

THE GASMAN

by

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - ANNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

ANNE(7), sits on a bed and scribbles on a drawing book. Light from a table lamp illuminates her juvenile features.

O.S.: Muffled arguments of her parents can be heard from the other room.

She lifts her head, looks at the wall as if she can see her parent's room, and frowns. She again looks at her drawing.

ANNE'S DRAWING

Three black STICK MEN drawn on the paper.

Two stick men represent her parents, on either side, with another SMALL stick man, represents Anne, in between them.

All three standing apart from each other.

BACK TO SCENE

Anne's father bellows O.S. Anne startles and drops her pencil. She clutches her blanket close to her chest as tears corner her eyes.

Silence.

Hesitant, Anne gets out of her bed, slowly walks to her door, and opens it slightly. Through the crack, she peeps into the-

DARK HALLWAY

Moonlight helps to proclaim a SILHOUETTE of a TALL PERSON standing in the hallway.

ANNE'S ROOM

Anne quickly shuts her door. She runs to her bed and hides under her blanket. Slowly, she lowers her blanket, and sees the tall person standing in the room.

He's the GASMAN. Black leather outfit and a gas mask covers his face.

Gasman takes a step forward. Anne backs herself and cries. He shakes his head. She tightens her lips and sobs. He comes near to her bed and kneels down. SHARP BREATHS from his mask valve are crystal clear.

He picks up Anne's drawing book, looks at it, and turns it towards her. She shuts her eyes and pulls the cover up over her face.

Few seconds pass, Anne lowers her blanket. Gasman's gone.

She sees her drawing.

ANNE'S DRAWING

There's a BIG RED CROSS drawn over her stick men.

BACK TO SCENE

She dashes out of her room, into the-

DARK HALLWAY

Starts to bang on her parent's door.

ANNE

Mom! Dad!

Muffled noise comes from her parent's room. The door opens, revealing her mother, NIA(30s).

NIA

What happened, sweetheart?

ANNE'S PARENTS ROOM

Nia bends down and hugs Anne.

NIA(CONT'D)

What happened? Tell me.

Anne sobs, and lifts her head, and looks past Nia, into the room. At a corner, stands the Gasman.

ANNE

Mom! Look! There's a man over there!

Nia looks at the corner, but sees no one.

NIA

There is no one there, honey.

Anne looks at her father, KEVIN(30s). He levitates over the bed, and an oxygen mask on his face. The nasal pipe from the mask travels back into the Gasman's chest.

Anne gasps.

Nia's sucked into the corner where the Gasman stands.

Anne screams.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - NIGHT

Anne opens her eyes. She lies on a hospital bed. Oxygen mask on her face. Multiple tubes snake out of her body to the nearby stationed medical equipments.

Everything's still. Silent.

She takes a couple of raspy breaths. Looks at her side and sees her parents slumped on the couch, apart from each other. Asleep.

She tries to move herself , but fails.

Suddenly, familiar sharp breaths fill in the ward. Anne looks at her bed's footboard and sees the Gasman.

He slowly approaches her. She tries to move, but fails. She tries to scream, but fails. Her eyes widens as the Gasman towers over her.

Anne looks at her parents, still asleep. Then at the Gasman. He directs his hand towards her oxygen mask. Her breathing accelerates. She's unable to twitch her head.

He takes off her mask. She hauls for oxygen. Her parents remain undisturbed.

Oddly, her medical equipments' signals are mute.

The Gasman places his hand over her mouth. Anne struggles for air.

Finally, her body goes still.

INT. ANNE'S HOUSE - DAY

ANNE'S PARENTS ROOM

On the bed, lies only Kevin. With Anne's photo close his chest.

ANNE'S ROOM

Nia makes Anne's bed. Her eyes are sore.

She comes across Anne's stick men drawing. No red cross present over it.

INT. ANNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

All alone, Nia's curled up on the bed, asleep. Her face wet with tears. Beside her, rests Anne's stick men drawing.

ANNE'S DRAWING

Strangely, the small stick man is absent.

BACK TO SCENE

A familiar sound of the sharp breaths begin to rise.

FADE OUT