

GIGGLES

written by

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OVER A BLACK SCREEN:

A small child GIGGLES.

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A pair of eyes flutter open and

OLIVIA, 35, lying on her side in the bed, slowly rolls over on her back, turning her head toward the bedroom door.

Slivers of light peaks through the cracks in the door.

CLICK! The light turns off.

Olivia quickly sits upright, listening.

The small child GIGGLES again.

Then FOOTSTEPS scurry across hardwood.

Olivia slowly lies back down, perturbed.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Olivia sits at the island in the bright, clean kitchen, staring at the untouched cup of coffee in front of her.

In deep thought, Olivia hears the small child GIGGLE. She closes her eyes as she remembers...

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Olivia waters flowers in the spacious fenced-in backyard as a SMALL CHILD runs around her in circles, laughing and giggling. This is MASON.

MASON

Watch me, Mommy! Watch me!

Olivia smiles at him.

OLIVIA

I'm watching, honey. I'm watching.

The house phone RINGS.

OLIVIA

Stay right here, sweetie. I'll be
right back.

Olivia drops the hose, then dashes toward the sliding glass door and lets herself in.

Mason continues running around.

OLD MAN (V.O.)

Psst!

Mason stops, turning his head toward the voice.

At the end of the fence stands a tall, haggard OLD MAN in a black cloak with pale skin and terrifying features. He points at Mason with his long, bony finger.

Mason slowly backs away, frightened.

MASON

Mommy...

The Old Man brings his bony finger to his lips.

OLD MAN

Shhh...

The Old Man's glassy eyes dart back and forth before focusing back on Mason.

Mason swallows hard, completely frightened.

The Old Man covers his mouth with his skeletal hand and giggles.

Mason relaxes and starts to giggle, too.

The Old Man quickly stops giggling and points his bony finger back at Mason.

Mason stops giggling and becomes frightened again.

The Old Man motions for Mason to come to him with his bony finger.

Mason hesitates.

The Old Man pulls a candy bar from his cloak.

Mason's eyes light up.

The glass door slides open and Olivia steps back outside. She closes the door and looks around.

Mason and the Old Man are gone.

OLIVIA

Mason?

No answer.

OLIVIA

Mason, where are you?

Still no answer.

Olivia frantically runs around, looking for Mason.

OLIVIA

Mason?!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (PRESENT)

Olivia rubs the pain forming in her temples, trying to block out the painful memory...

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Olivia, still running around, stops when she sees Mason's bloody shirt in the grass at the end of the fence.

Her eyes grow big with fear and she panics.

She runs over to the shirt and quickly picks it up.

OLIVIA

Mason?!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY (PRESENT)

Olivia angrily shoves the coffee cup off the counter.

The cup SHATTERS as it hits the floor, splattering coffee everywhere.

Olivia shouts out in frustration.

Then silence...

Until the small child GIGGLES.

Olivia listens.

The small child GIGGLES again.

Then FOOTSTEPS scurry up a set of stairs.

Tears well up in Olivia's eyes.

OLIVIA

Mason?

Olivia slowly makes her way out of the kitchen into the

LIVING ROOM

and looks around.

The small child GIGGLES again.

Olivia goes to the staircase, making her way up the stairs to the

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

and looks around.

The small child GIGGLES again.

Olivia takes a deep breath, inching her way down the long, narrow hallway into her

BEDROOM

and looks around.

The small child GIGGLES again.

Olivia's eyes focus on the closet door, open just a sliver.

She takes another deep breath, then creeps over to the closet.

OLIVIA

Mason?

Silence.

Olivia hesitates.

Then slowly reaches for the handle on the closet door.

She stops. Takes another deep breath.

Then slowly opens the door.

Olivia's mouth drops open and her eyes grow big with sudden fear.

The Old Man, crouched in the corner of the closet in his black cloak, stares up at Olivia. He slowly brings his bony finger to his lips.

OLD MAN

Shhh...

FADE OUT.

THE END