

BURIED SECRETS

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

In the driveway, JOSH (32) washes his car. He's easy going with a friendly smile and positive nature. A likable guy...

EMMA (30) steps out from the garage. She looks fresh with hair done, make-up on and stylish clothes.

She walks up to Josh, who pauses to look at her. She puts her arm around him, gives him a gentle squeeze.

EMMA

I ordered pizza. I don't feel like cooking tonight.

Josh gives her a hug. A peck on the cheek.

JOSH

Have I ever turned down pizza?

Emma smiles, heads back towards the garage.

JOSH

Meat lovers?

She gestures back with a thumbs up, then disappears into the house. Satisfied, Josh continues to wash the car.

A car pulls up by the driveway. GEORGE (65), a sprightly retiree, gets out of the car. He watches Josh for a second, then heads towards him.

Josh sees him coming, offers up a friendly smile.

JOSH

Can I help you?

GEORGE

I'm looking for Josh Bowman. Is that you?

JOSH

Sure is. What can I do for you?

GEORGE

Did you used to live on 2546 Sunset Lane?

Josh is intrigued.

JOSH
Yes, I did. But, that was over
twenty years ago.

George waves for Josh to follow him to his car.

GEORGE
I have something for you.

He opens the trunk to his car. Curious, Josh strolls over.

George pulls out a dirty medium sized plastic container,
hands it to Josh, who's confused.

GEORGE
My wife and I just bought your old
house from Misses Anderson. She
said she bought the house from your
parents' estate after they died.

Josh furrows his brow. Not sure where this is going.

GEORGE
Jenny, my wife was digging in the
backyard, she wanted to plant a
magnolia there and she found this
box.

He points to a small sticker on the box. "1998 time capsule".

GEORGE
I looked inside. Kids' stuff
mostly, so I figured it must belong
to you.

With a smile, he pats Josh on the back, heads back in his
car, then drives off.

Baffled, Josh watches him disappear down the street.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Emma sits with her feet up on the couch with a pizza box in
her lap. Josh is on the floor with his own box and the
plastic container.

EMMA
You don't remember burying that
thing at all?

JOSH
No. I've told you, I don't remember
anything before the accident.

Emma bites into a slice of pizza.

EMMA

Well, open it up. I want to see what little Josh was up to when he was twelve.

Josh opens up the container. Inside are various items from that time. Video games. Game Boy. A photo of The Spice Girls. A photo of Buffy the vampire slayer. A cassette tape. Star Trek stuff. A bag of rubber bands for braces.

Surprised, Josh cocks a brow. He feels his teeth, unaware he used to have braces.

EMMA

What's in there?

Josh picks up a Batman figure with no arms or legs. Confused, he studies it.

JOSH

Just junk really.

He takes out the last item. A hand drawn treasure map. He holds it up for Emma to see.

JOSH

A treasure map.

Emma fakes excitement.

EMMA

Ooooooh...

Josh takes a closer look at the map. Written next to the X, "The disappearance".

Josh stares at the text. Intrigued, but confused.

JOSH

The disappearance?

Emma bites into another slice.

EMMA

Kind of cryptic for a kid.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Overcast sky with heavy rain laden clouds.

Dressed for a trek in the woods, Josh and Emma stand by a large tree. Josh has a shovel in one hand, the map in the other. He takes one look at the map, glances around.

JOSH

This is the place.

EMMA

Well, lets get on with it then
before it starts raining.

Josh hands her the map, starts to dig.

LATER

The shovel stabs the earth in the now medium sized hole.

CLANK.

The shovel hits something.

Josh bends down, removes more dirt with his hands. He finds a small metal box.

Josh and Emma share a glance before he pries off the lid.

With anticipation, they stare into the box. Josh takes out a few pieces of folded papers, unfolds them. Newspaper clippings and another hand drawn map.

They study the newspaper clippings.

Pictures and reports of a twelve year old, Peter Cunnings, who's missing.

Disturbed, Emma turns to Josh.

EMMA

What is this, Josh? You know that
boy?

JOSH

No. I've never seen him before.

EMMA

Are you sure?

Josh studies the pictures of the boy.

JOSH
Probably just something that was
happening at the time.

EMMA
I wonder if they ever found him.
I'm going to google that when we
get home.

Josh studies the new map.

Written by the X, "Evidence".

JOSH
Evidence?

Emma's eyes widen with excitement.

EMMA
Maybe you knew who took him and had
evidence to prove it?

Doubtful, Josh gazes at her.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Josh and Emma walk along the river bank. Their eyes flit from
the map to the surrounding area.

Emma sees something. Points to a large boulder.

EMMA
There it is!

They hurry towards it.

At the rock, Josh gets on his knees, removes smaller rocks
near the big one.

Another small metal container comes into view.

Josh and Emma share an excited glance.

EMMA
C'mon. Open it.

Josh hesitates, then with slight apprehension, he opens up
the box.

They both stare at the contents in the box. Eyes wide. Mouths
agape. Emma gasps.

EMMA

Oh my God...

Inside the box is a large knife covered with dried blood. Underneath it is another hand drawn map.

Great concern washes over Josh.

EMMA

Are you sure you don't remember anything about this?

Josh snaps back --

JOSH

No! I don't. I spent years in therapy trying to remember my life before the crash. It didn't work!

Grossed out, Emma picks up the knife with her thumb and forefinger, ogles it.

Josh grabs the map, unfolds it. Another treasure map. By the X, "The answer".

JOSH

The answer?...

They look at each other, both with great concern.

EMMA

I don't like this. I think we should call the police.

Josh studies the map.

JOSH

I think I know where this is.

With the box in one hand, the map in the other, he stalks off. Emma hurries after him. The knife still in her hand.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Late afternoon. The sky is an ominous dark grey. A light drizzle adds to the dread.

Josh and Emma stand by an old oak tree.

EMMA

Are you sure you don't think we should call the police?

JOSH

I want to see what it is first. If
I buried it, it belongs to me,
right?

He stabs the ground with the shovel.

Uneasy, Emma scans the surroundings.

Josh digs and digs. Whatever is buried here is deeper down
than the previous boxes.

THWACK!

The shovel hits something hard.

Josh and Emma peer down the hole with trepidation.

It's another box. Bigger. More like a trunk.

EMMA

What do you think it is?

Josh furrows his brow. Deep in thought. Memories coming back?

EMMA

Aren't you going to open it?

Josh hesitates.

EMMA

What's the matter?

JOSH

I don't know. Maybe we should just
leave it be.

Emma's confused.

EMMA

Why? After all this, you just want
to leave and forget about it?

She gets down on her knees, reaches into the hole.

EMMA

I want to know what it is.

Josh grabs her shoulder.

JOSH

Leave it.

She wipes some of the dirt off. Finds a latch.

Josh's face tightens.

JOSH
C'mon. Let's go!

She shoots him a confused look. Pulls free. She uses the old knife with the dried blood to pry the latch open.

Anger floods Josh's face.

JOSH
I said, let's go!

Emma stares up at him.

EMMA
What's the matter with you? Don't
you want to know who killed that
boy?

She pulls the lid open. It opens with a creak.

Inside, on top of a piece of black fabric is a note. "You shouldn't have busted my Batman figure, you fucking retard!"

She pulls the fabric aside. It's a Batman cape.

Underneath it --

Emma gasps!

Inside is the skeletal remains of a child.

Emma reels back, turns her head to look up at Josh.

WHACK!

Josh hits her in the head with the shovel. She falls down on top of the skeleton.

With a mixture of sadness and rage, he stares down at her.

JOSH
You shouldn't have opened the
fucking trunk.

FADE OUT: