

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE WITCH UNDER YOUR BED

INT. CHILD'S ROOM - NIGHT

The dark room is lightened up as MIRANDA (35) opens the door for her little six year old son PETER.

He anxiously looks around as he carefully takes one step after another towards the bed. Leon, his fluffy toy lion pressed closely to his chest.

Miranda overtakes him and turns on the bedside lamp. She sits down on the bed and smiles.

MIRANDA

Come on, champ. She isn't here.

Peter stops. Eyes her unconvincedly.

Miranda sighs. Gets up and kneels down in front of the bed. She lifts the bedcover and checks the space under the bed.

MIRANDA

Hello? Any witch here?

Peter frowns. Seems to expect the worst.

MIRANDA

(serious)

I'm not kidding. If you're down here somewhere, come and show yourself.

Peter holds his breath as they both wait for a response.

Miranda turns around to him.

MIRANDA

Come here, take a look yourself.

Peter shakes his head.

MIRANDA

Come on, don't be scared. I'm here.

He takes a deep breath as he slowly approaches his mom. He struggles to overcome his fear and kneel down next to her.

The bend down together to take another look. Nothing.

Miranda picks up Leon and lets him have a look as well.

MIRANDA

Any witch here, Leon?

MIRANDA (AS LEON-VOICE)

Rrroar, there's no witch here!

Peter chuckles as Miranda pushes Leon into his face as she speaks.

They both get up. Miranda lifts the blanket and Peter slips under it.

She strokes over his face and through his hair. Lays down Leon in Peter's arms.

MIRANDA

Now sleep well. And don't worry  
about witches any more, okay?

Peter nods.

Miranda smiles at him and gets up. She turns off the bedside lamp and leaves Peter and Leon behind in darkness as she shuts the door behind her.

Peter shuts his eyes and falls asleep.

The full moon drifts past the window in a TIME LAPSE.

WITCH

(evil)

Peter...

Peter's eyes are wide open in an instant. Terror is written in his face and he breathes heavily.

WITCH

Peter...

Peter SQUEAKS in agony.

The moon throws a shadow of a cusp cap on top of a face with a long, crooked nose at the wall. Peter squinches his eyes shut in horror.

PETER

(whispering)

Go away. Go away. Leave me alone!

He carefully opens his eyes. Seems relieved to see the shadow has disappeared.

He takes a deep breath and turns around to the side.

PETER

(whispering)

Just imagination...

After a few seconds of ease, Peter's instantly horrified again as he realizes something is slowly pulling the blanket down from the bed.

In a reflex, Peter grabs the blanket and tries to pull it back, but in a single, jerky move, the blanket is thrown against the wall on the other side of the room.

Peter SCREAMS HIS HEAD OFF and jumps out of the bed. He hides behind a box of toys, his eyes glued to the bed.

The face of a MONSTROUS OLD WOMAN, ugly as hell, with a long, crooked nose appears behind the bed.

She supports herself on the bed, revealing her hands which look like rotten claws, with terribly long fingernails.

Peter SCREAMS LIKE A BANSHEE as the witch climbs on the bed and crawls towards him like a spider. She LAUGHS in an UNNATURAL VOICE, revealing her unnaturally long and pointed incisor teeth.

Peter ducks behind the toy box, still screaming. He screams so much, he doesn't even realize as the door opens up and the lights are switched on.

Miranda frowns for a second as she enters the room and finds the blanket hanging over the wardrobe.

She hurries to Peter and picks him up from the ground.

MIRANDA

Hey, calm down. I'm here. Shhh...

She cuddles him in a helpless attempt to calm him down.

MIRANDA

The evil witch again?

Peter nods as he tries to wash the tears out of his face.

MIRANDA

You want to sleep in mommy's bed tonight?

He nods again, still sobbing.

With Peter on her arms, Miranda leaves the room. Turns off the lights and shuts the door behind them.

Only Leon is left behind on the bed...

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Peter sits at the kitchen table, eating a piece of cake. Leon sits on the table, next to his plate. Miranda is washing the dishes.

MIRANDA

Couldn't you have waited for Jenny?

They exchange a look while Peter chews a way too big piece of cake and is unable to respond. He just shrugs instead.

Miranda turns her attention back to the dishes.

MIRANDA

You knew she would come here today.

Peter finally manages to swallow the creamy mass.

PETER

Can't her dad just take her with him?

Miranda eyes him sceptically.

MIRANDA

You don't like her much, huh?

Peter shrugs again as he prepares the next piece of cake with his fork.

PETER

She always want to play silly girl stuff. Like mom and dad with her puppets...

MIRANDA

Her mom being so sick isn't easy for her. And her dad barely has time for her because he's got to care for his wife so much.

PETER

I know... But...

MIRANDA

No buts. Just try to be nice, okay? Will you do that for me?

Peter sighs. Then nods in an unconvinced manner.

MIRANDA

Just look at the bright side of it: You'll have some backup tonight if that nasty witch returns tonight.

The RINGING DOORBELL interrupts their exchange.

MIRANDA

Oh, there she is.

She dries her hands and leaves. Peter listens as she speaks with JENNY'S DAD outside the room.

JENNY'S DAD (O.S.)

Thank you so much for having her here tonight.

MIRANDA (O.S.)

That's no trouble at all. How's Alice doing?

JENNY'S DAD (O.S.)

Mostly unchanged. But the doctor wants to see me to discuss other options.

MIRANDA (O.S.)

Oh, I see. Well good luck to both of you, and tell her she's in my thoughts, okay?

JENNY'S DAD (O.S.)

Will do. Thank you again.

MIRANDA (O.S.)

Come on, Jenny. There's cake in the kitchen.

Peter hears the door fall in it's lock. Miranda enters the room with JENNY (6).

MIRANDA

Hey Peter, look who's here.

PETER

Hi, Jenny...

JENNY

Hello.

MIRANDA

Take a seat, I'll get you a piece as well.

JENNY

Okay.

Jenny sits down. She spots Leon on the table.

JENNY

Ohh... A lion! I love lions!

PETER

His name is Leon.

Jenny stretches herself and just barely reaches Leon. Peter frowns as she pulls him over and hugs him.

JENNY

Oh, hello Leon! You're so soft...

INT. CHILD'S ROOM - NIGHT

Peter is busy playing with some toy cars while Jenny keeps stepping on an air pump to blow up her airbed.

Miranda enters the room and hands Jenny a pillow and a wool blanket.

MIRANDA

Hey Peter, why don't you help Jenny?

She throws a sharp look at him. Peter sighs and puts his toys away. He gets up and takes over the air pump work.

Miranda unfolds the blanket and spreads it out over the airbed.

MIRANDA

(to Jenny)

I think that's enough. What do you think?

Jenny smiles and tries out the airbed.

JENNY

Yes, that's enough.

Peter puts the plug on the airbed and crawls into his bed. Miranda tucks the air pump back into a cupboard.

MIRANDA

Alright you two. Time to sleep.

She bows down over Peter and kisses him on the cheek, which clearly is embarrassing to him in front of his guest.

PETER

(irritated)

Mom...

MIRANDA

Okay, okay. You're a big boy, I get it.

She turns off the light and leaves the room.

Peter stares at the shadows on the ceiling.

PETER

Do you have bad dreams sometimes?

JENNY

Bad dreams? Like what?

PETER

I don't know - about monsters or witches, stuff like that.

Jenny thinks for a moment.

JENNY

Yes... Sometimes. But most of the time I dream of animals. Rabbits, deers, elephants, birds... And especially lions!

Peter sighs.

PETER

Can you do me a favor?

JENNY

Sure!

PETER

Can you see under the bed from down there?

Jenny turns around on her airbed.

JENNY

Yes, but I can't see anything. It's too dark.

Peter smiles. He places Leon next to his head and closes his eyes.

PETER

Never mind. Good night, Jenny.

JENNY

Good night.

Again, The full moon drifts past the window in a TIME LAPSE.

Peter wakes up with a start as he hears her again...

WITCH

(evil voice)

Peter...

He sits up on his bed. Looks at Jenny on her airbed.

JENNY

(sleepy)

Peter? What was that?

Peter's eyes widen.

PETER

You heard her as well?

WITCH

Peter...

Jenny is terrified now. She sits up on her airbed and stares at Peter who seems mortally scared as well.

PETER

Oh, no...

JENNY

What is that?

Jenny points at a shadow on the wall. It's the shadow of the cusp cap on top of that ugly witch head again.

Peter SCREAMS as he sees her head next to his bed. He jumps down and runs over to Jenny.

The witch crawls on the bed again. Peter pulls Jenny off her airbed and they both hide behind the toy box.

The witch sounds a TERRIFYING LAUGHTER as she crawls over the bed and jumps down on the airbed.

PETER

Jenny... I'm scared.

The moonlight shines directly on Peter's bed, where Jenny spots Leon on the pillow.

JENNY

Leon!

Peter cries as the witch crawls closer to them. The beast seems to enjoy their fear.

JENNY

Leon! Help us!

The witch extends her arms and touches the toy box. With a jerky move, she pushes it aside and kneels right in front of Peter and Jenny.

Just when she wants to grab them, the witch is distracted by a LOUD, GROWLING SOUND behind her.

She turns around and stares at a giant LION sitting on Peter's bed.

The lion's face shows he's on attack mode. The witch issues a TERRIFYING SCREAM as the lion jumps down on her. He knocks her to the corner of the room with his pranks and easily devours her head with his giant jaws.

Peter and Jenny watch in disgust as the lion eats the screaming witch alive until nothing is left of her.

Miranda storms into the room and turns on the lights. Jenny and Peter are dazzled by the light and raise up their arms to cover their eyes.

MIRANDA

Peter! Jenny! What's wrong?

As Peter drops his arm, he stares at Leon, the toy pet, who sits in front of the wardrobe. A red fluid is spread all around the plushie's mouth.

MIRANDA

Hey, come on. I told you to sleep.  
It's past three in the morning!

Peter and Jenny eye each other in disbelief.

MIRANDA

Okay, enough play time for today.  
Come on, back to your beds!

Peter picks up Leon from the floor. Miranda notices the liquid on him.

MIRANDA

What did you do to the poor guy?  
Did you put watercolor on him?

Peter eyes the filthy Leon, then turns back to Miranda and nods.

MIRANDA

Great job. He'll have to stay out  
of bed then, I don't want red color  
on the whole bedding.

PETER

But, mom!

MIRANDA

No backtalk, young man.

She takes Leon out of Peter's hands and puts him down on the nightstand.

MIRANDA

He'll have to stay here for  
tonight, okay?

Peter nods 'okay' and crawls back into his bed.

Miranda turns off the lights again and stops at the door.

MIRANDA

I want you two to be as quiet as  
two little mice now, is that clear?

PETER

Yes, mom.

She eyes Jenny on the airbed. Jenny nods.

MIRANDA

Good.

She leaves the room and closes the door behind her.

Peter pets Leon on the nightstand and smiles.

PETER

I'll try to dream of lions now,  
too!