

INT. SITTING ROOM. DAY.

JOHN (late 20s) is sitting in his living room watching television. His phone is buzzing, but he swipes off as a young girl, CASEY (6) runs into the room holding a purple elephant.

CASEY  
Daddy, daddy, daddy!

JOHN  
Hey there monkey!

She crawls onto the sofa with him, and he puts an arm around her.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
So what have you been up to?

CASEY  
(happily)  
I've been playing with Jelly!

JOHN  
Jelly? Who's that?

CASEY  
My friend.

JOHN  
Can I meet him?

CASEY  
Um, not yet. He's shy.

CASEY moves the elephant behind her.

JOHN  
Oh okay. So are you two gunna sit here  
and watch some telly with me?

CASEY shakes her head.

CASEY  
Nuh uh, we're gunna play in the  
garden!

JOHN

Go on then, but make sure you don't stay out too late okay? Dinner will be ready soon.

CASEY

Okay daddy.

CASEY hugs JOHN quickly before running out of the room with the elephant.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Come on Jelly, I know a great game we can play..

JOHN smiles to himself as he settles back in to watch the television.

INT. KITCHEN. EVENING.

JOHN takes a tray of fish fingers and chips out of the oven. He walks through the flat and watches CASEY outside playing with the elephant. He smiles before calling her in.

CASEY sits down at the table as JOHN dishes out two plates of food.

JOHN

There you go Casey.

CASEY

Daddy? You forgot to give Jelly some!

JOHN smiles.

JOHN

Sorry, I didn't realise elephants ate fish fingers.

JOHN grabs a smaller plate and slides a small portion of food onto it as CASEY giggles.

CASEY

He's a special kind of elephant.

JOHN

Is he now? *(beat)* There you are.

CASEY places the food in front of JELLY.

CASEY  
 (to Jelly)  
 Here Jelly.

She mimics eating.

JOHN  
 So, where did Jelly come from?

CASEY  
 From the jungle! I helped him escape  
 from the pirates and then we became  
 bestest friends!

JOHN  
 Well that sounds like quite an  
 adventure for a little monkey like  
 you.

CASEY nods her head enthusiastically and turns to JELLY.  
 After a moment of whispering she turns back.

CASEY  
 Daddy, can we watch a film?

JOHN  
 A film?

He checks his watch.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
 (cont.)  
 Hmm. Fine. But only a short one okay?

INT. SITTING ROOM. NIGHT.

CASEY is sat on the sofa with JELLY. The television is on and they are both watching. Occasionally CASEY will talk to JELLY and at a scary part she covers his eyes.

JOHN is standing in the doorway with his arms crossed, smiling. His phone starts to ring and he slides it out of his pocket and looks at the screen. We see 'ADAM' is calling. He sighs irritably before hanging up.

As he looks back at CASEY he notices a tear in one of his eyes, but brushes it away before walking into the room.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

JOHN is tucking CASEY into bed.

JOHN  
Go straight to sleep now okay?

CASEY nods.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
(cont.)  
Good girl. Night night.

He turns to leave the room.

CASEY  
Daddy!

JOHN turns back.

CASEY (CONT'D)  
(cont.)  
You forgot to say night to Jelly.

She holds him up with both hands. JOHN walks back over.

JOHN  
Night night Jelly.

CASEY  
Love you daddy.

JOHN smiles warmly.

JOHN  
Love you too. Get some sleep.

JOHN leaves the room, turning the lights off and leaving the door slightly ajar. He turns around to fully close the door, and we see the bed is empty; tidied and fully made, with nothing out of place - it is clear no one is in the bed. Frantically, JOHN hurries inside and turns the lights on. CASEY pops her head out from the now-messy duvet, giggling. JOHN sighs with relief and leaves the room once more, leaving the door ajar.

INT. KITCHEN. MORNING.

JOHN is preparing breakfast as CASEY walks in, still in her pyjamas and dressing gown. She yawns.

JOHN  
Hello sleepyhead.

CASEY  
(sleepily)  
Morning daddy.

JOHN picks her up and sits her on the table.

JOHN  
Want some breakfast? Maybe, some  
chocolate spread on toast?

CASEY's eyes light up.

CASEY  
Yes please!

JOHN puts some bread in the toaster. His hands hover over the bread.

JOHN  
Does Nelly want some too?

CASEY  
(giggling)  
He's called Jelly silly!

JOHN  
(laughs)  
I'm sorry, does Jelly want some?

CASEY shakes her head.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Why not?

CASEY  
He's still a sleepy sleep.

JOHN  
(mock shock)  
Still? What a sleepy little elephant!  
You know, if he doesn't wake up soon  
he might miss coming to the park with  
us..

CASEY

The park? Jelly will love it there  
daddy thank you!

JOHN laughs as CASEY hugs him.

JOHN

Better go wake him up then.

CASEY runs out of the room as the toast pops. On the counter near the toaster, his phone rings. It stops and we see JOHN has numerous missed calls and texts from ADAM.

EXT. STREET. DAY.

JOHN and CASEY head down from their council estate, and are soon walking down the street. CASEY is excitedly talking to JELLY. He smiles as she runs on ahead slightly.

A car drives by and JOHN's eyes widen and he sharply turns to where CASEY is. He is about to call out when the car goes past and turns the corner. He hurries after CASEY, concerned.

EXT. PARK. DAY.

CASEY and JELLY are in the park, playing by the slide. JOHN is sat on a park-bench, holding her coat and watching them.

CASEY suddenly screams and JOHN rushes over to the slide where he sees CASEY sitting at the bottom.

JOHN

(worried)

What happened? Casey? Are you okay?

He relaxes as she starts laughing.

CASEY

Jelly pushed me.

The elephant slides down behind her and she turns to grab him. JOHN sighs.

JOHN

Don't scare me like that Casey.

He pulls her into a hug before turning and walking back to the bench. He watches CASEY whispering to JELLY before running over to him.

CASEY  
Umm, daddy.

JOHN  
Yes?

CASEY  
Jelly said he wants to have pancakes for tea tonight..

JOHN  
Pancakes ay? Hm..

CASEY  
With syrup!

JOHN  
And syrup too? Well, okay, but only if you're extra good today, alright?

JOHN ruffles her hair and she runs off to the swings with JELLY.

A man we recognise from JOHN's phone, ADAM (late 20s), walks by. He notices JOHN at the bench.

ADAM  
John? Hey, John?

JOHN looks up and notices him.

JOHN  
Oh, hey.

ADAM  
(very concerned)  
I've been trying to call! How are you doing?

JOHN is still watching CASEY, distracted.

JOHN  
Hm?

ADAM  
(delicately)

It's been a while since I've heard from you, (*beat*) since anybody's heard from you. How are you coping?

JOHN

Oh.

(*confused*)

I've been looking after Casey.

JOHN points to the swings where CASEY and JELLY are swinging happily.

ADAM looks up, and then back to JOHN, concerned.

ADAM

John, Casey isn't.. It's not her..

JOHN shakes his head. Tears are forming.

JOHN

No.. no.. please..

JOHN looks back towards the swings. They are empty now, though still swinging slightly in the wind.

ADAM

John?

JOHN

(*panicked and in sadness*)

Casey?

JOHN begins crying, he puts his head in his hands and drops CASEY's coat, though now it is ripped and torn. A small, purple elephant key-chain dangles from the zipper. JOHN is choking back tears as ADAM sits down and puts an arm around him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(*cont.*)

(*choking on the words*)

I'm sorry..