

SHADOWS

Written by

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INT. SAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A young girl named SAM (6) enters her bedroom holding her GRANDMOTHER's hand. Her Grandma speaks kindly.

GRANDMA

I'm so glad we got to spend time together this evening, Sammy.

Sam scrambles up onto her bed and crawls under the covers. Her Grandma pulls her hair out from under her head and lays it across her pillow. She pulls the sheets up, tucks Sam in, and kisses her on the forehead.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Your Mama will be home after you're asleep, sweetheart.

Sam looks up and gives her a slight smile.

Her Grandma walks back to the door and looks back at Sam.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Sleep tight!

She shuts the door, leaving it open a crack for light.

Sam looks at the door. Her slight smile fades.

SAM

That's not how Mama tucks me in...

Suddenly, a gust of wind (or more likely the air conditioning) blows the door shut! Sam <GASPS>. She is in total darkness.

Sam frantically looks around the room. The darkness seems to shift...<GASP>

Sam throws her quilt over her head to hide! She looks at her little toes under the quilt and catches her breath for a moment. Then, something slithers past her feet in the darkness! <GASP>!

She throws the quilt off her and curls up into a ball. She squeezes her eyes shut. Inside her eyelids, two GLOWING EYES open. <GASP> She sits up and rubs her eyes, terrified.

She <BREATHES>. In a spout of bravery and desperation, she looks directly into the darkness across from her, and reaches out her hand. The shadows shift and rustle. She <BREATHES>. The muzzle of a CREATURE made of shadows emerges to sniff her hand. She flinches, but puts her hand back out.

Sam watches in wonder as the creature fully reveals itself to be a deer-like entity of dark. It nuzzles into Sam's welcoming hand.

Eyes wide, Sam greets the creature.

SAM (CONT'D)

Would you like to sleep in my bed
with me?

She lifts the quilt, welcoming the creature.

Cautiously, it climbs onto Sam's bed and under the covers. The shadow is warm and comforting. Sam leans into it.

Suddenly, the creature shoots its head up! Sam jumps!

SAM (CONT'D)

What is it??

The creature looks around the room. From every nook and cranny, more CREATURES of shadows emerge. There are small slithery ones, creatures on two legs and four, some with more! Sam smiles.

SAM (CONT'D)

Okay, they can snuggle too.

The shadows slither, fly, climb, and hop into Sam's bed until she is completely covered in creatures, like a bed with too many stuffed animals. Sam <GIGGLES>.

SAM (CONT'D)

Goodnight. Sleep tight.