

SANCTUARY NIGHTMARES:  
4. A VISIT WITH GRANDFATHER

FOR SOME REASON...

...THERE'S SADNESS  
IN FATHER'S EYES.

I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.

HE HAD THOSE EYES  
THE SAME DAY...

...WHEN GRANDFATHER  
PASSED AWAY.

TODAY WE ARE TO  
VISIT GRANDFATHER'S  
GRAVE.

HE WAS BURIED  
OUTSIDE THE  
VILLAGE TWO  
YEARS AGO TODAY.

THE ANNIVERSARY  
OF GRANDFATHER'S  
DEATH...THAT MUST BE WHY  
FATHER LOOKS SO SAD.

ONLY FATHER AND I  
ARE GOING TODAY.

WE HAVE TO WALK  
THROUGH OUR  
ENTIRE FIELD OF  
GRAIN TO GET  
THERE.

THAT ALONE TAKES  
FOREVER. AFTER ALL,  
WE'RE A WEALTHY  
FAMILY WITH LOTS  
OF LAND.

THE FARM BELONGED TO  
GRANDFATHER, AND NOW  
FATHER OWNS IT...SO...

...THAT MEANS  
I'M NEXT.

I'M SURE HE WANTS TO GIVE  
ME THE FARM, AND NOT MY  
YOUNGER HALF-BROTHER.

PROBABLY BECAUSE  
FATHER AND I ARE  
SO MUCH ALIKE.

PEOPLE SAY I LOOK  
JUST LIKE FATHER WHEN  
HE WAS MY AGE.

THE BACK OF MY HEAD IS  
KIND OF POINTY, JUST LIKE  
FATHER'S.

APPARENTLY THAT'S A COMMON  
TRAIT IN OUR FAMILY.

MY HALF-BROTHER LOOKS  
NOTHING LIKE FATHER.

SO I'M SURE FATHER  
LIKES ME MORE THAN  
MY BROTHER.

AFTER ALL, HE'S  
TAKING ONLY ME TO  
GRANDFATHER'S  
GRAVE.

MY STEP-MOTHER  
MUST'VE BEEN SEETHING  
WITH JEALOUSY. THAT'S  
PROBABLY WHY SHE GAVE  
ME THAT STRANGE LOOK.

ANYWAY..

...WHEN WILL WE GET THERE?

MY LEGS ARE  
SORE. JUST  
WHERE EXACTLY  
IS THE GRAVE?

FATHER, ARE  
WE THERE  
YET?

ALMOST.

ONLY FATHER KNOWS  
WHERE THE GRAVE IS. I  
WAS TOO LITTLE TO GO  
TO THE BURIAL WHEN  
GRANDFATHER DIED.

THIS WILL BE  
MY FIRST TIME  
SEEING IT.

WE'RE  
HERE.

?

BUT...I  
DON'T SEE  
A GRAVE.

I DON'T THINK IT'S EVEN  
POSSIBLE TO MAKE A  
GRAVE HERE.

THIS IS WHERE  
GRANDFATHER IS BURIED?  
BUT...THIS IS JUST A SWAMP!

WAIT HERE  
WHILE I GET  
MY TOOLS.

STAY PUT, YOU  
HEAR ME?

THUMP

THUMP

I'LL BE BACK  
BEFORE YOU  
KNOW IT.

"D-DON'T  
LEAVE ME!"

BEFORE I COULD EVEN  
UTTER THOSE WORDS, FATHER  
VANISHES INTO THE BRUSH.

HIS TOOLS?

WHAT DOES HE NEED  
TOOLS FOR?

RUSTLE

SOMETHING IS  
MOVING TOWARD ME.

FATHER MUST HAVE  
COME BACK.

WITH THAT  
THOUGHT, I TURN  
MY HEAD TOWARD  
THE SOUND.

NEVER MIND THE FACT  
THAT FATHER WENT IN  
THE OPPOSITE  
DIRECTION.



FATHER IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN

INSTEAD, THERE IS...

...A HUMAN SKELETON.

A WALKING SKELETON.

COMING... TOWARD ME.

AUGH!

CRASH A MONSTER!

FATHER! HELP! THERE'S A MONSTER!

HOW FOOLISH OF ME.

SCREAMING GETS THE SKELETON'S ATTENTION.

IT FUMBLES ITS WAY TOWARD ME. MY SCREAMS ONLY GUIDING IT.

THERE IS NOWHERE TO HIDE.

BUT I CAN STILL MAKE A RUN FOR IT...

...IF ONLY MY BODY WASN'T FROZEN IN FEAR.

THE SKELETON GRABS MY HEAD.

ITS BONY FINGERS ARE TOUCHING ME.

MY FOREHEAD.

MY CHEEKS.

THE BACK OF MY HEAD

WHICH IS WHEN IT STOPS.

RIGHT AT THE POINTY PART, ON THE BACK OF MY HEAD.

AH...IT IS YOU...ZARUL.

ZARUL?

ZARUL IS FATHER'S NAME.

"I'M NOT ZARUL," I SAY...

...OR I WANT TO. MY MOUTH AND TONGUE ARE PARALYZED IN FEAR.

OH...MY SON.

AT LAST...YOU... RETURNED.

THE SKELETON GRIPS MY HEAD EVEN HARDER...

...AS IF TO STOP ME FROM RUNNING AWAY.

KILLED ME... TOOK...FARM...

...TOOK... EVERYTHING.

ZARUL...MY SON... YOU...RETURNED.

I SEARCH FRANTICALLY FOR FATHER.

THERE! I CAN SEE HIM! BEHIND THOSE TREES!

THERE HE IS, IN THE SHADOWS...

...WAITING...IN SILENCE.

I KNOW IT'S FATHER.

MY FATHER...

...WHO MURDERED MY GRANDFATHER...

...AND LEFT HIS BODY IN THIS SWAMP...

...ALL JUST TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY FARM.



WHEN HE  
CAME BACK...



...HE MUST'VE SEEN  
THE SKELETON...

...AND HEARD IT  
MUMBLING HIS  
NAME.



"ZARUL."

FATHER KNEW  
GRANDFATHER'S  
SKELETON WOULD NOT  
STOP UNTIL IT GOT  
ITS REVENGE.



FATHER HAD TO DIE  
BY THE SKELETON'S  
HANDS.

OR AT LEAST...FATHER  
HAD TO MAKE THE  
SKELETON *BELIEVE*  
THAT IT KILLED HIM.



IF I COULD GIVE  
IT MY SON  
INSTEAD...

...MAYBE THAT  
WOULD TRICK IT...

THAT MUST BE WHAT  
FATHER THOUGHT.

FATHER ISN'T COMING  
TO SAVE ME. HE'S  
STILL WATCHING...WITH  
THAT SAD LOOK ON  
HIS FACE.



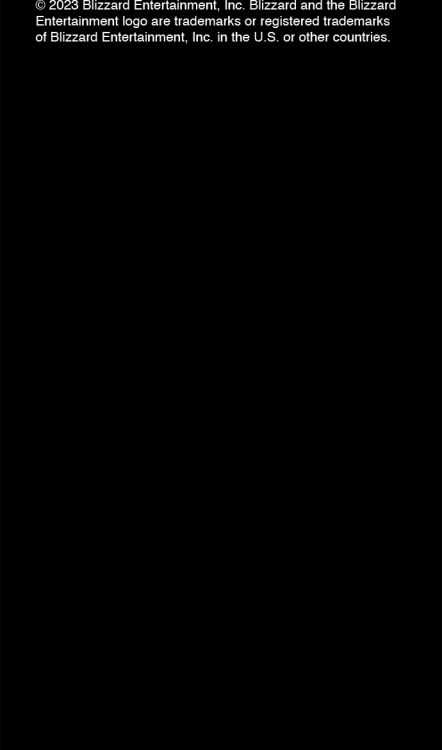
...WHEN  
GRANDFATHER  
PASSED AWAY...



...NO...

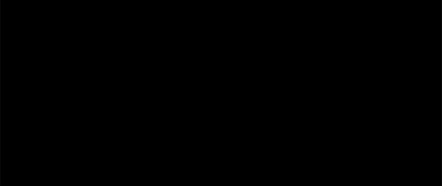
...WHEN HE  
MURDERED  
GRANDFATHER.

AND NOW...WHEN HE  
MURDERS ME.



FATHER'S GAZE...

...NOW I KNOW...



...THAT'S THE FACE  
SOMEONE MAKES...

...WHEN  
THEY KILL THEIR  
OWN KIN.