

Don't Be Afraid of the Dark

by

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INT. JORDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pictures depicting the scary Boogieman litter the bedroom floor of the space themed bedroom. JORDY, 7, too curious for his own good, colors on his stomach.

A soft KNOCK on the door makes Jordy look up to see his mom, LINDA, 37, loving and attentively watching her son.

LINDA
Time for bed honey.

Jordy gets off the floor and puts the pictures on his desk.

LINDA (CONT'D)
What were you drawing?

JORDY
Just the Boogieman.

LINDA
You know the Boogieman isn't real,
right?

Jordy gets into bed and slides under the covers as Linda walks to his bedside.

JORDY
You never know.

LINDA
I don't want you to fill your head
with scary thoughts before bed.

She kisses the top of his head.

JORDY
Mom?

Linda turns around at the door.

JORDY (CONT'D)
Can you leave the light on?

She eyes him then turns on his nightlight which fills the room with stars.

LINDA
Goodnight sweetheart. I love you.

JORDY
Love you too.

Linda shuts the door and Jordy listens to her STEPS. Jordy immediately turns over and pulls out his flashlight.

JORDY (CONT'D)

All right, Mr. Boogieman, come and get me.

Jordy sits on his bed and waits for a moment, finally puts the flashlight down.

JORDY (CONT'D)

Maybe Mom's right. Maybe there is no Boogieman.

A deep LAUGH fills the room. The room darkens almost pitch black, and a long clawed hand slips out from under the bed.

BOOGIEMAN

No Boogieman, you say...

Jordy's eyes widen as he stares at the hand as red, glowing eyes slide up the side of the bed.

BOOGIEMAN (CONT'D)

I should claw your eyes out and feed them to my pet. Then slurp your blood through a straw.

Jordy throws his blanket over his head in fear.

JORDY

No please! I'm sorry! You're real! You're very, very real!

BOOGIEMAN

HA! I'm just kidding! I don't even have a pet. You should have seen your face.

Jordy peaks his head out from under the covers to see BOOGIEMAN "BOOGIE", unknown age, gray in color, bright in personality.

JORDY

So...you're not going to eat me?

BOOGIEMAN

HA! Nah! I'm a humanitarian...

(pats belly)

Yup! Gave 'em up about three decades ago.

Jordy's eyes widen even more, then he throws a stuffed rocket ship at Boogieman that lands with a SQUEAK against Boogieman's head.

BOOGIEMAN (CONT'D)

Wow...really? I'm kidding! I don't eat humans. Eesh tough crowd...

Jordy breathes a sigh of relief.

JORDY

You almost scared me to death.

Boogieman throws his hands up in the air.

BOOGIEMAN

Okay, look, that's only happened one time!

JORDY

Wait? You've scared someone to death? Or is this another one of your dumb jokes?

Boogieman fixes Jordy with a glare.

BOOGIEMAN

I don't ask you why you have the days of the week on your underwear.

JORDY

It's helpful...Well Mr. Boogieman-

BOOGIEMAN

-Call me Boogie. Mr. Boogieman is my father.

JORDY

Well...Boogie, you've shown you're real and you scared me, so I guess you can leave now.

Boogieman kneels next to Jordy's bed.

BOOGIEMAN

Okay listen! I need your help so I can make friends and retire.

JORDY

You don't seem like you want to retire from what I can see.

BOOGIEMAN

This is why I need your help! I don't get what's funny to humans, but you, a human does.

JORDY

But why do you need my help?

BOOGIEMAN

You were the only one awake.

Boogieman gives him big puppy dog eyes and a quivering lip. Jordy sits in thought for a moment, then sighs.

JORDY

Okay fine.

Boogieman jumps up excited.

BOOGIEMAN

Great! So what's the first thing I should know?

JORDY

Well...this! First step to making friends is talking to them and listening to what they have to say. Don't forget to ask questions.

Boogieman nods as he writes it down in a larger than average notebook and pen.

JORDY (CONT'D)

Anyway, I should probably go to bed.

BOOGIEMAN

Right! Of course! Goodnight Jordy.

Jordy's mouth gapes open ready to speak. Boogieman says as he makes his way back under the bed.

BOOGIEMAN (CONT'D)

I'm like that big guy in the red suit, I know everyone I'm about to scare. Anyway, enjoy your nightmares!

Boogieman disappears as Jordy lays down on his back and stares at the ceiling wide eyed.

INT. JORDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom door closes. After a long moment of waiting, he lays down to sleep. A BURST and TUMBLE, then GROANING are heard. He turns over to see Boogieman on the floor.

BOOGIEMAN

Don't worry about me Jordy. Just leave me here to...die.

JORDY

What happened to you?

Boogieman sits up and Jordy notices a large burn on his large furry arm.

BOOGIEMAN

I did what you said. I asked questions and the kid screamed, grabbed this bright light and blasted me with it.

Jordy turns over and shows Boogieman his flashlight and Boogieman screams.

BOOGIEMAN (CONT'D)

Why do you have that?! Put that weapon away!

JORDY

It's not a weapon, it's called a flashlight. It's so we can see in the dark. Makes us humans feel safer.

BOOGIEMAN

Well Boogie and any bright light don't mix. No sir.

JORDY

I'll be right back. Make yourself unnoticeable.

BOOGIEMAN

On it!

Jordy opens the bedroom door as Boogieman presses himself flat against the wall, his fur turning shades of black, dotted with stars to match Jordy's walls. Jordy comes back with a First Aid Kit and shuts the door softly.

JORDY

Boogie?

Boogieman POPS off the wall as his fur switches back to gray.

JORDY (CONT'D)

Huh, that was pretty cool.

Boogieman walks over to Jordy's desk as Jordy gets out bandages. Boogieman sees the pictures Jordy made of him.

BOOGIEMAN

Is this how people see me? How can I get people to like me if all they see is a monster?

Jordy walks over to the pictures. Jordy places ointment on the wound then wraps all the bandages in the kit around Boogieman's arm.

JORDY

You show that you care.

He turns to his stuffed rocket ship and hands it to Boogieman.

JORDY (CONT'D)

I like to cuddle up with my stuffed rocket to make me feel better. You can have it till you do.

BOOGIEMAN

Thank you Jordy! I'll give it back as soon as I do. You know, since we met you haven't given up on me. It makes me realize that maybe I shouldn't give up on him. I think I should try again!

JORDY

No I don't think-

Boogieman gets up and slides under the bed without another word.

INT. JORDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jordy lays on his side sleeping. A WISP and Boogieman is already talking excited.

BOOGIEMAN

You'll never believe it Jordy. Horatio is such a cool guy. He apologized for the whole flashlight thing, but I did what you said and-Jordy! Are you even listening to me?

Boogieman walks over to the bed and taps Jordy's head to wake him up.

JORDY

Boogie what are you doing?

BOOGIEMAN

Well I was *trying* to tell you about Horatio.

JORDY

Who's Horatio?

BOOGIEMAN

My new friend!

JORDY

You mean the kid that blasted you with the flashlight?

BOOGIEMAN

Total misunderstanding! Anyway, I just came here to tell you thank you. Because of you I now have Horatio as a friend and I can finally retire from a lifetime of scares and loneliness.

Boogieman gets ready to go back under the bed.

JORDY

Wait you're leaving already? I thought you would stick around a bit.

BOOGIEMAN

Oh yeah! Horatio is waiting for me to get back. Thanks again for everything Jordy!

Boogieman disappears as Jordy stares sadly where Boogieman once was.

INT. JORDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jordy sits up in his bed and waits for Boogieman but he never comes. Days go by, new pajamas are worn as time goes by.

INT. JORDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

LINDA

Goodnight my sweet boy.

JORDY

Hey mom. You can turn the light off. I'll be okay.

Linda smiles and nods then turns off the nightlight.

LINDA

Sweet dreams.

The bedroom door shuts and Jordy turns over on his side to face the wall. He closes his eyes as a soft WISP and a slight breeze comes from behind him. A furry arm places the stuffed rocket ship beside his head.

BOOGIEMAN

Jordy? Are you awake?

Jordy turns over and sits up to see Boogieman.

JORDY

Boogie? What...what are you doing here?

BOOGIEMAN

Well I...ah who am I kidding? I missed you.

Boogieman paces back and forth as Jordy watches.

JORDY

But what about Horatio?

BOOGIEMAN

He wasn't who I thought he was. He wanted me to scare his friends at a sleepover. I just thought his friends could be my friends. But I guess I was wrong.

JORDY

I'm really sorry Boogie.

Boogieman sits down on Jordy's bed next to him.

BOOGIEMAN

Yeah, but it just made me realize something...All this time I was searching for a friend when I had one in front of me all along.

Jordy smiles at Boogieman. He looks at the rocket ship that Boogieman placed next to him, then grabs it and places it in Boogieman's lap.

JORDY

Keep it! If we're going to be friends you should have it.

BOOGIEMAN

Thank you! I'll protect it with my life. You're the greatest friend a Boogie could have.

JORDY

And you're the great friend a human could have.

