

THE MOM NEXT DOOR

Written by

Jack Turner

Shooting Script

FADE IN:

INT. GRACE'S KITCHEN - DAY

We hear the calm patter of rain on the window. Some cars pass by the house. The Radio is playing.

RADIO

The search for the missing people is still underway. The suspected kidnapper has taken several pensioners and children in the last couple of weeks. We remind you that curfew is still mandatory. If you have any information on the kidnapper please contact your local authority.

This gets drowned out by the soft sobbing of Grace's Mom, who is crying into her hands.

We hear some soft footsteps creaking on the wooden floorboards. "Ding" - This is the sound of Grace's phone getting a text message.

Grace's mom jumps. Grace, 16, an Alt girl standing by the door.

GRACE'S MOM

You scared me!

GRACE

Oh.. Uh.. Sorry mom..

Grace's mom sniffles.

GRACE'S MOM

Who was that?

GRACE

Just some guy. You wouldn't know him.

GRACE'S MOM

Oh.. Well I'm glad you're finally making friends. But where are you going?

GRACE

I was just going to have a look around.

GRACE'S MOM

I don't think that it's a good idea. They said curfew was mandatory. And what about the missing..

GRACE

(Interrupting)

Mom. I won't be long. I'm going crazy stuck in this house.

GRACE'S MOM

You don't know who's about and all those children going missing.. What if something happens to you?

Grace sighs.

GRACE'S MOM (CONT'D)

(Concerned)

I just don't want you to end up on the news.

GRACE

You worry too much. I'll only be going round the corner. Can't I do anything anymore?

GRACE'S MOM

Fine.. Please make sure you're back before it's dark.

Grace opens the door and closes the door behind her.

EXT. STREET - DAY

We hear the rain pattering off Grace's waterproof coat. We hear her footsteps stop, then she runs in a fast pace sprint.

GRACE

(Happily)

Hey Fred!

We hear her stop running. She is out of breathe a little bit.

FRED

Hey Grace!

GRACE

It's so great to finally meet you in person!

FRED

Yeah! It's fun talking online but actually seeing you.. Wow..

(Beat)

What took you so long? It's been waiting here for like half an hour.

GRACE

Sorry about that. My mom was interrogating me. Nice satchel, where'd you get it?

FRED

It's my paper bag.. I haven't finished my round yet so I didn't get time to change.

GRACE

It looks cute.

FRED

You're too kind. My friend is having a get together. You *need* to meet her. She's great!

GRACE

I don't know.. I told my mom that I wouldn't be gone for long.

FRED

Oh. I guess you must be a chicken then? You scared you're mom might say something?

GRACE

I'm not.. But what about Curfew?

FRED

You're not scared of curfew are you?

GRACE

It's just... Doesn't your mom care?

FRED

She trusts that I could get away. If anything happens to you, I promise I'll protect you. I'll be your knight in shining armor.

GRACE

I don't know if I should go.

FRED
(Begging)
Come on..

GRACE
Fine. I'll come. You promise she's cool.

FRED
I promise! First, I need to deliver this last paper.

GRACE
You just said..

FRED
(Interrupting)
I know.. Kill me.. Just a quick little job.. I won't even need to get changed before we go.

Grace sighs.

GRACE
Okay, let's go.

We hear the two of them walking down the street.

EXT. HATTIE'S PORCH - DAY

The rain is still pouring. We hear Fred knock on the front door.

GRACE
Are you sure anyone lives here? It looks abandoned.

We hear Fred knock the door again.

FRED
(Concerned)
Mrs Aster?
(Beat)
Mrs Aster, Are you home?

GRACE
We should go. This place is giving me the creeps.

FRED
No.. Something's up.. She always answers the door.

GRACE
Can't you just leave the paper?

FRED
No. She owes me some paper money.
If I don't get it. I'm gonna get
fired.

The two of them are silent.

FRED (CONT'D)
Did you hear that?

GRACE
What?

FRED
Did you not hear that crash?
(Shouting)
Mrs Aster!

GRACE
You're being paranoid. Come on.
Let's go.

FRED
We can't leave. The kidnapper might
be here. What if something happens
to her?

We hear the sound of Fred turn the handle to the front door.
It's stiff but with a little shove, it opens. The door creaks
open.

We hear Fred take a step into the house.

GRACE
(Whispering)
Fred. What are you doing?

FRED
Are you coming? Or are you staying
out there and freezing to death?

Reluctantly, Grace walks into the house.

INT. HATTIE'S HOUSE - HALL WAY - DAY

We hear Fred walk towards the kitchen.

FRED

Here. Come this way. She loves cooking. She might be in the Kitchen.

GRACE

Are you sure we should be here?

FRED

Look, She's the sweetest lady around. It would break my heart if I found out something had happened to her and I did nothing.

We hear Fred continue to walk to the Kitchen.

Grace quickly follows.

INT. HATTIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

We hear the pots and pans on the cooker bubbling over.

GRACE

Wow. This Kitchen is massive. Twice the size of mine.

FRED

This just doesn't make sense. Why would she start to cook and disappear?

We hear some muffled screams. She sounds in pain.

We hear Fred run over to a door close to him.

"Bang" - Fred hits a wooden door with his fists. No answer.

FRED (CONT'D)

Hello? Hattie? Are you there?

"Bang" - Fred hits on a thick Metal door. Then, run to a final door. Before he could hit it.

We hear a muffled voice shouting for help. Fred stops hitting the door and races back to the Metal door.

FRED (CONT'D)

Hattie?

HATTIE

(Through one of the door)
Help me!

FRED
(Face up to the door)
Hattie!

HATTIE
Freddie? Is that you? I'm scared. I
think someone is down here with me.

Fred tries to open the door but it doesn't move. It's locked.

FRED
Hattie. How do I get in?

HATTIE
You need the key in the draw next
to the oven. Freddie please be
quick. It's dark down here.

Hattie screams.

Fred races over to the draw and opens it. Grace follows. Fred
rummages through the draw to find the key.

FRED
Key.. key.. Ah a key!

GRACE
If it's dark we may need some
light.

Grace moves some utensils over and picks up some matches.

FRED
Some matches. That's great Grace.

They both walk over to the door and "Clunk" - This is the
sound of the door being unlocked. It's very heavy and takes a
lot of strength to move it.

We hear the sound of flies buzzing around.

GRACE
(Covering her mouth)
Oh it stinks.

FRED
You've got the matches. You go
first.

GRACE
Okay..

We hear Grace take a deep breathe.

Grace opens up the match box and in one long stroke lights the match.

INT. HATTIE'S HOUSE - CELLAR - DAY

Grace takes a couple of steps down the creaky wooden steps.

The large metal door starts to close.

GRACE
Fred! The door!

Fred tries to hold the door open but he couldn't hold it. The door shuts. "Clunk" - The door locks it's self.

HATTIE
Was that you Freddie?

FRED
(Shouting out)
Hattie! Where are you?

When Grace reaches the bottom of the cellar. Grace takes one step on the wooden floor of the basement.

"Squeak" - Grace steps on the tail of something. She didn't see what it is. The patter of small steps run away from her.

HATTIE
Freddie! Please help. I think
someone is down here.

FRED
Where are you?

HATTIE
I'm back here.

FRED
Grace quickly. Come on.

Fred walks towards the sound of Hattie's panicked breathe.

GRACE
Fred, I can't see anything. This
place is like a Jungle.

Grace takes a step forward and kicks something heavy.

GRACE (CONT'D)
What's that?
(Beat)
Ah! No! The match.

The match in Grace's hand goes out. Grace pulls out the match box again and tries to light another one but she can't strike it.

FRED

Grace! Come here! I've found her!

Grace makes her way over to Fred and Hattie. Every couple of steps, Grace knocking into stuff and stepping on something that cracks under her feet.

FRED (CONT'D)

Hattie! Are you okay?

Fred tries to lift her up. Hattie groans in pain.

HATTIE

Yes, thank you. Help me get out of here before he comes back.

GRACE

I think I've found the light..

"Click" - Grace pulls the string which turns on the light in the basement.

Grace screams.

GRACE (CONT'D)

What the.. What is that?

Grace gags.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Are those bones? What are you?

Grace runs towards the door.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Fred. Run.

Gagging as she runs, Grace cracks bones on the way to the stairs. She climbs the steps and reaches the door.

But the door is locked. Grace pulls on the handle.

Fred runs up the stairs.

GRACE (CONT'D)

The key Fred. You still have the key!

FRED

Yes. Here.

Grace fumbles with the key. Puts it in the lock. Then, unlocks the door. They both push the door open.

INT. HATTIE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

We stove still bubbling over.

GRACE

We need to let people know. She's a monster. She's the kidnapper.

FRED

Grace...

We hear Grace run out of the Kitchen, while Fred is walking out.

INT. HATTIE'S HOUSE - HALL WAY - DAY

The two of them reach the front door. Grace tries to open it but it's locked. "Bang" - Grace tries to get the attention from outside by hitting on the front door.

GRACE

It's shut.. Why is it shut? How?
(Shouting)
Help! Help Us!

FRED

Grace.. It's over.

GRACE

What? Fred.. No! Don't give up.. We can find a way out.

Grace is trying to use force to open the door.

FRED

No.. Grace.. It's over.. For you..

GRACE

(Upset)
What?

FRED

You've been the easiest one yet Grace. You're going to taste so great. Stress really tightens the flesh which makes it easier to cook and the meat basically falls off the bone.

Grace starts to tear up.

GRACE

Fred.. Why are you saying that?

Fred picks up Grace. She starts to struggle.

FADE TO:

INT. HATTIE'S HOUSE - DAY

We hear no more rain coming from outside the window. Birds are chirping and some calm, cheerful music is playing.

HATTIE

You did really good today Freddie.

FRED

Thank you.

Hattie kisses Fred.

HATTIE

You're the answers to all my wishes.

FRED

Thank you. I'm just glad to not have Vegetable stew for a while.

The two of them start to laugh.

FADE OUT.

RADIO

Breaking News. We remind you, Do not break curfew. We have news that another child has been reported missing earlier today. If anyone knows the location of Grace Singer or any of the other previous victims, we urge you to please report to the local authority.

FADE OUT.