

MY MONSTER

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FADE IN:

INT. CARROLL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

JAMIE, 43, an attractive blonde with brown eyes, sits on one side of a small table. She wears a pair of designer jeans and a cozy knit sweater.

BILLY, 42, average looks, blue eyes and balding, sits next to her in his business attire, minus the tie.

JAMIE

So, big night for our little girl.  
Really hope this sleep over will get  
her past those night terrors she's  
been having lately.

BILLY

The elusive monster under the bed.  
Who's the kid?

JAMIE

New girl, moved to town a few weeks  
ago. In her class at school. Sarah,  
I think her name is. Oh and Nat  
tells me her Dad passed away.

BILLY

Poor kid.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

NATALIE, 8, cute with her dad's eyes and grandmother's  
strawberry blonde hair. Laid out across the couch, watches  
her favorite cartoons on TV.

The doorbell rings.

JAMIE

That'll be her.  
(to Natalie)  
Sarah's here!

Jamie and Natalie make their way to the front door.

ENTRY WAY

Jamie opens the door, in front stands SARAH MITCHELL, 8, a  
pretty blonde with a vacant expression in her dark eyes.  
Next to her is Sissy MITCHELL, 47, who looks to be already  
two valiums and three large glasses of wine into her night.

Jamie smiles reluctantly and talks through her teeth.

JAMIE

Hi. Well I'm Jamie, Natalie's mom  
and this is obviously Natalie.

She places her hand on Natalie's shoulder. Natalie and Sarah  
stare blankly at each other... awkward silence.

Jamie tries to make eye contact with Sissy.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't get your name.

SISSY

It's Sissy, I'm Sarah's... Mom.

She pushes Sarah into Natalie.

SISSY (CONT'D)

Go on, give her a hug.

JAMIE

Would you like to come in, maybe  
check out the house?

SISSY

She'll be fine, I trust ya, got a  
taxi waiting.

Sissy bends down kisses Sarah on the top of the head.

SISSY (CONT'D)

Please be a good girl. I'll pick  
you up in the morning.

Sissy turns and walks towards the waiting taxi. Sarah steps  
past Jamie and follows Natalie into the house.

JAMIE

Does she have any allergies? Anything  
I should...

The taxi door slams, drives off.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Know?

Jamie closes the door, then softly bangs her head repeatedly  
on the door. Billy approaches from another room.

BILLY

So, did you meet the Mom?

Jamie continues to bang her head.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Hmmm I'll take that as a yes.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - LATER

Stuffed animals and fashion dolls abound. The walls are plastered with princess posters.

Natalie and Sarah scribble furiously, violently. The sound of crayon against paper is loud enough to block out their hushed conversation.

Jamie opens the door.

JAMIE

You girls ok? Do you need anything?

They both stop scribbling, lift their heads for a moment, then return to their work.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

I guess that's a no, I'll leave you to it.

Jamie goes to leave but stops in her tracks, catches a glimpse of Sarah's drawing.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Can I see your drawing Sarah?

SARAH

If you want.

Sarah hands over the drawing. Jamie holds it up.

INSERT - SARAH'S DRAWING

Two stick figures, one a little girl on her bed, the other, a man, hangs from a noose on a nearby tree. A shadowy figure peers out from under the bed.

BACK TO SCENE

She stares at the drawing for a moment longer. Natalie points to the shadowy figure

NATALIE

Look Mommy, she drew my monster.

Jamie pulls both girls in for a hug.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jamie tucks the girls into their beds, kisses them both on the forehead.

JAMIE

Now, you've nothing to worry about,  
you've got each other and you've got  
me and Billy close by.

Jamie bends down to check under Sarah's bed... nothing.  
Then does the same with Natalie's bed... nothing.

The girls close their eyes as Jamie closes the door.

INT. BILLY AND JAMIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - DREAM

Jamie tosses and turns with the blankets, she glances over  
to Billy, out for the count, CPAP and all. She stares at  
the ceiling.

She hears deep breathes but they're not from Billy. She  
glimpses off the side of the bed to the floor. They're coming  
from underneath.

Jamie steps off her bed, lowers herself to the floor and  
inch by inch pulls up the cover to reveal... darkness.

She takes a deep breath of her own and smiles in relief.  
Suddenly, two white eyes stare back at her; an outstretched  
hand clasps her arm.

BACK TO SCENE

Jamie bolts up from bed, breathes heavily. Sweating  
profusely. She hears a voice from Natalie's room. She  
reaches her hand across to Billy.

JAMIE

Natalie sounds like she's talking in  
her sleep again.

Billy isn't there but his mask continues to run. Jamie steps  
out of her bed.

EXT. NATALIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She puts her ear to the door, then slowly pushes it open.

INT. NATALIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Natalie is talking in her sleep again.

NATALIE

There's something under my bed.

Sarah sits up frightened. Jamie walks over, puts her arm  
around her for comfort.

JAMIE  
Are you ok? Natalie sometimes talks  
in her sleep.

Sarah points to under Natalie's bed.

SARAH  
Please check.

JAMIE  
There's nothing there I promise, but  
if it makes you feel better.

She lowers herself down on her knees next to Natalie's bed.

She places her hand on the dust ruffle, slowly pulls it up.  
Natalie stares back at her, eyes wide with fear. She points  
up, mouths:

NATALIE  
There's something in my bed.

Natalie's monster sits up on the bed and opens its white  
eyes. Jamie lets out a scream, grabs Natalie and pulls her  
out from under the bed.

Jamie turns to grab Sarah, but now sees a figure of herself  
sitting up and staring back at her with white eyes.

Jamie and Natalie let out a scream for Billy and run for the  
door.

EXT. NATALIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jamie carries Natalie downstairs and to the front door.

JAMIE  
Billy!

Billy does not respond.

INT. ENTRY WAY - CONTINUOUS

Jamie pulls the door open and runs out into the street.

EXT. CARROLL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She stops in her tracks on her lawn and let's out an ear  
piercing scream directed towards the silhouette of a man  
hanging from a tree.

FADE OUT:

