

"THE MALL"

By

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SCENE 1

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The living room is small, but homely with an already lit fireplace, a couch, an armchair, a coffee table, and a TV. On the coffee table there are numerous pieces of paper, including a photograph of CONNOR, an 11-year-old boy with curly hair, wearing a navy-blue denim jacket with fur around the collar.

CHARLIE, a ginger haired girl in her early 20s, is staring down at the floor, guilt written over her face as she sits in the armchair. On the couch opposite her is her brother, ENZO, a dark-haired boy in his late 20s.

ENZO

If you tell me what happened, then I can help.

CHARLIE

I...I can't.

ENZO

Why not?

CHARLIE

Because it's my fault.

ENZO

What's your fault? What aren't you telling me?

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE doesn't look at ENZO in the eye.

CHARLIE

It doesn't matter.

ENZO

It matters to me.

CHARLIE sighs.

CHARLIE

It was late December. I was playing
outside with a couple of my friends...

FLASHBACK:

EXT. SHOPPING CENTRE - NIGHT

A thin layer of frost is covering the cars that are across the street from the small shopping Centre. A 12-year-old CHARLIE is throwing a ball around in the town square with a couple of friends, Rey, a 12-year-old girl with blonde braids, and CONNOR, who is standing in front of the mall, ready to catch the ball.

REY

Connor, go long!

CONNOR steps back as REY throws the ball.

CONTINUED:

CONNOR

I've got it!

The ball flies past Connor and smashes through the already cracked window of the old shopping center.

CONNOR frowns, disappointed.

CONNOR

I don't got it.

REY

Come on, let's find it.

CHARLIE

But it went inside.

REY

So?

CHARLIE

We're not allowed in there. It's abandoned.

REY rolls her eyes.

REY

Fine. Then stay out here, Scaredy Cat.

CONTINUED:

REY and CONNOR walk towards the double doors that lead into the shopping Centre.

CHARLIE

I'm not a Scaredy Cat.

CHARLIE looks around before she eventually follows REY and CONNOR inside.

FADE OUT:

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Still sitting in the same chair, CHARLIE looks up at ENZO.

CHARLIE

I tried to stop them, but they wouldn't listen...

FADE OUT:

FLASHBACK:

INT. SHOPPING CENTRE - NIGHT

The shopping Centre is small with one floor that is covered with dirt and dust, showing that the building had been closed for a while. Some shops have been boarded up, and others have smashed doors and windows.

CHARLIE shrieks when a spider hurries across the floor, followed by the sound of REY's laughter.

CHARLIE shrugs off her embarrassment with a smile.

CHARLIE

Shut up.

Several steps behind the girls is CONNOR. He shivers and pulls his jacket around him tighter, falling further behind. The sound of tapping on glass causes him to stop in front of an old toy store. The shop is dark, but you can just about see the broken animatronics and arcade games inside.

CONNOR

(smiles)

Cool!

As CONNOR is looking through the window, the sound of footsteps can be heard. He looks up, only to find REY and CHARLIE running over to him.

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

Connor, there you are! You shouldn't walk off like that.

CONNOR points to the toy store with enthusiasm.

CONNOR

There are games in there!

CHARLIE

We're here to get your ball, not play games.

REY

Come on, Charlie, you can't tell me you're not a little curious to explore this place?

CHARLIE

It's too risky. We could get caught.

REY

Aww, you really are scared.

CHARLIE

I'm not scared!

CONTINUED:

REY

Yes, you are. You're scared that some monster is going to come and get you!

CHARLIE rolls her eyes.

As the girls are arguing, the door to the toy store opens by itself.

CONNOR looks inside, and out of the darkness, his ball bounces across the room.

CONNOR smiles before he steps into the store, picking up his ball. Suddenly a pale hand with long fingers reaches out from the dark abyss, grabbing the back of his denim jacket.

CONNOR

Help! Help me!

As CHARLIE and REY turn to the store, CONNOR gets dragged into the back of the store.

CHARLIE

Connor!

REY moves towards the entrance, but CHARLIE holds her back.

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

Don't!

REY

Connor's in there!

A growling can be heard inside, and a pale human-like face with red eyes is visible within the darkness at the back of the shop.

Both girls scream, taking one look at it before they run away.

FADE OUT:

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CHARLIE stares at the floor, ENZO now sitting beside her.

CHARLIE

It was stupid to run. We were stupid...We shouldn't have gone in there. We shouldn't have left Connor.

ENZO

You were kids-

CHARLIE

Don't. Just...don't. Connor is...gone because of us. And now whatever was inside that store is back.

CONTINUED:

ENZO

I'm sure the cops will handle it.

CHARLIE shakes her head.

CHARLIE

This isn't something that the cops should
be handling...

ENZO

What are you saying?

CHARLIE

I'm saying that I'm going to put a stop to
it. I'm going to avenge Connor.

CUT TO BLACK

THE END