

"The Streetlight Man"

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. POLICE OFFICE - NIGHT

Two POLICE OFFICERS are standing around with coffee.

OFFICER 1

So, what do you think of that kid
from Hayward Street?

OFFICER 2

I think he needs a psychiatrist, is
what I think.

OFFICER 1

Young fella like that, yeah. He
could do with some counseling.

OFFICER 2

I don't mean counseling. Did you
hear what he says happened to him?

OFFICER 1

No, what?

OFFICER 2

Well, according to him, it all
started when he was playing in the
park yesterday afternoon.

FADE TO:

EXT. PARK - DUSK

Two children, FREDDY and JAKE, are playing in the park.
Jake suddenly appears anxious. He looks up at the
streetlights.

JAKE

Hey, it's getting late. We should
probably go home.

FREDDY

What's the big deal? It's not that
late.

JAKE

But my dad says that when the streetlights come on, the Streetlight Man comes out!

FREDDY

"The Streetlight Man?" You bought that? It sounds so... stupid.

Just then, the streetlights snap on. Jake's face pales. He stares at Freddy in horror, then runs home without another word.

FREDDY

Scaredy cat!

The sunlight rapidly fades, leaving only harsh yellow light. Freddy realizes how dark it suddenly is, and how totally alone he feels. He turns around and heads back home.

INT. FREDDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Freddy'S MOTHER paces nervously, taking the occasional glance out the window. The front door opens, and Freddy enters.

FREDDY

Mom, I'm home!

MOTHER

Freddy!

She rushes over to her son and hugs him. He halfheartedly tries to squirm away.

MOTHER

Don't you know how late it is? I was so worried.

FREDDY

I'm fine. Mom... were you worried that the Streetlight Man would come?

She's shaken. She tried so hard to keep him from finding out about the creature.

MOTHER

What? Where did you hear about-- no. No, there's no such thing as the Streetlight Man.

FREDDY

But Jake said--

MOTHER

There's no such thing. Just please
come home before the streetlights
come on from now on.

FREDDY

Why?

MOTHER

Because I'm your mother, and I say
so.

FREDDY

That's not a real reason! If
there's no Streetlight Man, what's
so bad?

MOTHER

Freddy, listen to me: You are not
allowed to stay out after the
streetlights come on.

FREDDY

If it's so important, I should know
the reason why.

MOTHER

You don't need to know anything
other than what I tell you. Now,
promise me you'll be back sooner
from now on.

FREDDY

Fine. I promise.

As he says this, we see him crossing his fingers behind
his back.

MOTHER

Good. Now, go set the table.
Dinner's almost ready.

Freddy heads for the dining room. His mother watches
him leave, turning her back to the window. We see a
tall, inhuman figure staring inside from under a
streetlight. It slinks away into the night.

EXT. PARK - DUSK

Freddy and Jake are in the park again, arguing.

JAKE

Nuh-uh, he's totally real.

FREDDY

Nah, your dad probably just made that story up to scare you.

JAKE

My dad wouldn't lie! Would your mom?

For a brief moment, Freddy considers the question.

FREDDY

I'll prove it. I'll stay out even later tonight. It's not dangerous.

JAKE

Your mom'll kill you....

FREDDY

She said he didn't exist. So, she'll be happy I proved her right.

JAKE

Alright. See you tomorrow... I hope.

Jake leaves. The streetlights come on, and Freddy waits. The same figure from last night draws ever nearer. Occasionally, Freddy catches a glimpse of the thing from the corner of his eye. But whenever he turns to face it, it retreats.

Freddy becomes palpably anxious. Suddenly, the STREETLIGHT MAN pops up. Freddy falls over backwards.

STREETLIGHT MAN

You didn't listen to your mother.

FREDDY

What do you want?

STREETLIGHT MAN

What if she didn't listen to you? Goodbye, child. This world is no longer yours.

The Streetlight Man dissolves into a cloud of black smoke and floats away. Freddy gets up and runs home.

INT. FREDDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Freddy's mother is reading by the window, completely unconcerned. Freddy bursts in.

FREDDY
Mom! I'm so sorry!

MOTHER
What?

FREDDY
(Hysterically)
I'm sorry. I stayed out late, and
the Streetlight Man came after me,
and--

MOTHER
Who are you?

FREDDY
Mom... don't you recognize me?

MOTHER
You must be confused. I don't have
a son.

She leads him out the door.

MOTHER
It's very late. Look, the
streetlights are on. Your parents
are probably worried sick.

She closes the door and locks Freddy outside. He stares at the door and cries.

FREDDY
You never told me this would
happen...

The camera pulls back to emphasize his solitude.
Finally.

FADE TO:

INT. POLICE OFFICE - NIGHT

The two officers, as before.

OFFICER 1
What a ridiculous story.

OFFICER 2
I know. But it sounds like he
believes every word of it.

OFFICER 1
So what now?

OFFICER 2
Hopefully we'll get a call from his
parents soon. Hopefully....

THE END