

LITTLEFEARS_SHORTFILM

by

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INT. LANGSTROM RESIDENCE - NIGHT

BAILEY the beagle follows a scent throughout the halls of an average suburban home. The house is quiet, eerily so, and none of the dog's humans are seen.

Bailey passes through the kitchen, past a bathroom, and to a bedroom door. A picture--hand drawn by the room's owner--is posted. A six-year old's rendering of a butterfly. Big mismatched wings. A smiling face. The drawing is signed "HANNAH."

The door is closed. The beagle WHINES and PAWS at its frame.

JORDAN (O.S.)
Bailey! Stop it!

The voice of Bailey's boy, 12-year old JORDAN LANGSTROM. His tennis shoes enter the frame.

JORDAN
Nobody's in there, girl.

The boy's hand gently tugs at Bailey's collar and leads the dog away. Bailey GRUMBLES her displeasure.

JORDAN
(struggling)
No, she's outside. Outside.

Bailey's whining grows faint.

A BEAT.

The door to the bedroom OPENS. A wisp of smoke escapes. A COAL-BLACK FOOT follows.

SMASH TO BLACK

Title Card: LITTLE FEARS

EXT. LANGSTROM BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

An external frame tent takes up most of the Langstrom's tiny suburban backyard. Within, we see shifting beams of light and the shadows of THREE YOUNG GIRLS.

HANNAH

No! You're gonna tell a scary story!

HANNAH LANGSTROM, at 6, the youngest of the Langstrom children throws her hands over her eyes.

JESS PARKER, 10, whose blonde hair and pale skin separates her from the others, rolls her eyes.

JESS

Oh my god, Kayleigh, why is your sister such a baby?!

Hannah throws her hands down.

HANNAH

I'm not a baby!

The middle Langstrom child, 10-year old KAYLEIGH, gets between the two.

KAYLEIGH

(annoyed)

Okay, just stop it.

She turns to her best friend.

KAYLEIGH

I know she's annoying but my mom said that's part of the deal. If we wanna sleep outside, Hannah has to come along.

Hannah shoots a smug look towards Jess. Kayleigh turns to her sister.

KAYLEIGH

But, Hannah, if you want to hang out with me and Jess then you need to be more grown up. Got it?

This is Jess's turn to shoot a smug look. Hannah looks small for a moment then nods.

KAYLEIGH

Good. Now where we we?

Jess gets excited. She LOVES scary stories.

JESS

You were about to tell a scary story.

INT. LANGSTROM RESIDENCE - CONTINUOUS

Jordan and Bailey sit on the couch, watching television. Jordan lazily tosses a piece of popcorn toward the dog. The beagle catches it.

Jordan's phone BUZZES from the endtable. He picks it up.

The sender is "MOM." The text says:

MOM (TEXT)
Hit a bad storm. Not going to make
it home tonight. :(

Jordan texts back:

JORDAN (TEXT)
kk

Another BUZZ:

MOM (TEXT)
Everything okay?

Jordan thumbs a response. As he does, we see a figure moving in the background, near the kitchen.

Bailey's head PERKS UP. She begins barking. The figure DISSIPATES as if made of smoke.

JORDAN (TEXT)
Fine c u in the morning?

BUZZ.

MOM (TEXT)
First thing! LOVE YOU!!!!

Bailey's barking finally gets to the boy.

JORDAN
Bailey! Stop it!

The dog jumps off the couch and rushes toward the back door. It slides open. Hannah steps in.

HANNAH
I have to go to the bathroom!

Jordan PAUSES his show.

JORDAN
Then go. You don't need my
permission.

EXT. LANGSTROM BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jess sips at a juice box when a devilish look crosses her
face. Kayleigh recognizes it.

KAYLEIGH
What? What are you thinking?

The grin on her friend's face is pure evil.

JESS
You wanna mess with Hannah?

KAYLEIGH
Jess, no--

JESS
Oh come on! It's so lame that we
have to have your baby sister out
here.

KAYLEIGH
It's not so bad--

JESS
Oh my god, Kay. It's the worst.
She's such a baby. I bet she's
gonna pee her sleeping bag and this
entire tent is gonna smell like pee
and then I'm going to go home and
smell like pee--

KAYLEIGH
Jess! Stop it! You're being mean.

JESS
(fed up)
This is so lame.

Jess bursts out of the tent and stops immediately. A CROW
sits on a lawn chair, staring at her. It CAWS.

The girl clutches her chest.

JESS
Holy crap.

She turns and walks toward the house.

JESS
Stupid bird.

The crow watches the girl as she goes into the house.

INT. LANGSTROM RESIDENCE - MOMENTS LATER

Jordan scans the fridge for something to snack on. He jumps as he turns around and sees Jess standing inches from him. The girl laughs.

JESS
You people are such scaredy-cats.

JORDAN
I wasn't scared, I just--

JESS
Whatever.

She opens the fridge.

JORDAN
We don't have anything.

Jess closes the door.

JESS
This is the worst sleepover.

From off-screen, Bailey BARKS. Once. Twice. Then again and again and again.

JESS
What's her problem?

JORDAN
I dunno. She's been acting weird
all night.

Jordan heads down the hallway. Bailey is at the bathroom door, barking like mad.

JORDAN
What's wrong, Bailey?

He tries to pull the pooch away but the beagle plants her feet.

JORDAN

Bailey! Stop!

Jess comes up from behind them.

JESS
Is Hannah in there?

JORDAN
(struggling)
I think so, yeah.

We blend through the door to the--

INT. FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see Hannah being pulled into the mirror by a soot-covered figure. A long thin hand is wrapped around the girl's mouth. Another is curled around her waist and dragging her through.

Bailey's muted BARKING through the closed door. A hand BANGING on the hollow wood.

JESS (O.S.)
C'mon, you baby! I have to pee!

Hannah clutches at the creature's hands, trying desperately to get free. She looks over at the door handle. It shudders in place. Bailey's barking. Jess banging impatiently on the door.

Another black hand appears through the mirror. Then another.

A CAW.

And Hannah's gone. A few dark feathers plume from the mirror and land softly on the sink.

The door lock POPS open.

Jordan steps through, an untwisted coat hanger in his hand. Bailey rushes past him, still barking.

JORDAN
(confused)
Hannah?

Jess looks over at the sink. At the three black feathers resting within. She picks one up and looks at it.

JORDAN

Hannah?!

EXT. LANGSTROM BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Kayleigh, earbuds planted, nods along to a song as she looks at her phone.

MOM (TEXT)

I love you, sweetie! See you in the morning!

KAYLEIGH (TEXT)

Night luv u

MOM (TEXT)

Listen to your brother, okay?

Kayleigh rolls her eyes.

The flap to the tent unzips so quickly that Kayleigh JUMPS. She pulls the earbuds out as she turns to face Jess.

KAYLEIGH

You scared the crap out of me!

JESS

(no time)

Is Hannah out here?

KAYLEIGH

(duh)

No, she went inside.

Jordan pokes his head through.

JORDAN

(urgent)

She's not in the house.

KAYLEIGH

(they're serious)

What do you mean? She's not in the house? Where is she?

INT. LANGSTROM RESIDENT - CONTINUOUS

Bailey the beagle sniffs around the house, following a trail. Her nose leads her to Hannah's bedroom, where we started our little tale. This time, the door is cracked.

The dog pushes through and we are suddenly in--

INT. HANNAH'S BEDROOM (CLOSETLAND VERSION) - CONTINUOUS

A little girl's bedroom--but different. A twin bed with a flowery sheet. A white dresser with dolls stacked on top. But also...

Black tar drips down the walls. Thick smoke curls along the floor.

Bailey growls. Then barks. Louder and louder. She sees something.

We pull back to see what Bailey sees: a long-fingered hand holding a doll. The hand sets it down gently atop the dresser. In silhouette, we see the person wears a bird-like mask. If it is a mask.

BOGEYMAN

Dogs. They're almost worse than children...

Bailey's bark becomes a bellowing howl.

We hear a commotion from elsewhere in the house.

JORDAN (O.S.)

Bailey? Bailey, did you find her?

KAYLEIGH (O.S.)

Hannah? Hannah?!

The three older kids burst into the room. As they do--

INT. HANNAH'S ROOM (REAL VERSION) - CONTINUOUS

The room morphs into Hannah's real room. The ooze, the smoke, the bird-faced man are all gone. Jordan rushes over to Bailey. He tries to see what she saw.

JORDAN

Bailey, what is it? What happened?

Kayleigh throws open the closet and looks inside.

Jess's eyes are transfixed on the doll atop Hannah's dresser. The one placed there by the Bogeyman. She takes a step toward it, gently. Tentatively.

She reaches the dresser. She picks up the doll gently.

KAYLEIGH

Jess, what are you looking at?

The girl turns around. She's holding the doll to her chest.

JESS

Mindy.

KAYLEIGH

What?

Jess clutches the doll.

JESS

Mindy. My favorite doll from when I was little.

JORDAN

(confused)

What about it?

JESS

What's she doing here?

Kayleigh and Jordan exchange a look.

Jess is visibly upset.

JESS

And why is she crying?

Jess shows the doll--and Mindy is indeed crying. Dark, thick tears.

The crying face of the doll blends into Hannah's face--

INT. THE BLUE ROOM (CLOSETLAND) - NIGHT

Hannah cries as the soot-skinned bogey drags her down a nondescript hallways.

HANNAH

Help! Help me! Jordan! Kayleigh!
Help!

The door at the end of the hallway opens and we see the silhouette of the bird-faced man again. The CAWS of a hundred blackbirds fills the air.

Hannah continues to cry as the door SLAMS SHUT.

SMASH TO BLACK

THE END