

"Sheldon Haunting"

by

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15 Minute Drama

FADE IN:

1.INT. - CABIN - DUSK

A BOY is jumping on a bed in front of his FATHER, who's leaning over in a chair reading a news paper headline. Another BOY is bringing clothes and items (stuffed toys, comics, fish bowl - which he puts aside) to pack into a small case.

KID 1
Daddy?

FATHER
Hmmm?

KID 1
Can we just stay here forevrrr?

FATHER
You don't think you'll get tiired of
your old dad?
(beat)
...

KID 1 puts down paper.

KID 2
We'll always wanna do things with
you daddy, right CHRISTOPHER?

CHRISTOPHER
Forever and ever.

Father scoops both boys into his arms. He tickles them getting a reaction. They hug back.

FATHER

KID 2
I love you daddy.

Father releases boys.

O/C, knock on the door. Father turns and leaves frame. A door shadow and someone is there, but we don't see who. We see boys smile then stunned, shock. Sound gets muffled.

CUT TO - O/C we hear shuffling and a thud.

A shadow looms over children. They cower. 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.INT. - CAR - NIGHT

LIZ in drivers seat. Beyond window - dim lights.

CAR RADIO

And again, looks like showers on
and off for this evening followed
by more of the same for the
weekend...

Liz turns off the car radio. Soundtrack from Sheldon's movie plays on.

4.EXT. - HIGHWAY/DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Liz pulls car off road into driveway. Close up - headlights on house sign - "Haunting"

5.INT. - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The room is temporarily illuminated. Sheldon is suddenly blinded by car headlights through the window shear. Covers his face and looks away.

6.EXT. - YARD - NIGHT

Odd angle on headlights as car turns slightly to park in driveway (fog, snow, vapor after rain). 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/S we hear knocking on front door. Cut to side view of her waiting for answer. O/S shuffling behind door.

LIZ

It's Liz. Sheldon?..

SHELDON
 (looks sketchy)
 Hi...come in.

Liz exits frame, closes and llocks door behind. Hold for a beat on darkness beyond the steps and house.

7.EXT. - HOUSE - NIGHT

Extreme wide shot of the house.

8.INT. - HOUSE - NIGHT

Liz is on the phone. It is ringing and she is waiting for someone on the other line to pick up.

LIZ

SHELDON
 (deadpan)
 Gone...Thanks for coming...
 (beat)
 I hope I didn't ruin any planns.

Liz looks a bit puzzled by hiis first remark, then shakes her head. Sheldon looks preoccupied, more nervous.

LIZ
 Hi, can I get a large pepperooni 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 dark wet night. Soundtrack of black & white film intensifies.

LIZ (O.S.)
 Ok, we will get that delivered.
 Haunting with an H. 15 Widows Road.
 Thanks.

Liz hangs up the phone.

SHELDON

Sheldon turns and exits, shuffles into the kitchen taking his bowl and glass with him off the table.

SHELDON (CONT'D)
Thanks for coming Liz. Hope you didn't have plans.

LIZ
(calls after)
The girls went down to the Peendulum,
but I wasn't up for it tonight.
(Movie catches her attention)

Camera on TV images. Strange show. Strange soundtrack. Sheldon returns with drinks of dark liquid. (fizz rising)

SHELDON (O.S.)
(returning)
Good pick. It's funny how you can grow up watching something over and over but other people never see it...

LIZ
(uneasy)
Ya, look...What's going on?...You missed class and the game. I don't know how they managed to do it without you, but they won, 6 - 3.

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

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

LIZ
(gaining composure)
You don't have to worry about that Sheldon. I already think you're crazy...

Liz puts down the DVD case. Sheldon picks it up. Liz then quickly pulls the DVD case away. She puts it on the table.

LIZ (CONT'D)
What's up, Mr. Haunting?

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

FLASHBACK, flickers intermittently with TV flicker, superimposed. Soundtrack of black & white movie playing.

Image gets stronger but slightly fragmented. V/O Sheldon describing childhood memory...

9.EXT. - FIELD - DAY

KIDS playing with toy guns, running, stopping to shoot, near a lake and rural motel lodge (model). Wide open space with nearby woods. Flash - Father calling to sons. Flash - Father playing chicken with Christopher(Kid 1), Kid 2 chasing them. Flash - POV young Sheldon - Barrel of air gun shooting Kid 2 who overreacts. Barrel turns as we see hands cocking air and firing, slo/mo. Flash - Father turns to see he's been targeted and shot. Falls to knees with Kid 1. Both collapse, playing dead.

SHELDON (V.O.)

...We used to vacation. My family, and I. This small town, same time, every year. There were kids, sometimes. We were playing werewolf. Me and kids from the other cabins. This man and his kids from a few cabins over.

Break from flash - fade slightly back to living room.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

I stayed out all day. I remember my mum kept calling me but I wasn't going.

Fade back into memory, flickeering on Sheldon and Liz.

10.EXT. - LAKE - DAY

Young Sheldon runs down and stops by lake. Stops short.

SHELDON (V.O.)

I was walking by the lake, by the [rocks, reeds] and

(beat)

I saw this man, the Father off these two kids.

Zoom on decomposing puffy boddy, bobbing, empty eyes staring.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

He was floating there. I swear to god he was looking at me. He was grey and blue. But I saw him move.

Young Sheldon flinches.

DEAD FATHER
 You killed my family, Sheldonn.

Young Sheldon's legs running through a field.

Flash - police tape roping off. Flash - three bodies on the bank, the last small one being covered like the others.

11.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 been mmissing
 for five days. The cabin they
 rented was empty. The owners
 thought they went home as planned.
 Prepaid. Liz, I played with them
 all day. They weren't gone, they
 were still there.
 (beat)
 I saw something I shouldn't hhave.

LIZ
 (visibly shaken,
 leans back on the
 couch to take it all in)
 Are you saying you think you saw..
 Wait- how .. was it an accident?

SHELDON
 The police linked it to a serries of
 murders by a crazy local they
 caught a few days earlier. Wanna
 know they weirdest part - the
 killer and me,
 (beat)
 we have the same name.

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

LIZ
 Look, it was a coincidence. LLots of
 people have names the same as
 people who do bad things. That
 would be pretty traumatic for
 anyone, Sheldon, let alone a little
 kid. You probably got some of it
 shuffled around in your memory.
 (MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)

You probably remember someone else
who looked a lot like him and his
kids and lumped them all
together...presto
(snaps)

Sheldon glances, not impressed. Liz vacillates between
empathy and feeling trapped.

SHELDON

I don't have a common name. It's
not just the name. It's that man,
the father. As much as I resisted
my parents dragged me back the next
year, a place a few miles away from
the lodge. I was playing by a
stream when everything went quiet...

12.EXT. - WOODS - DAY

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

DEAD FATHER

You killed my family Sheldon..

13.INT. - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sheldon comes back to reality. Shakes his head.

SHELDON

It happens every year. Last year at
the river under the town bridge.
The year before at the ice rink.
For some reason he thinks I
destroyed his family. I couldn't
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 creeps back in.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

I don't think I can handle this.

Liz grabs him around the shoulders and holds him, now
convinced he's terrified, not dangerous. Liz looks at the TV.

LIZ

Did you ever think your choice of
films contribute to your madness?

LIZ (CONT'D)

Stay home, Sheldon. Every yeaar,
'til forever if you have to. Hey, a
day off from life every year's a
good deal.

SHELDON

Thanks for coming to be with me in
this. If you knew what you were in
for you probably would've ran the
other way fast, huh?

LIZ

You underestimate me. I can ttake it.

A touching moment of silence,, loud doorbell (bzzzz-dong).
Both jump and scream, Liz grabs Sheldon's shoulders, then
relaxes and laughs.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Pizza, I'll get it.

Liz exits. O/S we hear the dooor open. Sheldon goes over to
Liz's armchair and rests, comforted by her warmth and
presence. Liz re-enters.

LIZ (CONT'D)

I'm a little short. Do you haave
four bucks?

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

SHELDON

Mmmm.

14.INT. - FOYER - NIGHT

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 glaze.
He's wet from the rain, bloated, rotten, dead.

DEAD FATHER

You killed my family, Sheldonn.

Sheldon scrambles back fallinng to the floor against the hall
table, cowering from the ghost. He blacks out from panic
seeing the glow from the TV.

FADE OUT

15.INT. - CABIN - DUSK

FADE IN

Stumbling, dying FATHER lays on the floor. Reverse on the newspaper. Slow zoom on headlines, "Suspect in Killing Spree - Sheldon Haunting - Town shocked..." Loses focus. CUT TO: Face of dying FATHER, a FIGURE walks past his body.

SHELDON'S MOTHER (O.S.)

The ghost stands near the lakke 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

END