



UNDER THE BED

Written by

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

It is the dead of night.

The door gets pushed open.

ZOOEY stumbles sleepily into her father's room. She is six.

ZOOEY

Daaaaaad.

WILLIAM grumbles into a pillow.

CAROLINE forces herself to sit up.

CAROLINE

What's wrong, Zooey?

ZOOEY

I'm not talking to you, *Carol*.

WILLIAM

Be nice, Zooey.

ZOOEY

Daaaaaaaaaad.

Now William forces himself to sit up.

WILLIAM

What is it, Bug?

ZOOEY

There's a monster under my bed.

WILLIAM

What kind of monster?

ZOOEY

I don't know. He wasn't pacific.

WILLIAM

Specific. Go ask him what kind of monster he is.

ZOOEY

Why.

WILLIAM

Because it's the polite thing to do. And then tell him you'll talk to him tomorrow and go back to bed.

ZOOEY
(whispers)
But he's scary.

WILLIAM
(whispers)
Tell him I'm scarier.

Zooey smiles.

CAROLINE
You can try being friends with him.
If he looks scary maybe give him
some clothes to wear so he looks
nice.

Zooey glares at Caroline.

ZOOEY
No one likes you or your pins,
Carol.

CAROLINE
What pins?

WILLIAM
Zooey! Go to bed, now!

ZOOEY
Yes, sir.

She grumbles her way out the door.

But not without a push to make sure the door stays open.

CAROLINE
What's a pin?

WILLIAM
Opinion.

CAROLINE
Oh. Did she hear Tessa say that?

WILLIAM
Mhmm. But I like you and your pins.

He pulls her back to bed.

Buries his face in the pillow.

CAROLINE
I never should have told them my
pet peeve was being called Carol.

William chuckles.

WILLIAM
Yeah, that was a rookie move. Go
back to sleep.

But Caroline stares at the ceiling.

CAROLINE
I'm awake now.

WILLIAM
Today will be better.

She laughs.

No it won't.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

It's not even 6am yet.

Caroline reaches for her jogging shoes only to find-
The laces are gone.

CAROLINE
Those little bitches.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - EARLY MORNING

With William's thick black laces, Caroline jogs.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Caroline is preparing breakfast.

TESSA, the older daughter, watches her.

TESSA
What are you doing, *Carol*.

CAROLINE
I'm making you breakfast.

TESSA
I don't want breakfast.

CAROLINE
Then I'm making myself breakfast.

TESSA

If you eat all those pancakes
you're going to get fat. Er.

CAROLINE

Are we going to do this every
morning, Tessa?

TESSA

That depends, *Carol*.

CAROLINE

On what?

TESSA

Are you going to get fat from
eating your pancakes every morning?

Caroline laughs.

CAROLINE

I'm not a bad guy. People have been
known to enjoy my company.

TESSA

Then go move in with them.

CAROLINE

Have you ever seen *The Sound of
Music*?

TESSA

Everyone has seen *The Sound of
Music*.

CAROLINE

Good. Then know this: I am going to
Maria von Trapp the crap out of you
girls.

TESSA

I don't even know what that means.

CAROLINE

I just moved in and you hate me,
but soon enough, we'll be cutting
up curtains and singing about
goats.

TESSA

If you touch my curtains, I'll cut
you.

Caroline laughs again.

CAROLINE
Dude. Work with me here.

TESSA
Dude. No.

She walks away, disgusted like only a nine year-old can.

TESSA (CONT'D)
Your pancakes are burning. *Carol*.

Caroline lets them burn.

EXT. OFFICE PARK GARDEN - DAY

Caroline and William have lunch together.

WILLIAM
I'll talk to them about the shoes.

CAROLINE
No, dumbass. You bring it up, then
I'm a rat.

WILLIAM
You are a rat.

CAROLINE
I am not a rat.

WILLIAM
Just because they didn't catch you
being a rat, doesn't mean you're
not a rat.

Caroline considers this.

CAROLINE
Dammit.
(then realizing)
Don't-

WILLIAM
But a pretty rat.

CAROLINE
Ugh that's so gross.

WILLIAM
It could be worse.

CAROLINE
How?

WILLIAM
...A sexy rat.

CAROLINE
Please stop.

WILLIAM
You're so cute when you're
disgusted.

CAROLINE
You disappoint me daily.

WILLIAM
I literally warned you about that.

CAROLINE
That's true. You did say, hey, if
we do this, I will disappoint you
daily.

WILLIAM
I thought it wise to be very up-
front with what you were getting
yourself into.

CAROLINE
I just want to be the cool stepmom.

WILLIAM
There are no "cool" stepmoms. There
are horror films about stepmoms.
There's not like, cool stepmom
movies.

CAROLINE
What about the movie called
Stepmom?

WILLIAM
I wasn't counting that.

CAROLINE
Why?

WILLIAM
Because then my argument wouldn't
work and you'd win.

CAROLINE
Makes sense.

WILLIAM
And I haven't seen it.

CAROLINE
I haven't either. I just assume
Julia Roberts isn't murdering her
step-kids.

WILLIAM
I would watch the shit out of that
though.

CAROLINE
Oh my God me too.

They smile at each other.

WILLIAM
Hey. Just... don't forget how much
I appreciate you. I know they're
tough.

CAROLINE
So tough.

WILLIAM
But I hope that me being so hot
makes up for it.

CAROLINE
So hot.

WILLIAM
But seriously. Thanks for giving me
and my kids a shot. I'll try to
disappoint you only weekly if I
can.

CAROLINE
Aw could you? That would make our
relationship literally seven times
less shitty.

WILLIAM
I'll see what I can do. But, you'll
probably be disappointed.

She rests her head on his shoulder.

CAROLINE
I don't want to go back to work.

WILLIAM
Me neither. Let's play hookie.

CAROLINE
Deal.

They kiss each other goodbye, and walk to their separate office buildings.

INT. ZOOEY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

The teacher, ya know... teaches.

TEACHER

And what are some interesting facts about Utah?

Zooey is the only one to raise her hand.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Yes, Zooey.

ZOOEY

It has six election college votes.

TEACHER

Do you mean *electoral* college votes?

ZOOEY

Who knows.

TEACHER

I'm not sure if that's true or not, but if it is, that's a great fact to know-

ZOOEY

Also men can marry a lot of women there but women can only have one husband.

The teacher laughs. Some of the kids laugh.

TEACHER

That's *definitely* not true, Zooey.

ZOOEY

That's why my mommy moved there.

The teacher is silent.

TEACHER

Huh.

CUT TO:

NATURALLY:

Caroline is laughing when the teacher shares this with her.

CAROLINE

Oh my God.

TEACHER

I thought you should know.

CAROLINE

No, I'm glad you told me. Because
it's hilarious.

TEACHER

Is she... Mormon?

CAROLINE

What? No. She's just a-
(voice drops)
W-h-o-r-e.

The teacher suppresses a laugh.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

But really, who moves to Utah?

TEACHER

Who leaves their daughters?

Caroline looks at her.

CAROLINE

That part I completely understand.

INT. CAROLINE'S CAR - DAY**CASE IN POINT:**

TESSA

Why do we have to listen to the
censored songs?!

They are listening to censored hip hop while Caroline drives.

CAROLINE

Because those words aren't meant
for your ears. They're meant for
mine. And even I'm not allowed to
say some of those words.

TESSA

Did you know it's actually racist
to tell black people to not say
that word? If they can say it, I
can hear it.

Caroline sighs with step-motherly angst.

CAROLINE

Tessa, I love you, but that's the
stupidest thing you've ever said.

Tessa grins, having completed her objective.

TESSA

I'm gonna tell Dad you said that.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

WILLIAM

I 100% agree with Caroline.

CAROLINE

Don't agree with me!

TESSA

Don't agree with her!

ZOOEY

Agree with me!

TESSA

Zooey, you're too little to have
this conversation!

ZOOEY

YOUR BOOBS ARE TOO LITTLE!

TESSA

YOUR DICK IS TOO LITTLE!

William and Caroline both try desperately not to laugh.

ZOOEY

Tessa said the d word!

WILLIAM

I heard. The whole neighborhood
heard.

TESSA

I'm not sorry. I know I won because you went and whined to Dad because you didn't have a better comeback-

WILLIAM

Okay, okay, girls! Tessa, you're a white girl. Don't be the white girl that thinks it's okay to say the words they use in rap songs. And also, don't say the d word-

TESSA

You laughed-

WILLIAM

That doesn't mean it's funny. And Zooey, don't say that about your sister.

ZOOEY

Are you saying I'm wrong?

WILLIAM

Zooey, enough! Come on, guys. We're better than this. We got dealt a rough hand. We're trying to make it work.

ZOOEY

I wanna go to Utah!

WILLIAM

You can go to Utah for Sundance.

ZOOEY

When is Sundance?

WILLIAM

After I'm dead.

Zooey erupts and stands up dramatically.

ZOOEY

I WANNA SEE MOM! I HATE IT HERE.
MR. SLEEPY PANTS IS MY ONLY FRIEND!

WILLIAM

Zooey, sit down!

ZOOEY

YOU SIT DOWN!

WILLIAM
I AM SEATED!

She charges away. The family sits in stunned silence.

TESSA
Can I go to my room too?

WILLIAM
I don't know. Sure.

Tessa gets up and leaves the table too.

William bangs his head on the table.

CAROLINE
At least she didn't tell me my
boobs are too small.

William can't help but laugh without raising his head.

And then he does raise his head.

WILLIAM
What the hell is Mr. Sleepy Pants?

CAROLINE
I don't know. Some toy?

WILLIAM
Sounds like a stupid ass toy.

INT. TESSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tessa sits on her bed with headphones, presumably listening to inappropriate music.

Along her wall, a small panel on the wall opens, revealing a Zooey sized entrance between the walls to Zooey's room.

Zooey peers into her sister's room.

ZOOEY
Tessa?

TESSA
What.

ZOOEY
I'm sorry for what I said about
your boobs.

Tessa ignores her sister.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
You wanna come play dress up with us?

TESSA
Leave me alone, Zooey.

ZOOEY
But we'll have fun!

TESSA
Ask Caroline to have fun with you.

Zooey pouts and turns back to her room.

ZOOEY
She's being difficult.

And then covers the opening back up.

Tessa glares at the panel and-

INT. GARAGE - TWO MINUTES LATER

Tessa pulls a **NAIL GUN** out of a tool drawer proudly.

INT. KITCHEN - ONE MINUTE LATER

Tessa happily walks with the nail gun out of the garage and back towards her room.

William walks past her and plucks it from her hand with ease.

WILLIAM
Nnnnnnnnope.

TESSA
Why?! I wanna shut the tunnel!

WILLIAM
Why?

TESSA
She's so annoyyyyyying.

Williams laughs and sets the nail gun on the counter.

WILLIAM
You know how much Zo' looks up to you. That's a lot of power you wield.

TESSA
I'd rather wield a nail gun.

WILLIAM
Or, instead, just think about how
you can use that power to your
advantage.

Tessa considers.

TESSA
Like I could make her my maid.

William considers.

WILLIAM
Maybe not "maid". Maybe sidekick?

TESSA
Ehhh.

WILLIAM
Look Tee, just be my right hand
girl for a little bit, okay? I'll
make it up to you.

TESSA
With what?

WILLIAM
What do you want?

TESSA
I want to close the tunnel!

WILLIAM
We'll talk. What else?

Tessa thinks about it.

TESSA
I'm gonna think about it.

She trudges back to her room.

TESSA (CONT'D)
But it'll cost you!

WILLIAM
I'm sure it will!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The TV is on. William works on his laptop while Caroline lays across the couch, legs in his lap while she too types.

CAROLINE
We should go on a vacation.

WILLIAM
Yeah?

CAROLINE
Yeah. Maybe Disney?

WILLIAM
That sounds stressful.

CAROLINE
It's not for us.

WILLIAM
You can't buy their love.

CAROLINE
They're little girls. I bet money
and gifts go a long way.

WILLIAM
Their mom didn't like them to watch
Disney movies. Didn't think they
were feminist enough.

CAROLINE
That's like the devil saying don't
watch The Exorcist, it's too
demony.

WILLIAM
Demony isn't a word.

CAROLINE
Their mother isn't a feminist.

WILLIAM
I don't think that's how feminism
works.

CAROLINE
You think feminism is that whenever
two attractive women are in the
same room, they want to make out.

WILLIAM
...That's not true at all.

CAROLINE

Look man, I don't even know how *this* works. I'm making it up as I go. I just know I am very tired.

He squeezes her feet appreciatively.

WILLIAM

Let's go to Disney.

CAROLINE

Really?

WILLIAM

Yeah. You should go tell them.

CAROLINE

Now?

WILLIAM

Sure.

CAROLINE

That's a really unsatisfying set-up and payoff. I want to savor my impending victory for a few days. Make a real meal of it.

WILLIAM

The victory where you pay several grand for them to maybe like you.

CAROLINE

Bitch, we are so splitting that.

He laughs.

WILLIAM

Can you check and make sure they're ready for bed. Since you are literally on top of me.

CAROLINE

What will you give me for it?

WILLIAM

I'll split the price of Florida with you.

CAROLINE

Well... Shit. I have no way to argue that.

WILLIAM

Boom.

She puts her bare feet on his face. He continues typing.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

This doesn't bother me.

CAROLINE

Whatever.

She gets up and walks away to check on the girls.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Caroline sees that the lights are off in Zooey's room. She slowly cracks the door open-

Zooey is sitting under the covers, whispering.

Caroline smiles and steps in to the room to hear better and-

Her bare foot steps down hard on a **TINY METAL JACK**.

She **SCREAMS** and falls backwards into the hallway.

Zooey throws the covers off of her, totally freaked out as-

Caroline sees-

Metal jacks have been placed all over the floor, perfectly spaced out.

Tears in her eyes, Caroline pulls the jack out of her foot.

William and Tessa emerge in the hallway after the commotion.

Caroline holds the bloody jack in her hand and looks at Zooey.

CAROLINE

What the-

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

WILLIAM

You can't say that word in front of her.

CAROLINE

I know. I'm so sorry.

WILLIAM

And right after our censorship
talk.

He's washing her foot in the tub.

CAROLINE

That was more about racial words,
but I agree. I effed up. I just
haven't been a mom before.

WILLIAM

I know. I'm not mad.

CAROLINE

Are you just disappointed?

He smiles and leans his head against hers.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Zooey walks beside Caroline on their way into her school.

She watches Caroline limp. Caroline doesn't speak to her.

They reach the entrance in silence.

CAROLINE

Got everything-

ZOOEY

You can't be mad at me, it wasn't
my fault.

Caroline sighs.

CAROLINE

I just want to be your friend. It
really hurts.

ZOOEY

Your heart?

Caroline almost smiles.

CAROLINE

I meant my foot, but sure.

She kneels down so they're eye level.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
You don't have to cover your floor
in security precautions from me,
alright?

ZOOEY
But it wasn't me-

CAROLINE
I don't care who it was-

ZOOEY
But it wasn't me!

Caroline stands up.

CAROLINE
Have a good day at school.

Zooey resigns from arguing.

ZOOEY
Bye, Caroline.

And they walk away from each other.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Caroline is reading a website about how to be a supercool
stepmom.

There is a picture of a woman with a little girl laughing in
her arms.

Caroline frowns.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Caroline sits in her car outside their house. The radio
plays.

It is taking her a long time to muster to courage the go
inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

William peeks outside the blinds.

Sees her still in the car.

He hears the girls laughing amongst themselves upstairs.

He looks up towards them, then back outside to find-
Caroline walking towards the house.

He exhales.

She enters the house and sees him.

CAROLINE
Yo-

WILLIAM
Hey-

CAROLINE
Hold on a sec, I gotta talk to
Zooey.

WILLIAM
Okay.

As she trudges up the stairs-

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Don't swear!

CAROLINE (O.S.)
HA HA.

INT. ZOOEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Caroline knocks at the door-

CAROLINE
Hey Zo'?

She opens it.

Zooey and Tessa are sitting at a little table with their
backs towards Caroline.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Hey Tessa. Listen, Zooey, I just
wanted to say I'm sorry for this
morn-

From the next room, Tessa emerges and walks past Caroline
without saying a word.

Confused, Caroline watches her go.

Her eyes look back into Zooey's room.

And who she thought was Tessa.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Zooey. Who's your friend?

Without turning around-

ZOOEY
Mr. Sleepy Pants.

And that's when her friend turns around.

It is wearing her clothes.

It wears a wig.

It has eyes the size of fists.

Its skin is the color of pebbles.

Its mouth too long and filled with little triangle teeth.

It is decidedly not human.

And it smiles.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
HI.

Caroline gasps.

The creature returns to its coloring book.

Caroline tries to gather her breath-

Tries to say-

CAROLINE
...ZO... ZO...

But nothing comes out.

Until finally-

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
ZOOEY!

They both look at her.

The creature looking almost frightened of Caroline as-

It leaps up from its chair and-

Squeezes itself under the bed-

Caroline rushes in and grabs Zooey, pulling her out of the room as-

William runs upstairs.

WILLIAM
What is it?!

He sees Caroline's face and is terrified.

CAROLINE
Under the bed.

He nods, believing her emphatically.

ZOOEY
Let go of me-

Caroline does not.

William enters the room and-

After psyching himself up for a second-

Lifts the bed to look underneath it and-

Then lowers it again.

Catches his breath.

WILLIAM
Was it a spider?

CAROLINE
What?

WILLIAM
There's nothing under here.

Caroline, confused, rushes to William's side-

Nervously crouches down and looks but-

Sure enough, there is nothing there.

She hurries to the closet on the other side of the bed.
Throws it open and searches.

Nothing.

She moves to the window.

Opens it and looks outside.

It's raining, but besides that-
Nothing.

She turns back to the family.
Who all watch her uneasily.
She looks to Zooey.

CAROLINE
What was that thing?

Zooey sighs with annoyance.

ZOOEY
I told you. It's Mr. Sleepy Pants.

Caroline stares at her.

CAROLINE
What.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

A whiskey glass is filled close to the top with, you guessed it-

WILLIAM
Whiskey.

He slides it across the counter to Caroline, who stares past it in a daze.

CAROLINE
It was terrifying. Are the girls okay?

WILLIAM
The girls are okay.

He leans on the counter.

She looks at him.

CAROLINE
You don't believe me.

WILLIAM
Do you believe you?

She gulps the booze.

CAROLINE
I have no clue. I swear I saw it.

WILLIAM
I believe you.

CAROLINE
You believe I saw something or you
believe I believe I saw something.

He offers a sympathetic smile.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Yeah. You're right.

She gulps more.

WILLIAM
What did it look like?

She thinks about it, reluctantly.

CAROLINE
It was the same size as Zooey.
Maybe a little bigger. It was
shaped... right. But everything
else was wrong.
(then)
It was like if a tumor dressed up
as a person and learned to talk.

WILLIAM
It talked?

She nods. Drinking.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
What did it say?

She shudders.

CAROLINE
"Hi."

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Tessa and Zooey are brushing their teeth.

TESSA
What did you do?

Zooey spits but nothing comes out.

ZOOEY
I swallowed the toothpaste.

TESSA
No, to Caroline.

ZOOEY
Nothing. She saw Mr. Sleepy Pants
but he got scared and ran away.

Tessa laughs.

TESSA
Whatever you did, I'm impressed.

Zooey beams proudly at her big sister's approval.

EXT. HOME - NIGHT

It is raining.

Thunder rumbles.

Aw shit.

INT. DAD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Caroline stares up at the ceiling.

William lays to her side, facing her.

WILLIAM
Are you drunk?

CAROLINE
I don't think there's enough
alcohol to make me drunk.

WILLIAM
You drank three full glasses of
whiskey.

CAROLINE
I know.

She looks at him.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
It was so real.

WILLIAM
Maybe it's just-

CAROLINE
Family related stress?

WILLIAM
I didn't say that.

CAROLINE
I know. That's what I'm thinking.
Like my brain is rejecting being a
part of... something like this
again.

A boom of thunder and-

THE POWER DIES.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
My brain, and the electricity.

WILLIAM
Ten. Nine.

CAROLINE
What are you doing?

He whispers the rest of the countdown. When he gets to three-

The door bursts open and Tessa and Zooey explode into the
room in the dark.

ZOOEY
DAD! POWER DIED!

WILLIAM
It's not dead. It's just resting.

The girls dive under the covers from the foot of the bed.

Zooey scurries up in between Caroline and William. Caroline
gets pushed to the side unceremoniously.

ZOOEY
I don't like it!

WILLIAM
It's nature. It's electricity.

ZOOEY
Electricity took the power?

WILLIAM
...I think that's how it works?
Caroline?

He asks her, hoping for science.

But Caroline's eyes are fixed solely on the doorway.

Because Tessa is standing in the doorway.

TESSA

Zooey, you're such a baby!

But Tessa is here because she's scared too.

ZOOEY

You're scared too!

(to Dad)

What if the power *never* comes back
to life?

But William is still staring at Caroline, and he's just understood what she understood a moment ago.

That Tessa is in the doorway.

And there are **FOUR** people in the bed.

William's eyes drift down to the foot of the bed where Caroline is staring.

And the **SMALL BUNDLE OF A PERSON** hiding under the blankets there.

Tessa notices. Her eyes go wide.

TESSA

Dad-

He holds up a hand for her to stop talking.

He scoots Zooey closer to Caroline.

ZOOEY

That tickles.

The figure at the foot of the bed remains undisturbed.
Trembling gently.

William looks to Caroline. She slowly reaches towards Zooey.

He counts down again silently.

WILLIAM

3.
2.
1.

Caroline **GRABS** Zooey and leaps from the bed-

ZOOEY

HEY!

She struggles but Caroline is stronger as she charges for the door as-

The figure under the blankets reacts until-

Williams gathers up the sheets in a ball-

It fights against him-

Grunting-

Until-

William balls up his fist and-

HITS the shape in the sheets.

It **SCREECHES** in pain-

William stumbles back in shock.

The sound is so high pitched it's painful to hear.

Tessa screams at the unnatural sound.

Caroline pushes her back from the door-

ZOOEY (CONT'D)

STOP! YOU'RE HURTING HIM!

The creature reacts to Zooey's voice-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

ZO-O-EY!

William and Caroline's blood turns to ice.

But it gets worse-

When it starts trying to make its way to the door-

CAROLINE

WILLIAM!

William sees the blankets hurrying away from him.

He scrambles to his feet and-

KICKS them out of the way-

Causing another **PAINFUL SCREECH**.

ZOOEY

NO!

William slides for the door as the blankets return their rush towards him and-

Grabs it closed in the hallway.

Keeping whatever the fuck that thing is on the other side.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

It runs into the door with a **THUMP**.

The girls jump.

Zooey pushes herself off of Caroline and grabs her Dad.

ZOOEY

STOP IT! YOU'RE SCARING HIM!

WILLIAM

Zooey. Who the hell is that-

ZOOEY

I TOLD YOU.

Suddenly, there is **SCRATCHING** at the door.

Like a dog.

It's free of the blankets.

TESSA

Can we shoot it?!

ZOOEY

No!

WILLIAM

What? No!

TESSA

Why not?!

WILLIAM

Because I don't own a gun!

TESSA

WHY NOT?!

Caroline rushes for the home phone but-

CAROLINE
Power's out!

TESSA
Use your cell!

CAROLINE
It's in the room!

WILLIAM
Where's yours!

TESSA
In my room!

WILLIAM
Go get it!

TESSA
I'm not going up there by myself!

CAROLINE
WE'LL GO TOGETHER-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (O.S.)
Zooooooooooooey.

They all freeze at its pathetic voice.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Zooooooooey don't leave meee!

ZOOEY
I won't-

William clasps his free hand over Zooey's mouth.

Then-

The handle starts to jiggle from the other side.

William grips it closed with his other hand, pulling hard while-

The door opens and shuts just a tiny bit as the creature struggles to open it.

Bang bang bang-

Tessa gasps in terror.

CAROLINE
Tessa, come on!

She follows Caroline into-

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They open a cabinet and pull out pans.

TESSA
What are these for?!

CAROLINE
To hit it!

TESSA
Give me a knife!

CAROLINE
YOU'RE NINE.

Tessa groans and takes the pans-

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They hurry back to William and Zooey, armed.

WILLIAM
Tessa! Take your sister!

Zooey is still trying to talk under her father's hand.

TESSA
No! She'll just scream!

Zooey nods in agreement.

The door opens again and William yanks it closed.

WILLIAM
Hey! Listen to me! We've called the
police-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (O.S.)
No you haven't!

WILLIAM
What?

But the creature doesn't respond.

There's no banging on the door anymore.

Total silence.

The family look at each other.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
(whisper)
We need Tessa's phone.

CAROLINE
We need to leave!

WILLIAM
My keys are in there!

CAROLINE
We can run!

TESSA
Why isn't it making noise anymore?

Suddenly, the lights come back on.

The family all jump in fright.

They don't see the strange creature standing behind them at the end of the hallway, in the kitchen, watching them.

Before it moves behind the cabinets to hide as-

The power dies again.

The family jump again.

TESSA (CONT'D)
I bet there's power in Utah!

WILLIAM
Not now, Tessa!
(then)
Set the pans right here. Then take the girls and wait for me outside.

CAROLINE
What are you going to do?

WILLIAM
I'm gonna beat the shit out of that thing, get my phone and keys, call the cops and drive out of here and let them deal with him.

ZOOEY
He's genre-less!

WILLIAM

What?!

ZOOEY

He told me, he's genre-less!

They all stare at her.

CAROLINE

What does that mean?

ZOOEY

He's not a boy or a girl!

TESSA

Gender-less, Zooey!

ZOOEY

WHO KNOWS!

WILLIAM

CAROLINE.

Caroline nods, sets the pans down-

Looks at Tessa.

CAROLINE

I know you hate me, but please help me on this.

TESSA

Are you kidding? Why would I want to stay here?!

CAROLINE

Thank you. Zooey.

ZOOEY

I'm not going! He's my friend!

CAROLINE

I will take you to DisneyWorld if you come with me.

ZOOEY

...

CAROLINE

I swear to God.

ZOOEY

(less conviction)
But he's my friend.

WILLIAM
I won't hurt him.

She looks at her Dad.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Not if he lets me get the phone and
keys.

ZOOEY
He will. He's so nice, Daddy, he
was just scared of the thunder,
too.

Zooey leans her head against the door.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
Please be nice to my Daddy, okay?
Don't fight. He's much taller than
you. And he has pans-

WILLIAM
Don't...
(Sighs. Then)
Caroline.

She holds her hand out for Zooey.

CAROLINE
Ready?

Tessa nods.

Zooey stares at Caroline's hand and-

William lets go of her-

Zooey runs and-

Doesn't take Caroline's hand-

But runs past.

It breaks Caroline's heart a little as-

Everything slows down.

Caroline pushes past the rejection and runs with the girls
for the front door.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

As they pass the kitchen, Zooey turns her head to see-

The **CREATURE**, huddled by the floor cabinets.

A long multi-jointed finger raised to its thin cracked lips.

Shhhhhhhhhh.

And then they've run past and-

Are out the front door.

EXT. HOME - CONTINUOUS

It's still pouring rain.

They're all barefoot.

Caroline leaves the front door open and runs the girls towards the car.

They don't live in a neighborhood.

TESSA

Now what?

CAROLINE

We wait for your dad!

TESSA

What if the midget gets him?

ZOOEY

HE'S NOT A MIDGET!

CAROLINE

THERE HE IS!

William runs from the house, keys in hand.

The car unlocks.

Caroline rushes the girls in.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

The three pile into the backseat as William gets into the driver's side.

WILLIAM

Are you guys okay?

ZOOEY

Did you hurt him?!

WILLIAM

No.

CAROLINE

No?

WILLIAM

He was hiding or something, I don't know.

He tosses Caroline her cell.

He tries to start the car and-

Nothing happens.

It doesn't even try to turn over.

TESSA

Come on, start it!

WILLIAM

I'm trying! I'm not just-
(tries again)
Sitting here being a-
(tries again)
Mime.

He stares at the steering wheel, baffled.

ZOOEY

Maybe the lightning got it.

WILLIAM

That's not how it works, Bug.

ZOOEY

Then how does it work?

WILLIAM

I don't-

TESSA SCREAMS.

The family jump.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

What is it?!

Tessa points towards the house.

And there is the creature hobbling quickly out towards them.

The size of a small child.

But it moves wrong.

Like there was an even smaller creature inside, puppeteering it.

William tries the ignition again and again and-

Nothing ever happens-

TESSA
IT'S STILL COMING!

It is.

Tessa scrambles across Caroline in terror-

But Zooey moves her face up to the window, peering out into the rain.

ZOOEY
He's magic.

Caroline tries to use the phone but-

CAROLINE
The battery is dead!

WILLIAM
No it's not! I just checked!

CAROLINE
IT'S DEAD NOW!

Suddenly-

THE DOORS UNLOCK.

As the creature approaches.

William leaps across the seat to lock the passenger door again with his fingers.

Tessa locks her door.

Caroline grabs Zooey out of the way and locks her door.

ZOOEY
HE JUST WANTS TO BE DRY!

CAROLINE
I DON'T CARE!

ZOOEY
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THE WORST!

CAROLINE
I DON'T CARE!

TESSA
WHERE'D IT GO?!

The family look.

And there is no sign of it anywhere.

Rain pounding on the roof of the car.

Until-

Caroline slowly looks towards the back of the car.

CAROLINE
(terrified)
The trunk.

She scrambles over the back seat just as-

The trunk unlatches-

Slowly starts to rise open when-

She grabs it and pulls it back closed hard.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
It's coming towards Zooey!

William abandons the driver side and reaches over to grab the lock by Zooey-

Lightning flashes.

Illuminating the creature in the dark outside.

It's the first time William has seen its face.

And has seen that, no-

TESSA
(terrified whisper)
What kind of midget is that?

WILLIAM
It's... it's not...

ZOOEY
Midget is an offensive term!

The shadow of the creature still visible beyond the window.

And then-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
(OUTSIDE)
Are you alright, Zo-o-ey?

Zooey goes to speak and-

Again-

William covers her mouth and-

That's when-

All of the car windows start to open simultaneously.

THE SUNROOF OPENS, water cascading into the car.

William tries to put the window back up but it's no use when-

Two hands reach into the car for Zooey-

Tessa screams.

Williams grabs his youngest and falls backwards onto Tessa, pulling Zooey out of the creature's grasp.

WILLIAM
RUN!

Tessa gets out of the car and runs-

William, carrying Zooey, close behind, leaving-

Caroline in the back of the car.

Unable to open the trunk from the inside.

CAROLINE
Are you shitting me?!

She stops trying to get out that way.

As dread fills her.

She turns forward.

She breathes heavily as the creature peers through the open car window at her.

They stare at each other, neither one moving.

Until:

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
I'm sorry I hurt you with my toys.
I just wanted to keep her safe.

Caroline does not respond.

Because what the fuck do you even say to that.

It continues staring at her. Studying her face.

And then, it smiles happily. *Excited* even.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
Carolow! It's me-

A flower pot **SLAMS INTO ITS HEAD-**

Knocking it away from the window.

It screeches again.

Caroline doesn't care.

She moves-

Crawling over the backseats and-

Escaping out the side door and towards-

William-

The only one waiting for her at the front door of the home as-

The creature gets back up and begins-

Galloping on all four towards the house after Caroline.

WILLIAM
FASTER!

She goes faster and-

Bursts past him-

He slams the door closed.

Locking it-

Caroline runs straight to the couch against the wall and
slides it across the door.

Without a word, they run through the rest of the house and
back-

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Into their bedroom.

Where the girls are waiting for them.

William slams the door closed and instantly turns to Zooney.

WILLIAM
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!

Zooney jumps, startled at her father's voice.

Caroline works by herself to push the TV cabinet towards the door, but it's stubborn against the carpet.

She slumps to her knees, soaking wet and out of breath.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
ANSWER ME!

CAROLINE
Will!

ZOOEY
Please don't yell at me, Daddy!

William's heart breaks.

He falls to his knees too. Reaches out for his girl.

WILLIAM
I'm sorry, Bug. I'm just really scared.

ZOOEY
Why? You told me to be his friend.

WILLIAM
What? When?

Caroline remembers.

CAROLINE
Is that why it was wearing that dress? Because I told you to give it clothes?

She nods.

ZOOEY
He was so happy he cried. He said no one was ever nice to him.
(MORE)

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
He brought me all kinds of toys and
wigs to play with.

Caroline knocks over a nearby hamper and starts drying
herself off with dirty clothes.

Her foot is bleeding again. But no one's noticed but her.

WILLIAM
But, baby, how'd he get into the
house?

ZOOEY
I told you! You never listen!

WILLIAM
I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm listening
now.

Zooey nods, appreciating this.

ZOOEY
Under the bed.

William looks at Caroline, at a loss.

TESSA
Dad...

They look at her. She's shaking.

TESSA (CONT'D)
I'm really f-f-freaking out.

WILLIAM
Hey, no, it's okay.

He wraps her up in his arms with Zooey.

Caroline sits against the door, blocking it as she puts on
socks and her running shoes.

She glances up at the family bond without her.

Focuses on tying those laces instead.

William wraps the discarded blankets from the floor around
them, drying them off.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
I'm here. I'm not gonna let
anything happen to my best girls.

Tessa buries her head into her Dad's arm.

TESSA
I'm still scared.

WILLIAM
I know.

Caroline tries to be helpful.

CAROLINE
What makes you happy?

TESSA
What?

CAROLINE
It helps you fight your fears.
Think about what makes you happy.

She does. She answers honestly.

TESSA
My mom.

Caroline rolls her eyes involuntarily.

TESSA (CONT'D)
You asked!

Caroline concedes the truth in this.

CAROLINE
I just meant, like, whiskers on
kittens and crap like that.

TESSA
Sorry.
(then)
What makes you happy?

Caroline thinks about it.

CAROLINE
Your dad.

Tessa rolls her eyes involuntarily.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
You asked.

TESSA
Whatever.

Tessa snuggles into her dad because-

TESSA (CONT'D)
You make me happy too.

WILLIAM
Aw, thanks.
(then)
What about you, Zooey?

Caroline looks to Zooey-

Who has been distracted by her father's question.

She jerks her hands out from behind her back-

From under the bed.

ZOOEY
Huh?

WILLIAM
Do I make you happy?

Caroline stares intently at the bed.

ZOOEY
Yeah!

She cuddles into him as well but-

Caroline is suspicious.

As William holds his daughters-

Caroline leans down to the floor-

So she can look under the bed.

And staring back at her are **TWO LARGE EYES.**

Watching her quietly.

She stares back in terror.

She looks up at William.

He sees her expression.

WILLIAM
Aw crap.

He hoists the girls up and runs for the door-

Caroline opens it for him as he charges by-

Seeing the creature squirm out from under the bed.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Wait! Wait!

Caroline does not.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Caroline hurries after William as he sets the girls down.

THE GIRLS
What are you doing?!

Caroline freezes when she hears-

The bedroom door open behind her.

And the patter of tiny sticky feet coming towards them.

CAROLINE
William...

TESSA
IT'S COMING!

And then it emerges from the hallway.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
I-

KA-THUNK!

A **NAIL** slams into the creature's hand-

Sending it back into the wall **HARD**.

Before it can even get a scream out-

William fires the nail gun **THREE MORE TIMES**.

Pinning the tiny creature to the wall.

It starts to cry.

ZOOEY
Nooo!

TESSA
Holy shit!

ZOOEY
Why did you do that?!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
OWWWWWWWWWWW-

William looks at Caroline.

WILLIAM
Go.

She nods-

Hoists Zooey up-

ZOOEY
PUT ME DOWN!

And heads to the door with Tessa.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
NO! I hafta help Mr. Sleepy Pants!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
I-I-it's okay Zo-o-ey! I'll be o-o-okie doke!

William crouches, staring at the bizarre little creature he's nailed to his wall.

WILLIAM
Don't talk to her, understand me?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Y-y-yes sir, Mr. Man.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Caroline reaches for the front door and swings it open-

Revealing-

The front door still closed in place.

They almost run into it.

The three stare at it in amazement.

They look right...

To where the door is ALSO open.

Caroline opens the door again.

And again.

And again.

Always revealing the door closed back in place.

CAROLINE
Try the window!

Tessa runs to the window and opens it and-
The same damn thing happens.

TESSA
Can I break it?

CAROLINE
OF COURSE.

Tessa can't help but smile.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

It wears little cloth pants and no shirt.
Wisps of stray black hairs escape its misshaped head.
Its eyes dart around nervously.
Black blood seeps like molasses from the wounds from the
nails.
Both its arms stuck on the wall at uncomfortable angles.

WILLIAM
What are you?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Imma... Imma mapanarie.

WILLIAM
...What?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
That's what I am, I am a mapanarie
I am.

William stares at the little thing, unsure of what to do with
that information.

WILLIAM
I don't know what that is.

It doesn't respond. It sniffs with its little nostrils and
looks at its wounded arms.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
You've pinned me like a pony.

WILLIAM
Did you kill our power, and our
phones, and our car?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
It hurts. The nails. You can't
paint these nails.

WILLIAM
I'm... I'm sorry-

It sniffs again.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
But I need-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
I guess you could paint them, just
the same. Whatever color you want.
(then)
I'd pick blue today I think.

WILLIAM
Why can't we leave our home?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
You did leave! You left and came
back.

WILLIAM
You broke our car.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
No, I didn't.

WILLIAM
Yes, you did.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
No, I swear.
(then, whispered)
It was *magic*.

William continues to be at a complete loss when-
He hears the sound of glass shatter.
And then seconds later-
It shatters again.

Caroline rushes back into the kitchen, still holding Zooey.

CAROLINE
So we can't leave.

William looks back at the creature-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
See? *Magic*.

And levels the nail gun at it.

ZOOEY
Stop!

The creature instantly whimpers.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
No, please! Can I just tell you
everything I know?

WILLIAM
That... would be great.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Sometimes little souls have little
nightmares while they are awake
about the big, big world. And
sometimes they need a f-f-friend.
And so I whisper to them from under
the bed, *hello? Hello up there in
the big, big world? Do you need a f-
f-friend?* Sometimes they scream
because they don't know what I am.
But Zo-o-ey didn't scream. She let
me wear clothes and color on pieces
of paper and she told me about Utah
and the sun dances and I told her
how lonely I was in my home too and
we became f-f-friends.

Caroline steps forward.

The creature looks towards her.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
And then the thunder came and it
scared us oh so bad and we
discussed our options and decided
the safest place was with you.

ZOOEY
See Daddy! We're friends! He's
nice!

William ignores her and looks to Caroline.

WILLIAM
Why can't you leave?

CAROLINE
It's... hard to explain. But the door never opens, even when you open it. And the windows never break, even when you break them.

William looks back at the creature for an explanation.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Beats me, Mr. Man! I didn't do it!
I'm pinned like a pony to your wall!

WILLIAM
Why is your name Mr. Sleepy Pants?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
That's the name Zooey gave me!

ZOOEY
It's true!

TESSA
That's a stupid ass name.

WILLIAM
TESSA!

TESSA
What! You think it's a good name?

ZOOEY
It is a good name!

WILLIAM
Everyone, quiet!

William holds the nail gun to the creature.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)
Look, I don't know what a mapawhatever is and I don't know what you are. But I want to leave with my family. Please let us go.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
You can go!

WILLIAM

Okay-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

But I have to come with you.

WILLIAM

That's... not gonna happen.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Everyone leaves me but Zo-o-ey
promised me she never would.

ZOOEY

That's true, I did!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

And it meant oh so much to me and I
don't want you to get away ever
ever ever! Please, just take me
with you! I can be un-pinned!
Watch!

And suddenly-

Disgustingly-

The skin on the creature's arms start sagging-

Drooping-

As it starts sliding down from the wall.

It makes a horrifically gross noise.

The family is naturally repulsed.

William takes a step back-

As the creature frees itself from the nails almost entirely-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)

See! I can come too!

It drops to the ground!

The nails remaining firmly in the wall.

Black smears surrounding them as-

Mr. Sleepy Pants outstretches his hands.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)

Ta-da!

William tries to fire more nails but-
Nothing happens.

CAROLINE
William! Run!

He doesn't.

He **THROWS** the nail gun at the creature-
It dodges out of the way-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
HEY! THAT WASN'T NICE!

WILLIAM
GO UPSTAIRS, CAROLINE!

CAROLINE
GO UPSTAIRS, TESSA!

TESSA
OKAY!

Tessa runs upstairs.

The creature approaches William who-

Instinctively-

Swings his fist at the creature's head and-

In an instant-

Its head **BALLOONS**.

Three times the size it was as-

William finds his fist in the creature's jagged tooth mouth-

And then the mouth shuts.

WILLIAM
AHHHH!

William tries to shake his fist free but he cannot.

As Mr. Sleepy Pants begins to stretch.

And grow.

And as William falls to his knees, blood trickling down his arms.

Mr. Sleepy Pants begins to rise above him.

Caroline sets Zooey down and charges the creature-

She throws her whole body into it-

Knocking it away-

William's fist *slurrrrrrps* out of its mouth.

He slumps to the ground-

As Caroline and the creature **THUMP** into the wall.

Caroline scrambles to her feet and grabs William-

Straining to carry and drag him as away as fast as she can-

CAROLINE
ZOOEY! FOLLOW YOUR SISTER!

Zooey is frozen in place.

Staring at her father.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
PLEASE!

Mr. Sleepy Pants groggily gets to his feet.

Caroline looks down at William's arm-

White and purple **PUSS** is already spilling from the tiny tooth sized wounds.

His eyes flutter.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Will. I need you right now to get
the hell upstairs.

WILLIAM
i wanna take a nap,

CAROLINE
You can take a nap upstairs! But
your girls need you.

WILLIAM
mmmmmmmm you;re my girls,

CAROLINE
Goddamit.

TESSA

Daddy?

William and Caroline look to see-
The girls at the foot of the stairs.
Scared out of their fucking minds.
William comes to just a little.

WILLIAM

okay upstairs,

Tessa runs to her Dad and helps him as he struggles step by step towards the stairs.

Caroline watches them go for a second and-
Turns to face Mr. Sleepy Pants.
Who stands there.
Over five feet tall.
Its black eyes staring at Caroline.

CAROLINE

What did you do to him?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Nothing! He tried to hurt me again
and again! Everyone always hurts
me!

CAROLINE

You poisoned him!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

That's just the way I'm made!
Mapanarie's have to protect
themselves, yes we do!

CAROLINE

Will he be okay?

Mr. Sleepy Pants thinks hard for a moment.
And then shrugs.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

I've never bit a bad man before.

Caroline tries to subtly scan the room for anything she can use.

CAROLINE

He's not a bad man. He's the best man.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

In a wedding?

Caroline ignores it.

She glances to the stairs as-

The girls and William clear the top step.

CAROLINE

Please. Just leave my family alone.

Mr. Sleepy Pants cocks its head, confused.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

But they're not your family!

Caroline pauses.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)

When you do the one two threes, I'm wanted here by one person, and you're wanted here by one person. But-

It holds a gentle hand towards her-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)

You plus me equals everyone wanting us here! Or almost everyone! We can round up and it's everyone! Isn't math neat! If we become f-f-friends again, we'll be right at home, snug as a bug on a rug.

Caroline freezes.

CAROLINE

What do you mean "again"?

Mr. Sleepy Pants frowns sadly.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Carolow, don't you remember-

TESSA (O.S.)
(shrieks)
CAROLINE!!!!

Without thinking, Caroline dashes upstairs.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Don't leave! Wait for me!

It bumbles along after her in a discomfoting way as-

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Caroline blasts up the steps to find-
William convulsing wildly on the floor-
His daughters crying beside him.
Caroline takes charge.

CAROLINE
Grab his feet! Now!

The girls obey without hesitation-
Caroline gently cradles his head and they carry him-

INT. TESSA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

They set him on the floor-
Caroline instantly **PUSHES** Tessa's mattress off the bed frame-
Slamming it against the door so it can't open-
And the creature can't crawl out from under it-
Tessa locks her door shut-
As Caroline returns her attention to William.
Foaming at the mouth.

ZOOEY
What do we do what do we do what do
we do-

TESSA
Dad! This is what you owe me! Stop
being sick okay! And I'll be your
right hand girl, I promise!

CAROLINE
It's okay, it's okay.

She gently leans William onto his side-

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I'm doing this so everything spills
out of his mouth instead of down
his throat.

She speaks very calmly to the girls-

Even though her hands are trembling.

She strokes William's hair.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Shhhh. Shhhh. It's okay. Your girls
are all here and we love you. Just
hang in there for us, okay?

And soon-

The seizure begins to slow down-

And he begins wheezing.

Long deep breaths.

Calming down more and more.

The girls wipe their eyes, sniffing.

ZOOEY
What's wrong with him?

CAROLINE
He was poisoned, Zo'.

ZOOEY
From when he tried to hit Mr.
Sleepy Pants?

Caroline nods.

CAROLINE
I know you think he's your friend,
but he's not.

Zooey doesn't say anything.

TESSA
What do we do now? Can it get in
here?!

CAROLINE
I'm not gonna let it in here. He'll
have to go through me, and as you
know... I'm a real asshole.

Tessa lets out a tiny smile.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Are you okay, Zooey?

ZOOEY
I miss mommy.

Caroline looks at her sweetly.

CAROLINE
Yeah?

Zooey nods.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
How come?

Zooey snuffles.

ZOOEY
She's good at hugs.

TESSA
Yeah.

CAROLINE
My mom was good at hugs too.

TESSA
Really?

CAROLINE
Yeah. Really.

ZOOEY
Do you wish she was here?

CAROLINE
Oh yeah. All the time.

ZOOEY
Where is she?

Caroline forces a smile.

CAROLINE
Ask me tomorrow.

ZOOEY

Okay-

TESSA

That means she's dead.

Caroline rolls her eyes.

CAROLINE

Tessa, you're not helping-

ZOOEY

Your mommy's dead?

Caroline sighs.

Keeps stroking William's hair.

CAROLINE

When I was eight I went to a camp for a week. My parents and my big sister dropped me off. And that was it.

ZOOEY

What was it?

CAROLINE

I didn't get to see them again. They had an accident.

TESSA

...You were eight?

Caroline nods.

TESSA (CONT'D)

...Shit.

CAROLINE

Yeah. Shit.

Zooey grows more frantic-

ZOOEY

What if our Daddy dies? I'm not eight-

Caroline sets her hand on Zooey's tiny shoulder.

CAROLINE

He's not going to die. And I'm not going anywhere.

ZOOEY
But mommy left-

CAROLINE
But that's not what I'm gonna do.

Caroline holds Zooey's tear streaked eyes as-
There is a knock at the door.
The girls look towards it.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (O.S.)
May I please come in?

TESSA
EAT A DICK.

Caroline looks at Tessa. And then:

CAROLINE
Yeah! Eat all the dicks!

Tessa grins at Caroline.
Bonding over the power of profanity.
Nothing happens outside the door for a moment.
Until-
In the keyhole of the door.
Something starts to *spill* through.
The color of pebbles.
Slow like molasses.

TESSA
What is it?

Caroline doesn't answer.
She grabs a nearby sock and tries stuffing it in the keyhole-
Pushing the substance back.
She only gets so far-

CAROLINE
I think it's... it.

TESSA
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN
KNIVES.

Caroline looks at Tessa.

CAROLINE
Oh you smart girl.

She points to Tessa's window.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Shatter that shit.

TESSA
But glass will get all over my
room!

Caroline gives her a look.

TESSA (CONT'D)
Fine.

Tessa picks up a snow globe from her dresser and-

HURLS it at her window.

The snow globe **BREAKS**-

The window does not.

TESSA (CONT'D)
Aw man!

CAROLINE
DON'T THROW GLASS AT IT!

TESSA
I WASN'T THINKING!

Tessa procures a metal horse paperweight from her desk and-

SLUGS IT AT THE WINDOW-

THE WINDOWS SHATTERS!

Tessa and Caroline cheer!

Like before, the window remains undisturbed while-

Shattered glass rains down from the previous broken window.

Caroline abandons the door and hurries to Tessa-

CAROLINE
Careful with the glass-

TESSA
I know, Caroline.

Caroline almost smiles.

She gently picks up a **LARGE SHARD** of glass and-
Uses it to **TEAR THE CURTAINS**.

TESSA (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Caroline tears off two long strands of curtain.
Wraps the cloth around her hands and fingers.

CAROLINE
I gotta get your dad better and you
girls out of here.

With her wrapped hands, Caroline picks up-
TWO LARGE SHARDS.

Like daggers.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
So I'm gonna do that.

Tessa surveys her step-mom.

TESSA
Holy shit. Wait!

Tessa tears another piece of the curtain and-
Wraps it around Caroline's head like a bandana.

TESSA (CONT'D)
So you don't cut your face open if
you need to get your hair out of
your eyes.

Caroline smiles at her step-daughter.

CAROLINE
Good call. How do I look?

Tessa nods.

TESSA

Like a
BAD
ASS
MOTHER
FUCKER.

Caroline grins.

CAROLINE
ARE WE FRIENDS NOW?!

TESSA
WHAT? NO.

Caroline frowns as-

Zooey **SCREAMS** as-

That substance going through the keyhole?

It's through the keyhole.

As a six inch tall **CREATURE** slowly stands up.

Gooey and hideous-

It looks up to the world-

A newborn and-

Screeches as-

It is **IMPALED** by a long, jagged piece of glass.

Caroline rises it up in the air-

Dead-

And slings it aside.

More of the substance is coming through the keyhole-

Caroline looks to the girls.

CAROLINE
(whispered)
Go through the tunnel!

Tessa nods and silently removes the opening-

ZOOEY
What about Daddy?

CAROLINE
He'll be okay. I'm gonna protect
him.

ZOOEY
What about Mr. Sleepy Pants?

CAROLINE
...I'm just gonna ask him to help
your Daddy feel better.

ZOOEY
I should ask him.

CAROLINE
No, I'll do it.

ZOOEY
Why?

Caroline holds up her glass blade hands.

CAROLINE
I have glass blade hands.

ZOOEY
But he's my friend.

CAROLINE
Zooney. You need better friends.

TESSA
Zooney! Come on!

Zooney reluctantly moves-

She kisses William on the cheek and-

Follows her sister through the tunnel.

Leaving Caroline alone with William in the room.

And then-

CAROLINE
Oh, shit!

Caroline realizes she can't open the door with her glass
blade hands.

She sighs.

She stabs the mattress and begins pulling it away from the
door-

Slowly maneuvers the lock with the glass as-
More of the creature substance sludges through the keyhole as-
She finally gets the lock undone-
With her wrists she grabs the door knob and-
Takes a deep breath and-
Swings it open-

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Sleepy Pants is kneeling there in the dark-
Squeezing his molasses blood out of his nail wounds into the
keyhole.
He looks up at Caroline-
She looks down at him-
Beyond disgusted.
Beat.
She swallows.
And lowers the blade towards him-
He scrambles back-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Waitwaitwait-

CAROLINE
How do I fix William and get the
girls out of here-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Get how fix these William girls
here of out do and I!

CAROLINE
What?!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
I'm sorry! You've scrambled my
brain!

She starts to back him down the hallway-

CAROLINE

Listen to me. I am tired, they are scared and he is dying. Help us or I will hurt you.

He looks up at her with his big eyes.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

All you've done all night is hurt me *all night*! You are the meanest people in the world! The whole world! And I've been everywhere! I've even been to the North Pole where Santa lives and no one is as mean as you! You've become so rotten!

CAROLINE

Stop talking-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

No! I'm sorry I'm ugly and gross and smelly, that's just the way I am, a mapanarie I am!

CAROLINE

A map of what?

Mr. Sleepy Pants is on his back on the ground.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

That's what I am, Carolow! I've answered all your questions-

CAROLINE

No you haven't! How do I save William!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

When he becomes pure of heart he will be cured!

Caroline stares at him.

CAROLINE

You're a nightmare.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Well you're become a very bad lady and you don't deserve Zooey!

Before Caroline can react-

Mr. Sleepy Pants' **LIMBS CONTRACT-**

Making him like a crab-

And he scurries swiftly down the hall away from her-

Into the pitch dark of the hallway so she can't see it anymore.

CAROLINE

Crap.

Caroline raises her blade hands and walks into the dark.

Trembling as she goes.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I just... I just want to help him.
Please.

But there is no response.

She hears something and pivots!

Terrified!

But sees nothing.

She turns and continues down the hallway.

Next to Zooey's room but-

Still nothing.

Because she never looks up.

Where the creature crawls facing her on the ceiling.

Slow like a spider.

It passes her.

Heading towards Tessa's room and-

KA-THUMP!

Tessa's bedroom door **SLAMS SHUT** after it gets inside.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

No!

Caroline sprints back to the room and tries to get in but-

The door is locked.

Caroline slams her whole body into it, but-

There's no give when-

Tessa screams!

TESSA (O.S.)
NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

And suddenly-

The door gives way-

INT. TESSA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

She stumbles into the room.

William is still there on the ground.

A little awake.

Straining his eyes up-

His finger pointing towards-

THE TUNNEL.

Where Mr. Sleepy Pants has just crawled through.

Caroline doesn't hesitate.

She exhibits no restraint as-

She dives through the tunnel after him and-

INT. ZOOEY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emerges to find Mr. Sleepy Pants, somehow smaller again,
cowered behind Zooey by the foot of the bed.

Tessa backed up against the wall in terror.

TESSA
She let it in. She let it in.

CAROLINE
Zooey-

ZOOEY
He's a good guy, Tessa! I can get
him to help Daddy!

TESSA
YOU'RE A DUMB KID!

ZOOEY
YOU'RE A DUMB ASS!

CAROLINE
Zooeey, look at me.

Caroline sets her shards on the floor.

And slowly undoes the curtain wraps on her hands.

Her palms bloody.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Maybe it's a good idea if he goes
home, then, right? And then your
Dad will feel better, and the doors
will open and we can get him
medicine.

Zooeey looks to Mr. Sleepy Pants.

ZOOEY
Is that what will happen?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
I don't know Zo-o-ey. I don't know
what happens when I say bye-bye
because I am gone and not here. But
I think you're right, and it'll
help him.

CAROLINE
Zooeey, just come to me, okay-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
But either way I want to go home. I
hate it here. Your family is so
mean mean mean. You're my bestest
friend but I'm so scared of them.

ZOOEY
Will you come back and visit me?

CAROLINE
Zooeey-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Maybe when you're older. Maybe in
college.

ZOOEY
But I'll miss you!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
I'll miss you more!

She hugs him.

Tessa looks to Caroline-

Caroline never takes her eyes off Zooey.

Mr. Sleepy Pants hugs Zooey gently.

Its eyes closed over her shoulder.

Tessa becoming more and more frantic.

TESSA
I'm sorry I'm such a bad sister.
I'll never be mean to you again, i
promise, okay?

Zooey sniffs.

ZOOEY
...Really?

And then.

Mr. Sleepy Pants opens his eyes.

And smiles like the devil at Caroline.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Bye.

CAROLINE
NO!

He **DIVES** under the bed-

STILL GRIPPING ZOOEY!

Zooey screams-

Powerless to stop the creature-

Caroline dives and-

Grabs Zooey's ankle in the nick of time as-

She gets **SUCKED** under the bed.

Like a vacuum until-

All is silent.

All is still.

Tessa is alone in the room.

Breathless.

She forces herself to go look under the bed and-

There's nothing there.

No sign of the creature.

Of Zooey.

Of Caroline.

No sign of anything at all.

TESSA
ZOOOEY!

But there is no response.

And so we—

FADE TO BLACK.

AND WHEN CAROLINE WAKES UP-

It's because of the far off music that's playing.

Like carnival music.

Terribly chipper and horrifically annoying.

She's laying on her back.

She wipes at her eyes.

Directly above her is a small window into the night sky.

The shape of a circle.

And as she becomes more awake, she realizes-

That's not the night sky.

Because it's moving. Swirling silently, even.

She realizes she's laying on-

A bunch of pillows.

She goes to move and-

SCREAMS!

As she-

TUMBLES DOWN what can only be described as a large hill of pillows.

And when she comes to a completely harmless stop, she looks around.

Everything is pillows.

High peaks and low valleys.

Different colored pillow cases.

For as far as the eye can see.

Caroline becomes frantic.

Looking for Zooey but-

There's no sign of her.

CAROLINE
ZOOEY! ZOOEY!

But there's no response as-

INT. SOMEWHERE ELSE - SOMETIME ELSE

Zooey is being marched along at a quick pace.

Mr. Sleepy Pants holds her hand tightly.

It is maybe eight feet tall now. Limbs as thin as straw.

She looks up at it.

This is the first time she's ever seen it a different size.

And it clearly freaks her the hell out.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Welcome to my heidi home! It's the
best place ever! It goes on for
ever and ever and-

ZOOEY

When did you get so tall?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Since all the time! Silly Zooey.

This answer doesn't make her feel any better.

ZOOEY

Where are we going?

He doesn't look down at her.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

It's a surprise! It's oh so
exciting!

But she's not oh so excited anymore.

AND BACK WITH CAROLINE-

She trudges through the pillows as fast as she can.

Up to her knees.

Not sure if she's moving the right direction or not.

But the music is getting louder.

And louder.

She turns past a large mound of pillows and-

Dives back the way she came.

Pressing her body against the mound as-

A GIGANTIC TEDDY BEAR trudges past.

Its fur matted and tarred and weathered off in spots.

It drags a long, filthy blanket behind it where-

Sleeping children lay.

None of them Zooey.

Caroline watches the strange sight go by until the coast is clear.

But she's still not sure how to even process this.

CAROLINE

The hell is this shit?

And that's when she hears laughter.

She pivots and sees-

A small child running away in the distance.

Zooey.

Caroline charges after her.

Except-

THAT'S NOT ZOOEY.

Because Zooey is still following Mr. Sleepy Pants.

With increasing reluctance.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Ta-DA!

He spreads his arms in pride to reveal-

ZOOEY'S BEDROOM

Almost identical.

Almost.

It's different in subtle ways. Ways that it takes you just a second too many to notice.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

It's your room! Perfect in every single itty bitty way! Go ahead, give it a twirly twirl!

Zooey nervously walks forward.

It's like a TV set. No wall at the entrance.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)

None of those meanies will ever bother us here.

And Zooey's eyes instantly drift to-

The tunnel.

Or, rather, where the tunnel should be.

Because it's just a wall.

ZOOEY

Where's the tunnel?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Did you know T-t-tessa wanted to get rid of it? She wanted to seal it right on up!

ZOOEY

But... she said she was sorry and wouldn't be mean anymore.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Well. She's lying. Of course, of course.

ZOOEY

Oh.

(then)

...But I didn't want to close the tunnel up.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

You... don't like your room I made you?

He kneels so he's facing her.

His eyes have trouble focusing on hers. Instead they drift away, as if looking past her.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
I just want to be your friend. It
really hurts.

Zooey winces with deja vu.

ZOOEY
Your heart?

Mr. Sleepy Pants almost smiles.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
My heart.

ZOOEY
I have deja food.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
What's that like?

ZOOEY
I dunno. It reminds me of something
else.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Because I did such a great job
building your room!

But that's not it.

And Zooey remembers.

ZOOEY
Where's Caroline?

Mr. Sleepy Pants frowns.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
She's back at the bad place.

ZOOEY
But I remember her grabbing my foot-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
SHE LET GO!

Zooey flinches.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
She let go because that's what the
bad people do! They tell you
they'll hold on and they'll love
you forever and ever and then they
let go and they leave!
(MORE)

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
Everyone leaves! T-t-tessa wanted
to leave you behind in your room!
Mr. Man let your Mrs. Mom go to the
Utahs! And Carolow let go of your
foot because her life is so much
super duper great without you!
Everyone lets go and everyone
leaves!

(then)
But that's not what I'm gonna do.

Zooey stares at the thing in front of her.

ZOOEY
But they're my family.

It stares back at the little girl in front of it.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
And now I'm your family. They'll be
all gone out of your brain in no
time, just so you see.

ZOOEY
(not okay)
Okay.

It grins its shark toothed grin.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Okie doke.

He stands and walks into the room-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
We're going to have the best time
ever! No parents, no sisters, no
rules!

He turns back grinning towards Zooey-

But she's already started running away as fast as she can.

AND CAROLINE RUNS.

But not after Zooey.

Though she doesn't know that yet.

CAROLINE
ZOOEY! ZOOEY, WAIT!

The little girl doesn't stop as-

She begins crawling through a small tunnel.

Caroline quickly gets down on her hands and knees and crawls after her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Zooey, stop!

The little girl doesn't stop as she crawls out of the tunnel ahead.

Caroline gets there quickly and-

Finds herself-

UNDER A BED.

In a room.

A MAN and **WOMAN'S FEET** in front of her as they sing.

VOICE
Sweeeeet Caroliiiiine. BAH. BAH.
BAH.

Caroline freezes.

As still as she's ever been.

She hears the little girl she was chasing giggling on the bed above her as her parents tickle her while they keep singing.

Tears instantly start stinging her eyes because-

That's her laughing.

And those legs belong to her parents.

Suddenly, the whole scene *woooooshes* by her with a burst of wind-

Caroline holds out her hand to try and stop it-

CAROLINE
WAIT!

But it can't be stopped as-

SHE'S IN A DIFFERENT ROOM.

A wood cabin.

No one else is in the dorms as-

A WOMAN walks slowly in.

And Caroline hears the voice above her ask-

YOUNG CAROLINE (O.S.)
Aunt Beth?

The woman at the door suddenly starts crying.

AUNT BETH
I'm so sorry.

YOUNG CAROLINE (O.S.)
What's wrong?

Caroline clenches her eyes shut and covers her ears as the scene *wooooooshes* by and-

SHE'S IN A DIFFERENT ROOM.

It's dark and still as night.

The only sound crying from above Caroline in the bed.

She opens her eyes.

Uncovers her ears.

And listens.

She wipes the tears from her face, remembering all too well until-

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Hello?

She freezes again.

Slowly looking to her left where-

The small Mr. Sleepy Pants is curled up in a ball like a dog sleeping under the bed.

He coos up to young Caroline sweetly.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
Hello up there in the great big
world?

The crying above momentarily stops.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
Why are you crying?

YOUNG CAROLINE (O.S.)
Who are you!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
I'm just a friend. A friend lonely
like you. You don't have to be
scared.

YOUNG CAROLINE (O.S.)
Why are you under my bed?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
This is where I live?

YOUNG CAROLINE (O.S.)
Why?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
People get scared when I come out.
Why do you live on a bed?

YOUNG CAROLINE (O.S.)
Are you a monster?

And for the first time—

Mr. Sleepy Pants turns and faces Caroline under the bed.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Nope.

Woooooosh—

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

Mr. Sleepy Pants and Young Caroline talking and laughing.

Caroline tries to get words out, tries to move or scream but
just...

Can't.

Woooooosh—

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

At boarding school, Young Caroline sits on the floor with her
back against the bed, slipping notes to Mr. Sleepy Pants, who
eagerly takes them.

And eats them.

Adult Caroline stares at him in horror.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
And then, little by little, you
started to forget about me. Most of
them always do.

Woooooosh-

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

Mr. Sleepy Pants waits, but there's no word from young Caroline.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
Carolow? Carolow?

Nothing.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
Carolow, I miss you.

Nothing.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)
But just because you forget me,
doesn't mean I'd ever forget you.

Woooooosh-

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

It waits under the bed.

Nothing.

Woooooosh-

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

It waits under the bed.

Nothing.

Woooooosh-

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

It waits under the bed.

Nothing.

It finally tuns back to adult Caroline.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

You left me like everyone left you.

Caroline looks at the creature.

Something about her is wrong. Like all her personality is being sucked out of her.

CAROLINE

I'm... I'm sorry...

Woooooosh-

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

I know you better than anybody knows you. Mostly because everyone that loved you is dead, but that's besides the point.

CAROLINE

(weakly)

Stop it.

Woooooosh-

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

I know the reason you t-t-tried things so hard with Mr. Man are because he had a ready-made family just for you to have and to hold and to love forever. A family like yours, but alive, isn't it so, Carolow?

CAROLINE

(weaker)

Please stop.

Woooooosh-

A DIFFERENT ROOM.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

But he's a dumb Mr. Man! I told him
I was a mapanarie! I just made up a
word with letters! And he didn't
see you were just using him for a
family. Isn't that right?

CAROLINE

yes.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

You're just a f-f-failure.

CAROLINE

yes.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

No one up there loves you anymore.
No one wants you. Because you don't
deserve it, do you?

CAROLINE

no.

The creature leans in real close to Caroline, who is still
immobilized.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

But I care about you. I'm your
family now. Just you and meeee,
like we always dreamed. Because the
girls hate you, and you couldn't
protect them, so now Mr. Man hates
you too. So you've lost one, two
families now. And all you have left
is me. And I forgive you.

(then)

And I'm never letting go.

WOOOOOOOOOSH.

The scene changes and Caroline is back laying on old, moth-
bitten pillows.

The beds are gone.

The scenes are gone.

Mr. Sleepy Pants is gone.

It's just her in the pillow wasteland.

Her eyes barely move.

She tries to force herself to get up but-

She can't.

So she gives up.

And lays there flat on the ground.

A giant teddy bear comes and slowly-

Almost comically.

Sits on her back.

Caroline exhales, but makes no other movement or sound.

A second bear comes and does the same.

And then a third. And a fourth.

And as we pull away, Caroline is smothered by these strange creatures.

But she doesn't seem to care at all.

AND ZOOEY STILL RUNS.

Past room after room of **OTHER KIDS**.

Playing alone like blank eyed zombies.

Morose and personality free, just like Caroline.

Some of them are sleeping.

One kid sits on his bed reading a book, a huge spider-web having grown alongside his face and the wall and he's somehow never even noticed.

But Zooey keeps running.

She looks back and sees-

The spindly Mr. Sleepy Pants galloping after her on all fours until-

It **DIVES** under the pillows at their feet-

Disappearing from sight.

She keeps running.

She turns a corner and-

WHAM!

A **BEAR** slams its paw into the pillow wall near her!

Zooey screams and ducks through its legs.

She searches the pillow wasteland for a way out, for anything.

But she sees nothing.

So she screams.

ZOOEY

CAROLINE!

AND CAROLINE-

Hears her.

Her eyes flutter weakly.

She opens her dried out mouth but-

Nothing comes out.

And she gives up again.

ZOOEY KEEPS RUNNING.

Still no sign of Mr. Sleepy Pants.

She turns another corner and-

Sees the mound of bears!

She turns and runs the opposite direction before-

She comes to a stop.

Turns and looks back and-

Sees Caroline's hair poking out from beneath the awful stuffed monstrosities.

ZOOEY

CAROLINE!

She charges to her.

And as she gets closer-

All the bears hiss and growl at her!

But she tells them to-

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
SHUT UP!

And surprisingly, they flinch back and obey as she-

Gets to her hands and knees and faces Caroline.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
Caroline! Caroline, get up! We have
to go!

CAROLINE
Can't.

ZOOEY
You have to!

CAROLINE
I'm sorry. I'm not cool.

ZOOEY
It doesn't matter!

CAROLINE
I wish I was like your mom. I wish
you liked me.

ZOOEY
I like you a lot!

CAROLINE
My laces are gone.

Zooey looks but-

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
You can't see them. But trust me.
They're gone again.

ZOOEY
I'm sorry I stole your laces. I
just... wanted to be mean. And I
should've been nice.

And unbeknownst to Zooey-

Mr. Sleepy Pants begins to rise behind her.

Taller than ever before.

The bears move off of Caroline, frightened of their master.

Zooey is ecstatic.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)

Look! They're leaving! We can go
home to Tessa and Daddy!

CAROLINE

It's not my home.

Zooey looks at her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I'm jus' pretendin'. I don't belong
anywhere. Everyone let go of me.

ZOOEY

But that's not what I'm gonna do.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Oh yes it is.

Zooey turns and-

Stares up at the monster.

She shrinks back just a little.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)

You've been very bad.

ZOOEY

You've been very bad!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Copy cat!

ZOOEY

ASS MAN! ASS HOLE MAN! DICK ASS!

It stares at her.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

I built this whole world for you.

ZOOEY

I don't want it!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Yes you do!

ZOOEY

You don't know me! I hate it here!
It smells like an attic! And it's
scary and the kids are weird! And
you're the worst!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

I'm the best!

ZOOEY

Caroline's the best!

Caroline's eyes open a little more.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)

We were so mean to her and she
never stopped trying to be nice to
us!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

That's because she was desperate
for a family all of her own!

ZOOEY

SO WHAT! That's all you want too,
you sad and lonely dick breath!

It hisses at her and-

Becomes a little smaller in the process.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)

None of these kids like you! You
stole them!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

ZO-O-EY!

And smaller.

ZOOEY

You hurt my Daddy! Even if he was
salting you, you can't hurt dads!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

STOP IT NOW!

Smaller.

The ground begins to shake.

ZOOEY

NO! I WANNA GO HOME!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
NO!

ZOOEY
I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
SHUT UP!

And smaller.

Debris falls from above.

A pillow mountain nearby topples over.

ZOOEY
CAROLINE IS MY FAMILY NOW!

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
NOOOO!

ZOOEY
AND YOU'RE JUST A BLEEDING, FARTING
ASSHOLE AND DICKHOLE COMBINED INTO
ONE BAD HOLE CALLED YOUR FACE!

Until finally-

He's the size he was when Caroline first saw him.

Exhausted.

The whole world shaking.

This place is falling apart.

He looks up at Zooey.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS
But we were friends.

ZOOEY
I need better friends.

It exhales as-

Caroline weakly gets to her feet.

Zooey hugs her-

But Caroline never takes her eyes off the creature.

CAROLINE
Get behind me.

ZOOEY

Okay.

She obeys.

Caroline stumbles towards Mr. Sleepy Pants and kneels in front of it.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

I just wanted to be your friend. So I did this for you.

CAROLINE

How do we get home?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

You realize, don't you? That without me, they'd never have loved you.

Caroline stares at the small thing.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)

I came to help make sure you had a family. And you were all scared, and you fought for them, and now they love you. And it's all because of me.

CAROLINE

Bullshit.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Am I wrong?

She doesn't answer.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS (CONT'D)

You have to go up up up the mountain. Close your eyes and click your heels and say, there's no place like home.

CAROLINE

...Really?

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

No, I'm joking. I'm hilarious. You used to know that. Just go up the mountain. Before I change my mind.

It points to the highest peak.

With the swirling night sky above it.

Caroline looks back to Zooey and the mountain.

ZOOEY

Come on!

Then back at Mr. Sleepy Pants.

CAROLINE

Don't ever come near my family
again.

It crosses its heart.

MR. SLEEPY PANTS

Cross my heart and hope to die. Bah-
bye, Carolow.

Caroline leaves.

Zooey holds her hand out for Caroline.

Caroline can't help but smile faintly as-

She takes it.

They run weakly towards the mountain.

Caroline turns back to Mr. Sleepy Pants but-

He's no longer there as-

They help each other up the mountain as the world continues
to crumble.

Higher and higher they go.

Until finally.

They reach the top.

Where-

Bizarrely-

A single **GOAT** waits for them.

The girls stare at it.

It stares at them.

Then Caroline laughs.

CAROLINE

Oh I get it.

ZOOEY
I don't get it.

CAROLINE
High on a hill was a lonely
goatherd, Lay ee odl lay ee odl lay
hee hoo.

ZOOEY
What?

CAROLINE
Ya know. Singing about goats.

ZOOEY
What?!

CAROLINE
Screw it. It's a long story.

Caroline shoos the goat away as-

Zooey jumps for the opening-

ZOOEY
I can't reach it!

Caroline picks Zooey up-

Using all the strength she has left and-

Zooey stretches and-

Wooooooooosh.

INT. ZOOEY'S ROOM - MORNING

Zooey and Caroline erupt from under the bed, sliding across the floor and crashing against the wall hard.

CAROLINE
Are you okay?

Zooey nods and buries her head into Caroline, hugging her tightly.

Tessa bursts into the room moments later-

TESSA
DAD!

Followed quickly by a limping William.

He slumps against the doorway as Tessa grabs Zooey and Caroline tightly.

He stares at his girls.

Caroline stares at him.

She smiles.

EXT. FRONT YARD - MORNING

The family help each other throwing out all of the bed frames in the house.

Dumping them on the curb unceremoniously.

They stare at the pile of metal.

TESSA

Do we have to go to school today?

CAROLINE

Fuck no.

The girls cheer with as much enthusiasm as they can muster as the family walks back to the house.

ZOOEY

Caroline said the f word!

WILLIAM

I'm disappointed in her daily.

They close the door after they are inside.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The four of them lay on the mattress that sits on the floor.

The girls are sound asleep.

William snores softly.

And Caroline holds them all as close as she can.

Home at last.

THE END.