

"Sheldon Haunting"

by

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15 Minute Drama

1. INT. CABIN - DAY

A father is leaning over in a chair reading a newspaper. He looks up as he sees his two kids come running in ready to do something active. Father gets up holding the newspaper.

KID 1

Dad, can we go to the pond again today?

FATHER

Sure we can. Do any of yourr new friends want to come?

KID 1

No, just you!

KID 2

You're more fun daddy.

He hugs both kids at once, smiling. They hug back.

FATHER

All right then. Are we readdy to go?  
Are you taking your boat?

Kid goes and picks up boat.. A shadow passes by outside the window. O/C, knock on door. Father turns and leaves frame. A door shadow opens and someone is there, but we don't see who. We see kid smiling then stunned, shock. O/C we hear shuffling and a thud. A shadow looms over children. They cower. Kid's boat falls from his hand. Camera level on floor in front of unconscious Father, eyes still open staring into camera, sideways.

FADE OUT

2. INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

FADE IN

Sheldon Haunting is lying on the floor in front of his couch, spooked, wrapped up in a blanket.

3. EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Title - Sheldon Haunting appears Car drives down the road

4. INT. CAR - NIGHT

Liz in driver's seat.

## CAR RADIO

And again, looks like showers on  
and off overnight followed by more  
of the same for Saturday...

Liz turns off the car radioo.

5. EXT. ROAD/DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Liz pulls car off the road into driveway.

6. INT. LIVING. ROOM - NIGHT

The room is temporarily illuminated. Sheldon is suddenly lit  
by car headlights through the window shear. He snaps out of  
his trance and looks up.

7. EXT. YARD - NIGHT

Car parks in driveway. Liz gets out of car, slams door, and  
walks (ghost like) toward the house. She passes by camera.  
Camera is still focused on car cooling. O/C we hear knocking  
on front door. Cut to side view of her waiting for answer.  
O/C shuffling behind door.

LIZ

Sheldon?... It's Liz.

Liz looks behind her at thee dark road. Sheldon unlocks door.  
Opens. Liz looks back towards him.

SHELDON (O.C.)

Hey... come in.

Liz exits frame. The door ccloses and locks behind. Hold for  
a beat on darkness beyond the steps and house.

8. EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Extreme wide shot of the house.

9. INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Close Up Shot of black and white movie on TV screen. Liz is  
on the phone. It is ringing and she is waiting for someone  
on the other line to pick up.

LIZ

So, your parents went away,, huh?

SHELDON

(Deadpan)

Gone...

Sheldon looks preoccupied, more nervous.

LIZ

Hi, can I get a large pepperoni and sausage, with extra sauce?...  
Sheldon?

(Sheldon nods...)

No, we'll come get it

SHELDON

(Nervous, close-up)

No! I told you I can't leave the house!

Sheldon looks to the window, the soundtrack of the black and white film intensifies.

LIZ (O.C.)

Ok, umm, actually we will get that delivered. Haunting with an H. 15 Widows Road. Thanks.

Liz hangs up phone.

SHELDON

Sheldon gets up, turns and exits, goes into kitchen taking his bowl and glass with him from the table. Liz picks up DVD case.

SHELDON (O.C.)

Thanks for coming Liz. Hopee you didn't have plans.

LIZ

(Calls after)

The girls went down to the Pendulum, but I wasn't up for it tonight.

(The movie catches

her attention.)

What is this movie I put onn?

Camera on TV images. Strange show. Strange soundtrack. Sheldon returns with drinks of pop. (Fizz rising)

Liz put down the DVD case.

SHELDON (O.C.)

(Standing behind couch)

Good pick. It's funny how you can grow up watching something over and over but other people never see it...

LIZ

(Uneasy)

So... What's up huh?... You missed class and the game. I don't know how but they managed to win 6 - 3 without you.

SHELDON

Seriously Liz, I think I'm losing it. You'll think I'm crazy...

Sheldon gives her a glass and sits down next to her.

LIZ

You don't have to worry about that Sheldon.

(Pause)

I already think your crazy..

Sheldon picks up DVD case. Liz then quickly pulls the DVD case away. She puts it on the table. And turns his face towards her.

LIZ

What is it, Mr. Haunting?

SHELDON

Something happened. Something I wish I could get out of my head.

FLASHBACK, flickers intermix with TV flicker. Soundtrack of B&W movie playing. Image gets stronger but slightly fragmented. V/O Sheldon describing childhood memory...

SHELDON (V/O)

... My family and I. We used to vacation. This small town, same time, every year.

10. EXT. WOODS - DAY

...Kids playing with toy guns, running, and stopping to shoot.

SHELDON V/O

I was playing outlaw with some kids from the other cabins. I stayed out all day. I remember my mum kept calling me but I didn't want to stop playing.

A few kids run past with toy guns. Young Sheldon follows. He stops and looks back as if he hears someone calling his name. He continues to chase other kids. Kids run past a man standing with his two children.

Sheldon runs towards them shooting. He stops and looks up at them. The father looks at Sheldon and smiles slightly. Sheldon laughs and shoots at them some more

SHELDON

Bang! Bang!

Sheldon runs past them after his friends.

11. (FLASHBACK) EXT. POND - DAY

Young Sheldon runs down and stops by pond. He can't see his friends anywhere. He turns and stops short. He looks down into the water.

12. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Liz looks interested.

SHELDON

I came to the pond. For some reason  
I looked down into that water.  
There was that man, the Father of  
those two kids.

Flash of dead body, empty eyes staring. Moves suddenly. Young Sheldon flinches.

SHELDON

He was dead. But I swear I saw him  
move. That's when I remembered what  
he said to me that day

FATHER

You killed my family, Sheldon.

Flash - Young Sheldon's legs running through field. Flash - Police tape roping off. Flash - Three bodies on the bank, the last small one being covered like the others. Flash - Detective points and looks towards Sheldon suspiciously.

13. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

FADE OUT

Memory. Flickering TV light and reality on Sheldon in a fetal position on his couch.

SHELDON

The police said they'd beenn missing for five days. The cabin they rented was empty. Liz, I saw them that day. They weren't gone, they were still there.

(Beat)

I think I saw something I wwasn't supposed to.

LIZ

(Visibly shaken,  
leans back in couch  
to take it all in)

Are you saying you think youu saw...  
Wait - how... was it an accident?

SHELDON

The police linked it to a sseries of murders by a crazy local they caught a few days earlier. Wanna know the weirdest part -

(Beat)

the killer's name is Sheldoan  
Haunting.

Liz is concerned for her owwn safety, looks at the phone.

LIZ

Look, it was a coincidence.. Lots of people who do terrible things have common names. Is that what's bothering you. The name?

SHELDON

I don't have a common name.. And it's more than just the name. It's that man. The father of those kids.

LIZ

That would be pretty traumaatic for a kid. You probably got some of it shuffled around in your head. It's called a fabricated memory. It happens all the time.

SHELDON

But it wasn't just once. Itt happened again. As much as I resisted my parents dragged me back the next year, a place a few miles away from that cabin. I was playing by a stream when everything went quiet...

14. (FLASHBACK) EXT. WOODS - DAY

Flash - more fragmented - on young Sheldon at stream seeing the ghost in the water, same situation.

DEAD FATHER

You killed my family Sheldoon.

15. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sheldon comes back to reality. Shakes his head.

SHELDON

He comes every year. Last yyear in the river under the town bridge. The year before at the rink. He Thinks I murdered his family. I couldn't even kill a fish.

(Beat)

This year I'm staying away from water. I almost forget about it until this time of year, then it all comes creeping back into my mind.

Liz looks at the TV. Shot oof black and white movie playing.

LIZ

Did you ever think maybe ththese films you watch might have something to do with it?

Sheldon gives her a glare aas if to say "seriously"

LIZ (CONT'D)

Stay home, Sheldon. Every yyear, if you have to. Losing one day of the year isn't so bad if it saves your sanity.

SHELDON

You're probably right. Thanhks for being here. If you knew what you were in for you probably wouldn't have come, huh?

LIZ

You underestimate me. I cann take it.

A touching moment of silence, loud doorbell (bzzzz-dong). Both jump and scream, Liz grabs Sheldon, then they relax and laugh.

LIZ

Liz exits. O/C we hear door open. Liz re-enters with pizza.

LIZ  
We're a little short. Do you have  
four bucks?

Sheldon slumps over lookingg for his wallet on the table.  
Swipes it, withdraws a five, gets up and on the way to pay  
his share, passes her with pizza.

SHELDON  
Mmmmm.

16. INT. FOYER - NIGHT

SHELDON  
Here you go

Sheldon is at the door, turning back from smelling the  
pizza, holding a bill up to a strange white, wet outstretched  
hand. He looks up to see... the pizza man meeting his gaze.  
He's wet from the rain, and

DEAD FATHER  
You killed my family, Shelddon.

Sheldon scrambles and dropss the money. He sees a flashback  
of images of events involving the ghost.

17. MONTAGE OF SHORT QUICK SHOTS INTERCUT WITH MONEY FALLING  
IN S/M

18. INT. CABIN - DUSK

CUT TO toy boat falling into frame and hitting the floor  
next to kid's foot. Father lying on the floor starring  
forward. Reverse on the newspaper, slow zoom on headlines,  
"Local Suspected in Killing Spree - Sheldon Haunting - Town  
Shocked..." zoom continues on words Sheldon Haunting. Words  
around it disappear.

CUT TO - face of dying father.

SHELDON'S MOTHER (O.C.)

19. EXT - WOODS- DAY

The ghost stands near the lake with the two children. Their  
backs are all to the camera. He turns as he hears his  
murderer's name being called out. The ghost looks shocked.  
He turns his head to listen.

Shocked and upset and then glares.

FADE OUT

SHELDON'S MOTHER V/O  
Sheldon Haunting!

THE END