

Annabel

Written By

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Based on, if any

Mannequins

Short-Film

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FADE IN

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

In a quiet neighborhood.

The grass is green, fresh and evenly cut. A small dog barks in the yard.

A car turns the corner a few blocks away, slowly cruising down the street towards the house.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. CAR - DAY

Annabel TURNER, is sitting in the back seat behind the passenger side. She turns and looks out the window, watching the houses and trees pass by.

Her scars have been covered by make-up. But she still does not look entirely normal.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The car slowly coast to a stop along the curb outside a house.

MEAGAN NORWOOD (12) and sister ZOE NORWOOD (8) wait at the top of the stairs with their BABY-SITTER.

Zoe clutches onto the ears of a stuffed rabbit, it dangles along her side. She nervously looks to Meagan, who is all smiles. Then back over to the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - DAY

SHERRY NORWOOD, steps out from the passenger side and moves to Annabel's door.

NICHOLAS NORWOOD, steps out from the driver's side door and move to the back of the car. He pops the trunk open.

Sherry opens Annabel's door.

SHERRY

Well...we're here...Your new home.

Annabel slowly steps out onto the sidewalk.

Nicholas joins them, setting a small rolling suitcase down besides Annabel.

NICHOLAS

Let's introduce you to the rest of
the family and get you settled in.

They head through the gate, TIFA immediately rushes over to Annabel and starts barking.

Annabel doesn't flinch or recoil, she just stares down curiously at this creature snapping at her.

Meagan runs down the stairs toward them.

MEAGAN

Tifa! No! Don't! Bad dog!

She reaches them kneeling down grabbing Tifa by the collar. She pulls her away from Annabel, and turns her towards the house.

MEAGAN

Shooo! Go inside.

She points to the house. Tifa runs off past Zoe and Baby-Sitter and into the house.

MEAGAN

I'm sorry. She's never done that
before.

She extends her hand out to Annabel

MEAGAN

Hi. I'm Meagan.

Annabel cautiously shakes her hand.

ANNABEL

Annabel.

Meagan looks back to Zoe on the stairs cowering behind the Bay-Sitter.

MEAGAN

That's Zoe.

She smiles.

MEAGAN

I guess...you can call us your new
sisters.

SHERRY

Zoe...Why don't you come say hello?

Zoe steps out from behind the Baby-Sitter and slowly starts down the stairs toward them. She stops besides, Meagan and pulls her bunny up to her chest. She stares at Annabel's face for a moment, she's very perceptive and can see pass the make-up.

ZOE

(innocently)

You look weird...What's wrong with your face?

Meagan shoves her.

MEAGAN

(embarrassed)

Zoe...! Cut it out!

Zoe runs back to the stairs.

MEAGAN

You're such a spaz!

(beat)

I'm sorry. She can be a little insensitive.

ANNABEL

It's okay.

NICHOLAS

Meagan...why don't you show Annabel to her new room.

Meagan smiles big, happy to oblige. She voluntarily takes the small rolling suitcase from Nicholas and takes Annabel's hand.

MEAGAN

You're gonna love it. Me and Zoe decorated it for you.

She leads Annabel towards the house and up the stairs.

Nicholas and Sherry follows stopping at the Baby-Sitter.

SHERRY

Thank you for watching the girls.

BABY-SITTER

No problem. Any time.

Nicholas goes into his wallet and pays the Baby-Sitter. She hugs Zoe goodbye, before heading down the stairs and out the gate.

Zoe heads inside.

Nicholas and Sherry wait on the porch for a moment.

SHERRY
(concerned)
Do you think this will work?

NICHOLAS
Yes...Absolutely. She'll be fine
here. We'll be fine.

He hugs her. Kisses her on the forehead.

They head inside, shutting the door behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. ANNABEL'S ROOM - DAY

The room is girly, it has been decorated with stuffed animals and dolls.

Annabel stands in the center of the room looking around herself, taking everything in.

MEAGAN
They said that you liked dolls...We
weren't sure which kind.

Annabel slowly walks around the room, gliding her fingers along everything she passes. Stops at a mixed group of dolls and teddy bears on her bed. Her head tilts slightly to the side, as she stares blankly at them. Almost as if something is missing from the group.

She goes over to her suitcase and lies it flat on it's back, kneeling along it. She opens the zippers and inside on top of her clothing is her creepy doll friend, Agatha.

She smiles.

Reaching in and grabbing her out.

She stands, hugging her friend close and carries her back over to the bed, she shoves the other dolls and bears towards foot end of the bed and sets Agatha down gently besides her pillow.

Meagan takes notice of what she's doing.

MEAGAN
What's that?

ANNABEL
My friend.

Meagan approaches, she slowly starts to lean in to get a better look at the Agatha.

ANNABEL
Her name is Agatha.

Something is eerily off about it.

ANNABEL
My sister gave her to me when I was little. She's my best friend. We've been through so much together.

Annabel smiles.

ZOE (O.S.)
Meagan!

Meagan snaps out of her daze, startled by the sudden call of her name. She turns to see Zoe standing in the door way with her bunny.

MEAGAN
What?!

ZOE
Mom says, dinner's almost ready.

MEAGAN
Okay...We'll be down there in a minute.

Zoe frowns at Meagan's response.

ZOE
Rude!

She walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family is gathered at the table.

Zoe is pretending to feed her bunny.

Meagan looks over to her.

MEAGAN

Zoe...That thing is filthy. What are you doing?

ZOE

It's not filthy...You're filthy.

She sticks her tongue out at Meagan.

SHERRY

Meagan, stop messing with your sister?

MEAGAN

But mom!

SHERRY

(calmly)
Meagan!

MEAGAN

Fine.

Zoe smiles, satisfied she won the argument.

NICHOLAS

How's your food Annabel?

ANNABEL

It's very delicious Mrs. Norwood. I've actually never had anything like this before.

Sherry smiles.

SHERRY

Thank you sweetie.

NICHOLAS

Whenever you feel comfortable enough and ready to, you can call us...mom and dad. We are glad to have you as part of the family now.

She takes a final bite and sets her fork down onto her plate.

ANNABEL

I am very tired, it's been a long day. May I be excused please?

SHERRY

Of course you can.

Annabel gets to her feet and moves over to Sherry surprising her with a hug. Sherry hugs her back, kissing her on top of her head.

She looks up to Nicholas, smiling.

He smiles back.

NICHOLAS

Meagan, if you are finished, you mind showing Annabel where the bathroom is.

Meagan graciously accepts her task.

MEAGAN

Okay.

Meagan gets to her feet. She heads toward the stairs with Annabel.

MEAGAN

(to Zoe)

Come on knuckle head.

Zoe gets up from the table with her bunny and follows the girls.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Meagan finishes running a bath for Annabel sitting next to her waiting.

Agatha sits on top of the sink not too far away.

Zoe comes in with a folded rag and towel in her hand she moves over to the sink and starts to place the towel down on top, bumping Agatha.

She falls to the floor.

Zoe recoils with shock letting out a gasp.

ZOE

I'm sorry!

MEAGAN

Zoe! You klutz.

Meagan heads over to Zoe.

ZOE

It was an accident.

Meagan picks Agatha up off the floor. Catching her gaze, she becomes enthralled by her again, and stares for a few moments until being awoken when Annabel grabs it from her hand.

Annabel lifts the doll to her ear. Then looks to Zoe and smiles.

ANNABEL

She says it's okay. She knows it was an accident.

Zoe smiles at Annabel.

MEAGAN

Come on. Let's go find your pajamas.

She takes Zoe's hand and guides her out of the bathroom as the girls make their way down the hall.

Annabel slowly closes the door behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. NICHOLAS AND SHERRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nicholas and Sherry are asleep in bed.

The door slowly opens as a narrow beam of light from the hallway shines on them widening and bathing Sherry's face.

Her eyes flutter open.

She sees a shadowy figure standing in the doorway.

MEAGAN

Mommy...

Sherry rubs her eyes into focus to see that shadowy figure is Meagan.

She sits up slightly leaning up against the headboard.

SHERRY

Hey. What is it sweetie?

MEAGAN

I don't feel so good.

She holds her arms out to Meagan.

Meagan slowly makes her way to her.

Sherry takes Meagan and pulls her closer, placing a hand on against her forehead.

SHERRY

You're burning up...Nicholas wake up there's something wrong with Meagan.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Baby-Sitter waits with Zoe near the coffee table.

Sherry is with Meagan at the open front door, slipping her into her coat.

Annabel watches from the stairs with Agatha in hand.

Nicholas grabs his keys from the coffee table.

NICHOLAS

Sorry we had to call you last minute.

BABY-SITTER

It's okay Mr. Norwood.

He heads for the door as Sherry and Meagan heads out and towards the car parked along the curb.

NICHOLAS

We'll be back soon.

He steps out.

Baby-Sitter shuts the door behind them.

Baby-Sitter looks around, Annabel is now gone from the stairs.

She looks at Zoe.

BABY-SITTER

Where's the other one?

Zoe shrugs her shoulders.

ZOE

I don't know.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Annabel stares at herself in the mirror.

She grabs a cotton pad and slowly starts to wipe off the makeup concealing her cracked doll-like blemishes.

She smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

DOCTOR, older gentlemen in white robe, holds Meagan's wrist, under a light. Examining the strange irritation on her skin.

Her skin is appears to be slowly cracking, turning pale and doll-like, like Annabel's.

He looks perplexed by it.

DOCTOR

Um...I'm really unsure what to make of this Mrs. Norwood. I've never seen anything like this before. Is there any pain or discomfort.

Meagan shakes her head "no".

Doctor massages the bridge of his nose between his eyes, still seated he rolls over to his desk, grabs a chart and starts making marks on it.

DOCTOR

This is a bit perplexing Mr. and Mrs. Norwood.

He sets the chart down and grabs a prescription pad and starts to fill it out.

DOCTOR

I'm going to prescribe some (insert medicine skin cream name). Use it twice a day, preferably before bed and first thing in the morning after showering.

He hands the prescription to Mr. Norwood.

DOCTOR

For now all I can say...Is give it some time...a few days. If it becomes a bothering. Pain, inching

(MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

or conditions don't improve with
the use of the cream. Return first
thing.

NICHOLAS

Thank you doctor. We'll do that.

Nicholas shakes his hand.

NICHOLAS

Come on Meagan...Let's get you back
home.

Meagan hops down off the examination table and moves over to
Sherry.

Sherry puts her arm around her and they all head out of the
office.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Baby-Sitter is curled up on the couch talking on her cell
phone.

BABY-SITTER

(into phone)

Oh my god! Seriously?

(beat)

She is such a phony.

She looks over her shoulder to see Annabel standing behind
her just staring at her. Most of the rooms lights are off,
Annabel's face is barely visible to her.

BABY-SITTER

(into phone)

Can you hold on a sec?

Zoe watches from the stairway.

Baby-Sitter looks at Annabel staring her down.

BABY-SITTER (CONT'D)

(disgusted)

You have a problem freak?

Annabel just continues staring at her.

She turns and looks to Zoe up on the stairs some light
catches her face.

Frightened, Zoe eyes grow big, she clutches her bunny tight gets to her feet and bolts up the stairs.

Annabel walks away from Baby-Sitter.

Baby-Sitter goes back to her phone conversation.

BABY-SITTER (CONT'D)

I don't know. Some new girl the Norwood's adopted.

(beat)

She gives me the creeps.

CUT TO:

INT. ZOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Zoe runs in slamming her door shut behind her.

She shuts off her lights and drops down to the floor scurrying over towards her bed and slides underneath it with her bunny bear close.

Shaking and scared she watches between the crack of the door and floor, from beneath her bed as the shadow casting from Annabel moves just outside stopping at the door.

ANNABEL (O.C.)

Zoooooeeee...

The door slowly starts to open.

Annabel eases inside, looking around the room.

ANNABEL

Zoe...come out...I'm not going to hurt you. We are sisters now, after all?

She starts moving towards the closet.

Zoe swallows nervously watching as Annabel's feet passes by and disappears out of sight.

ANNABEL

Zoooooeeee...

Zoe looks to the door. Her eyes scans the room again, but Annabel is no where in sight.

She starts to move out from under the bed.

From out of thin air, Annabel appears, her head tilted side ways, an eerie menacing smile on her now distorted face,

baring her tiny dagger looking teeth.

ANNABEL

There you are!

Zoe lets out a blood curdling scream.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zoe's scream resonates down stairs.

The Baby-Sitter looks toward the direction of the scream.

She lets out an annoyed breath of air.

BABY-SITTER

You guys better knock it off up there!

She gets back to her phone conversations.

BABY-SITTER

I'll call you later. I think these kids broke something up stairs

(beat)

Okay...Bye.

She hangs up her cell and stands.

She heads towards the stairs but stops at the bottom and looks up. It's dimly lit and very shadowy at the top.

BABY-SITTER

Hello!

(beat)

Zoe...Annabel! If I have to come up there you guys are in so much trouble!

She waits a few moments for the girls to respond.

But nothing.

She starts to slowly make her way up the steps.

BABY-SITTER

Zoe!

The head of Zoe's bunny is on the ground, Baby-Sitter picks it up and follows the trail of stuffing to the body at the other end of the hall outside the door of Zoe's room.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

She reaches the top of the stairs. She looks down the hall in both directions, see nothing.

BABY-SITTER

Annabel!

She starts down the hall towards Zoe's room.

BABY-SITTER

Come on you guys...This isn't funny.

She picks up the bunny's body, looking at both parts of the bear in her hands. She notices the door to Zoe's room is slightly open and slowly pushes it open further.

She gets into the doorway and looks inside.

BABY-SITTER

Zoe...Are you in here?

She scans the room from left to right but it is empty.

She turns to leave nearly jumping out of her shoes to see Zoe standing behind her.

BABY-SITTER

Jesus Christ, Zoe. You scared the Hell out of me.

She kneels down to Zoe starts checking her to make sure she isn't hurt.

BABY-SITTER

You alright? I heard you screaming.

She finish examining her.

BABY-SITTER

Well you're not hurt...But I did find your bunny in pieces.

Zoe just stares at it blankly, then up to her.

BABY-SITTER

Come on

(beat)

Let's go see if we can fix it.

She stands taking Zoe by the hand and guides her back towards the stairs.

Baby-Sitter starts to head down the stairs.

Zoe just stops at the top.

BABY-SITTER

Let's fix your bunny. And I'll
sneak you some ice cream. We'll
keep that between us though.

Zoe looks back down then hall.

Baby-Sitter turns to continue on down the stairs, but Zoe has other plans.

Quickly reaching out and shoving Baby-Sitter from behind. She screams and goes tumbling hard down the steps, slamming with loud THUD! and a SNAP on the base below.

Lifeless and broken at the bottom of the steps Baby-Sitters eye just stare back up at Zoe and now Annabel next to her at the top of the stairs.

Annabel, takes Zoe's hand and the girls start to slowly make their way down the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Nicholas has his cell phone pressed to his ear, helping Meagan out of her coat, hanging onto the coat hook next to the door.

SHERRY

I can not believe she would just up
and leave you two alone like this
without calling us.

ANNABEL

(reassuring)

It's okay Mrs. Norwood. I'm very
mature for my age.

SHERRY

I know you are, but that's besides
the point sweetie. What if
something would have happened to
you girls?

Nicholas hangs up the phone and heads toward them.

Meagan plops down onto the couch.

NICHOLAS

Well. She's not answering. You girls girl go get ready for bed. We'll come tuck you in in a minute.

MEAGAN

Okay.

Meagan, stands and starts toward the stairs, putting her arm around Zoe's neck along the way pulling her along with her.

MEAGAN

(wearingly to Zoe)
Come on knuckle head.

Annabel follows them.

SHERRY

(disappointed)
I can't believe she would do something like this.

NICHOLAS

The good news is...Is that the girls are okay. It's been a long night. We'll figure this out in the morning.

He kisses her on the forehead and hugs her.

SHERRY

Okay.

They follow the girls and heads up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. NICHOLAS AND SHERRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nicholas and Sherry are sleeping.

A shadowy silhouette cast over them moving along the bed and stops on Nicholas's side.

Nicholas rolls over onto his side.

His eyes flutter open to see Meagan standing there.

NICHOLAS

Meagan? What's wrong?

He looks at the clock on the night stand, it's just pass

midnight.

NICHOLAS
You still not feeling well?

Behind Meagan's back the blade of a kitchen knife shines from a gleam of light hitting it.

Nicholas sits partially up right.

NICHOLAS
Meagan...

He starts to reach to her.

Very fast and with no warning. Meagan moves the kitchen knife from behind her back, slicing Nicholas's throat.

He wraps both hands around his neck, gargling on blood as it starts to ooze from between his fingers. He falls back onto the bed and starts to violently convulse.

Sherry quickly realizing she's covered in his blood, she looks to him and screams.

SHERRY
Oh my god! Nicholas.

She grabs her pillow tearing from the case, using the case to try and stop the bleeding. But it is too late.

SHERRY
Nicholas...
(beat)
Nicholas!

She looks at her hands covered in his blood and then noticing Meagan still standing along the bed. A bit of Nicholas's blood splashed onto her face.

She sees the knife in her hands.

SHERRY
Meagan...Meagan. Give me the knife.

She slowly starts to reach out to her.

Meagan slices again, cutting the palm of Sherry's hand open.

Sherry recoils from the pain and falls backwards off the bed.

She sits up and notices Meagan's face has become cracked and

doll-like like Annabel's. She looks back to see Zoe standing in the door way.

She gets to her feet and runs, picking Zoe up into her arms as she bolts out of the room and down the hall.

Stopping at Zoe's room, she looks over to Annabel standing in her favorite place to be...in the shadows. She reaches out waving to Annabel to come to her.

SHERRY
(panicked)
Annabel come on! We have to hide!
Something's the matter with Meagan!

Annabel starts to move into the light.

ANNABEL
It's okay Mrs. Norwood.
(beat)
It'll all be over soon.

Now in the light, Sherry see Annabel's true face, smiling her with those dagger like teeth.

Sherry takes Zoe hand and goes into the room.

CUT TO:

INT. ZOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

She slams the door shut and runs over the closet with Zoe shutting the door. She nervously sticks her fingers in the shutters of the closet door opening them slightly to look through.

She scans the empty room.

ZOE (O.C.)
Mommy...

SHERRY
What is is sweetie?

She turns to Zoe.

Zoe bares her teeth and lunges at her.

CUT TO:

INT. ZOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

The closet door burst open, Sherry falls out to the floor.

A bite have been taking out of her neck. She slowly dragging herself across the floor gasping for air.

She looks back to Zoe standing in the closet doorway, blood and a partial smile on her faces.

Her skin broken and cracked like Meagan and Annabel's.

She continues on towards Annabel in the center of the room with her doll. She stops at Annabel's feet, reaching for Annabel she tries to use her pull herself up but is unable to.

SHERRY

W...what did you do to my daughters!?

Annabel starts to giggle.

She kneels downs to Sherry doing her creepy head tilt and stares at her dying at her feet.

ANNABEL

They're my daughters...now?

She lunges at Sherry.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The quiet neighborhood.

Sherry lets out a blood curdling scream.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Annabel sits at the dinning room table, her dolls Agatha is on top of the table in front of her. Meagan sits at the opposite end.

Both bodies of Nicholas and Sherry are seated in the at the center of the table adjacent to each other.

Zoe slowly climbs up in an empty chair joining them.

Annabel smiles. She has a new family now.

FADE OUT.

The End