

THE AMUSEMENT PARK

Written by

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EXT. STORYBOOK AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

CARL, 30's, superhero t-shirt and shorts, aims a video camera *
at STEVE, 30's, polo shirt and cargo shorts, in front of a *
broken-down ride. The paint on the cars has faded to a faint *
red. The stairs are leaning to the side, and a hole is broken *
straight through the floor.

STEVE

Looks like this used to be a what?
Tilt-a-whirl?

CARL

Probably.

He lowers the arm holding the video camera and looks around.

CARL (CONT'D)

Geez, this place is more run down
than I was hoping.

Steve sits on the ledge of the Tilt-a-whirl.

STEVE

Is that a good thing or a bad
thing?

CARL

It's great!

At the sudden exclamation, a flock of birds take off into the *
air. The trees surrounding the ride are now silent. *

Steve laughs. Carl lifts the camera again and circles the
ride, kicking aside broken branches from his path.

CARL (CONT'D)

Okay, moving on.

INT. GOLDILOCKS HOUSE - DAY

Carl and Steve look into a Goldilocks and the Three Bears *
diorama behind plexiglass. A red button with "PUSH ME" *
written above it is in the wall to the right of Carl.

CARL

You know we have to push the
button.

STEVE

Think it still works?

CARL

Only one way to find out.

Carl pushes the button and lifts his video camera. There's a WHEEZE and a WHIR, and old-timey music starts up. A deep, booming voice on a crackling recording tells the story of Goldilocks. The dolls in the diorama move jerkily along to the words. *

With a BOOM, the recording ends. The dolls jerk to a halt. Baby Bear's head falls off. The guys look at each other and laugh. They move to the doorway, their backs to the diorama, and Goldilocks turns her head to face Baby Bear. *

EXT. SNOW WHITE DISPLAY - DUSK

Steve kneels next to a broken glass coffin. A fiberglass statue of Snow White, lies in the coffin. The dwarves, in all sorts of disrepair, are lined up behind the coffin. *

Carl videos as Steve stands, leans over the figure of Snow White. Steve makes a loud KISSING sound. *

CARL

That's a wrap!

STEVE

I'm sorry, Snow, it's been grand, but it's time for me to go. *

CARL

Yeah, and this place is just going to get creepier as the sun goes down.

Steve laughs.

STEVE

You're the one who wanted to cover a run-down park for your YouTube channel.

CARL

I know, and this is a great one. Now let's get out of here before these things come to life and eat us.

They laugh as Carl puts the camera in his bag. They walk away from the Snow White coffin.

Snow White sits up. Her head turns to watch the men leave. *

INT. CARL'S HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY

Carl sits at his desk, connects his video camera to his computer, and watches as footage uploads into his editing program. The doorbell RINGS. *

Carl stands and leaves the room. The upload continues. The screen flickers a few times. *

Carl returns to the room with Steve. They sit at the desk. *

CARL

You got here just in time. The upload should be done in a minute.

STEVE

Okay cool, so I can finally see this fancy editing stuff.

Carl barks a short laugh.

CARL

Yeah, real fancy.

He turns to the computer and clicks the first scene. They watch a few shots of the entrance of the amusement park. Carl adds a filter that darkens the scene.

STEVE

Yeah, that makes it creepier.

CARL

That's what I'm going for.

They watch a little of the footage at the Tilt-a-whirl. Carl's wife, ELLEN, 30's, tank top and shorts, knocks on the open door.

ELLEN

Hey, guys, you ready for some lunch?

Carl doesn't look away from the computer. Steve turns in his chair and smiles at Ellen.

CARL

Yeah, in a bit.

ELLEN

Okay.

She turns to leave. Steve stands.

STEVE

I'll help.

ELLEN

Oh no, you don't need to.

STEVE

It's my pleasure. We'll get lunch put together and bring it back to the office.

Carl continues to move scenes around on the screen.

*

CARL

Yeah, go ahead, I'm not ready for a break yet. Steve will help.

Steve and Ellen leave the office.

Carl hits play on the next scene. He takes a few notes in his notebook. The next scene is of the Goldilocks and the Three Bears diorama. Steve stands in front of the diorama, chatting about the room. A quick movement happens behind his head.

*

CARL (CONT'D)

What the--?

Carl stops the video, rewinds and plays it again. He leans closer to the screen. There's a movement behind Steve's head, but it isn't identifiable.

*

*

CARL (CONT'D)

Huh.

He writes again in his notebook and clicks on the next scene. This time, Steve stands next to statues of Hansel and Gretl, having a silly one-sided conversation about the witch and the candy house.

The heads of both statues turn to face Steve, and then they turn to face the camera. They smile at the same time. Then the faces freeze again.

*

*

Carl pushes back from the desk.

CARL (CONT'D)

Steve! Get in here!

Steve runs into the room.

STEVE

What? Geez what's going on?

CARL

You need to see this. Remember the Hansel and Gretl statues?

STEVE

Yeah, they weren't impressed with my retelling of their story.

CARL

Maybe they were. They moved!

STEVE

What? You're nuts.

CARL

I just saw the statues move in the video. Watch.

Carl replays the scene. This time the statues stay frozen in place. Steve laughs at the end.

STEVE

Yeah. They were really into my story. Stop kidding around. Lunch is almost ready.

*

Carl stares at the screen.

CARL

I swear. I swear their heads moved.

STEVE

Sure they did. Maybe you need a break sooner than you thought.

Carl rubs his eye.

CARL

Nah, I'm okay. I'll keep going. I want to post this tonight.

Steve leaves the room. Carl blows out a big breath and turns back to the computer screen. He clicks play on the next scene.

Carl has the camera on himself and Steve this time, walking along the side of a candy-decorated house. They turn the corner and a witch stands in the doorway of the house, beckoning with a finger. Carl moves the camera so he isn't in the scene and focuses on Steve.

Steve approaches the witch and talks to her. She reaches out, grabs him by the collar, and pulls him into the house.

*

Carl watches in horror as SCREAMS come from inside the candy house. The screams suddenly stop. The computer screen flashes, the video skips, and Steve steps out of the house like nothing happened. He shakes the witch's finger and bows to her.

Carl rubs his eyes and stops the playback. He restarts the scene and watches the whole thing over again. The same scene repeats. Steve is pulled into the house, the video skips, and he steps outside. *

Carl scrambles out of his office. *

CARL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Steve! Ellen! Steve!

The video continues to play, and it skips again. Steve looks at the camera, smiles, and the video skips once more. Steve is now a smiling, crumbling statue of Prince Charming. He walks with Carl to the broken coffin holding Snow White. *

INT. CARL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Steve and Ellen sit at the kitchen table, holding hands. Carl rushes into the room

CARL
Ste-- What is going on?

There is a flash, and Steve and Ellen are the crumbling statues of Prince Charming and Snow White. Their heads turn to look at Carl. They both smile. Another flash and they are Steve and Ellen. One more flash, and they are the statues, reaching for Carl.