

BLACK BEAR

Written by

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Address  
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INT. CABIN, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The fireplace crackles as logs of wood burn and illuminate the otherwise dark room. There are no televisions, lightbulbs, or electronics of any kind.

SUPER: AUGUST 21st, 1673.

A YOUNG BOY, no older than 13, lays on the floor in a blanket. Each exhale shows how cold the room is. Footsteps march in, Young Boy turns to see it's...

YOUNG BOY

Mother?

MOTHER, around 30, walks up to Yong Boy with a pillow. She is shivering.

MOTHER

You should be asleep, Johnny.

YOUNG BOY

It's cold Mother. I can't fall sleep.

MOTHER

You need to try. If you don't the bear will get you.

YOUNG BOY

The bear?

Young Boy, also known as Johnny, looks at Mother with slight fear.

MOTHER

But he wont get you if you close your eyes and go to sleep.

Johnny turns back around to stare at the fire. Mother tucks Johnny in more before walking back a little and laying on the floor as well. As she lays down, she stares at her son.

JOHNNY

Where does the bear live?

The fire crackles filling the moment of silence.

MOTHER

Where it wants.

JOHNNY

Does it get hungry?

MOTHER  
Oh, certainly.

Johnny turns to look at his Mother, the look of concern almost making her laugh.

JOHNNY  
Is he hungry right now?

MOTHER  
Not if you turn around and go to sleep.

Johnny stares at her for a moment, then turns back around to look at the fire.

JOHNNY  
Do you think the bear ate Father?

Mother bites her bottom lip.

MOTHER  
No.

JOHNNY  
Do you think he'll come back home?

MOTHER  
No.

The fire crackles.

JOHNNY  
I miss him.

MOTHER  
Me too. Close your eyes and maybe you'll see him.

JOHNNY  
I always see him.

MOTHER  
You do?

JOHNNY  
Yes, but then I get sad.

MOTHER  
Why is that?

JOHNNY  
Because then I have to wait to see him again.

Mother takes a deep breath.

MOTHER

I'm sorry, Johnny. I wish I knew.

JOHNNY

Me too.

Johnny stares at the fire.

INT. CABIN, LIVING ROOM - LATER

The flame from the fireplace is LOW, the visibility almost nonexistent. SCRATCHING can be heard coming from behind Johnny. His eyes flutter, body trying to kickstart awake. As he is about to open his eye's, the scratching stops and he closes his eyes to fall back asleep.

Behind him, we can see the top half of Mother rising from her spot and making her way to a table. The chair is heard being pulled out and she appears to sit down. A BLANKET is wrapped around her shoulders.

Scratching noise continues, this time waking Johnny.

JOHNNY

Mother?

Johnny slowly turns to look behind him. His mother sits at a small table scratching her finger into the wood. Her NAIL breaks off but she continues to push into the wood.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Mother, are you o-

Johnny notices, the longer he stares at his Mother, that something is off. Then he sees it. The bottom portion of his Mother is GONE, the blanket covering her upper torso.

He looks over to where Mother was sleeping to see her legs poking out of a small knitted blanket. Her legs are criss-cross style but missing the torso.

SCRATCHING STOPS.

Johnny looks back at Mother to see her GLOWING YELLOW EYES piercing through the dark, a look of hunger covering her face.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Mother?

MOTHER  
(possessed)  
Mother is gone, Johnny boy.

JOHNNY  
You're scaring me.

MOTHER  
(possessed)  
Do you want to hear a story about  
your father?

Johnny's eyes go wide, but shakes his head; NO.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
(possessed)  
Oh, why not, little Johnny? I'm  
sure he want's you to know about  
all the kids he killed. All the  
women he slept with.

Mother smiles, drool oozing from the corner of her mouth.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
(possessed)  
That's why he never came back  
Johnny, because once I found out, I  
ate his heart, and then his brains,  
then everything else that wasn't  
bone.

Mothers face slowly starts to contort.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
(possessed)  
But it's okay Johnny, because the  
story itself is a small one. What  
started with your Father, will end  
with you. And nobody will have to  
be hurt again.

Mother's face stiffens, staring intently at Johnny. Then a  
DARK, SMOKEY, BEAR PAW emerges from the blanket. It grabs  
Mother by the face and pulls her within the blanket. BONES  
POPPING, AIR GASPING, then the blanket finally flattens on  
the chair.

WHOOSH! A gust of air blows out the final flame on the  
fireplace. Johnny looks at Mother's legs that still criss-  
cross on the floor; then the blanket starts to RISE, as if  
the torso itself is emerging.

Johnny lays down and faces the fireplace, breathing heavy, HEARING the bones POPPING again but the floor CREAKING as well. Johnny closes his eyes and shakes his head.

JOHNNY

It's just a dream. It's only a dream.

Johnny opens his eyes, the fire still out. He slowly turns to look behind him to see the blanket gone, the bottom half of his Mother mutilated as if SOMETHING emerged from her bowels.

Hyperventilating, he tries to look around the room for whatever it might be; then something moves catching his attention. A BLACK SHADOWY FIGURE in the corner of the room with MAROON RED GLOWING EYES stares at him.

MONSTER

(distorted)

Johnny.

Johnny turns back around closing his eyes, SHAKING.

JOHNNY

No, no, no, no; wake up! Wake UP!

A hand is seen grabbing his shoulder pulling him over...

INT. CABIN, LIVING ROOM

Johnny opens his eyes, fire lit, his Mother whole. She looks concerned.

MOTHER

Hey! Hey! Hey! Johnny, look at me!

JOHNNY

Mother?

MOTHER

Are you okay?

Johnny takes a hard looks at her, then begins to cry as he hugs his Mother.

JOHNNY

I had an awful dream! I thought I was going to die!

MOTHER

You're okay, son. Everything is okay.

Mother pushes away gently and pets his head.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
And you're sweating! It must of  
been bad.

JOHNNY  
It was, I don't want to go back to  
sleep, Mother.

Mother hugs him again, patting his back.

MOTHER  
I'm sorry. You're okay now. It's  
okay.

Johnny pulls away, this time Mother's face TRANSFORMING into  
the BEAR. As it goes to take a bite out of Johnny's face,  
we...

CUT TO BLACK.

**END**