

Family Secrets

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When Airam and her mother moved to the house they were overflowing with happiness. Finally after so much sacrifice they had been able to get the home her mother wanted most; a small house at the end of St. Johns Street surrounded by green lawn and a red shed next to a large oak tree in the yard. They couldn't ask for more... What they didn't know was that their nightmare was just beginning.

It was an old house, the stairs creaked as you went up or down them; Airam began to have a bad feeling, the first night she felt being watched from the darkest corner of her room, she saw shadows prowling in the middle of the night and strange noises coming from all sides. She didn't pay any attention to them, she thought it was all in her imagination and the stress of moving. That was her worst mistake.

The days passed and she just felt that the presence was getting closer and closer, and the noises were getting worse; at school people whispered her name with looks of terror or pity, she had no idea what was happening. Airam didn't want to worry her mother with her paranoia, her mom was happy with the house; so she decided to investigate on her own what had happened there before they arrived.

One night her mother left work late, she decided to go to the shed to find the old and forgotten things of the former owners; Airam came out with a flashlight and the little courage she could collect.

The shed, like any other, was full of boxes and junk objects, she went through it hoping to find something, but suddenly the flashlight went out.— “Turn on, don't

do this to me, please turn on." — She said while hitting the lantern with her shaking hands and looked in all directions with her eyes full of panic.

When the flashlight stopped failing, the door slammed shut with such force that the entire construction vibrated. She ran desperately and pulled the door so she could open it when she suddenly felt a shiver running down her back and an icy breathing in her neck, Airam was paralyzed. Fear didn't let her think of a way out, she stood still like a statue feeling that breath on her back when a deep voice said a word that woke her up from her trance: "run."

Airam was running in the middle of the night where the only thing that lit her path were the stars, the moon and a flashing lantern. She entered the house with her rapid breathing and drops of sweat running down her face, feeling her heart beating so hard that she felt was going to come out of her chest. She walked with shaky legs to the living room where she decided to wait for her mother, but arriving there she only let out a scream that broke the night silence.

In the middle of the room was a dark shadow with bright evil red eyes. Airam ran to the door trying to run away from it, she felt the floor lengthen and seemed to never come to an end. Suddenly the front door opened and her mother entered —she had a tired face and her blue eyes had a strange brightness that Airam couldn't distinguish— Airam felt that she was already safe and ran into her mother's arms.

Embraced, they walked to the sofa and she told her everything that had happened since the first night; the shadows she saw hanging around at night, the comments people made at school about them and the house, even what had happened moments ago in the shed. Airam spoke so quickly that she felt her mom wouldn't understand her words, but she only caressed her hair in a reassuringly

way. When she finished, she waited for her mom to tell her to take all the things to leave, but her mother did something completely different.

— “My sweet Airam, you're ready for what you were created for.”— Her mother had a creepy smile and the caresses in her hair were no longer reassuring.

— “What are you talking about, Mom? We must go.” — she said desperately and jumped up from the couch, the lights started to flicker and shadows started to appear.

— “You're not understanding; you're not getting out of here.”

And with those last words the shadows took her limbs and pulled her into the basement, the only thing heard in the middle of the night was a scream and then everything was left in a deep silence. Airam was never heard from again, it was as if she disappeared into the air, as if she had never existed.