

**I WOULDN'T TOUCH THAT**

written by

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BLACK

"I stand here. In mortal fear. And watch the hungry wave devour us." (M. O. Colton)

INT. WILKERSONS FAMILY HOME / KITCHEN - EVENING

Dishes surround the sink. A wig of soup bubbles crowns a soaking pot.

Handmade Halloween decorations adorn the kitchen window.

Sounds of drumming feet.

LIA (10) bursts in, wearing a Caspar costume, the mask pushed up on her head.

She grabs a small empty bag from the pantry, turns around...

...and bumps into ALFIE (12), all dressed up as Darth Vader from Star Wars.

Lia yelps.

ALFIE  
(cackles)  
Got you.

LIA  
You're such a jerk.

He moves in close to her face, breaths heavily through his Vader mask.

ALFIE  
Lia. I am your father.

Lia pushes past him.

LIA  
No, you're just a jerkhole brother.

Alfie raises his mask.

ALFIE  
Do you even know what a jerkhole is?

LIA  
Why? Don't you?

ALFIE  
Come on. You made that up.

LIA  
It's a real word. You can see for  
yourself.

ALFIE  
Liar.

LIA  
Just say it in front of a mirror.  
Three times. The answer will be  
staring you in your stupid face.

Alfie's face goes red.

ALFIE  
I'm gonna punch you.

LIA  
And I'll tell mommy.

Alfie raises his fist.

ALISON (30s) pops through the door.

ALISON  
Tell mommy what?

She eyes her two little scoundrels.

ALFIE  
Nothing.

LIA  
He was going to punch me.

ALISON  
Alfie?

ALFIE  
She was being mean.

LIA  
Was not.

ALFIE  
Was too.

ALISON  
Kids.

LIA  
Nuh-uh!

ALFIE  
Uh-huh!

ALISON  
Kids!

The siblings glare at each other.

ALISON (cont'd)  
Quiet time. Mommy is speaking now.

She holds each of their shoulders.

ALISON (cont'd)  
When daddy gets home, we are going to  
do what?

LIA  
Be nice.

ALFIE  
And get along.

ALISON  
And why are we going to do that?

ALFIE  
So we can go trick-or-treating.

Alison frowns at her son.

LIA  
Because we're a family.

ALISON  
That's right, Lia. Because we're a  
family.

Lia gives her brother a smug smile.

Alfie rolls his eyes.

ALISON  
Now I want you both to go to the  
bathroom so you don't have to pee  
while you're out trick-or-treating.

ALFIE  
But I don't have to.

LIA  
Me neither.

Alison puts on her "mommy-is-the-boss" stare.

LIA (cont'd)

Okay.

ALFIE

Aw, man.

The siblings head for the bathroom.

Alison heads into the hallway.

AARON (30s) comes home and almost bumps into her.

AARON

Oh, hi.

ALISON

Hi, honey. You're late.

A quick smooch.

AARON

Sorry. Got caught up in traffic. Damn GPS isn't working. Probably sun flares messing with the satellites again.

ALISON

I'm glad you made it. I don't want the kids getting back so late.

AARON

It'll be fine. Our rascals ready to go?

Alfie and Lia rush towards them.

LIA

We're ready!

ALFIE

Let's go!

Aaron opens the door for them.

ALISON

Aren't you kids going to say hi to --

The siblings race outside.

ALISON (cont'd)

Oh, never mind.

Aaron smiles and shrugs.

AARON  
Candy brains. What can we do?

ALISON  
Trade them for booze?

AARON  
If only.

ALFIE (O.C.)  
Let's go already.

LIA (O.C.)  
Yeah. What are we waiting for?  
Easter?

AARON  
We better go. I smell a rebellion.

ALISON  
You just had to get me pregnant.

AARON  
Sorry.

They both chuckle and head out the door.

But we stay.

ALFIE (O.C.)  
Come on.

LIA (O.C.)  
Can you walk any slower?

AARON (O.C.)  
Oh, I can run. You want to see me  
run?

We hear Aaron roar as if he were a monster. The kids squeal and giggle.

As the the sound of fun and laughter fades, we...

CUT TO:

INT. WILKERSONS FAMILY HOME / BASEMENT - NIGHT

Cans and jars line dusty shelves. Vibrations of a distant explosion rattles them.

Lights shake and flicker.

The air is thick with fear. The Wilkersons group-hug near the wall.

Another distant explosion rattles the shelves.

Lia cries. Alfie whimpers.

AARON

It's okay. Everything's going to be okay. We got you.

Alison pulls Lia closer, strokes her hair.

ALISON

Mommy and daddy are here. We won't let anything hurt you.

Softly to Aaron.

ALISON (cont'd)

We can't stay here. What if they come back. What if our neighborhood is next.

AARON

At least we know what happened to those GPS satellites.

ALISON

And that helps us how?

AARON

Right. Sorry. It sounds like their moving away from us. Besides, where would we go? We don't know what the situation is out there. Are the streets even safe enough to use? ARE there even any streets left?

ALISON

We won't know until we try. Do you really want to risk still being here if they DO come back? I'm surprised we're not a crater yet.

Lia wimpers. Alfie moans.

ALISON (cont'd)

I'm sorry, munchkins. We're going to be okay.

Aaron sighs.

AARON  
Maybe you're right. I'll take a look  
outside. Make sure we can get to our  
car.

Aaron pulls away from his family. The kids whine.

AARON (cont'd)  
(soothing)  
It'll be okay. Stay with mommy. I'll  
be right back.

Mother and Father trade an encouraging nod.

Aaron moves away.

ALISON  
Be careful.

AARON  
I'll be like a ninja.

He smiles and leaves.

INT./EXT. SUV - NIGHT

Alison, haggard and in shock, white knuckles the wheel. She pilots the car down a two-lane back road. She looks almost haggard, beaten.

Above her hip, a small wound seeps blood into her sweater.

Alison checks the rearview mirror.

Lia and Alfie, buckled up in the back seat, wimper softly.

Behind them, framed in the rear window, a distant glow lights up the night sky in a fiery orange and yellow — a city in flames.

FADE TO:

BLACK

The sound of ocean surf and seagulls. Nature's maritime symphony.



EXT. OCEAN BEACH - DAY

Alfie plants his butt in the sand. He eyes the restless waves, seeking comfort in their endless advance and retreat.

He draws a circle in the sand with his finger. Adds a few "continents" to it.

Alfie observes his version of Earth and frowns.

With a viscous swipe, he erases it.

ALFIE  
And just like that, an asteroid wipes  
us all out.

He hugs his knees and whimpers. Rocks back and forth.

LIA (O.C.)  
Alfie?

Alfie turns away. Wipes his eyes.

Lia, worry all of her face, steps closer.

LIA  
Are you okay?

He pops up and glares at her.

ALFIE  
Do I look okay?

LIA  
No. That's why I asked.

ALFIE  
Why? Are you writing a book?

LIA  
Why are you so mean?

ALFIE  
Why am I so mean? Oh, I don't know.  
Maybe it's because some weird  
spaceship blew up our city. Maybe  
it's because our Mom had to pull  
shrapnel from her hip. We don't know  
if she'll survive. Or maybe it's  
because dad was always working and  
never home. And now, when we need him  
the most, he gets himself killed. Go  
ahead. Your pick.

LIA  
He died trying to help us.

ALFIE  
And that worked out so well, huh?

Grief invades Lia's face.

LIA  
I miss him too, you know.

ALFIE  
I don't care.

LIA  
I think you do.

ALFIE  
What? Are you my grief counselor now?

Alfie plops back on the sand. Returns to hugging his knees.

ALFIE (cont'd)  
Just go away.

LIA  
Let's go back to the car, okay? When Mommy wakes up and we're not there...

ALFIE  
I don't care. She'll just die like dad did and leave us too.

LIA  
Don't say that! What's wrong with you?

ALFIE  
I already told you. Now beat it.

Lia wipes angry tears from her eyes.

LIA  
I don't know who you are. But if you see my brother, please tell him to come back.

ALFIE  
Whatever.

Lia stomps off with a huff.

INT./EXT. SUV - DAY

Lia pops through high weeds near a beat up SUV.

Alison naps behind the wheel. Dry blood stains a makeshift bandage above her hip.

Lia quietly opens the rear door and sneaks onto the seat.

Alison wakes up.

ALISON

(drowsy)

Hey, Sweetie. You two alright?

LIA

No, not really. Alfie's being a jerk.

ALISON

I'm sorry, sweetie. You two need to be strong now, okay? I just need a little more rest. We'll be on our way soon. I promise.

And she drifts back to sleep.

Lia stares out the window with an uneasy look on her face.

EXT. OCEAN BEACH - DAY

Alfie grabs a pebble and tosses it into the sea.

He scans the littered but empty beach.

Seagulls rise from a clump of washed-up debris like a mob on the run.

A stray ray of sunlight lets something glisten in that clump.

EXT. OCEAN BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Alfie gapes at a glistening, translucent bulbous GLOB, nesting in the middle of garbage, seaweed, and dead fish.

The Glob resembles the remains of a two foot jellyfish. Something's moving in there. Slightly smaller than the Glob. It swims round and round in the outer rim.

Subtle colors of a rainbow appear as the thing inside continues to rotate.

It captivates Alfie. Almost hypnotizes him.

ALFIE

Whoa.

He spots a twig and converts it into a stick.

Alfie moves closer to the Glob.

ALFIE (cont'd)

What are you?

He moves his stick towards the Glob.

LIA (O.C.)

Alfie? What are you doing?

Alfie yelps and spins around.

ALFIE

What the hell? I almost had a heart attack.

LIA

Sorry.

ALFIE

What are you doing here?

LIA

I was worried about you. And I think mommy's not doing so well.

Alfie rolls his eyes. Scans Lia's worried face.

ALFIE

Fine. You can stay here. But only if you shut up.

Lia smiles.

LIA

Okay.

She clocks the Glob. Grimaces.

LIA (cont'd)

What's that?

Alfie frowns at her.

LIA (cont'd)

Sorry.

ALFIE  
I don't know. Looks like a big  
jellyfish or something. And there's  
something moving in it.

The kids move closer to the Glob.

Alfie eyes it with fascination.

LIA  
It looks weird.

ALFIE  
Are you kidding? This is awesome.

Alfie raises his stick.

Lia grabs his arm.

LIA  
Alfie don't. You shouldn't do that.

ALFIE  
Why not?

LIA  
Because it's moving. Something's in  
there. Alive.

ALFIE  
Yeah, so? I wanna see it. Now let me  
go.

He pulls himself free. Lia doesn't give up.

LIA  
What if it attacks us?

Alfie gives her a condescending look.

ALFIE  
Then I'll smack it back into the  
ocean with this stick.

LIA  
I still think it's a bad idea.

ALFIE  
And I told you to shut up.

Alfie returns his focus on the Glob, eyes gleaming with  
anticipation.

Lia sighs and steps back.

She seeks comfort in the heavy waves rolling in on an empty beach.

Lia frowns. Something's off.

LIA  
Hey, Alfie?

ALFIE  
What now?

LIA  
Where are all the birds?

He pops up.

ALFIE  
What do you mean? They're everywhere,  
screaming and crapping all over the  
place.

He can't spot a single one.

ALFIE (cont'd)  
Huh. They were here just a minute  
ago.

LIA  
Yeah, I know. So where did they all  
go?

Alfie shrugs.

ALFIE  
I don't know. Probably off to find  
food somewhere else. I really don't  
care.

Lia's not okay with this.

LIA  
Come on, Alfie. This feels weird.  
Let's go back to the car.

ALFIE  
God, you don't quit do you? You're so  
annoying.

LIA  
Hey. I'm not annoying.

ALFIE

Yes, you are. You're always whining about something. Can you just shut up for once?

LIA

I'm not whining. I just wish daddy were here.

ALFIE

Yeah, well he's not. He's dead. And your whining ain't bringing him back.

LIA

I'm not whining.

ALFIE

Yeah, right.

He hunkers down and eyes the Glob

ALFIE (cont'd)

Now leave me alone. Go solve the mystery of the missing birds or something.

Lia huffs.

LIA

Fine. Do whatever you want. I'm going back. Just -- just don't touch that.

Alfie watches her stomp off.

ALFIE

(mimicks her)

Just don't touch that.

He scoffs.

ALFIE (cont'd)

Like I don't have a stick.

He inspects the translucent Glob

The thing inside swims around and around.

The Glob continues to emit subtle colors of a rainbow.

Alfie's fascination drowns out everything around him.

A smile spreads across Alfie's face.

And he pokes the Glob with his stick.

SPLAT! The whole thing explodes.

A puss-like liquid sprays Alfie from head to toe.

He plops on his butt.

ALFIE (cont'd)  
(spits)  
Ugh! What the hell?

He scans the area. And there IT is.

ALFIE (cont'd)  
Holy crap.

A small alien four-legged creature lies on the sand.

Sleek and pale green, resembling a four-month-old kitten,  
but with neither eyes nor ears.

Alfie leans in for a closer look.

The creature lifts its blind head. It hisses and raises  
claw-like fingers.

Alfie's unimpressed.

ALFIE (cont'd)  
What the hell are you?

He prods at it with his stick.

The creature pounces on Alfie's stick and snarls, revealing  
razor-sharp teeth.

ALFIE  
Hey, let go.

Alfie shakes the stick. The creature holds on with ease.

ALFIE  
I said, let go.

It snarls at him with its blind face. *Make me, Human.*

ALFIE (cont'd)  
Oh, okay. Okay. Back to the ocean  
with you then.

Alfie winds up for a big throw.



And the creature leaps onto his arm.

ALFIE (cont'd)  
Hey. Get off me.

Alfie drops the stick. He grabs the critter and pulls.

The creature sneers and sinks its claws into his arm.

ALFIE (cont'd)  
Ow! Let go.

Alfie spots a fist-sized rock and grabs it.

ALFIE (cont'd)  
Okay. The hard way then.

As he winds up for a heavy hit, the creature leaps onto his face.

And Alfie's scream rolls down an empty beach.

INT./EXT. BEAT UP SUV - DAY

Lia rests her head against the window, lost in thought. As if from far away, we hear Alfie's terrified scream.

Lia sits up.

LIA  
Alfie?

She looks around the car. Her eyes rest on Mom, still asleep behind the wheel.

Lia glances at the empty seat next to her. Alfie's a jerk, but she wishes he were here now.

She turns back to the window.

Her frightened face stares out at us as we rise up to a...

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

The SUV rests next to a cruddy two-lane road.

Small alien creatures dart across the pavement.

A swarm of movement ripples through the vegetation surrounding the SUV.

And just up that cruddy two-lane road rests a decaying city.

EXT. ABANDONED CITY - DAY

Deserted buildings with broken windows stare blindly at dead, traffic-choked streets. Leftovers of a once thriving world.

A sound of snarling and hissing joins us in this scene of desolation. Just a few voices at first. And then many, many more.

FADE TO BLACK