drawing the lifeforce out of her subjects. As time goes by, she begins to take more liberties with the victims she chooses, causing moral friction with Joe. And just as her “bloodlust” grows, Joe’s anxiety increases as he fears things are spiraling out of control. Tension mounts between the pair as Cath continues to change the rules, leading to a final reveal that emerges as quite unexpected, satisfying and sad.

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