



SOMETHING DARK

A GHOST STORY FOR THE STAGE

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Something Dark is a comedy/drama that deals with the impact of early childhood experiences on our lives and after-lives all couched in a ghost story for the stage that should chill even the most stalwart audience member.

Synopsis:

Vickie and Neal are starting over again after the death of their five year old son, Bobby, in a drowning accident. Moving to a new town and a new home, they try to rebuilt their lives but at night Vickie begins hearing Bobby crying in the darkness. Is she having a nervous breakdown again or is some other child actually trapped within the walls of their house? What she finds is even more terrifying than anyone could imagine. Something Dark is waiting for her in the night.

Cast of Characters

Vickie (mid thirties) - warm, caring, and troubled
Neal (mid thirties) - Vickie's husband, a policeman, a realist
Kevin (mid-thirties) - Vickie's best friend from college
Virginia Harrington -(sixty-five) neighbor - warm, caring, a non-stop talker
Angie - (seven) but seems younger and more fragile
Something Dark - shape of pure evil

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ACT II I

SCENE 1

In the darkness, a clock ticks and chimes three times.

As the light comes up, Vickie sits on the bed in the little bedroom beside the sleeping child, Angie. A very small desk lamp glows softly in the dark across from the bed.

When Neal starts to enter, Vickie puts her fingers to her lips to keep him quiet and then, quietly gets up and moves with him out into the hallway.

NEAL

How is she?

VICKIE

Still sleeping. At least, I guess she's sleeping. She hasn't moved.

NEAL

Is she still breathing?

VICKIE

Of course she's breathing. That's a flesh and blood child in there.

NEAL

Flesh and blood children don't disappear when the lights come on.

VICKIE

What did you want me to do? I couldn't leave her like that. She was crying.

NEAL

I know. I know. You did the right thing, but I just don't know what we're supposed to do when she wakes up.

VICKIE

I don't know either, but whatever happens I'm going to be here.

NEAL

I know. Look, I brewed some fresh coffee in the kitchen. Let me sit with her while you take a break.

VICKIE

No. She might be frightened if she wakes up.

NEAL

We don't even know if she will wake up or she might only be awake at night. Trust me, I'll call you if she moves. Part of me hopes this is a dream and I'll wake up soon, but part of me is just scared. Now, go on. I'll just watch.

Vickie reluctantly starts downstairs, then turns back to kiss him lightly on the cheek. Neal watches her go for a moment and then steps in to be with Angie. Crossing quietly to the bed he suddenly stops.

NEAL

(calling softly)

Vickie?

(then louder and more urgently)

Vickie?

Vickie quickly rushes back into the room.

VICKIE

What?

Angie has disappeared.

NEAL

(tearing up the sheets and bedding)

She's gone.

VICKIE

(joining him in searching)

Where?

(angrily)

What did you do? I told you not to...

NEAL

I didn't do anything. I just walked in.

VICKIE

Don't tell me you didn't do anything. I don't want to hear you didn't do anything. Bobby drowned. You let our Bobby drown and...

(realizing)

Omigod, Neal, I'm sorry, I didn't mean that. I....

NEAL

(stung)

I just came in... and she was gone.

VICKIE

She couldn't just be gone.

NEAL

Why couldn't she? She wasn't supposed to be here in the first place.

VICKIE

How do you know that?

NEAL

Vickie, listen to yourself. Of course we know that. She was a ghost.

(grasping)

Maybe it was the sunlight. Or maybe, it was just time. Jesus, who knows. She was dead.

VICKIE

But she was crying.

NEAL

And you helped her. And maybe that's it. Now she can go where ever it is she has to go. Look at it that way. It's over, and that's what we want, Vickie. We want it over.

VICKIE

But I didn't want it to be over. I wanted her to stay.

Neal pulls her to him, and she lets him hold her.

NEAL

I know Honey, but she's not Bobby.

The lights fade out.

SCENE 2

The living room, dusk. Kevin stands in front of the empty fireplace holding his hands out as though warming them. Neal enters from the kitchen and stops to look at him.

NEAL

What are you doing?

KEVIN

(caught)

What does it look like I'm doing? Practicing for winter.

NEAL

You're even weirder than I thought.

KEVIN

So sue me, I'm nervous. It's getting dark out there. Where do you think she'll appear?

NEAL

I don't even know if she will come back.

VICKIE

(entering from the kitchen carrying a platter of snacks.)

She'll come back. She's just got to.

NEAL

We don't know that. And it would be better for everyone if she didn't. [Do] You hear me, Vickie? It would be better.

KEVIN

What did she look like?

NEAL

A little girl.

KEVIN

I mean what was she wearing?

VICKIE

A sort of smock-type dress.

NEAL

Checkered.

KEVIN

You both saw the same thing?

VICKIE

Yeah, blue and yellow checkered.

KEVIN

Omigod. A real live ghost. I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait.

NEAL

I can.

KEVIN

(looking out the window)

Don't you think it's dark enough already? What are we going to do?

NEAL

Sit. And wait, I guess.

All three slowly take a seat and wait.

KEVIN

(whispering to Vickie)

Maybe we should turn off the lights. I thought you said she...

NEAL

(pointedly)

Maybe, we should be quiet.

KEVIN

Oh, it's just I'm so nervous.

NEAL

Shhhhh.

(MORE)

NEAL (CONT'D)
(on Vickie's look)

Please.

All three wait again in silence.

Does it always take... ?

KEVIN

Shhhhh.

NEAL AND VICKIE

They wait some more, then...

Mommy?

ANGIE'S VOICE

Angie?

VICKIE
(jumping up with
Neal)

It's her.

(grabbing Neal's
hand)

What? What? What's her?

KEVIN
(jumping up, actually
scared)

Mommy?

ANGIE'S VOICE

They can't locate where her voice is coming
from.

Mommy?

ANGIE'S VOICE
(from upstairs)

She's upstairs.

VICKIE
(bolting from her
seat)

What? Who? Where?

KEVIN

Vickie, go easy.

NEAL

Vickie and Neal move to the base of the stairs
and start up slowly. Kevin is right behind.

I'm coming too.

KEVIN

VICKIE
No. Stay here.

KEVIN
You've got to be kidding. You're not leaving me down here
by myself.

VICKIE
You might scare her.

KEVIN
Scare her? You're scaring me.

NEAL
Okay, but just let Vickie handle it first. She's...

ANGIE'S VOICE
Mommy?

Vickie and Neal rush up the stairs, but Vickie
motions for Neal and Kevin to stay out of
sight in the hallway as she steps through the
open doorway of the bedroom.

VICKIE
Angie? Angie, I'm here, baby.

KEVIN
(whispering to Neal)
Who's she talking to?

ANGIE
I want my mommy.

VICKIE
I know, and I want to help you.

ANGIE
I'm thirsty.

NEAL
(answering Kevin)
Angie.

VICKIE
(slowly sitting
down beside the
child)
I'm sorry. I think we can take care of that.
(pulling the child
into her arms)
Neal, she's thirsty.

NEAL races down the stairs to get water,
scaring Kevin to death who races after him.

KEVIN
Where are you going?

She's thirsty.

NEAL

Who?

KEVIN

Angie.

NEAL

KEVIN
(running down after
Neal)
What are you talking about? Ghost can't drink.

Where am I?

ANGIE

VICKIE
You're here. With us. Everything's okay.

Downstairs, we can hear Neal banging around
in the kitchen, and then, he bursts out of
the kitchen, almost knocking Kevin down as he
rushes out with an armful of things to drink.

NEAL
(on Kevin's look)
I don't know what she likes.

KEVIN
(racing back up the
stairs following
Neal)
Wait for me.

Neal almost stumbles and spills the water,
but makes it to the bedroom where he slows
down before cautiously stepping into the room.
Even then, his entrance startles Angie and
frightens her.

VICKIE
Angie, it's okay. It's just Daddy bringing you...
(looking at the
armload of choices
and then at Neal
as she takes a
bottle of water)
...water.

ANGIE
No, no, not Daddy.

VICKIE
(calming Angie.)
It's okay. It's okay. Not Daddy. Just Neal.

Angie looks at Neal closely.

VICKIE

He won't hurt you. See.

Suddenly, Angie cries out again as Kevin makes it into the room.

VICKIE

Whoa, Whoa, Whoa, Whoa. That's our friend, Kevin. He's okay. He won't hurt you either. You'll like him.

Angie peers at Kevin tentatively.

KEVIN

(quietly to Neal)

I don't see anything. Where is she?

NEAL

On the bed.

KEVIN

I know Vickie's on the bed, but where is the little ghostie?

VICKIE

(offering Angie the water, helping her drink)

Better?

ANGIE

Uhuh.

KEVIN

(quietly to Neal)

What the fuck?

NEAL

What?

KEVIN

The water. Where'd it go?

NEAL

Angie drank it.

Kevin looks at Neal like he's crazy

VICKIE

How about I turn on the light? We don't have to, if you don't want to.

KEVIN

Yeah, more light. Works for me.

ANGIE

I don't like the dark. It scares me.

KEVIN

What she say? What she say?

The bedside light is clicked on, and for the first time, we see Angie in more than just subdued light. The child is beautiful and frail with large trusting eyes. She smiles up at Vickie. Kevin looks around, even behind the door.

VICKIE

Don't you worry Baby, you're safe now.

Both Vickie and Neal slowly sink down to sit on the bed. Vickie looks at Neal and reaches for his hand.

KEVIN

Excuse me. Am I missing something here?

Just then, downstairs, **the lights start flickering and then go off. Wind whips the curtains upstairs and downstairs and a low groan comes from deep within the house.** Everybody, including Kevin hears this and reacts.

KEVIN

Holy crap, what's that?

Angie screams and cowers in Vickie's arms as the light in their room starts flickering

VICKIE

What's going on? Something's scaring her.

KEVIN

Her?

Neal protectively shields both of them as all three look out into the darkness. Kevin doesn't know what to do.

NEAL

I've got you. Nothing's going to...

Something falls over downstairs with a crash. Angie screams!

NEAL

(suddenly remembering
and dashing out
and into their
bedroom)

My revolver. The bedroom.

VICKIE

Neal, don't.

KEVIN

Gun? Jesus, what's with... ? Is he a Republican?

Neal races back in slamming the door and returns to the bed. He now holds a revolver.

KEVIN

You know, I don't think I'm cut out to be a ghost buster. It's miles past my comfort zone. What say, I see you guys in the morning? Or maybe next year?

Not waiting for a response, Kevin races out of the room and then, faced with the darkness downstairs, stops at the head of the stairs and starts easing his way down the dark staircase.

KEVIN

(to anything that might have made the noise)

Okay, if anybody's down here, I'm just passing through. Like greased corn through a goose -- zip, zip, zip.

Suddenly, **the cellar door slams open** in the darkness, making him jump, but freezing him on the steps.

What he sees in the glow of the cellar light is SOMETHING DARK rising up and turning to reach for him

KEVIN

Aw... Shit!

Kevin doesn't know whether to run for the front door or back up the stairs. When he decides, he practically flies back up the stairs screaming.

KEVIN

(screaming to Neal inside the room)

Don't shoot!!! Don't shoot!

Racing inside the room, he slams the door behind him.

The DARK SHAPE dissolves back into the darkness.

KEVIN

If she's up here, what the fuck is that down there?

NEAL

Where?

Kevin gets as far away from the door as possible. He's scared.

Down there!
KEVIN

Stay here.
NEAL
(with his gun
outstretched)

No!
ANGIE, VICKIE AND KEVIN

It's okay.
NEAL

What do you mean it's okay? It's not okay. That thing could
be right outside the door.
KEVIN

Neal grabs a lamp with his other hand.

Think bigger. Much bigger.
KEVIN
(as Neal reaches
for the chair
Kevin's behind)

Not my chair.

Come on. When I count three.
NEAL
(to Kevin)