

Bugs

by

Creepy Binders

FADE IN:

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - PATIENT'S ROOM - DAY

REGINA, 8, adorable, lies restrained in her bed. A surgical mask sealed with duct tape covers her mouth and nose. More tape covers her ears and eyes. Bandages mark her limbs.

She grips an Elvis bobblehead.

Her roommate ALICE, 10, sits unrestrained in her bed chewing her nails. She's terrified.

ALICE
The voices tell me to do things,
horrible things...

Despite her restrained arm, Regina holds up Elvis with her hand as though speaking through him, her voice shy.

REGINA
It stops tonight.

ALICE
I can't take it anymore!

REGINA
I promise.

An ORDERLY enters with NURSE LAMB, 20s. Lamb gasps at the restraints on Regina. The orderly shrugs.

ORDERLY
She was hurting herself, we had no
choice.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - LATER

Lamb walks Regina, eyes no longer taped, by hand. Spectacular view from the windows: mountains, waterfalls, ocean cliffs.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - DR. WINTER'S OFFICE - LATER

Lamb and Regina enter holding hands.

DR. WINTERS, 40s, sits behind a mahogany desk. The room is elegant and comfortable: dark paneling, plush couches,

window with a view. Dr. Winters frowns.

DR WINTERS
Why is she taped like that?

NURSE LAMB
At her insistence. It was the only
way to keep her calm.

Winters reads Regina's file.

DR WINTERS
Hallucinations, visions of future
events, and...ah, yes. Bugs trying
to get inside her. Thus the tape.

NURSE LAMB
She's a darling, very well behaved,
just scared.

Winters smiles at Regina.

DR WINTERS
We're going to make things better,
Regina, ok?

The lights flicker and everything disappears except Regina
and Lamb. Just an empty concrete room.

Regina squirms in shock. Lamb places a comforting arm
around her.

NURSE LAMB
Nothing to be afraid of, sweetie,
just an outage.

Everything comes back on and the room is as it was.

DR WINTERS
Sorry about that. Now, Regina, tell
me about these bugs.

She holds up the Elvis to speak for her.

REGINA
They're trying to get inside me.

DR WINTERS
That must be awful.

REGINA
It is! But I'm the only one that
can save her.

DR WINTERS

Who?

The nurse holds the girl closer.

NURSE LAMB

She says the insects come out of her roommate, but that she can save her from them.

REGINA

It's why I came here.

INT. CORRIDOR - LATER

Lamb walks Regina back. They halt suddenly when the lights flicker and the "windows" disappear. Just bare corridor. A moment later everything comes back to normal.

When they continue, Regina holds up the Elvis to speak.

REGINA

I got one of them.

NURSE LAMB

What's that sweetie?

They stop again. Regina hands her a piece of folded duct tape. Lamb pockets it without inspection.

NURSE LAMB

We'll have that looked at right away, don't you worry.

EXT. MENTAL HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - SUNSET

Lamb, about to get into her car, takes out the piece of folded tape.

NURSE LAMB

Ouch!

Stung in her palm, she almost drops it.

CLOSE UP: in her hand...a tiny needle punching holes through the tape, the thing inside trying to rip its way out.

INT. REGINA AND ALICE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dim light. Alice lies sound asleep.

Regina, strapped to the bed, peers out from under tape that has come loose. The mask covers her mouth and nose tightly. Her breathing heavy, she watches Alice nervously.

Alice's mouth opens.

Regina gasps and glances behind her at the Elvis, out of reach on the table.

However, Alice's mouth closes.

Regina breathes easier.

Again Alice's mouth slowly opens. A bug the size of a girl's thumb pokes its head out. Senses with its antennas.

Regina whimpers under her mask.

The bugs now stream out of Alice in a line marching down the length of the bed.

Regina struggles against her restraints.

The bugs descend Alice's bed frame and surge across the floor.

Climb up Regina's bed.

They inspect her foot, safe under the blanket. She kicks at them uselessly.

Up the blanket they come.

Arriving at her face, they probe the tightly-taped mask. She lies frozen in fear.

Others bugs inspect her taped ears.

REGINA'S POV:

From her eyes, the insect looking at her appears giant. Its mechanical nature becomes clear as it punctures the mask with its tiny needle mouth and begins ripping.

RETURN NORMAL POV:

Regina tries to shake it off.

The door bursts open. Lights come on.

Nurse Lamb rushes to Regina, sweeping off the bugs.

But Alice's mouth opens. Another army pours out.

While Lamb works at Regina's restraints, the new army spreads across the floor.

And up the nurse's legs.

Screaming, Lamb flails desperately at them. But they swarm her back, penetrate her clothing, drill into the flesh of her hands and neck.

Regina, still restrained, watches silently.

The nurse slaps desperately at attacks within her clothing.

Drops to her knees.

MOMENTS LATER

Curled up on the floor, barely conscious, Lamb loses the battle. The bugs pour into her mouth, her nose, her ears.

INT. REGINA AND ALICE'S ROOM - MORNING

Alice wakes up. Looks around.

Regina sits on her own bed facing her, mouth still taped, Elvis in hand.

ALICE
Wh-what happened?

REGINA
Like I promised.

ALICE
I don't hear the voices.

REGINA
The voices are with Nurse Lamb now.

FADE OUT: