

Hide & Seek
or Max's Traumatic Incident

by

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V1.0 - fit for human consumption

V1.1 - post-Steve edit

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FADE IN:

EXT. LONELY COUNTRY ROAD - EVENING

Opening credits while...

A nice family car winds along a remote country road.

MONTAGE - ARRIVAL AT COTTAGE - EVENING

A) EXT. UNLOCKING C/U - combination key safe clicks open by MUM's hand, as she says "Yes!"

B) EXT. UNPACKING C/U - ground level beside parked car, heavy luggage drops from car boot (note: Dad's shoes must be seen here). Dad grunts with exertion.

C) INT./EXT. ARRIVING - DAD hauls copious luggage through back door to holiday cottage, Mum says "Great!".

End of opening sequence.

INT. RENTED COUNTRY COTTAGE, KITCHEN - EVENING

MUM, 30, white blouse, hands covering her face - counting.

She sits at a rustic table with two glasses of red wine. One drained, hers half full.

Surrounded by family luggage. They've not unpacked yet.

MUM
(slow counting)
9...
10...
11...

CUT TO:

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

MAX, 5, is excitedly running around to find a hiding place. He carries his cuddly SUPERTEDDY with him.

Max explores through the adventures of Superteddy. With Max holding him, Superteddy can walk on the floor, fly over the rug, bounce off the walls.

BACK TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Slowly closing in on Mum's covered face...

MUM

17...

18...

Mum has a big gulp from her glass of red wine.

CUT TO:

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Max runs past a half open door. But Superteddy brings him back.

Max uses Superteddy to close the door. It latches shut with a distinct click. Max runs on.

But the door slowly swings ajar again - creepy.

Superteddy goes back, shuts it more carefully.

BACK TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Closer and closer on Mum's face...

MUM

27...

28...

29...

30!

Coming, ready or not.

Mum uncovers her face. She's very attractive - beautiful eyes.

She gets up and pantomimes looking in obvious places.

MUM

(loudly)

Now where could they be?

Looks back at her glass of red wine.

MUM

(quietly, affectionately)

There you are!

She takes the red wine, leaves the room to hunt.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

MUM
Where's Max and Superteddy? And
where's Daddy?

At the end of the hallway, a heavy curtain covers the front door. The toes of Daddy's shoes can be seen poking out underneath.

Mum spots them and creeps over. Whispers to the curtain.

MUM
You appear to be poking out.

Nothing happens.

Mum swings back the curtain. Empty shoes - tricked!

Mum continues looking. Back to the hallway door that Max closed earlier. It is ajar again.

INT. STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Superteddy peers round a corner. Max giggles with excitement and they dart off, seeking a hiding place upstairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dark. Shadowy furniture. Ominous.

The door creaks open bringing light and strange shadows.

Mum's silhouette enters, wine glass in hand.

MUM
(exaggeratedly)
Hmm... I don't remember the lights
being off in here. Maybe someone's
hiding...

She peers around.

In the darkness, someone is breathing. And crouching.

MUM
Perhaps a little light would help.

Mum ventures further into the room to switch on a lamp. Breathing intensifies.

She flicks the switch - Lights!

... DAD, 30, leaps up from behind the sofa.

DAD

Boo!

Mum SHRIEKS and flings red wine... all over her blouse.

MUM

Oh my God! You bastard!

DAD

Wow, sexy.

Mum has wine all over her blouse. Wet, winey and figure-hugging.

MUM

You total bastard!

Dad pulls her towards him.

DAD

Don't worry, at least it didn't go on the carpet.

He tries to kiss her passionately.

MUM

Get off! I need to get this in the wash.

From upstairs, there is a THUD. Then another.

DAD

Subtle.

MUM

That's our Max.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max's feet disappear from view as he wriggles under a bed to hide.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Mum is taking off her wine-soaked blouse. Dad refills both wine glasses.

MUM

Get me another top. And a bra. In there.

DAD

There's a sight I don't see often enough.

Dad pulls Mum close and kisses her, a hand on the small of her back.

MUM
Cold hands.

DAD
They'll warm up.

Tight together. Mum laughs as she looks down.

Dad has a red wine bra-print on his shirt.

MUM
Oops.

DAD
You got me. Now I have to take off my clothes too.

Mum gives Dad a look. Dad's not being a responsible parent.

DAD
Come on. I reckon we've got about four minutes.

MUM
No way. What can you do in two minutes?

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Max and Superteddy hide in the eaves behind the bed, covered over with a furry blanket. A great little hidey-hole for a little boy.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Mum bends over to shove clothes in the washing machine. Dad runs his hand across her hip.

MUM
Hang on a tick.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

From Max's POV, in a single shot:

A foot treads into view on the other side of the bed...

A big, heavy, bloodied, blackened rubber boot...

Dragging something foul, earthy, meaty and gristly.

Max covers his mouth to stop himself screaming.

Grunting noises... Sniffing noises - A horrible monster!

Even Superteddy's circular eye-beads look startled.

EXT. COUNTRY COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

The cottage is in an isolated spot in the valley. All is quiet. Birds fluff and huddle in the trees.

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max has horror in his eyes and his hand over his mouth.

He tries to stay still, but he's shaking.

From downstairs, he hears a distant muffled noise from Mum - an ambiguous squeal (could be something bad happening, could be fun and games with Dad - really not clear).

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Closer and closer on the washing machine, containing dad's shirt, mum's stained blouse and bra.

From a tipped up wineglass on the table, red wine drips and pools on the floor like blood.

BACK TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max, scared, looks to Superteddy. Superteddy is stoic and unblinking - a source of confidence.

The bedroom door is slowly pulled almost closed (presumably by the monster).

Close on Superteddy's wide reassuring eye-beads.

Superteddy advances GI-Joe-fashion under the bed towards the door (pushed by Max of course).

Max shakes his head. Too scared to leave the hidey-hole.

Superteddy pushes forward bravely.

Following Superteddy, Max starts to wriggle out from under the bed.

INT. STAIRWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Muffled noises. A thud. Another. Stifled human moans.
Ambiguous.

Superteddy peers out from the corner wall at the top of
the stairs.

Then Max looks too.

Max tiptoes down the stairs.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Max comes to the downstairs hallway, and stops...

The front door curtain is pulled back and the door is
ajar!

Dad's shoes are abandoned there too, one flipped over.

Max sees all this and is very scared.

He pushes Superteddy forward slowly, intending for him to
close the door. Max can barely watch.

But...

As Superteddy gets close...

A monstrous black rubber-gloved hand darts out from
behind the door, grabs Superteddy and takes him!

In silent horror, Max runs down the hall, away from the
door!

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max opens the door...

And finds Dad on top of Mum, both under a furry blanket
similar to the one in the upstairs bedroom.

Dad and Mum look shocked.

Max looks shocked.

MUM

What's happened to Superteddy?

Dad gives Mum a disappointed look.

Max has wee'd himself.

FADE OUT. CREDITS.

EXT. COUNTRY COTTAGE - NIGHT

Superteddy is abandoned and bedraggled, somewhere near the front of the house.

Porch light turns off - darkness.

THE END.