

Don' t Show Me

By

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FADE IN

INT. CAR - HIGH SCHOOL CARPARK - DAY

JESS, 17, attractive and dressed in the latest fashion, scrolls through her Facebook page on her phone. Indie rock plays from the car radio.

A male STUDENT, 13, slight, looks like the king of the nerds, gets in the passenger seat. He seems a little nervous.

STUDENT

A...a...

He puts his hand to his mouth and clears his throat.

STUDENT

A hundred, is that right?

JESS

Yep.

The student passes Jess a fistful of rolled up cash.

Jess pulls a small bag of pills out of her pocket and discretely hands them to the student.

STUDENT

Okay, so that's it?

JESS

One at a time, and if you blab, I'll take you down with me.

STUDENT

(submissive)

No, no way. I would never...

Jess goes back to looking at her phone.

The student gets out of the car. He's about to shut the door when Jess yells out.

JESS

Thanks for helping me with my essay. You're the best.

The student looks confused. Then he gets it.

STUDENT

Yeah, you're welcome.

He shuts the door.

EXT. JESS'S HOUSE - DAY

An up-market, two-story well kept home and garden.

Jess walks up the path to the front door. She's on the phone. A package sits on the doorstep.

JESS

What? You've only been going out
a week. Is he in love with you
already?

She unlocks the door, picks up the package and heads
into the house.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Large kitchen, modern décor everything clean and tidy.

JESS

Christ! Oh gross.

She sets the package on the counter.

JESS

Get rid of him.

She looks at the addresses on the box.

ON SCREEN

The Hill Family,
839 Sandal Ave,
Stow, OH 44221.

Sender: Frances Handle
54 Ram Road,
New Orleans, LA 70032.

BACK TO SCENE

JESS

Yeah. Yeah. All right. See you
tonight. Bye.

She hangs up, puts the phone in her back pocket, grabs a pair of scissors out of the draw and opens the box.

Inside, a white envelope lies on top of something crudely wrapped in brown paper. 'READ FIRST!' is written in pen across the front of the envelope.

She takes out the envelope, puts it on the counter, ignores it, and pulls the object from the box. She unwraps it and reveals a small tribal statue, about ten inches tall.

The head is long and black and makes up half the size of the statue. Its face is covered with crudely painted white strips. Its striking light green eyes sit abnormally low.

A wide oval mouth with large teeth is painted on at the bottom of the head where the chin should be.

Bits of light brown frayed rope hang from the sides of its face. Tufts of thick black hair stick up like devil horns from its head.

Its body is skinny and covered in decorative markings.

JESS
(disgusted)

Jesus.

She puts it on the counter, grabs her phone and types a message.

ON PHONE SCREEN

KATEY (TEXT)
*Check it out! frm tht crazy old
aunt tht killd tht kid!*

BACK TO SCENE

Jess takes a photo of the statue and sends it, puts the phone in her back pocket.

She grabs the statue and takes a closer look.

Its menacing green eyes grab her attention. She brings it in closer. Stares at it, brings it in even closer.

Then...

She GASPS. Her body goes rigid. Her arm slowly stretches out in front of her. Something is controlling her.

At the same time, the microwave, television and lights turn on. Her phone rings in her back pocket. In the distance, televisions turn on and shows can be heard from the bedrooms.

Her eyes transfix on the statue. She tries to scream. Faint shrieks come out.

Then...

The lights turn off, the microwave stops, the televisions go silent, the phone stops ringing.

Jess drops the statue and falls to the floor.

She slowly sits up, covers her ears, and starts...

SCREAMING.

JESS
Stop. Stop.

More screaming, she can't bear it.

Then... She stops. Looks around.

She moves her hands from her ears, gets up, and bolts out of the kitchen up to her...

BEDROOM

The door flies open, Jess runs in. She stops in the middle of the room, tears streaming, grabs her phone and starts to dial. Her hands tremble. She drops the phone, picks it up and dials again.

EXT. SALON - DAY - CONTINUOUS

KATEY, 17, short, attractive with a friendly face, heads out of the Salon door with her bag over her shoulder. Her phone rings inside her bag. She gets it and answers.

KATEY
Hey!

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

JESS
(desperate)
Katey! Do you have Jacob Handsbury's
phone number?

KATEY (V.O)
What? Jacob HANDJOB?

JESS
Jacob Handsbury. The one in our
class.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Katey heads towards her car.

KATEY
Yeah. HANDJOB. What's wrong with
you?

INT. BEDROOM

JESS
I need his number.

KATEY (V.O)
What for?

JESS
Do you have his number?

KATEY (V.O)
I don't know his number.

JESS
I need it!

EXT. KATEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

KATEY
Okay! All right. Simone, Simone
might have it.

JESS (V.O)
I don't have Simone's number.

KATEY

Hang on. Hang on. Let me hang up
and I'll text it to you. Why do
you need it? What's going on?
Jess?

Katey looks at the phone. Jess has hung up already.
Katey shakes her head.

INT. BEDROOM

Jess opens the closet door and yanks back her clothes
revealing the wall paneling to the side. She pulls the
panel open like it's a door.

Six sandwich sized bags of marijuana and four smaller
bags of pills sit next to each other along the wall
blocking. A petite ladies' handgun sits on top of one of
the bags of marijuana. Jess grabs it.

She takes her small backpack bag off the hook behind the
door and puts the gun in it. Sits on her bed with it,
watches her phone and waits.

EXT. WOODS - LATER - DAY

JACOB, 18, neatly dressed, preppy looking, walks
alongside Jess on a well-beaten path. Jess is wearing
her small bag on her back.

Jacob speaks with confidence, almost pompous in
execution.

JACOB

I have to say, this is a very
pleasant surprise. So is this
like a date?

Jess laughs nervously.

JESS

Yeah... I'm full of surprises.

JACOB

You seem nervous. Why's that?
I don't bite.

Jacob laughs. Jess laughs nervously with him, but her
mind is elsewhere. She looks around as she walks,
watching for something.

They walk towards a large tree there's a giant heart carved in it. Jess sees it. It's what she's been looking for.

JESS

Let's go this way.

She grabs his arm and pulls him off the track.

JACOB

Okay.

Jess walks quickly. Jacob lags behind. There's no track but it's not the Amazon jungle.

JACOB

Hey... not so fast.

They get further into the woods and come to a large rock big enough for at least three people to sit on. She looks on the ground a few feet from the rock then starts kicking at the leaves.

JACOB

What are you looking for?

A metal loop attached to a flat surface appears. Jess keeps kicking until a five-foot round wooden cover becomes visible.

JACOB

Hey. Is that THE well? I knew it was in this part of the woods but I've never wanted to go looking.

She grabs the handle and pulls. It's too heavy.

JACOB

Here, I'll get it.

Jacob grabs the handle and pulls the cover off. They both look in. Jacob screws his face up in disgust as the smell hits him.

JACOB

That's bad. I wonder if there are any more kids down there.

He laughs. Jess backs away, scared.

JACOB

Sorry that was...

He's uncomfortable with Jess's reaction.

JACOB

Sorry, I was just joking.
It's probably a dead animal.

Jess looks past him and freezes. She looks like she sees a ghost.

A shadowy figure of a human in a long flowing robe floats behind him, head tilted to the side. The only features visible are its striking light green eyes. They glare straight at her. This is THE SHADOW.

JACOB

What's wrong?

Jacob turns and looks. There is no one there. The Shadow has gone.

JACOB

What were you looking at? What's wrong?

He moves closer to her.

She backs off slowly, looking around searching, hoping it doesn't appear again. Her breathing is heavy. She stumbles, catches herself.

JESS

It's, it's nothing... I thought I saw someone.

She glances at the well. Composes herself. Her voice shakes. She's forcing herself.

JESS

Let's look in the well, see if there's a dead animal.

Jacob gives her a confused look.

JACOB

You sure? You seem a little freaked out.

Jess goes over to the well, looks in.

JESS

I think I hear something.

Jacob heads over to Jess, gets his phone out, puts the flashlight on and shines it in the well.

JACOB

Wow, it's deep. No wonder those kids died.

Jess moves behind him. She takes the gun out of her bag and with both hands slowly points it at him. Her breathing is heavy. Her hands tremble. She swallows hard.

The Shadow appears behind her and whispers in her ear, its voice deep and slow.

THE SHADOW

Do it. NOW!

Jacob turns around.

JACOB

I don't thin...

She pulls the trigger. A loud POP. Jacob YELLS and falls into the well. There's a distant SPLASH as he hits the bottom.

The Shadow stands behind her and whispers in her ear slowly.

THE SHADOW

G-o-o-d.

Then it disappears.

Jess stands by the well crying holding the gun.

INT. JESS'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jess's mother MARYANNE, early 40'S, dressed like a top executive, walks into the kitchen and puts her handbag on the counter.

She sees the statue lying on the floor and picks it up. She looks at it with disgust, puts it on the counter and picks up the envelope.

She pulls the letter out and starts reading.

AUNT FRANCES (V.O)

Dear Maryanne, in my passing I wanted you to have this. Don't uncover the statue until you have read this letter.

FLASHBACK

INT. KATEY'S CAR - SALON PARKING LOT - DAY

Katey has just finished talking with a frantic Jess. Her phone beeps. There's a message on her phone from Simone.

AUNT FRANCES (V.O)

This hideous thing belonged to your great, great grandfather. He bought it back with him from Africa, from one of his archaeological digs.

ON PHONE SCREEN

SIMONE (TEXT)

It's 3306942433.

Katey forwards the message to Jess.

KATEY (TEXT)

*Heres Jacobs number 3306942433.
Call me I want 2 no whts goin on!!*

AUNT FRANCES (V.O)

It's a symbol of protection. A type of guardian for children.

Katey notices the message Jess had sent earlier. She opens it. The image of the statue appears.

BACK TO SCENE

Katey laughs. She makes the picture bigger and looks at it more closely.

AUNT FRANCES (V.O)

When you and the family turned your backs on me, I thought I'd never be able to forgive you.

The statue's green eyes grab Katey's attention. She brings it closer.

AUNT FRANCES (V.O)

Part of me wanted to forgive you,
but part of me wanted you to
experience what I had too.

Katey GASPS, her body goes rigid. Her arm slowly stretches out in front of her. Something is controlling her. The horn, radio, car lights turn on.

Her eyes now transfixed on its green eyes.

AUNT FRANCES (V.O)

You must not stare directly into
its eyes or look at a photo of it.
If you do it will show you what
it wants you to do, and what it will
do.

CONTINUING FLASHBACK

INT. JESS'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jess GASPS, her body goes rigid. Her arm slowly stretches out in front of her. Something is controlling her.

The lights, television, microwave, turn on. Her phone rings in her back pocket.

The Shadow appears behind her. It wraps its hands around the sides of her head and closes its eyes.

BEGIN MONTAGE

EXT. DOWNTOWN - INTERSECTION - DAY

Jess walks with Maryanne to the corner lights. They wait for the pedestrian crossing sign to turn.

The Shadow appears behind Maryanne and pushes her onto the road in front of an oncoming truck. It hits her. She disappears under the truck.

INT. JESS'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jess's Father JERRY, late 40's, tall, handsome, in work clothes, is on a ladder fixing the light in the middle of the room.

The Shadow appears and pushes the ladder. Jerry falls and hits his head on the coffee table. Blood gushes from the wound and pools around his head.

INT. JACOB'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tidy, modern décor. Jacob and a GIRL, 9, sit at a piano. The Girl is playing. She finishes and looks to him for approval. Jacob smiles and nods then points to the music, and he starts playing.

EXT. JACOB'S BEDROOM

Jacob opens the door and beckons for the Girl to go in.

INT. JACOB'S BEDROOM

An electric piano sits on a stand by the window. The room is tidy. The girl walks over to the piano.

Jacob peeks his head out into the hall, looks and listens. Pulls his head back in then closes the bedroom door.

AUNT FRANCES (V.O)

It made me kill that boy. It showed me what he was going to grow up as. He was going to kill children, so many children. And that thing was going to kill my husband if I didn't do it.

EXT. JACOB'S BEDROOM

The Shadow appears in front of the bedroom door, and stares into the CAMERA.

THE SHADOW

Kill the pedophile now or your family dies today.

END MONTAGE

BACK TO FLASHBACK

INT. JESS'S KITCHEN - DAY

Jess is on the floor, SCREAMING, hands over her ears.

THE SHADOW (V.O)

Kill the pedophile now or your
family dies today. Kill the
pedophile now or your family dies
today.

JESS

Stop. stop.

END FLASHBACK

INT. JESS'S KITCHEN - DAY

Maryanne continues to read the letter.

AUNT FRANCES (V.O)

It ruined my life, and none of you
cared. Now it's your burden.

Maryanne shakes her head and laughs.

MARYANNE

Silly old quack.

She screws the letter up and throws it into the trash,
picks up the statue, looks at it then looks away
quickly. She laughs, realizes she is just being silly,
puts the statue back into the box and throws the box in
the trash.

She looks towards the upstairs and calls to Katey.

MARYANNE

Katey, are you home?

There's no answer but she heads up stairs anyway.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jess is standing by the well. Katey appears on the path
holding a handgun.

Jess sees her, runs over and throws her arms around her.
Jess doesn't even notice the gun. Katey doesn't hug her
back.

INT. JESS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maryanne walks in and looks around. She notices the
closet door is open and the clothes are pulled back. She
takes a closer look and sees the opened panel.

She pulls it out some more. The drugs sit there in full view. She picks up a bag of marijuana, then a bag of pills. Looks at them closely, taking it all in.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Katey mumbles to Jess.

KATEY

It showed me what you do.

Jess moves out of the embrace, sees the gun.

JESS

What? Why've you got that?

KATEY

It showed me the pills. It showed me that kid, dying. He overdosed on your drugs. I thought you just sold pot, to us. Not pills to 13 year olds! You're a murderer.

INT. JESS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maryanne takes the bag of marijuana and bag of pills over to the bed and sits. She looks at the wardrobe, then at the drugs in her hand.

Tears start to well. She drops the drugs and breaks down crying.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Katey points the gun at Jess, her hand trembles. Jess points her gun at Katey.

JESS

No, no you don't have to do it.

Katey starts to cry.

KATEY

It's going to kill my family. I have to do it.

Jess backs away.

JESS

Please, we don't have to.

KATEY

You're going to keep doing it. It showed me. You knew that boy died because you gave him those drugs. And you didn't care.

Katey pulls the trigger and misses. They look at each other in shock. Jess aims her gun at Katey and shoots. It clicks. The gun is empty.

Jess turns and runs. Katey takes aim and shoots again.

She hits Jess. The bullet pierces Jess's heart. She tumbles to the ground.

Katey stands there, gun still pointed.

The Shadow appears behind her and whispers in her ear slowly.

THE SHADOW

G-o-o-d.

Katey drops the gun and falls to the ground.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A devastated Maryanne walks into the kitchen.

She jumps with fright. The statue sits proudly on the kitchen counter.

Its green eyes stare at her. She moves closer to it. It has her.

To her right: in the corner, The Shadow watches and waits.

FADE OUT