

The Doll

A Ten-Minute Play

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CHARACTERS: ANTHONY, single father of 2, age 35
 LILLY, ANTHONY's daughter, age 8
 TOBIAS, ANTHONY's son, age 7
 JEREMY, ANTHONY's brother, age 30

SCENE: Somewhere in Nevada.

AT RISE: JEREMY is sitting in a rocking chair by the fire, LILLY and TOBIAS sitting in front of him. ANTHONY walks into the living room, blanket in hand, to see JEREMY telling the kids a story.

JEREMY

(JEREMY leans closer to the children, his voice close to a whisper)
He hits the hood of his car, cursing himself as he wonders what he could do. He debates calling someone, but he doesn't have any service. He tries to call to help, but he knows none will come. As he sits there in silence, he wonders what he will do. Yet, that silence is broken when there is a loud crash from the woods. He gets up, turning to see where the sound came from when-

(JEREMY claps on the last word of his sentence, causing the kids to jump backwards. TOBIAS lets out a short scream.)

ANTHONY

(ANTHONY walks into the living room and sighs, putting the blanket in his hand down on the coffee table before walking over to the group.)
This story again, Jer? You're going to scare the kids.

JEREMY

(JEREMY looks up, leaning back in his chair when he sees ANTHONY.)
Ah, c'mon ANTHONY, I'm just having a little fun.

ANTHONY

I'm sick of this story, and I'm sure the kids are, too.

(ANTHONY gestures to LILLY and TOBIAS, who shake their heads.
ANTHONY sighs.)
Still, it's late. LILLY, Toby, it's time for bed.

(LILLY frowns.)

LILLY

Aww, c'mon Dad! It's not that late.

TOBIAS

Yeah, let Uncle JEREMY finish his story!

JEREMY

I'd have to agree.

ANTHONY

You already been up too long. C'mon, up to bed.

(Reluctantly, LILLY and TOBIAS get up and run to the right. Just as LILLY's about to exit she stops, turning around and running back to the rocking chair and grabbing a small doll that was sitting on the floor before exiting stage right along with TOBIAS. ANTHONY looks a little annoyed.)

JEREMY

What's up?

ANTHONY

Are you sure you should be telling the kids about that?

JEREMY

I've told you a million times, it's not real. It's a *joke*

ANTHONY

I know what I saw.

JEREMY

No, you're crazy.

ANTHONY

I saw what happened with my own two eyes. It has targeted everyone single person I love, and it's coming for you next! This isn't a joke, JEREMY! Your life is in danger!

(ANTHONY leans in so he's face to face with JEREMY)

The death of my wife was not an accident.

(ANTHONY straightens his clothes as he walks to the right)

Now, you should head home. It's late.

JEREMY

You're right.

(JEREMY takes his coat off the back of the rocking chair and puts it on.)
I'm telling you, you can't dwell on things like this. They're not real.

(JEREMY exits stage left. ANTHONY sighs and exits stage right. The kids run back on stage, LILLY on stage right and TOBIAS on stage left, meeting at the middle. LILLY has the doll in her hands.)

LILLY

Isn't Uncle JEREMY cool! He always has cool stories.

TOBIAS

Yeah, but they're always really scary.

LILLY

But they're not real! Any of that happening in real life would be crazy.

TOBIAS

Still...

LILLY

The doll in the story was kind of like this one, right?

(LILLY holds the doll up by it's right arm)
It was haunted in the story, but there's no way this doll could be. It's all fake, they're just stories written for fun.

TOBIAS

They're still scary.

(TOBIAS jumps back in surprise)

LILLY

What's wrong!

TOBIAS

His eyes moved!

(He points to the doll. LILLY looks at it)

LILLY
They did not.

TOBIAS
Did too!

LILLY
Did not!

TOBIAS
Did too!

LILLY
Did not!

TOBIAS
Did t- I-It moved again!

(TOBIAS steps backwards, horrified.)

LILLY
It's just your imagination. There's no way-

(LILLY jumps, flinging the doll stage right.)
It moved!

TOBIAS
I told you!

LILLY
I know, I know!

(LILLY begins pacing back and forth.)
But there's no way. Something like this only happens in movies. There's no way that a doll could move all on its own. This has gotta be a trick. Uncle JEREMY planned this. It's a trick.

TOBIAS
LILLY?

(LILLY stops pacing to look at TOBIAS)
Look.

(He points to the doll. LILLY turns around slowly to look at the doll, which is standing upright.)

LILLY

Toby, it landed like that, didn't it?

(LILLY slowly walks backwards.)

TOBIAS

I don't think so!

(They cling to each other.)

LILLY

Stay calm, stay calm, it going to be alright!

TOBIAS

Don't lie to me!

LILLY

I'm sorry!

(Behind the kids, a door opens, revealing JEREMY. The doll flops on the ground. JEREMY frowns when he sees the kids.)

JEREMY

What's wrong, kids?

(LILLY and TOBIAS let go of each other, a little more calm.)

LILLY

Uncle JEREMY?! What are you doing here?

(LILLY positions herself in front of the doll, hiding it from JEREMY's view.)

TOBIAS

You look a little different, too.

JEREMY

I just remembered that I wanted to talk to you two.

TOBIAS

What is it?

JEREMY

Do you have the doll?

LILLY

(LILLY sounds a little confused)

Yes?

JEREMY

Show it to me.

(LILLY and TOBIAS look at each other. Reluctantly, LILLY goes and pick up the doll, bringing it over and handing it to JEREMY)

Now, I want you to listen to me. This is not a joke. You are in danger. You have to leave, run far away and never come back. This doll is cursed. She will take anything and everything from you until there is nothing left. Your mother was too late, and so was I. Save yourself, please.

(JEREMY turns, running and exiting stage left. As the kids look at each other, confused, ANTHONY enters stage right. He looks shaken)

ANTHONY

Kids, I have some bad news. JEREMY, Uncle JEREMY, is dead.