

OUR LITTLE SECRET

by

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EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

An old terraced house in a quiet cul-de-sac. All is peaceful.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Untidy, shabby, carefree. The only source of light is from a TV that displays white static.

A Man (30's), who we will call DADDY, has fallen asleep in front of the TV, the white static casting eerie shadows across his face. A half-empty bottle of whiskey and an ashtray full of cigarette stubs are on a coffee table beside him.

A haunting whisper calls out to him.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

Daddy.

Daddy begins to stir.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

Daddy.

Daddy opens his eyes and looks around the room. Nothing but the TV.

He grabs the remote and turns off the TV. Darkness. Silence. He closes his eyes and relaxes in the dark.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

Daddy. Wake up.

Daddy Opens his eyes, confused. He listens intently. Silence.

DADDY

I must be hearing things.

He gets up from his chair and staggers out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Daddy goes over to the sink and splashes cold water on his face. He then takes a glass off the draining board and fills it with water.

The sound of a child giggling. Startled, Daddy drops the glass and it smashes onto the floor.

DADDY
What the hell?

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
Daddy.

DADDY
Who's there?

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
It's me, daddy.

Daddy's face turns pale as he suddenly recognizes the voice.

DADDY
Darling?

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
Yes, daddy.

He shakes his head in disbelief.

DADDY
No, this isn't real. It can't be. I must be dreaming.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
You're not dreaming, daddy. Come and find me.

The sound of a door creaking open upstairs. Daddy grows a little scared. He grabs a knife off the draining board and goes to investigate.

INT. STAIRS - NIGHT

Daddy stands at the bottom of the stairs, clutching the knife, fear in his eyes.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
I'm waiting for you, daddy.

Daddy turns on the landing light. He takes a deep breath, then slowly begins to ascend the stairs.

INT. LANDING - NIGHT

Daddy reaches the top of the stairs. All is quiet.

The sound of a music box chiming comes from above. Startled, Daddy looks up to the ceiling and sees the attic door wide open. A gaping black hole. Ominous.

DADDY
Who's up there?

The little girl giggles.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
It's me, silly.

DADDY
I'm going to call the police.

LITTLE GIRL
No, you won't. Not after what
you've done. What you did to me. Do
you remember, daddy?

Daddy's face fills with anxiety as memories come back to haunt him.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Daddy presents a LITTLE GIRL (6) with a small music box. The little girl's eyes light up.

LITTLE GIRL
Is that for me?

DADDY
Yes, darling.

The little girl reaches out to grab it but Daddy pulls it away from her.

DADDY (CONT'D)
You can have it after you've been a
good girl for daddy.

INT. ATTIC - DAY - FLASHBACK

The little girl is cowering in a dark corner of the attic. Tears run down her face.

Daddy appears out of the shadows. He looms over her, holding the music box.

DADDY

And when you've been a good girl
for daddy, you can have your
present. Don't worry, darling. It
will be our little secret.

INT. ATTIC - DAY - FLASHBACK

The terrified little girl struggles in vain with Daddy. They move precariously close to the open attic door.

The little girl manages to escape his grip, but loses her balance and falls towards the open door. She screams as she disappears from view.

INT. LANDING - DAY - FLASHBACK

The little girl lies on the landing in a twisted heap. Unmoving. Dead.

BACK TO PRESENT

DADDY

It was an accident. I didn't mean
for you to get hurt, I swear.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

But I did get hurt, daddy. And it
was all your fault.

DADDY

Please forgive me, darling.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

I want to see you, daddy.

DADDY

I'm coming, darling.

He slides a ladder down from the attic and climbs up it.

INT. ATTIC - NIGHT

Dark. Dusty. Daddy pokes his head into the attic. He reaches for the light switch.

The light flickers on, revealing a ghostly apparition. A little girl, sitting in the corner of the attic.

Daddy doesn't notice as the light quickly goes out. Darkness.

DADDY

Darling? Are you there?

There's no response.

DADDY (CONT'D)

I promise I won't hurt you this time, darling.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

I don't believe you.

Daddy's eyes search the darkness for the little girl.

DADDY

It's true, darling. You have to trust me. Please, I just want to see your face again.

There's no response.

Suddenly, the little girl's ghostly face emerges from the darkness in front of Daddy. He screams at the sight of his dead daughter.

He loses his balance and falls from the ladder, disappearing from view.

INT. LANDING - NIGHT

Daddy lies on the landing in a twisted heap. Unmoving. Dead.

LITTLE GIRL (V. O.)
Don't worry, daddy. It will be our
little secret.

The attic door closes above. A deathly silence.

THE END