

THE MONSTER UNDER THE FUTON

Written by

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INT-KID'S ROOM -MORNING

The floor is messy, covered in clothes and toys. The shelves are full of books. There in a futon couch opposite the bed. On the dresser an alarm clock shows the time as 7:45. Light is already coming through his window.

Alarm clock is blaring, Caleb, a ten year old child wearing pajamas and with messy hair is still asleep.

Mom Enters

Mom is a middle aged woman, she is already dressed

MOM (V.O)

Get up Caleb you're late!

Caleb flops out of bed and starts getting dressed

CALEB

(Groggy)

Sorry mom, the monster under my bed kept me up all night.

MOM

You're being ridiculous, come on get ready f-

Mom trips over futon

MOM (CONT'D)

Darn it! Caleb why do you still even have this thing.

CALEB

I'm okay with you getting rid of it if you want.

MOM

Good, I'll put it out with the trash this weekend.

Door opens and closes. Both Mom and Caleb leave. It is quiet.

Chad, a large monster, tall and muscular, a frat boy cliché crawls out from under Caleb's bed.

CHAD

Heh what a little crybaby

Chad walk to the futon and unfolds it, another monster emerges. Nigel, a small, skinny younger, far less intimidating monster, a wimp, a loser (gasps for air)

NIGEL

Good morning chad!

CHAD

(Annoyed)

Mhm.

NIGEL

Y-you did a good job last night.

CHAD

Of course I did.

NIGEL

D-did you hear what she said about the futon? I couldn't quite make it out from inside that thing.

CHAD

Yeah they're getting rid of it.

NIGEL

WHAT?! Th-they c-c-can't!

CHAD

Why not?

NIGEL

If they g-g-get rid of it I won't have a bed!

CHAD

So?

NIGEL

But y-y-you know that a monster c-c-can't exist without a b-b-bed to live under!

CHAD  
(sarcastically)  
Oh noooo.

NIGEL  
Please let me stay under the bed  
with you!

CHAD  
Look. I've told you hundreds of  
times, there is only room for one  
monster under this bed.

NIGEL  
Please this is all I have, I don't  
wanna go.

CHAD  
Your not even a real monster anyway  
you've never scared the kid...

Nigel looks hurt from what Chad said. He looks at the ground  
and thinks for a second. Then he looks back up at Chad.

NIGEL  
I ch-ch-challenge you.

CHAD  
What? I can't hear you speak up,  
and cut it with the stammering it's  
getting on my nerves.

NIGEL  
I challenge you. let me try to  
scare the kid if I can scare him  
more than you, I get to be under  
the bed.

Chad stares at Nigel, he is puzzled.

CHAD  
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAH!!! You really think  
that you can scare the kid better  
than MEEE???

(MORE)

CHAD (CONT'D)

HAHAHAHAHAHA I'd feel worse about you getting thrown out with the futon if you made jokes like that more often. AHAHAHA

NIGEL

B-b-but if I lose I'll still be in the futon

CHAD

What. You were actually serious?  
HAHAhAHAhA Why would I ever agree to that? HAHAHA

Nigle looks really upset and starts crying

CHAD (CONT'D)

Oh So what? Your gonna cry and throw a fit if I don't agree to your dumb little competition?

Nigel continues to cry

CHAD (CONT'D)

Oh My gosh FINE I accept, you so annoying!

Nigel stops crying and takes a moment to think.

NIGEL

Pinky promise.

CHAD

What?

NIGEL

Y-yeah, pinky promise. How else do I know that you'll actually follow through?

Chad looks a little take aback

CHAD

Ugh if this means you'll leave me alone.

They link their pinkies together and a bright golden lights start flashing, wind starts blowing, their pinkies start glowing. They step away from each other. Chad starts laughing

CHAD (CONT'D)  
Did you know that was gonna happen?  
AHHAHA almost makes this whole  
thing look like less of a total  
joke.

NIGEL  
It isn't

CHAD  
You should honestly just stop  
talking, you really can't beat me.  
Stop saying you can, it's getting  
really annoying.

Nigel looks hurt and quickly turns around to run out of the room while Chad laughs at him.

INT.- HALLWAY-DAY

Nigel is sad and scared about the deal he just made with Chad. He is looking around the house and opening random doors to see if anything can help him

NIGEL  
What did I just do, What Did I just  
do. He's r-r-r-ight I'll n-n-never  
be able to -b-b-beat him.

He opens a door to the stairs to the attic.

NIGEL (CONT'D)  
What's this?

INT-ATTIC CONT'D

Nigel climbs up the stairs, slowly. He gets to the attic and looks around. The attic is a small dusty room with an old run down bed frame with a dirty mattress on it. Something in the background moves.

NIGEL

H-hello? Wh-whose there?

The rustling gets closer, the from behind an old dresser a ghost appears. The Ghost has a female voice but its only physical form is a Charlie Brown stile bedsheet with holes cut in it. She also appears to be slightly translucent. She makes up for a lack of facial expression by being very animated when she talks.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

AH a ghost!

GHOST

Hello, may I ask you what you are doing in the attic?

NIGEL

N-nothing I was just on my way out!

The door slams closed behind Nigel.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Ah!

GHOST

(mopey)

Could you at least stay a bit? I'm so lonely I've had no one to talk to in years.

NIGEL

I- I guess I got nothing better to do, hey maybe you could help me?

She perks up.

GHOST

Help you with what?

NIGEL

You see, I challenged this other monster, Chad, to a competition were I need to scare this kid, and if I-I-I don't then I-I-I lose my bed a-a-a-and s-s-s-stop existing.

The Ghost seems to get more interested when Chad gets mentioned. She summons a folding chair out of thin air and sits down, the chair is also translucent.

GHOST

Making a deal with chad huh.  
Interesting

NIGEL

You Know Chad?

GHOST

Yeah, he's a real jerk to me.  
That's why I'm up here I like to just avoid him.

NIGEL

Can you h-help me become scarier so  
I can beat Ch-chad?

The ghost thinks for a minute. She slouches reluctantly in her chair.

GHOST

I'll teach you, if it means that  
Chad gets what he deserves.

INT.-ATTIC-DAY

Energetic exercise music begins

MONTAGE

A) INT.ATTIC

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GHOST  
Alright first lets hear that roar!

NIGEL  
I-I-I'm not really s-sure I ca-

GHOST  
Roar!

NIGEL  
Aaaaaahahaha

Ghost shakes her head

GHOST  
What have I gotten myself into...

B) INT. ATTIC

-The ghost is standing at a chalkboard teaching, Nigel is sitting on the floor diligently taking notes.

GHOST (CONT'D)  
Confidence is the key to any  
successful scare! You can't doubt  
yourself!

NIGEL  
Oh I'm not really sure I ca-

GHOST  
What did I just say.

C) INT. ATTIC

-A sequence of close up shots showing alterations to Nigel's appearance, sharpening his teeth and claws, fluffing his fur

D) INT. ATTIC

-Nigel and the ghost stand in front of a mirror admiring Nigel's improvements, they yell into the mirror.

GHOST (CONT'D)  
What are you!

NIGEL  
 (Confidently)  
 A Monster!

The ghost looks proud.

Montage ends

INT-CALEB'S ROOM Night

The room is quiet and the lights are off. There is a slight rustling under the futon as Nigel peeks out to look at the bed. The room is absolutely silent. Nigel looks nervous. Chad's face appears from under the bed. He is scanning the room and sees Nigel looking at him. Chad Grins as he slowly crawls out from under the bed.

CHAD  
 Let me show you how a real monster  
 scares a kid.

Chad chuckles to himself as he slowly stands up to his full frame above the kid. He takes a deep breath in and roars really loudly as his claws glint in the moonlight from the window.

CHAD (CONT'D)  
 ROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOAAAAARRARARARARARAR

CALEB  
 AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHH

Chad, smiling quickly darts back under the bed as footsteps can be heard approaching quickly from the hallway.

CHAD  
 That's how its done.

Nigel looks determined as the mom and the kid can be heard muffled in the background. The door closes.

INT-CALEB'S ROOM -EVENING

Nigel is getting ready to scare the Caleb. He is practicing crawling out from under the bed as Chad is sitting on the futon.

CHAD  
(sarcasticly)  
Oh yeah suuuper scary

NIGEL  
Stop it would you? I'm trying to get ready.

CHAD  
Where's all this sass coming from?  
I'm just poking a little fun.

NIGEL  
Oh yeah well maybe I'm tired of getting made fun of all the time!

CHAD  
Well maybe if you didn't make it so ea-

Chad gets cut off by the sounds of footsteps coming from the hall.

NIGEL  
Hide!

Chad darts under the bed and Nigel hides in the closet. Right as he closes the closet door, three kids come in the room in their pajamas.

KID #1  
Hey Caleb, its so cool that we get to sleep over tonight!

KID#2  
Yeah thanks for letting us come over!

The mom enters the room holding three sleeping bags.

MOM

Ok guys time to go to bed

CALEB, KID #1, #2

UUUUUgh do we have to.

MOM

Yes now its lights out ok. Be quiet!

The mom helps the kids get sleeping bags rolled out and the all get ready to sleep. The mom leaves the room and turns the lights off. Nigel rushes out of the room soon after. Chad watches him go and chuckles to himself.

INT- Attic -Night

Nigel is super scared and flustered from running to the attic.

NIGEL

Y-You gotta help me!

GHOST

What's wrong, the kid get a night light or something?

NIGEL

W-worse

GHOST

Worse than a night light?

NIGEL

H-he's h-h-h-having a s-s-s-sleepover.

GHOST

A sleepover huh. Seems fun.

NIGEL

FUN???!!?!?! How the heck am I s-s-sup-p-p-pposed to s-s-scare three kids all by my self... I can't do it.

GHOST

Nigel what about all the work we  
did?

NIGEL

It doesn't matter how quick I am or  
how sharp my teeth are, I can't do  
this.

The ghost looks angry, comes closer to Nigel and puts her  
hands on Nigel's shoulders.

GHOST

You're right Nigel, those things  
don't matter.

NIGEL

What?

GHOST

They never did. That training was  
never about Making you scary on the  
outside, it was about releasing the  
monster you were always meant to  
be. Chad isn't a good monster  
because he's big and strong, he's  
good because he's cocky. You're  
better than him. I have confidence  
in you, all that's left is for you  
to have confidence in yourself.

NIGEL

Do you really believe in me?

The Ghost steps back to look at Nigel more fully.

GHOST

you are totally capable of scarring  
not only the kid you where planning  
to scare, but also all the people  
in his little slumber party. Now...  
What are you?

NIGEL

I'm a monster!

INT-CALEB'S ROOM- NIGHT

All the kids are asleep in their sleeping bags. Chad peeks out from the closet. The doorknob starts rattling. The kids wake up.

KID #1

C-c-caleb wha-what's going on?

CALEB

I-I don't kn-kn-know

KID #2

I'm scared

Suddenly, Nigel Bursts in the room and lets out a giant roar. The kids all scream and stare at Nigel. Nigel comes closer to the kids and yells more. They all get up and run out of the room. Chad looks shocked.

NIGEL

I guess that means I scared them better

CHAD

Hey, that's not fair.

NIGEL

What do you mean. I scared them all myself.

CHAD

B-but y-you weren't supposed to win

NIGEL

Why not, after all you agreed to the challenge

CHAD

You know what? I don't have to deal wit this. NOW WAY and I getting in that futon.

Chad winds up to hit Nigel. Before he can lay a finger on Nigel, a shining light comes out from under the futon as golden chains fly out from it towards chad. The chains wrap around his arms and he is dragged kicking and screaming into the futon.

INT- ATTIC

Nigel and the Ghost are looking out of the attic window at the Futon on the sidewalk. A rundown pickup truck drives up and two guys come out of the truck and pick up the futon and throw it in the truck.

EXT- ROAD

The futon is in the back of the pickup truck and we can hear Chad's muffled screaming from inside the futon. We can see Chad kicking from inside the futon.

INT- ATTIC

GHOST

What are you going to do now that chad is gone?

NIGEL

I was thinking I'll live under the kid's bed now probably. It'll get boring being in that room all by myself, and you know. It wouldn't hurt to have a Ghost in the closet to help me.

GHOST

I thought you'd never ask

THE END