

NIGHT PREY

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Boyband posters on the walls. Middle school biology books on a desk. A cute teddy bear collection spread across the floor.

ALICE (10, long brown hair, scrawny, bags under her eyes) sits in bed, she shakes and is on the verge of tears.

CAROL (40, brown hair, tired smile) walks across the bedroom, checks under Alice's bed. She checks the window. Closed. She opens the closet door and takes a look inside--

Nothing out of the ordinary.

CAROL
See? Nothing.

She heads to the door and reaches for the light switch--

ALICE
Mom, can you leave the light on?

ALICE looks at her mother with pleading eyes.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Please.

CAROL Sighs... and nods.

CAROL
Okay. Just for tonight.

Alice shakes her head yes.

Carol gives her daughter a sweet loving smile and leaves, closing the bedroom door behind her.

ALICE lies down in bed and closes her eyes. She takes a few deep breaths--

The lights flickers. Alice shuffles in bed, but stays asleep.

THE LIGHTS GO OFF--

Alice opens her eyes. She tries to speak, but she can't. She struggles to catch a breath. Her eyes widen, her body tenses-- she can't move either.

SHE'S PARALYZED, eyes wide open.

From a dark corner emerges a CREATURE. Long limbs, no eyes, slippery reptile-like skin. It gnarls at her.

ALICE's eyes scream, but her mouth refuses to follow.

The creature advances towards Alice's bed. Jumps on top of her and leans in, close to Alice's face. It smells her. Only now, Alice notices it has a mouth full of tiny sharp teeth.

Tears escape her eyes. But her body still refuses to move.

A loud THUMP comes from Alice's closet.

The Creature jolts up and arches its back, like a predator trying to defend its territory.

The closet door creak open and a SHADOW peeks from inside. TWO SMALL RED BEADY EYES look at Alice and at the Creature sitting on top of her.

Alice cries in silence, tears roll down her cheeks-- she's completely still and completely terrified.

The Shadow slides out of the closet and crawls up the wall with creepy spider like movements. It leaves dirty nail marks on the wall.

The Shadow clings to the ceiling.

The Creature squeals at the Shadow, but the gut-wrenching sound doesn't stop it from making its way across the ceiling.

It jumps down, swallowing both the Creature in its dark embrace. Alice screams and closes her eyes.

THE LIGHTS TURN BACK ON.

Alice opens her eyes. The monsters are gone. A soft breeze blows on her hair.

--Her window is wide open.

Alice glances at the light. Finding reassurance in it, she takes a deep breath, jumps out of bed and runs to the window--

SHE SLAMS IT SHUT. LOCKS IT.

She takes a deep breath and runs back to bed.

Alice closes her eyes and smiles. She's proud at how brave she is.

Under her bed--

--TWO RED BEADY EYES light up.