

IMAGINARY FRIEND

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FAMILY HOME - DAY

GHOST, is a boy of around 19, He's dressed in Victorian clothes, pale white skin with dark rings around his eyes. But all in all he doesn't look too bad for someone who's been dead for the last 200 years.

Standing outside the front of a four bedroom middle class family home he waves at two small CHILDREN through the front window.

They smile happily back at him.

The MUM opens the front door and the DAD steps outside. Car keys already in his hand. This Mum and Dad share a quick kiss.

They don't see Ghost who's standing right next to them.

Dad peers inside the house, sees his two children waving frantically, but to him it's like they're waving at nothing but thin air.

He turns back to the Mum.

DAD

I can't put up with this imaginary friend nonsense much longer.

MUM

It's just a faze.

DAD

Well, they either snap out of it fast or I'm taking them to a therapist.

MUM

Go to work.

The Dad goes in for another kiss but the Mum turns her back on him and closes the front door shut behind her.

Ghost chuckles silently to himself then makes his way down the street.

INT. NEW HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Ghost opens the front door to a new home. Peering inside, his footsteps are completely silent.

He sees the coats hung up and the shoes piled up on the floor.

INT. NEW HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Ghost enters the open spaced front room. Clean and tidy. Photographs of a happily married couple hang up on the walls. Doesn't seem like there's anyone here.

He looks around for clues. Opening and closing cupboards and drawers.

GHOST

(muttering to himself)

No. Doesn't look like the kind of place with any children. Oh well. Onto the next house I suppose.

As he turns to leave, he hears the sound of glass breaking coming from upstairs.

Ghost snaps his head around, he waits. Listening carefully.

INT. NEW HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Ghost silently opens the door to the bathroom. On the floor he spots BETH, 32, her bottom lip is cut and she has a huge unmistakable blackeye. Looks like she's been beaten quite badly.

In her right hand she holds onto a broken wine glass.

Ghost just stares at her for awhile then slowly backs out of the bathroom, closing its door shut behind him.

Beth slowly lifts her head up, frowning. She saw him. She stands up, holding the broken wine glass out in front of her, like a weapon, for her own protection.

INT. NEW HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ghost has his head inside of the fridge, sniffing at the food.

Beth appears behind him, still holding onto the broken wine glass.

BETH

Who the hell are you?

Ghost spins around to face her. His face lights up, excited.

GHOST
You can see me?

BETH
Of course I can see you. Now who
are you and why are you dressed in
such stupid clothes?

He nods at the wine glass.

GHOST
And what are you going to do with
that?

BETH
Get out of my house and you won't
have to find out.

GHOST
You can't hurt me. But it looks
like someone's hurt you.

She's stunned, doesn't know what to say back to him.

Ghost lets out a long deep breath, suddenly looking and
feeling very sad.

GHOST (CONT'D)
And I'm sorry that you're so very,
very lonely. But I like to help
people who are lonely. So that's
some good news for you. And it
really is

She shakes her head, confused.

BETH
Lonely?

GHOST
Only the very lonely have the
ability to see me.

BETH
And who are you?

GHOST
I'm a Ghost. Go on. Reach out and
touch my skin. It's fine. You can't
hurt me and I won't hurt you.

With her free hand she slowly reaches out to touch him.
Snapping her fingers back when she does.

BETH
You're freezing cold.

GHOST
Yeah, no shit.

INT. NEW HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Beth now stands at the sink, looking at herself in the mirror. Ghost's reflection is missing even though he's standing right behind her.

She chuckles to herself.

BETH
You really are a ghost.

He nods.

GHOST
And I really am here to help you.

Beth now starts to put on makeup, it's painful when she applies it to her injuries.

BETH
But why me?

He shrugs.

GHOST
Children see me more than anyone else. Because children feel more than adults. And when they're feeling lonely, they really feel it. It's such a strong, awful emotion for them, and it allows them to see ghosts like me. You have those same feelings. Which is rare in adults.

BETH
You make me sound pretty sad.

GHOST
It's because you are. But I'm here to help.

BETH
How?

GHOST
You need a friend.

She shakes her head, continues to put on her makeup, trying hard to cover up her injuries.

INT. NEW HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

MATT, 40, still in his suit from work sits down for dinner.

Ghost stands beside him, but Matt is unable to see him.

Beth brings in his plate of food and a glass of beer, placing them both down in front of him.

She goes to leave, but Matt reaches out and grabs a tight hold of her wrist, pulling her to a stop.

MATT

No more arguments OK?

She's too scared to look at him. She nods.

MATT (CONT'D)

No more arguments and I won't have to lay a finger on you ever again, OK?

Still she looks down at the floor, nodding to whatever he says.

MATT (CONT'D)

I hope you've learnt your lesson. I really don't like hitting you, so please don't force me to do it anymore.

He lets go of her. She goes to leave, glancing across at Ghost just before she exits.

Ghost smiles back at her.

GHOST

Feel free to listen outside, but I don't think it's a good idea for you to stay and watch this.

She nods and leaves.

As Matt settles in to enjoy his meal, Ghost walks around and grabs a hold of the pint of beer. Lifting it up and making it 'float' in front of Matt.

Matt can't see Ghost, so to him, it looks like it's really floating.

MATT

What the hell is this? What? How?

Ghost then splashes the beer into Matt's face. Matt falls back out of his chair, landing on the floor. Panic and fear taking over.

MATT (CONT'D)

What the hell is going on? What is this?

Ghost now picks up the plate of food. Holds it up high above Matt's head.

GHOST

Bon appétit.

INT. NEW HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Beth stands on the other side of the door, her ear pressed against it.

She now listens to the sound of the plate of food as it's sent crashing down on top of Matt, he lets out a scream and she can't help but smile.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END