

WHEN THE SNOW MELTS

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Snow falls gracefully toward the ground on a cloudy, winter day. A SNOWMAN sits in the yard of a house, perfectly built with a carrot nose, rock eyes and mouth, and a scarf.

Before the snowman stands GRACIE (17), dressed in winter layers with a backpack on.

Gracie looks around the neighborhood. From afar sits another snowman in another yard.

She looks back at the snowman before her. Her face twists from solemn to angry.

She walks up to the snowman and PUNCHES the head off.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE: WHEN THE SNOW MELTS

EXT. ROLLING OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY - FLASHBACK

SUPER: Christmas Day, 2 weeks earlier

It's quiet. Fresh fallen snow cleanses the street and yards.

A snowman sits in one of the yards. Then...

A woman SCREAMS from within the house.

A MOTHER RUSHES out of her front door, hysterical. She SCREAMS incoherently, but stops when--

Another PARENT RUSHES out of their house in hysterics.

Yet another PARENT scrambles out of their home in a freak-out. Then ANOTHER.

The entire neighborhood emerges from their homes together, frantic.

They SCREAM for their KIDS.

Gracie emerges from her house with her PARENTS. They look at the crying families, the frantic parents on their phones, the hysterics of the neighborhood.

Gracie notices that almost each house has a snowman in the yard, made to perfection.

INT. GRACIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Gracie looks out the living room window at a NEWS VAN near her house. A reporter, KATHY, talks to the camera.

The TV is on in the background. It plays the LIVE NEWS REPORT currently broadcasting in her neighborhood.

Gracie turns away from the window and resumes watching the news report.

KATHY

...what was once a happy, bustling neighborhood is now the scene of a Christmas Day mystery, as dozens of families in Rolling Oaks awoke to find their children missing from their homes. As police investigate for any signs of break-ins or foul play, parents continue to seek answers as to what happened to their kids, and more importantly, why. We will remain on the scene and continue this story as new information pours in. Back to you, Jeff.

The news report changes to the news anchor, JEFF.

JEFF

Thanks, Kathy. We now go to Tom with the weather forecast for the week. It looks like we're getting some nice warm days ahead, aren't we, Tom?

The camera switches to the weatherman, TOM.

TOM

That's right, Jeff. Strip those layers off because the temperatures will be rising throughout the week, getting up to the mid sixties on Thursday and hanging steady 'til the weekend...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROLLING OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD - DAYS LATER

Clear blue skies. The sun shines.

Water drips as snow **MELTS**.

A snowman's carrot nose falls off of its face as it drips to a puddle.

Gracie walks out of the house in less layers, dressed for warmer weather. She walks to the mailbox, opens it, and grabs the mail.

(O.S.) Someone **SCREAMS. HYSTERICAL.**

Gracie looks down the street from her.

A **PARENT SCREAMS** at something in their yard.

More neighborhood residents exit their homes, investigate the screaming. They **RUSH** over to the screaming parent. More and more residents.

Gracie curiously walks up to the huddle of people in the yard. Everyone talks loudly in a commotion.

Gracie gently pushes her way through the huddle to get a view of...

Her eyes grow **WIDE**.

She covers her mouth.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A child's bedroom. Quiet, calm, peaceful. Heavy snow falls quietly outside the window. Then--

THUMP. Something loud lands on the roof.

A **CHILD** sits up and looks at the ceiling.

Something **WALKS** along the roof of the house. The child's eyes grow wide in excitement, gives a smile of missing teeth.

The child gets out of bed and follows the footsteps, out of the bedroom.

Down the hall.

Toward the living room, where a lit Christmas tree sits next to the fireplace.

A plate of cookies and a glass of milk sit next to the fireplace.

The child follows the footsteps toward the fireplace. They stand and stare at the opening.

Ash and soot fall from the top of the chimney and into the fireplace. Santa is here...

The child approaches the fireplace, sticks their head inside, looks up into the chimney with a big grin.

The grin disappears.

Something rushes down the chimney toward the child, who opens their mouth to SCREAM--

EXT. ROLLING OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

BACK TO SCENE

The parents continue their commotion as they stare at the DEAD CHILD, blue skin and frozen, and covered in snow from the SNOWMAN THAT WAS BUILT OVER THE CHILD.

Gracie backs away in shock.

She turns around and looks at the neighborhood.

Each snowman is melting.

Tufts of hair poke from one snowman.

A small arm hangs loosely from another snowman.

A rock-eye of one snowman falls off, revealing the wide, fearful, dead eye of a child.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

BACK TO PRESENT

Gracie, at the snowman whose head she just punched off. The head falls to the ground.

There's no child beneath the snow.

Gracie stares at the snowman, almost in shock. She BREATHES heavily. Backs away.

It's just a regular snowman. Nothing more.
She stares at it in fear.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.