Book of Marinette

by

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INT. NICK'S HOUSE - NICK'S ROOM - DAY

NICK(10), a frail and plain boy, sits in the middle of his floor, surrounded by empty white walls.

HAMLET, a black guinea pig, sits on his lap. Nick pets him gently as he stares at his book shelf.

Among the brightly colored book spines, a black one.

Incomprehensible SHOUTS from inside the house. A door SLAMS. Quick, heavy footsteps before another door slam.

Metal music blares from down the hall as a car SCREECHES out of the driveway.

Nick grabs the black book from the shelf and leaves with Hamlet in his arms.

EXT. NICK'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

A tall brick wall lines the barren landscape on which a few spots of crab grass and weeds grow.

Nick follows Hamlet as he wanders the yard.

Tears well up in Nick's eyes.

NICK I love you, Hamlet.

Nick lifts his foot. It's shadow looms over Hamlet.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

At his desk, Nick stares at an action figure. It has a symbol painted in red across its chest.

The door opens. SEAN(16) pokes his skinny neck through. His black eye and split lip immediately evident.

SEAN

Dinner's ready. Nick?

NICK

He'll never stop, will he? Edward, Tom. People like them never stop.

Sean sighs. He spots Hamlet's empty cage.

SEAN

Where's Hamlet?

A pause. Nick gets up and passes Sean out the room. Sean approaches the desk.

He examines the painted action figure and sees the same symbol on the black book. Beside the figure, four other action figures lying shoulder to shoulder. Sean opens the book. It's blank.

A raise of the eyebrow before placing the book back on the desk and leaving.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

Nick lies in his bed, tired eyes fixed on the clock by his bed. It reads, "4:57".

He sits up and looks over towards the figures on his desk.

INT. EDWARD'S HOUSE - EDWARD'S ROOM - MORNING

The clock on his dresser reads, "5:05".

EDWARD(17), a behemoth of a man, slowly opens his eyes.

INT. SHED - MORNING

A blank expression across Edward's face as he searches the shed. His eyes lock on an axe sitting in the corner.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

Nick slouches at his desk, holding the painted doll.

He equips a toy axe to the painted action figure and marches him to the first lying figure. He pauses.

NICK

Whack.

The toy axe hits the neck of the action figure. Nick "walks" the murder doll to the second figure.

INT. EDWARD'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - MORNING

A loud THUD followed by another.

Edward exits a room, blood splattered across his white tee.

He drags the axe into another room. He eases the door shut.

A pause then-

INT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

NICK

Whack.

Nick throws the lying figure into the chest nearby. He marches the murder doll to the last lying doll.

INT. EDWARD'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - MORNING

Edward stands at the foot of the bed, his clothes soaked in blood. He drags the axe over to the bedside.

TOM'S(17) eye cracks open.

His eyes adjust to Edward's drenched shirt...stained arms...the bloody axe dangling from his hands.

Fear and panic shake the grogginess from Tom's face as Edward swings the axe overhead.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

NICK Whack. Whack. Whack. Whack.

Nick clenches his teeth. He squeezes the doll and hammers it into the lying figure.

NICK Whack. Whack. Whack. Whack.

Nick throws the lying figure into the chest.

He walks the murder doll across the desk and props it up in the open window sill.

The light of dawn breaks through the window.

NICK To take the life of one I hate-

EXT. EDWARD'S HOUSE - ROOF - MORNING

Edward stands perched at the edge of his three story home.

EDWARD (mumbling) I've given the life of one I love.

Edward drops the axe over the edge. He shivers.

EDWARD His body is mine as I write his fate, his soul remains his as his torment awaits.

EXT. NICK'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MORNING

Sean exits the house. The figure hits Sean on the head. His eyes shoot up to Nick's window.

INT. NICK'S ROOM - MORNING

Nick dashes out the room.

The black book sits open on his desk with a cartoonish illustration of a guinea pig falling off a cliff.

FADE OUT