

"NIGHT TERRORS"

A screenplay by

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FINAL

"NIGHT TERRORS"

ESTABLISHING SHOT: MEGGIDO ASYLUM FOR TROUBLED YOUTH

CUT TO:

INT. LONG COLORFUL HALLWAY

We see two men walking along a hallway, softly illuminated with fluorescent lights, the walls painted in pastels depicting calming images of animals playing in idyllic pastures. One, DR. STROM, is walking confidently. He is the main doctor at the asylum. He is an older man with gray hair and dresses in a three-piece suit, your typical sage old doctor. Walking beside him is a very strong young man, LIAM. LIAM is dressed in, multi-colored scrubs. He is one of the many orderlies in the hospital. As they walk, we hear DR. STROM lecturing LIAM.

DR. STROM

Pavor Nocturnus. Night terrors.

They arrive at a door with light pouring out of the small window in the center of the door. DR. STROM takes out a key card and turns to speak directly to LIAM.

DR. STROM

Bethany was terrified that something was coming for her. Bethany Lewis is now 13 years old. She has been with us since the age of seven. Fortunately, her parents brought her to us. Many asylums would have simply locked her up and thrown away the key, so to speak.

LIAM

You're always so overdramatic doc, but I just don't get it. Why is she here? Who cares about night terrors? Heck, even I used to think there was a monster in my closet back in the day.

DR. STROM

Hmph. Perhaps I should schedule some sessions with you then. When I first met Bethany five years ago, she suffered from chronic sleep deprivation which is both unusual and possibly

life threatening for a child. She weighed just under forty pounds and suffered from delusions. She was terrified of the darkness. In over thirty years of practice, I had never seen such violent reactions to merely dimming the lights.

LIAM

Have you made any progress at all?

DR. STROM

I, personally, have been working on this case. For years she would only sleep beneath halogen lights. Every corner of the room was awash in light. Even the slightest shadow would drive her to hysterics. As her trust in me developed, I was able to slowly wean her off of the lights. We began with a transition to a room lit only with lamps. Last December, she slept under strings of Christmas lights. Now, she sleeps only with four night lights on each wall.

DR. STROM inserts the card into the door.

DR. STROM (CONTINUES)

And tonight, we will finally turn out all of the lights.

PAN TO:

INT. BETHANY LEWIS' LIVING QUARTERS

LIAM and DR. STROM walk inside to see a plain room with a large mirror running against the far wall. The walls are bare but decorated with murals that were clearly painted by children. A bed and dresser are along one wall, with a small stereo and pictures of a young girl with her family. In the center of the room on a soft, colorful couch sits 13-year old BETHANY LEWIS. She wears a rainbow bandana over her hair. She looks very uncomfortable.

DR. STROM

Good evening Bethany, how are you today. I requested they cook your favorite meal for dinner.

BETHANY (RUNNING HER HAND THROUGH HER HAIR)

I couldn't even eat it Dr. Strom. I'm just not ready for this. You know that the dark is bad for me.

DR. STROM (LAUGHING)

After all our years together you think I would just throw you into the abyss alone? Never! (Gestures towards LIAM) You remember Liam don't you. He will stay right here with you the whole time.

BETHANY casts a sideways glance at LIAM and says nothing, she continues to sulk. LIAM walks over and puts his hand on her shoulder and kneels down to be at eye level with her. Dr. Strom walks towards the exit.

LIAM

Bethany, I have slept in the dark every night for as long as I can remember. And let me tell you sleeping in the dark rocks.

BETHANY rolls her eyes at LIAM's lame attempt to relate to her. The door closes as DR. STROM exits the room. BETHANY doesn't react to LIAM's lame attempt at humor.

LIAM

Now don't you worry Bethany, nothing is going to come for you, at least, not while I'm here.

BETHANY

Uch, I never said something was coming *for* me.

LIAM

No? Then, let me ask you Bethany, what are you so afraid of?

BETHANY (LEANING IN TOWARDS LIAM AND WHISPERING)

I told Dr. Strom, it only comes out in the dark.

CUT TO:

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM.

This room is on the other side of the mirror in BETHANY'S ROOM. DR. STROM can look into BETHANY'S room from this room. A large control panel is located just under the mirror.

DR. STROM walks up to the panel and sees LIAM kneeling next to BETHANY. He smiles and begins turning a dimmer switch. As he does this, the lights begin to dim in BETHANY'S room.

The camera watches as the once vibrant colors all fade to gray.

CLOSE UP OF LIAM'S FACE GRINNING AT BETHANY

LIAM gives a reassuring pat on BETHANY'S shoulder

CLOSE UP OF BETHANY'S FACE

A tear begins running down her cheek as the light fades away. The last thing we see is the rainbow bandana in her hair.

All of the colors in the room are engulfed in darkness. BETHANY'S room is pitch black, in stark contrast to the formerly colorful interior we had just seen. DR. STROM flicks a switch labeled INTERCOM and turns up the volume. Very heavy breathing is heard through the speakers. Curious about what is happening on the other side, DR. STROM steps closer to the mirror with his nose almost touching glass partition. The camera slowly zooms in towards DR. STROM'S head and the darkness beyond.

Suddenly, right in front of him, LIAM'S body is slammed against the glass, cracking it. The camera pans out to show that LIAM is pinned to the glass by a massive, hairy, clawed hand. From out of the darkness a gigantic monster approaches the mirror. Its mouth is full of sharp teeth. The monster is wearing a rainbow bandana. Tears stream down its face. The monster leans close towards the mirror, its breath fogging the glass pane. It opens its mouth.

MONSTER (IN BETHANY'S VOICE)

I told you Dr. Strom, it only
comes out in the dark.

The monster's other clawed hand then shatters the glass partition

FADE TO BLACK

We hear DR. STROM scream.

Credits roll.