

HELICOPTER MOM

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FADE IN:

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

TOMMY, a baby lies in his crib. His room is filled with muffled yells from downstairs. He cries.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

BECKY, a soon to be single mom and TONY fight. They yell and scream at each other.

TONY

I can't take it anymore, Becky! I
just can't.

Becky cries hysterically. She pleads but her words are not comprehensible.

Tony attempts to leave. Becky wraps herself around his legs. Pleads with him to stay.

He shakes her off and leaves the house. Door slams closed.

INSERT: A close up of their wedding photo.

Becky screams and throws things. The wedding photo is knocked off the shelf.

CUT TO:

INSERT: 12 YEARS LATER

INT. HOUSE - DAY

The house is full of photos of Becky and Tommy. Becky's smiles are wide, Tommy's are shy and reserved. Sadness in his eyes.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tommy, a scrawny, twelve year old, home schooled boy sits at the kitchen table. School work in front of him but he stares out the window at the blue sky and trees, daydreams.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Becky, a tall woman in her late 30's, works from home as a call representative.

She confirms a customer's reservation on the phone.

BECKY

Yes sir, that is all set for you. I hope you enjoy your stay and we look forward to hosting you on your trip.

She lowers her headset and stretches. She walks to the-

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

She hugs Tommy from behind. She clings to him. He sits still, takes it though he's uncomfortable. She kisses his head.

BECKY

You need a haircut, baby.

TOMMY

Yes, mom.

BECKY

Take a break with me. Let's have a snack.

TOMMY

I really have to finish this report.

She looks at his papers.

BECKY

You've barely done any of it.

TOMMY

Have you thought about it anymore?

BECKY

Thought about what?

TOMMY

Come on mom, about me going to public school.

BECKY

Baby, we've talked about this. Home schooling is good for you. You are way ahead of your peers.

TOMMY

What peers? I'm always alone. I want to make friends.

BECKY

Sweetie, you're not alone. Why do you think I took this job?(beat)For us. So we can spend time together.

TOMMY

Shouldn't I be able to spend time with other people too?

She's angry. That hurt.

BECKY

Enough. We're not discussing this anymore.

Tommy looks down, defeated. Becky relaxes, regrets hurting him. She hugs him from behind. Kisses his cheek.

BECKY (cont'd)

Tommy, I'm sorry I yelled. I'm just doing this for you, your future, for us. I wish you would understand that.

TOMMY

Yes, mom.

BECKY

That's my boy. Come on, let's get some ice cream.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Becky and Tommy play a board game at the table. Tommy wins. His head rests on his arm. He's bored.

BECKY

Awww, my baby is so smart!

She sets up another game.

TOMMY

I gotta go to bed.

BECKY

Don't be silly. It's early.

She continues to set up.

BECKY (cont'd)
 One more round, baby please, it would
 make me so happy.

Begrudging, Tommy helps set up another game. She squeals with joy and kisses him. He smiles.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Tommy brushes his teeth with the door open. Becky walks by and leans in the doorway, watches him adoringly.

He gently closes the door in her face. Becky's eyes narrow, she storms off.

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Tommy lies in bed. Becky comes in and kisses him goodnight. He pretends to be asleep.

Once he hears her bedroom door close he pulls out a cell phone.

Tommy opens a chat with a girl, MIA.

Hey
 TOMMY (TEXT)

Hey :)
 MIA (TEXT)

Sorry, couldnt get away from my mom
 TOMMY (TEXT)

what else is new?
 MIA (TEXT)

lol
 TOMMY (TEXT)

what did she say about public school
 MIA (TEXT)

:(
 TOMMY (TEXT)

That sux :(
 MIA (TEXT)

u need to get outta that house
 MIA (TEXT) (cont'd)

TOMMY (TEXT)
I want to meet u in person so bad

MIA (TEXT)
*me too :**

Mia sends Tommy a photo.

INSERT: PHOTO OF MIA

She is a beautiful, 14 year old with long, flowing brown hair and a sweet smile.

MIA (cont'd)
we need a plan

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Tommy sleeps in his bed.

Becky enters and climbs into bed with Tommy. He opens his eyes, realizes his mother is in bed with him. He leaps out of bed and uses a pillow to cover himself.

TOMMY
 Mom!

BECKY
 Sorry, sorry!

TOMMY
 How many times do I have to ask you to knock?

Angry, Becky snaps a reply.

BECKY
 It's my house, I don't have to knock.

TOMMY
 Mom, please can I have some privacy?

She walks toward him to kiss him.

TOMMY (cont'd)
 Please!

BECKY
 I made your favorite for breakfast.
 Come down when you're ready.

Tommy sees his phone stick out from under his pillow. His eyes widen but he tries to hide his reaction.

TOMMY

I will, okay? Love you.

She walks out but leaves his door open. He sighs with relief, walks over calmly and closes the door.

He runs to his bed and grabs his phone.

Becky abruptly opens the door. Tommy turns around quickly and hides the phone behind his back.

BECKY

I forgot, orange or apple juice?

TOMMY

Orange.

She looks around suspiciously.

BECKY

Great.

TOMMY

Thanks, mom.

She smiles a big fake smile. She again leaves with the door open. Tommy waits until he hears her go down the stairs.

He texts Mia.

TOMMY (TEXT) (cont'd)

Morning ;)

MIA (TEXT)

*;**

He smiles.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tommy walks into the kitchen. His mother sits at the table, waits for him.

BECKY

What took you so long?

TOMMY

I wanted to brush my teeth.

BECKY
 (suspiciously)
 I didn't hear the water running.

He looks down.

BECKY (cont'd)
 You're lying, aren't you?

TOMMY
 No!

She stands up, angry.

BECKY
 Open your mouth.

TOMMY
 What?

BECKY
 Open your mouth!

He shakes his head. She goes at his face, holds his mouth open and sniffs.

She takes his plate and throws it across the room.

BECKY (cont'd)
 Go to your room!

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Tommy rushes to his room and slams the door shut. He paces back and forth, tries to gather his thoughts. His thoughts are interrupted by laughs outside. He goes to the window. Looks out.

A group of BOYS his age play kickball in the street. Tommy stares at them, jealous but intrigued.

Becky rushes to the room and forcefully opens the door. It SLAMS into the wall. She has a tool set. She unscrews the hinges of the door.

TOMMY
 What are you doing?!

BECKY
 This is my house and you will follow my rules!

She takes the door off its hinges and lies it on the floor.

BECKY (cont'd)
 I do this all for you baby, you don't understand but you will. One day you will see what a horrible, cruel world it is out there and you will thank me!

Tommy cries. She walks over and embraces him.

BECKY (cont'd)
 No one will ever love or care for you like I do.

She leaves the room. Tommy throws a pillow across the room and cries. He throws himself onto his bed.

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - LATER

Tommy lies on his stomach under the covers. He texts Mia.

MIA (TEXT)
this isnt right! She treats u like a prisoner

TOMMY (TEXT)
she says its cuz she loves me

MIA (TEXT)
thats not love

TOMMY (TEXT)
Idk what to do. going crazy

MIA (TEXT)
im going to help u

TOMMY (TEXT)
How? Y? u dont even know me

MIA
yes I do

TOMMY
not rely

MIA
I know ur soul. I care bout u

TOMMY
I care about u too.

He hears footsteps come down the hallway. He quickly shoves his phone under his pillow.

Becky walks in and sits on the side of his bed. She rubs his back.

BECKY

I brought a peace offering.

He rolls over and sits up.

Becky holds out a bowl of ice cream.

BECKY (cont'd)

Come watch a movie with me.

TOMMY

I'm just gonna go to bed.

BECKY

Aww baby please, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to upset you. I love you so much, you know you're my world.

TOMMY

I know, I'm just tired.

BECKY

But it would make me so happy.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Becky and Tommy watch a movie together.

She is snuggled up next to him, holds his hand. He's uncomfortable.

The movie ends.

BECKY

Another one?

TOMMY

I really need to go to bed, mom. I need to study tomorrow.

BECKY

My smart baby.

He stands to leave.

BECKY (cont'd)
Wait, give your mama a kiss!

He turns back and kisses her on the cheek. He winces. It hurts him to do so.

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Tommy gets his clothes out to change. Looks at his door. He takes his clothes into the bathroom.

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - LATER

Tommy is under his covers with his phone. He and Mia text.

MIA (TEXT)
maybe u can sneak out.

TOMMY (TEXT)
No, I did once but she would kill me if I got caught

MIA (TEXT)
yeah?

TOMMY (TEXT)
I went when she was sick with the flu. She slept for days.

MIA (TEXT)
What did u do

TOMMY (TEXT)
Got this phone with money i stole from her purse. Only paid for a few months...time is almost up! Also went to the park

MIA (TEXT)
How did it feel

TOMMY (TEXT)
it was raining but I was so happy

MIA (TEXT)
I have a plan

TOMMY (TEXT)
??

She texts him a link.

INSERT HEADING: HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY KILL SOMEONE: A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS.

TOMMY (TEXT) (cont'd)
is this a joke??

MIA (TEXT)
no...

TOMMY (TEXT)
are u crazy??????

MIA (TEXT)
its the only way...

Tommy hears his mother's footsteps. He shoves his phone under his pillow and pretends to be asleep.

Becky sits next to Tommy and rubs his back.

BECKY
You're my whole world Tommy.

She kisses his head and walks out.

Her bedroom door closes. Tommy gets his phone out and texts Mia.

TOMMY
I'm in

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tommy sits at the kitchen table with his school work in front of him. He's anxious. His legs shake.

Becky works in the living room. Tommy waits for her to get on a new call.

BECKY (O.S.)
Hello, this is Becky, how may I help you today?

Tommy quickly but quietly gets up and rushes to the cabinets. He quietly opens one and takes several plastic bags. He stuffs them in his pants. He grabs duct tape, tries to fit it in his pants but it's too large.

Tommy hears his mom hang up the call.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

BECKY

I hope you enjoy your stay. Thanks so much for booking with us.

Becky looks over to the kitchen table and realizes Tommy isn't there.

BECKY (cont'd)

Tommy?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tommy quickly puts the tape behind his back

BECKY

What are you doing?

TOMMY

Just uh, getting water.

BECKY

Let me get that for you, baby.

She reaches past him, grabs a cup from the cabinet. She turns away, fills the cup from the Brita Filter in the refrigerator.

Tommy rushes to squeeze the duct tape into his pants and under his shirt while his mother is turned away.

She turns around. He smiles.

TOMMY

Thanks, mom.

She watches him drink the water, smiles lovingly.

BECKY

I should get back to my calls.

Becky kisses his cheek.

She leaves the kitchen but on her way out, notices a full cup of water on the table. She makes an angry face and looks back at him. He smiles.

She fakes a smile and walks out.

INT. UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - MORNING

Tommy goes into the bathroom and closes the door. He hides the duct tape and garbage bags in the toilet tank.

He leaves the bathroom and sees his mother tear through his room. She throws things across the room. Looks for something...anything.

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - MORNING

TOMMY

What are you doing?

She finds it- his cell phone. She holds it up. Tears well up in her eyes. Tommy is frightened, frozen in place.

BECKY

Where did you get this?

He doesn't answer.

BECKY (cont'd)

Answer me!

Silence.

BECKY (cont'd)

Unlock it.

She holds it out.

He doesn't move an inch.

BECKY (cont'd)

Tommy, you unlock it right now!

TOMMY

No.

BECKY

What did you say to me?

TOMMY

No.

Becky slaps him and walks away. Tommy doesn't know what to do. He's in shock.

Becky walks back in with a hammer. She hands it to him.

BECKY

Smash it.

TOMMY

No, mom please...

BECKY

It's for your own good.

TOMMY

Please don't make me...

She pushes it into him. He cries, puts the phone on the floor and hits it.

BECKY

Smash it!

He cries and hits it harder. It breaks.

BECKY (cont'd)

Tommy, you need to understand that
I'm trying to protect you.

She kisses him and leaves the room.

INT. TOMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Later that night Tommy cries in his bed. He hears a tap at his window. He gets out of bed to investigate.

A GIRL is at his window. He recognizes her...it's Mia! She sits on a branch in a tree next to his window.

He excitedly opens the window.

TOMMY

(whispering)

Mia?

MIA

Tommy!

TOMMY

What are you doing here?

MIA

I got worried when you weren't
answering.

TOMMY

How did you find me?

MIA
Wow, you really are sheltered aren't
you?

TOMMY
That's an understatement.

He helps her climb through the window. They smile and hug.

MIA
Where are the supplies?

TOMMY
What? Why?

MIA
We're doing this.

TOMMY
What? Now?

MIA
When else?

TOMMY
Are you crazy?

MIA
Just crazy about you.

He blushes.

MIA (cont'd)
I'm here to rescue you, princess.

TOMMY
I got the duct tape and garbage bags.
They're in the tank like you said.

MIA
Where's the knife?

TOMMY
I couldn't get it.

MIA
What? That's the most important part!

Becky's bedroom light turns on.

TOMMY
Shhh! Get under there!

Mia climbs under the bed. Tommy jumps into bed and pretends to be asleep.

Becky walks into Tommy's bedroom. It's dark and quiet. She turns to leave when she notices the open window. Becky walks over and stares at Tommy for a few seconds. He squeezes his eyes closed.

Mia holds her hands over her mouth, holds her breath. Becky's feet are next to her face.

Becky looks around the room. Everything is in order. She closes the window. She walks toward the doorway and gives the room a once over then walks out.

Mia and Tommy hear Becky's bedroom door shut. They both let out a sigh of relief. Mia climbs out from under the bed.

MIA

Okay, you need to sneak downstairs and get the knife. I'll go get the other stuff from the bathroom.

TOMMY

Are you sure about this?

MIA

You have a choice, Tommy. You can either be free or a prisoner. Make a decision.

TOMMY

I'll be right back.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tommy tip toes downstairs. He goes quickly but as quietly as he can. Mia heads to the bathroom.

INT. BECKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Becky lies in her bed. Her room is full of pictures of her and Tommy together. She hears something. She gets up out of bed, listens intently.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tommy opens the kitchen drawer, grabs a large kitchen knife. Holds it up, examines it. This will do.

INT. STAIRWELL - DAWN

Tommy stands at the bottom of the stairs with the knife, about to walk up.

Becky stands at the top of the stairs, stares at him.

BECKY

Tommy, what the hell are you doing?

Just then Mia jumps out of the bathroom!

MIA

BOO!

Becky SCREAMS and TUMBLES down the stairs. She lands at the bottom of the stairs, her body- a pretzel. Tommy's eyes widen.

Mia runs to the bottom of the stairs. They both stare at Becky's lifeless, twisted body.

TOMMY

Mom?

He bends down, his eyes droop. He sighs, touches her face.

TOMMY (cont'd)

Mom? (beat) Mom?

Mia breaks out in dance. She sings "The Wicked Witch is Dead."

Tommy stares at her in disbelief but doesn't move.

MIA

Come on, it's over, you're free!

TOMMY

Free?

Mia grabs his hands and pulls him out the back door.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAWN

Mia and Tommy spin in a circle, hand in hand. His eyes are wide. She smiles a devious smile.

FADE OUT