

MOST DESIRE

Written by

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INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

CHARLOTTE, 9, and LOGAN, 10, stand at the bottom of the staircase facing the front door, both with an excited smile. Bags packed, it's all for a camping trip.

The front door opens and WILLIAM, 41, steps inside. Dressed in a suit and looking exhausted.

He sees his children and the camping equipment.

His face drops.

WILLIAM

Sorry kids. Not today. Rough time at work. This weekend I just want to sit and watch TV.

Logan and Charlotte share a look, none longer excited both are disgusted.

LOGAN

I told you so.

CHARLOTTE

It's not fair.

William goes to walk past them but Logan stands in his way.

LOGAN

We haven't been camping for a whole year. You keep promising us but you never do it.

WILLIAM

Maybe next week.

CHARLOTTE

Whatever Dad.

Charlotte, fighting back tears runs upstairs.

WILLIAM

I'm not doing this to be cruel. Try to understand. I have to do everything. Work full time and look after the both of you. I'm tired.

She yells back.

CHARLOTTE

No, it's since Mom died. You just don't want to go to the places and do the things she loved. You think you're the only one who's sad. Well we miss her too.

WILLIAM
Charlotte.

She enters her bedroom, slamming the door shut behind her.

Logan sits down amongst the bags.

LOGAN
I'm not going to ask anymore Dad.
I'm not going to ask you for
anything ever again.

He gestures for Logan to do the same as Charlotte.

WILLIAM
Up you get. Go to bed.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Charlotte and Logan stand at the side of the bathtub. It's filled with a black liquid.

They just stare down into it.

William appears in the open doorway behind them.

WILLIAM
God damn it.

LOGAN
It's back dad.

WILLIAM
How the hell is this happening?

CHARLOTTE
It's not us. We swear.

WILLIAM
I know it's not.

LOGAN
It's the tenth time this week.

William pushes between them. Reaches into the black liquid and unplugs the bath. The water quickly disappearing.

Charlotte sees a handwritten note on the side.

CHARLOTTE
Same as before.

William takes it off of her.

It reads 'enter to get what you most desire.'

He rips it up.

WILLIAM

You see the bath like this again
and you come and tell me.

Both children turn to face him.

LOGAN

But what is it?

CHARLOTTE

It just keeps coming back.

WILLIAM

I'm going to find out. But you two
need to stay away.

The kids both return to the bathtub. Peer down inside and all
the black liquid is gone.

William grabs a hold of them both and brings them out of the
bathroom. Kicks the door shut behind them.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM- NIGHT

Both dressed for bed Logan and Charlotte very slowly and
quietly enter the bathroom.

Their faces light up with excited when they see that the
bathtub is once again filled with that same black liquid.

The handwritten notes has also returned.

Charlotte takes it and reads it aloud.

CHARLOTTE

Enter to get what you most desire.
What do you think all of this
means?

LOGAN

We can't allow dad just to keep on
getting rid of it.

CHARLOTTE

No?

LOGAN

It just keeps on coming back, I
want to know what it is.

CHARLOTTE

Dad said to tell him if it comes
back.

LOGAN

He also said to stay away from it,
but we're both still here.

Logan goes to step inside the bathtub. Charlotte grabs a hold of him afraid.

CHARLOTTE

Wait.

He scowls at her, annoyed.

LOGAN

You want to know what it is too.

She lets go of him.

He stands in the black liquid. Goes up to his knees.

CHARLOTTE

What's it feel like?

LOGAN

Cold.

She joins him, both standing in the black water.

Both giggling.

CHARLOTTE

Well this is weird.

LOGAN

There's nothing to it.

Suddenly the bathroom door swings open. William enters and sees them both in the water, furious.

WILLIAM

Get out. Now!

He doesn't give them a chance, drags them both out of the tub.

CHARLOTTE

Dad!

WILLIAM

I warned you.

LOGAN

It's nothing to worry about.

WILLIAM

Get your rooms now.

LOGAN

Nothing happened.

WILLIAM

If I tell you to stay away from something you do as you're told.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

William still has a hold of Charlotte. Shoves her inside her room.

WILLIAM

Go to bed.

He then slams the door shut on her.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - LOGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

William next forces Logan inside his bedroom and points him to his bed.

WILLIAM

It's late. Get in now. I'm not messing around.

LOGAN

Nothing bad's happened. Why are you panicking?

Suddenly the sound of Charlotte screaming echoes around them.

William bolts for the door.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte sits up in bed and she's covered in heavy looking jewelry.

William stands at the side of her bed and looks down, completely lost for words.

CHARLOTTE

Dad, I can't move.

WILLIAM

How did you get these things on you?

CHARLOTTE

I sat down and they just appeared. Like magic. And now I can't move.

He reaches down to take some of the necklaces off only for Charlotte to scream out in agony.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

No don't.

He let's go and recoils back, afraid.

WILLIAM

What's wrong?

CHARLOTTE

It hurts too much. I've tired that already. If you try to take them off, it's like my skin is burning.

WILLIAM

What the hell is going on?

Now Logan cries out from his bedroom.

William snaps his head around and looks out in the direction.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - LOGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Logan has now been replaced with a handsome statue. Chiselled from stone.

William is stunned. Cautiously approaches.

WILLIAM

What on Earth. Logan, is that you?

No answer.

He places his hands onto the statue, shakes his head. Can't understand what this is.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

William picks the new note up. It's the same as the other. The one he ripped up. He reads it over and over.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

William shows Charlotte the note.

WILLIAM

What you most desire. Tell me.

CHARLOTTE

Tell you what?

WILLIAM

What is it that you most desire?
That's the answer to all of this.

Charlotte thinks about it.

CHARLOTTE

To have pretty jewelry, just like
how mom used to wear.

WILLIAM

And Logan?

CHARLOTTE
For girls to like him and to think
he's good looking.

William nods, as though all this craziness makes sense now.

WILLIAM
I'm going to fix this.

CHARLOTTE
How?

WILLIAM
What I most desire is to keep you
both safe.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

William steps inside the bathtub. He sits down and dunks himself underneath the black liquid. Disappearing.

INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Logan and Charlotte stand at the bottom of the staircase with their bags and the camping equipment on the floor around them.

It's just like before.

As though we've gone back in time.

William walks through the front door and this time his smile matches Logan and Charlotte's. All excited.

WILLIAM
Who's ready to go camping this
weekend?

Both Logan and Charlotte squeal with joy as they run forwards and wrap their arms around William.

He hugs and kisses them both. They really are his whole world.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END