

W H I S P E R S

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

A sunny afternoon. Tall grass surrounds an old two-story house in rural Indiana.

A black truck belts down the long gravel driveway.

The tires SCREECH to a halt in front of the house, throwing up a cloud of dust.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

DANIEL shifts into park and turns to his wife, JESSIE. Both late 20s. Good looks. Modestly dressed.

DANIEL
Well this is it...

He grins from ear to ear.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
What do you think?

Jessie looks out the window and scrunches her nose, then turns to Daniel with a plastered smile on her face.

JESSIE
It's... Cute.

Daniel's grin disappears.

DANIEL
You don't like it, do you?

Jessie shrugs.

JESSIE
It might look better inside.

Daniel turns around and faces his son, LANDON (4), in the backseat.

DANIEL
Ready to get out and see your new home, little buddy?

Landon strains his face.

LANDON
I have to poop.

Daniel and Jessie chuckle.

DANIEL
Guess we'll check out the bathroom
first.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Daniel and Jessie stroll down the long, narrow upstairs hallway. Landon follows sheepishly behind.

DANIEL
You comin', buddy?

Landon nods. He wanders.

Daniel and Jessie disappear into a room on the left side of the hall.

Landon abruptly stops. Something in another room catches his eye.

He hesitates.

Then cautiously makes his way into

THE BEDROOM

where the late afternoon sun shines down on an old stuffed teddy bear in the middle of the closet floor.

Landon moseys over to the closet and looks down at the stuffed bear.

The stuffed bear stares back with one buttoned eye. The other long gone.

Landon picks the stuffed bear up and wipes a dust ball from its head.

His eyes move from the stuffed bear to something else in the closet. They scan upward and

A HAND

falls on his shoulder. Landon jolts.

He spins around and faces Daniel.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Whoa. Sorry, buddy. Didn't mean to
scare ya... Whatcha got there?

Landon holds the stuffed bear up for Daniel to see.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Well look at that. You're already
makin' new friends.

Landon looks at the stuffed bear, then lets it drop to the floor. He lowers his head.

Daniel wraps his arms around him.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I know you're sad, buddy. I didn't
want to move, either.

Landon looks up at Daniel with pleading eyes.

LANDON
Can we go back?

DANIEL
I wish we could, but it's too far
away from my new job.

Landon frowns.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, buddy. I know it's scary
'cause everything's new right
now... But I promise, you're gonna
make all kinds of new friends.

LANDON
Promise?

Daniel smiles.

DANIEL
I promise.

Landon smiles and Daniel embraces him.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Unpacked boxes scattered everywhere.

Daniel, Jessie, and Landon at a table eating a quick take-out dinner.

DANIEL
(to Jessie)
So do you still hate it?

Jessie gives him a so-so signal with her hand.

JESSIE

I'll be nice and say it went from a hate down to a strong dislike.

Daniel sighs and leans forward.

DANIEL

Look. I know it's not the mansion in Malibu we've been dreamin' of, Jessie... But I couldn't pass on the price.

JESSIE

I could've.

DANIEL

I do agree. It's not the most attractive house in the world... But it's not a bad house, either. All it needs is a little TLC.

JESSIE

A lot of TLC... How'd you even manage to get it, anyway? I thought it already had an accepted offer.

DANIEL

It did, but the buyer backed out.

JESSIE

Why?

Daniel shrugs.

DANIEL

No clue.

(to Landon)

What do you think, little buddy?

Landon yawns.

JESSIE

I think it's time for bed.

INT. LANDON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Landon now occupies the formerly vacant bedroom. Toys scattered all over the floor.

Daniel tucks Landon into bed and kisses his forehead.

DANIEL
I love you, buddy. Have a good
night.

Daniel starts to walk away --

LANDON
Daddy?

Daniel stops and turns back around.

DANIEL
Yeah, buddy?

LANDON
Will you get the monsters out of my
closet?

Daniel chuckles.

DANIEL
Don't be silly. There's no monsters
in your closet.

LANDON
Yeah-huh. I heard them.

DANIEL
It was probably just a mouse,
buddy. There's no such thing as
monsters.

LANDON
They were whispering.

Daniel raises an eyebrow.

DANIEL
Whispering, huh?

Landon nods.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Who were they whispering to?

LANDON
Me.

Daniel sighs. He walks over to the closet and plays along.

DANIEL
Attention all monsters. This is
Landon's room now, so if there's
any monsters in here, you have to
leave. You can't stay here anymore.

He walks back over to Landon.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
That better?

Landon doesn't look convinced.

LANDON
No more monsters?

Daniel shakes his head 'no'.

DANIEL
No more monsters.

Daniel notices the stuffed bear on the floor. He picks it up
and hands it to Landon.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Don't forget about your new friend.

He gives Landon a hug.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Goodnight, buddy. I love you.

LANDON
I love you, too, daddy.

Daniel walks over and turns the light off. He steps out of
the room and closes the door.

Landon clings to the stuffed bear.

The closet door slowly CREAKS open.

Landon panics. He jumps up and backs against the wall. His
wide eyes focus on the pitch black closet.

INT. BATHROOM - SHOWER - NIGHT

Jessie in the shower. She closes her eyes and lathers shampoo
in her hair as A SHADOW appears at the doorway.

She rinses the shampoo out of her hair as THE SHADOW grows
closer.

She bends down and turns the water off as THE SHADOW hovers over the curtain.

Jessie stands back up. The shadow is gone. She slides the curtain open and steam engulfs the bathroom.

She grabs a towel from the towel rack and wraps it around her body. She steps out of the shower into

THE BATHROOM

and catches a glimpse of A FIGURE from the corner of her eye.

She quickly turns her head.

No one's there.

JESSIE

Daniel?

No answer.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jessie angrily fumbles around as she makes a pot of coffee.

Daniel enters.

DANIEL

Good morning, beautiful.

Jessie slams a cabinet.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

Jessie stops and glares at him for a moment.

Then turns back around and slams another cabinet.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What are you so mad about?

JESSIE

I saw the pictures, Daniel.

DANIEL

Pictures? What pictures?

JESSIE

The ones you took of me when I was in the shower last night.

DANIEL
What are you talking about?

JESSIE
Quit playing stupid. I saw them
this morning when I got on
Facebook... And so did everyone
else.

DANIEL
I really don't know what you're
talkin' about. I haven't been on
Facebook in over a week.

JESSIE
Really? Because they were uploaded
from your account.

She glares at him.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
How could you do that?

DANIEL
Jessie, I didn't take any pictures
of you... I swear.

JESSIE
Then who did? Casper?

Daniel has a lightbulb moment and he rushes out of the
kitchen.

INT. LANDON'S ROOM - DAY

Landon lies awake in his bed and stares up at the ceiling.

Daniel enters and walks over to him.

DANIEL
Good morning, buddy. How'd you
sleep?

Landon yawns.

LANDON
The monsters kept me up.

DANIEL
I was just gettin' ready to ask you
about them... What exactly do these
monsters look like?

LANDON
They look just like us.

Daniel raises an eyebrow.

LANDON (CONT'D)
But different. More scary. And they
whisper things. Bad things. They
really scare me, daddy.

DANIEL
Are they still in your closet?

Landon shakes his head 'no'.

LANDON
Not anymore.

DANIEL
Where are they?

LANDON
They're everywhere.

He hesitates.

LANDON (CONT'D)
There's one under my bed right now.

A cold chill runs down Daniel's back. He shrugs it off and
tries to play it cool.

He gets on his knees and looks under the bed.

Landon hides under the bed and stares back at Daniel.

Daniel chuckles.

DANIEL
You got me, buddy. How'd you get
under there so fast?

LANDON (O.S.)
I'm up here, daddy.

Daniel swings his head up.

Landon still lies in his bed.

Daniel freaks out and quickly looks under the bed again.

"Landon" is gone.

Daniel jumps up. He picks Landon up from his bed and rushes toward the door.

LANDON (CONT'D)
Where we goin', daddy?

DANIEL
We're getting mommy and getting out
of here. Right now.

INT. TRUCK - DAY

Daniel drives. Jessie in the passenger seat. Landon in the backseat. Everyone is quiet.

Landon shifts nervously in his seat.

LANDON
Daddy...

Daniel looks at Landon in the rearview mirror.

DANIEL
What, Landon?

LANDON
We have to go back.

DANIEL
We're not going back.

LANDON
But daddy, we have to.

DANIEL
What for?

LANDON
We left mommy behind.

DANIEL
Landon, mommy's right here beside
me.

LANDON
That's not mommy...

Daniel freezes up with terror.

Then slowly turns his head toward "Jessie".

FADE OUT.