

EXT. PARK - DAY

It's a typical small park, dominated by the playground, but with a pavillion for parties and a walking track surrounding a clear field.

Five or six KIDS play on the playground, three to four MOMS sit on benches nearby, watching the kids and talking with each other. Some other WOMEN walk the walking track.

ERIN MILLER and her children ZOE and CARTER walk around the edge of the playground toward an empty pavilion.

Erin carries a box of party decorations, Zoe carries a bag with chips in it, and Carter carries a package of paper plates.

EXT. PAVILION - DAY

They reach the pavilion and ERIN sets the box of party decorations on the picnic table.

Zoe puts the bag of food next to the box on the table. Carter hangs back.

ERIN

Put that here, Carter.

Carter sets the package of plates down on the edge of the table.

ERIN (cont) All right, you two, you can go play.

Zoe and Carter rush off in the direction of the playground.

Erin pulls out a roll of streamers and a staple gun from the box.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Zoe and Carter rush across the playground towards the swings.

They pass DANIEL as they run. Daniel is carrying a ribbon wand in his hands. The ribbon is still folded up around itself as if it has just come out of its packaging.

EXT. BENCH - DAY

Daniel rushes up to MARY, who is talking with JANICE on one of the benches.

DANIEL

Mom! Look what the Ribbon Man gave me!

Mary looks up and reaches to take the toy.

She unwraps the rubber band from around the folded ribbon and starts to hand it back to Daniel.

Mary laughs and sets the ribbon down in her lap.

MARY

Kids.

JANICE

Who did he say he got that from? The Ribbon Man?

MARY

That's just a game the kids play, like Slenderman. He must have found it somewhere.

Janice laughs and shakes her head.

Daniel takes the end of the ribbon and begins to twirl it around.

As he twirls the ribbon, he becomes fainter, almost transparent before...

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

JACOB runs up to the swing, where Zoe and Carter are swinging on two of the three swings.

Walking along the fence just outside the playground is the RIBBON MAN. He wears brightly colored clothes, including an old-fashioned coat-and-tails in multiple colors.

Carter leaves the swings and runs off to some other part of the playground.

Zoe continues to swing.

The Ribbon Man catches Daniel's eye and beckons him closer.

JACOB keeps swinging.

The Ribbon Man reaches into his pocket, and pulls out another of the ribbon wands - this one already unfolded.

He takes the wand and begins to spin it around.

JACOB drags his feet on the ground to stop the swing.

He runs over to the ribbon man.

The Ribbon Man offers him the wand he is using.

Jacob takes the wand.

Zoe watches him from her swing.

Jacob begins to spin the wand around and around.

While he spins, he fades from view until there is no one there.

Zoe drags her feet on the ground until her swing stops.

She stares at where Jacob was and gasps for breath.

Carter runs up to Zoe and points along the fence.

CARTER

Zoe, look!

Zoe follows his pointing. She sees the Ribbon Man, walking along the fence and trailing his ribbon behind him.

ZOE

Carter, that Ribbon Man is dangerous.
You can't go near him. Promise me you
won't go near him!

CARTER

You're not my boss!

ZOE

Carter...

But he has run off again.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Mary and Janice sit on the bench still. Mary looks at her phone.

MARY

Well, it's been great catching up. I'd better go though, it's later than I thought.

JANICE

We should head out too. Sarah!

SARAH comes running from the playground. Mary and Janice both stand and, along with Sarah, head off in the direction of the parking lot.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Zoe watches Mary and Janice and Sarah leave.

One of Zoe's friends, ANNA, comes running up to her.

ANNA

Hey Zo, wanna go down the slide together?

Zoe turns and the two of them run towards the slide.

They run past Carter, who tries to catch up with them.

Anna turns and faces him down.

ANNA

Go away, we don't need little kids tagging along.

She turns and runs after Zoe, who is already near the top of the slide.

Carter pouts.

He sees a stick on the ground by the park bench.

He runs over to the stick.

He pulls a short ribbon out of his pocket and ties it to the

stick.

He begins swishing the makeshift ribbon wand through the air.

The knot comes loose and the ribbon falls to the ground.

He is poked with the end of a stick.

He looks up - it's the Ribbon Man.

Carter takes the end of the ribbon wand that is offered to him.

He begins to spin the ribbon.

Zoe looks up from the top of the slide.

ZOE
Carter! NO!!!

The Ribbon Man grins at him - the Ribbon Man has sharp, pointy, hideous-looking teeth.

Carter fades completely from view.

Zoe slides down the slide and runs to the bench. Her brother is gone, and so is the Ribbon Man.

She looks across at the pavilion where her mom had been decorating.

The pavilion is completely decorated now - including a giant sign that says "Happy Birthday Carter"

Zoe takes off running to the pavilion.

EXT. PAVILION - DAY

No one is there.

She looks across the field - her mom is walking the walking track alone.

EXT. WALKING TRACK - DAY

Zoe runs up to her mom.

ZOE

Mom! Mom!! MOM!!!!

ERIN

I heard you the first time - what's wrong?

ZOE

Mom, Carter's gone!

ERIN

Who's Carter?

ZOE

Mom!?

ERIN

I'm sorry honey. Maybe he left with his family.

ZOE

Mom! We're his family!

Erin smiles indulgently.

ERIN

Go back and play, dear. I've still got two laps to go.

Zoe stares, then abruptly turns and runs back towards the playground.

She sees the Ribbon Man walking along the outer fence, his ribbon trailing behind him.

She runs up to him. Grabs the tail of his ribbon to pull him to a stop.

The Ribbon Man turns around.

ZOE

Where is my brother?

The man raises an eyebrow at her.

She grabs the ribbon with both hands and tugs.

ZOE

WHERE IS MY BROTHER?

He lets go of the wand, and it dangles

above the ground.

He grins his rotten grin.

Zoe begins to fade.

She drops the ribbon but it is too late.

She fades out of existence, the ribbon left lying on the ground below.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Erin comes from the walking trail to the parking lot.

She gets in her car, and drives away.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

The ribbon still lays on the ground.

A kid runs up and takes hold of the ribbon.

He runs alongside the fence, the ribbon trailing behind him.

He slowly fades from view.

FADE TO BLACK.