

My Beloved Monster

Written By

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1. EXT. CLEARING IN FOREST - DAY

A WELL stands in a clearing of a forest.

NARRATOR

Long ago, in the small village of Hillington, there stood a well. A well that was forever dry...

MONTAGE:

The following scenes are all shown as if they were still paintings. FOREBODING MUSIC is also heard.

A. The shadow of a humanoid shape can be seen next to the well. It has horns and long talon like hands. Yellow eyes are visible in the middle of its black form. The well has a rope and bucket attached to it.

NARRATOR

The villagers kept well away from this well, for it was guarded by a terrible beast.

B. VILLAGERS in medieval clothing march with torches and pitchforks. The man in front has a butterfly axe. ANGRY SHOUTS AND CRACKLING FIRE are heard

NARRATOR

One day out of fear, the villagers decided to rid themselves of the monstrosity for good.

C. The butterfly axe is wedged into the ground. Blood covers its edge. Beside it lies two hands with fingers too long to be human.

NARRATOR

During the struggle, the beast was terribly wounded and was never heard of again.

D. The well sits in the middle of the clearing. The grass around it turns brown. Trees and other plants grow around the clearing, obscuring it from view. SINISTER WHISPERS can be heard.

NARRATOR

However, the day the monster fled, the well began to whisper. Terrible whispers, whispers of the dead. In time, the well was forgotten, forgotten by humanity and mother nature claimed it for

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

her own.

END OF MONTAGE.

2. EXT. GRASSY FIELD - DAY

INTERTITLE: July 1919, Hillington

The grassy field is between a great forest and the large house.

EMILY is 11 with dark hair. She wears a white summer dress underneath a green cardigan. Sitting on a fallen tree, she reads a book where the pictures of the monster at the well and the bloody axe are visible. She has her back to the forest as she closes the book and turns around. The forest looms over her as she walks towards it curiously. She enters the forest clutching her book to her chest. BIRDS TWEETING can be heard

EMILY walks slowly through the forest as the trees tower over her. She turns around at the sound of a twig SNAPPING, but there is nothing there.

Still walking, Emily enters the clearing and sees the well standing in the middle. Although the woods around it have grown excessively, the well looks practically the same. The rope and bucket look untouched whilst the dead grass still remains circled around it.

Emily walks towards the well and looks down. There is nothing but blackness. Then, ghostly hands emerge from the walls of the well as it starts to WHISPER. The whispers are incomprehensible, but they become louder and louder.

Startled, Emily backs away from the well to the edge of the wood where she bumps into a black figure. She turns around. A glistening black humanoid stands over her. Instead of a normal head, the MONSTER has a red satanic face with an ugly mane of black hair. Horns protrude from its head. The nose is hooked while the eyes are burning yellow. Instead of hands, the monster has only stumps.

Emily GASPS, drops her book and runs in the other direction, into the woods. The ghost hands emerge from the top of the well like smoke as the monster watches Emily run away.

4. INT. CAPTAIN'S STUDY - DAY

A varnished wooden desk is covered in empty bottles and unkempt papers. A few neat piles of folders show how the desk must have been kept in a good condition before. Two photos stand on the side of the desk. One is of a brown haired woman and the other is of Emily. The woman's photo

stands immaculate while the glass in Emily's is cracked. A whiskey bottle and a shot glass are placed on the desk by two scarred hands. CAPTAIN PRICE pours the whiskey and brings the shot glass to his mouth. The man is balding and ruddy faced. He has a dark black eye-patch and a scar on his cheek. He wears a formal captain uniform with three medals on his breast. He downs the shot and sits down at the desk, taking hold of the woman's picture and staring it.

EMILY enters the room.

EMILY

Papa! Papa! I went to the woods,
and there was a monster. Really,
there was...

CAPTAIN PRICE

Not now, Emily.

EMILY

But Papa.

CAPTAIN PRICE

Not Now!

Emily leaves while Captain Price starts to drink from the bottle.

5. EXT. DARK FOREST - DAY

EMILY walks through the forest. She has a loaf of bread in her hands and rips pieces off to throw into the forest. On one occasion, Crows NOISILY fly out from a bush when she throws the bread.

EMILY

Monster? Monster?

Emily enters the clearing, still throwing bread. She sits at the clearing and eats a piece herself. She suddenly spots a pair of yellow eyes watching her from the woods. She offers the bread to the eyes and the monster emerges, now looking much less foreboding. Emily rips off a piece of bread and gives it to the monster who eats it up with SNAPS and GURGLES. Emily giggles.

The well behind Emily starts to emit a ghostly hand. The monster sees this and SNAPS. It chases the hand back into the well by GROWLING like a dog and SNAPPING at the hands.

EMILY

You guard the well, for us?

The monster looks at Emily.

6. EXT. GRASSY FIELD - NIGHT

EMILY walks back to the house.

7. INT. CORRIDOR IN CAPTAIN PRICE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

EMILY walks past the Captain's study which still has light coming in from under the door. She opens it slightly. She sees the Captin crying at his desk with her mother's hoto in his hands.He sees Emily and gestures for her to enter. Emily sits on his lap and the Captain holds her tightly.

CAPTAIN PRICE
Do you miss her,Emily?

EMILY
Yes, Papa.

CAPTAIN PRICE
I miss her so much... why are
your clothes so dirty?

EMILY
I was in the woods, and there
was a monster. Don't worry, he's
a nice monster. He gua-

Emily notices that the Captain is not taking any notice of her anymore and is looking tearfully at the photo again. Emily gets up and leaves while the Captain is oblivious to what is happening. She enters her room and drops straight onto the bed, exhausted.

8. EXT./INT. DREAM SEQUENCE - NIGHT

CAPTAIN PRICE is drinking whiskey in the study. The whiskey runs out of his eye-patch. The captain lifts up his patch.

CAPTAIN PRICE
(Whisper)Emily.

Underneath the patch is a dark hole that resembles the well. Deeper and deeper into the eye socket, the ghostly arms emerge from the sides as the WHISPER "Emily" is repeated again and again, louder and louder

9. INT. EMILY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Emily wakes up and hears crashing downstairs.

10. INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Captain Price is in a drunken state. He is holding a gun and whimpering. Turning to invisible enemies and aiming his gun at them. Emily enters.

EMILY
Papa, go to sleep.

Captain Price aims his gun at Emily. He then recognises her. His expression of fear changes to one of anger.

CAPTAIN PRICE

You! Are you not grateful for what I have done. I have seen things that you could never imagine! You need to learn some respect!

Emily runs out of the room and Captain Price follows her to the grassy field. Emily then runs towards the forest.

11. EXT. DARK FOREST - NIGHT

The two run through the forest, CAPTAIN PRICE stumbling drunkenly while SHOUTING "EMILY", until Emily reaches the clearing.

EMILY

Monster?

Captain Price emerges and grabs Emily's shoulder. He forces her against the well. He looks at her face and lets go. He starts to weep.

CAPTAIN PRICE

The world is too cruel for you Emily. I cannot keep you safe.

Captain Price lifts Emily up and holds her over the well.

CAPTAIN PRICE

You will be safer here than with me.

Captain Price drops Emily down the well. She lands hard at the bottom. Standing up, she is knee deep in water.

EMILY

No papa, NO!

Captain Price takes a few steps away from the well. He cocks his gun and places it under his chin. He pulls the trigger. BANG.

Emily is stuck in the well. She tries to climb the walls but they are too slippery with green weed. The well starts to whisper.

Suddenly the monster's head is seen over the well.

EMILY

Monster! Help!

The monster leaves Emily who cringes away from the ghostly arms that start to appear. The bucket attached to the rope

falls into the well with a CLASH. The Monster then reappears with the other end of the rope in his mouth. Emily grabs hold of the bucket. The monster tries to pull the rope up with its mouth, but it is not strong enough. Without its hands it is impossible. The rope slips out of its mouth and the bucket falls to the bottom while the rope follows and coils next to Emily's feet. The whispers begin to become louder and the ghost hands snake out towards Emily. Emily recoils but the hands surround her. The monster jumps down the well to where Emily is. He snarls and the ghost hands recoil. Emily, with tears down her face, embraces the monster.

EMILY

You're my monster.

FADE TO BLACK.

END

Word count: 1618 words