

Hugs

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EXT. SUBURBS -- DAY

The sun shines on this part of the suburbs where lawns are meticulously kept green and lush. We get CLOSER to--

EXT. JONES' HOUSE -- DAY

--which is an exact duplicate of all the houses surrounding it.

SPENCE (V.O.)
Will I ever see him again, mama?

LARA (V.O.)
Of course, honey.

SPENCE (V.O.)
When?

LARA (V.O.)
Um... not for a long time, sweet heart.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - LONG HALL

The hall is dark but in the distance, a light shines from a bedroom. We move CLOSER to...

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM

LARA (late 20s), is kneeling by her son, SPENCE (about 10), overlooking a shoe box. He shows that he's been crying.

SPENCE
Why did he have to die, mama?

LARA
It's nature's way of doing things, sweetie. Pets get old and then they go away, so that they can become renewed. Don't you want to see him as a new bunny?

He nods slightly.

LARA (CONT'D)
This is for the best. Now, let's cover him up and bury him. Ok?

He nods reluctantly.

SPENCE
All right.

She covers the shoe box then finishes it by putting a nice red bow atop the box.

LARA
Are you ready?

He thinks about it then nods.

LARA (CONT'D)
Let's go.

They exit.

EXT. JONES' HOUSE - BACKYARD -- DAY

We move in CLOSER to where they've dug a shallow hole to bury the bunny.

SPENCE
"Now I lay me down to sleep. I
pray my soul, the Lord to keep.
And if I die before I wake, I
pray my soul, the Lord to take.
Amen."

Lara, moved by her son's prayer, fills the hole in. She pats the mound down flat.

LARA
Amen.

He lays his head on her shoulder as she sweetly strokes through his hair.

LARA (CONT'D)
You know what always makes me
feel better when I'm sad?

He shakes his head.

LARA (CONT'D)
Ice cream! Would you like that?

SPENCE
Yeah!

LARA
Come on.

They head back inside.

We see that the makeshift grave has a makeshift tombstone made out of cardboard and written in crayon by a child we read: "HUGS"

CREDITS START and ENDS.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT OF THE JONES' HOUSE -- NIGHT

There are TWO ROOMS LIT: one upstairs and one downstairs.

SUPER: A WEEK LATER

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM

At one table, Spence has an extensive collection of "ZAP - THE BOY WIZARD" books and memorabilia.

Spence is with a flashlight under the covers.

SPENCE (O.S.)

"The old wizard said to Zap, 'To awaken the dead, it is very important to concentrate on the that one single soul to...'"

UNDER THE COVERS

Spence is reading a book: "SECRETS OF ZAP: THE BOY WIZARD"

SPENCE (CONT'D)

"...be raised, and chant the following magic words, over and over again: 'Spra mi nu tu! Mon et in sai! Oi ma ten ah!' The boy wizard chanted the words under his breath in order to memorize it. The old wizard continued, 'But beware, do not stop the chant until the soul is fully recovered from death or there will be severe consequences. Do you understand? 'Yes I do,' Zap said."

Spence stops reading and thinks.

SPENCE (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Hm!

He quickly throws the covers off of him, turns off flashlight then jumps out of bed and runs to the window facing the backyard below.

LARA (O.S.)

Spence, honey. It's bedtime!

SPENCE
Just a second, mom!

He opens the window and from his vantage point, he can see--
THE BACKYARD. The moon is full.

SPENCE (CONT'D)
Soon we're gonna be together again,
Hugs!

Spence closes his eyes tightly.

SPENCE (CONT'D)
(chants)
Spra mi nu tu! Mon et in sai! Oi
ma ten ah!

EXT. JONES' HOUSE - BACKYARD - BUNNY'S GRAVE -- NIGHT

The small mound of dirt begins to quiver slightly.

INTERCUT

SPENCE
(chants louder)
Spra mi nu tu! Mon et in sai! Oi
ma ten ah!

The mound shakes more violently.

SPENCE (CONT'D)
(even louder)
Spra mi nu tu! Mon et in sai! Oi
ma ten ah!

The mound is about to erupt!

SPENCE (CONT'D)
(chants)
Spra mi nu tu! Mon et...

Lara barges in, surprising Spence.

END INTERCUT

She stands at the doorway very disappointed.

LARA
What are you doing?! I told you
it's bedtime!

Spence is upset.

SPENCE
Mom! You don't understand! I have
to finish ...!

LARA
Young man! Bed! Now!

SPENCE
But mom!

LARA
Now!

He feels like crying as he makes his way toward bed. He angrily gets under the covers.

LARA (CONT'D)
What's gotten into you?

SPENCE
You don't realize...

She presses her finger to his lips.

LARA
No more. It's bedtime.

She hits the light switch and the room dark--except for the portion in which the moonlight is streaming through the window.

LARA (CONT'D)
Good night, honey.

He doesn't like the idea.

SPENCE
Good night.

She closes the door. He lays still for awhile listening to the footsteps of his mother walking away. When the coast is clear, he hurriedly rises and looks out the window again.

EXT. JONES' HOUSE - BACKYARD - BUNNY'S GRAVE

The small grave site is silent; the full moon is shining all over it.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM

Spence is disappointed. He closes the window and gets back to bed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT OF THE JONES' HOUSE -- NIGHT

SUPER: A couple of hours later.

This time, two upstairs lights are on.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - BATHROOM

Lara is enjoying a relaxing bubble bath, lit by a lot of aromatic candles. She has her eyes covered with a rag and listens to music on her Ipod.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM

Spence is sound asleep. Moonlight shines through the window,

EXT. JONES' HOUSE - BACKYARD - BUNNY'S GRAVE

We move close to the small makeshift grave and notice the dirt bubbling from beneath as if someone or something is trying to push it upward.

The rhythm increases until suddenly the dirt explodes outward leaving the grave uncovered. A GREEN PULSATING LIGHT emanates from below. The light fades. Something crawls out. It's too dark to see what it is. It's making this funny high frequency growls and screeches. We can make out that it's walking on its hind legs and has a limp. It's making its way toward the back door of the house.

As it reaches the back door, it knows to push through the pet door which was always left unlocked.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - KITCHEN --NIGHT

The small intruder, still too dark to make it out, continues through the kitchen leaving a trail of dirt and tiny, muddy footsteps. It growls and screeches.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - BATHROOM

Lara is asleep.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - LONG HALL

The candles in the bathroom illuminate the far end of the hall. In the dark foreground, the small creature crosses the hall making its way to Spence's room, growling and screeching.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM

Spence is sleeping soundly.

The door knob turns.

The light seeping through the bottom of the door reveals the creature landing on its feet. It must've turned the knob then jumped. The door slowly opens.

Spence is awakened by the squeaking of the door which is to his back. He turns his head.

SPENCE

Mom?

He can see that the door is wide opened.

SPENCE (CONT'D)

Mom?

INT. JONES' HOUSE - BATHROOM

She is out cold.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM

Spence is frightened. He hears a high-pitched, fast breathing.

SPENCE

Who's there?

Spence grabs his flashlight under the pillow and switches it on. He sweeps the room with the light, quickly moving it side to side, as if he can ward off evil with it. He is startled by the weird breathing. It's coming from the foot of the bed. He slowly points the light to...

SHOCK CUT

Its HUGS! Decomposed! Its fur has been mostly eaten away. One eye is dangling and a several maggots wiggle in and out of the left nostril.

He screams and drops the flashlight then frantically runs into his closet to hide. He slams the door shut.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM - CLOSET

Spence cringes in the corner, shaking like a leaf.

The only light offered is the moonlight coming through the small frame of a wooden louver at the bottom of the door. He can still hear Hugs breathing out there.

It sounds like it's getting closer and closer. Spence's eyes widen. It comes closer and closer and closer until...

Hugs begins to gnaw its way into the closet. Spence screams.

SPENCE

Mom! Mom!

INT. JONES' HOUSE - BATHROOM

Lara jumps out of her heavy slumber. She pulls the rag off her eyes and squints--the light bothers her.

LARA

What? Spence?

She doesn't know why but she gets out of the tub, puts on her white robe and heads out.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - LONG HALL

Lara resumes down the hall and notices the tiny, muddy footprints.

SPENCE (O.S.)

(screams)

Mom!

LARA

Spence!

She hurriedly enters his bedroom...

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM

...and turns the light on.

LARA

Are you having another night...

She's shocked. An ugly creature is gnawing its way into the closet.

SPENCE (O.S.)

Mom!

LARA

Oh my god!

She grabs a baseball bat, runs toward Hugs and bats it away. Hugs lands on top of the table under the window.

Laura yells at it then races toward it and bats it out the window. It screeches in pain.

She quickly opens the closet door, grabs Spence and races out with him.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - LONG HALL

They rush pass the hallway and to the stairs leading down.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - DEN --NIGHT

With Spence in one hand, she enters the den, grabs her cell phone and rushes out the front door.

EXT. JONES' HOUSE - FRONT YARD -- NIGHT

As they rush into the middle of the street, she dials 911 on her cellphone.

LARA

Yes! Please, send somebody to 891 Prius Lane, quickly! I think we have a wild animal in our house. It almost bit my son and myself. Please hurry! Yes. Okay.

She hangs up the phone and looks down to her son. He's scared and crying.

SPENCE

This is my fault, momma. I brought Hugs back to life. I was reading from my boy wizard books and I brought him back to life.

She kneels before him, embraces him tightly then looks into his eyes.

LARA

No, no, sweetie. That wasn't Hugs. That was some kind of wild animal-- a rabid squirrel, a rabid possum or something. It got into the house somehow.

SPENCE

My books. The Boy Wizard... I chanted something...

LARA

Honey. Believe me. Those books are "make believe". They're not real. Okay? It was just a wild animal. A wild animal.

She smiles then embraces him again.

During that conversation, Hugs was quietly climbing up her back.

LARA (CONT'D)
Nothing is going to hurt you.

Then, she feels this thing clinging on to her hair but before she can react, Hugs bites her.

She screams pushing Spence away. She spins and spins, trying to get it off her.

Just then, a POLICE CRUISER arrives.

POLICE 1 immediately exits the vehicle and sees a frantic woman spinning and yelling.

LARA (CONT'D)
Aahhh!!

POLICE 1
What?! What's going on?!

Lara is frantic.

LARA
Get it off! Get it off!

He "unholsters" the gun.

Finally, she grabs the creature with one hand and in her adrenaline induced state, she manages to take a long hard look at it.

The half-dead rabbit opens its mouth causing several maggots to fall to the ground.

LARA (CONT'D)
Oh my god! It can't be!

She tosses it in disgust.

Hugs manages to get up again and screeches, making its way to Spence. But before it can take another step, its head explodes. The decapitated Hugs manages to take several steps forward but eventually, it falls dead.

POLICE 1
Shit! What was that?

Exhausted, Laura grabs Spence and embraces him, even tighter.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JONES' HOUSE -- DAY

The sun shines again.

INT. JONES' HOUSE - SPENCE'S BEDROOM

Lara walks into the room talking into the phone.

LARA

Mom, Spence and I do not need a psychiatrist. We didn't dream this.

She pauses to listen.

LARA (CONT'D)

No. I can't explain it. Let's just say that we got through it. Okay? Anyway, he needed a little time off so I sent him to see his father up north.

She peers over to the table where Spence keeps his "Boy Wizard" collection.

LARA (CONT'D)

Yes, mother. I know. Leave that up to me.

She grabs the garbage can, and places it in front of her.

LARA (CONT'D)

I understand. Talk later. Bye, mom.

She hangs up the phone. Slowly, She picks up on of the books and reads the cover.

LARA (CONT'D)

"Secrets of Zap: The Boy Wizard."

She opens the book to where the bookmark is then begins reads:

LARA (CONT'D)

Spra mi nu tu! Mon et in ...

She sucks on her teeth.

LARA (CONT'D)

What am I doing? This is ridiculous.

She tosses the book into the garbage can.

More bad more "Wizard" memorabilia gets tossed in one by one.

EXT. JONES' HOUSE - BACKYARD -- DAY

One by one, many of Spence's former pets are rising from their graves. Hamsters, turtles, birds and other bunnies. All slowly making their way to the house.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END