

THE LOST SON

By Austin D'souza,

Chapter 1 – The Closet

The temperature in the room went down. Aditi switched off the lights and went to bed, her son Aarav felt aback at the sounds of thunder. “Mommy I’m afraid” he said.

“Nothing in this world can hurt my little Angel. I will always be with you. Until the end of the world.” she snuggled her son and slept away. As time went by the temperature in the room kept going down. Aditi had just been shifting from one position to another for the past one hour. She couldn’t sleep. But that didn’t make her to wake up. She was adamant and wanted to get a good night sleep. The broken voice of her son calling for her woke her up. “Mommy there... there is a monster there.” He Stuttered pointing at the half-opened closet. Her heart started beating fast. The fear of the unknown took her. “Stay here honey, I’ll go check it.” she whispered, as she got hold of the baseball bat that she kept beneath her pillow.

She slowly moved towards the closet. It felt like the time had slowed down. She positioned her bat up over her shoulders as she slowly moved towards the Half-opened closet. She grabbed the handle of the closet door and slowly started to open it, ready to face whatever was in it that her son described as monster. She creaked open the closet door and what she saw horrified her. It was him, her son Aarav.

Trembling with fear he said, “Mo...mmy... There is...someone on my bed.” The severe shock of fear went down her chest, as it started to burn. A chill ran down her spine when she slowly turned around. The voice of demonic grunts started to fill the room. IT grabbed her neck from behind. She screamed on the top of her lungs and woke up to reality. “A dream” she breathed heavily as she pushed her hair back. The first thing her eyes went was to the closet. Relaxed as she was to see it closed, soon the feeling went away when her Son wasn’t by her side on the bed.

“Aarav.” She called.

Aditi switched on the lights but he was nowhere to be seen in the room. Her eyes went to the clock which ticked at two am. The first thing she did was check the closet and under the bed, but he was nowhere to be found. Taking the bat, she went out of the room, searching every corner of the corridor with a flash light up until his room. *Maybe he went to his room after I passed out;* she thought. She slowly opened the door to Aarav's room. A sly smile ran over her face as she saw him sleeping like a cow.

She opened the door completely to find out a shadowy figure lurking around his closet. For a split second she couldn't move a muscle, *no! this isn't happening, this is a dream again;* She thought. But it was too late, the realization of the shadowy figure coming towards her brought her to reality. She didn't waste time and charged at it with the Bat held high above her shoulders. But it defended itself from the bat & grabbed Aditi by her throat. She caught a glimpse of her son woken up completely from his sweet dreamland to the Ultimate madness of reality.

The image of Aarav started to fade away, slowly everything started to fold into blackness until there was nothing.

Chapter 2 – Cabin in the Woods

“Aarav,” muttered Aditi. she grabbed her head as an agonizing pain ran through her left side of the face. She rubbed her eyes to get a clear image of the room, everything was just a blur to her.

The Cold breeze from the opened window brushed through her skin as she shivered. She struggled to stand up with the pain and the cold hitting her hard, she lost her balance and fell on the floor. She rubbed her eyes again to notice that the blurriness was slowly fading away. She looked around now with a clear vision and saw a knife stained with blood on the floor. Immediately her gaze went to the bed, Aarav was nowhere to be found. She gathered up all her strength and lifted herself up with the support of the bed. The light of the moon brightened the room, she looked at the watch which now ticked at two thirty am. “half an hour” she whispered as she grabbed the bat from the floor. She opened the door still holding her head. Somehow the pain was slowly wearing off. She spent the other twenty minutes searching for Aarav in the

entire Villa, but he was nowhere to be found. The only place which remained was the kitchen. She entered the kitchen to see blood trails going beyond the closed door.

Following the trails through the woods behind the Villa she ended up in a cabin, where the trail ended. The pace of her heartbeat was even faster than before. But she had to take a leap of faith, it might be her son inside, injured and helpless. She slowly opened the door to the cabin. The trees prevented the moonlight from hitting the cabin. It was dark everywhere, she switched on her flashlight, but it started to flicker. The temperature in the cabin suddenly cooled down. The flash light stopped flickering and it landed on what looked like a man's foot. Her gaze fell on the shoes. She slowly looked up and to her relief it was a scarecrow. She sighed, "Thank God"

"*You...u*" A strange voice growled from behind her. Her eyes were wide open as she turned around. It was him the Shadowy figure was in the light, He was an old man.

"*You're mine*" he growled in a demonic voice. She was horrified to see his half-torn stomach. With a blade gripped in his hands he charged at Aditi. Her reflexes suddenly gave in and she quickly moved backwards.

She tried to hit him with the bat, but he disappeared into thin air. As shocked as she was to witness it, the only thing that came to her mind was to run away from this cabin. Aditi charged out of the cabin, she ran like there was no tomorrow, passing through every bushes and threes like a cheetah. Her breathing started to catch up on her and after a while she slowed down and came near her farm house.

Chapter 3 – A Stranger

Aditi slowly crept from the back of the villa to the front gate and saw a man coming out of his car. She rushed towards him.

"Please...Help me" She stuttered as she tried to catch her breath.

The man was startled. He didn't move. Aditi's gripped his arms tightly. "Please...my son he's..."

"Calm down Ma'am" he replied. "Here Drink some water."

Aditi gulped the entire bottle of water. "What happened, Ma'am are you in some sort of trouble?" He inquired.

"There's, this man, old aged man, who wants to kill me, He took my...my son, I'm afraid I don't know what to do, please help me." She begged.

"This your house?" he asked.

"Yes." she replied

"The man, is he in there?". Inquired the stranger, but Aditi didn't reply.

"Look Ma'am I am from the CBI, I want you to sit down and take a deep breath," Aditi sat on his car seat, "tell me exactly what happened."

"Look Sir I don't know what's happening anymore, few hours ago I woke up and found my son missing. When I went to his room, I found him sleeping there but there was this... man inside the room, I attacked him but he...he strangled me & knocked me out. When I woke up, the whole house was empty. So, I went outside searching for my Aarav and ended up in a cabin. But instead of my son I found the same man. And this time when I tried to hit him, he disappeared. I don't know what is happening anymore. Please, Please Sir help me get my son back." The CBI officer looked in her eyes and the only thing he saw was fear. "The cabin, so you're saying you saw a ghost in there?"

"Officer..." He cut her off, "Ajay."

"Officer Ajay, I know it sounds crazy, but...I am not lying, I saw what I saw, He disappeared."

Both arms around his waist he glanced at the villa. “You have any relatives nearby where I can drop you off to?”

“You don’t believe me”

“I believe you ma’am, but if you’re saying someone took your son then it’s not safe out here, I will drop you off to your relative and come back here to find your son.”

“I will not go anywhere without my son. Wherever you will go to search him I will go too.”

“It’s dangerous, out...” Aditi cut him off. “I don’t care, I already said, I will not leave without my son”

Ajay sighed, “Okay, then stick with me, and take me to this cabin.” Aditi’s eyes opened wide in fear.

“That’s what I thought.” Said Ajay.

“No, I’ll...I’ll take you there.” She replied.

They both started walking through the woods. “Why are you here Ajay?” She asked.

“I was investigating a missing person’s report.” He paused. “Of two Eighteen-year-old twin girls.”

“You’re talking about Rahne’s daughters, right?”

“Yes.” he replied

With a heavy neck she asked, “Do you think...my son?”

“No Ma’am I will not let anything happen to your son.” He replied. “Look at me, I promise you.”

Aditi felt a spark of hope in his words but she was still afraid because what she saw in the cabin was beyond natural.

“Listen I know it’s hard, believe me I know. But I need to know exactly what this man looked like.” Aditi Gulped and waited for a second before she spoke. “He was tall, grey hair, said he wanted me, I didn’t know what it meant but the way he said it, the voice...It scared me to death”

“Why, what was the voice like.”

“It sounded...Demonic”. They walked silently towards the cabin. The sound of crickets made the atmosphere even more creepy. “I heard that burning someone’s body can get rid of their Ghost.”

“I hope it doesn’t come to that ma’am”

Chapter 4 – The Twins

“There it is.” Aditi pointed towards the cabin.

Ajay removed two guns which he tucked behind his jeans. “You know How to use one?” he asked.

“Yea I grew up in a farm, Dad thought me how to shoot”.

“Good,” Ajay gave one gun to Aditi. “Stick with me”

They both entered the cabin. The entire place smelled rotten. “This is where he attacked me.” She said. They searched the floor but couldn’t find anything. “We still have the upper floor to check.” said Ajay.

They both walked up the stairs which made a creaking sound. “You smell that?” he asked.

“Smells like death” replied Aditi. Ajay reached the upper floor first and glanced the corridor front and behind the stairs. The Pungent stench grew stronger and stronger. Aditi followed him

upstairs to a closed room. They both covered their mouth. Whatever was behind the door was the reason behind the smell.

Ajay turned the door knob, but it didn't open. "Door's locked from the inside" He said.

"Aarav could be inside the room, AARAV are you inside baby?" She called. No one replied.

"Shhh. Look I know how you're feeling right now, but don't do that again. For all we know the man could be inside there."

"Sorry" Apologized Aditi. Ajay stepped back and kicked the door open. "Ugg" they both looked the other way as the smell was now unbearable. Ajay removed his kerchief and gave it to her to cover her mouth. Aditi switched on her flashlight and the image she saw, she could never unsee it in her entire life.

"It's...them, isn't it?" she asked, "It's the twins".

Ajay went inside the room but Aditi stayed outside, she could not see those poor girls. *Please God, don't let my baby end up like them, protect him.* She prayed. Ajay came out of the room with a book in his hand. "He did this to those poor girls, didn't he?" she asked. Ajay didn't say anything, He stood still as he slowly shut the door close.

"Speak to me" she demanded. "I..." Ajay paused, his mouth hanged open in shock. Aditi noticed that he was looking behind her. Aditi turned and she saw the walls of the corridor. *Aditi is mine.* Was being carved on the wall, in front of them. The entire wall was covered with just those three words. *Aditi is mine.*

"Let's get..." Before Ajay could complete his sentence, he was struck by an invisible force. He hit the wall behind him and could not move even when he tried to.

Aditi tried to help Ajay but there he appeared. Right in the middle of them, the old man. "*Your mine.*" He demanded with the same demonic voice. "Get away from me" She cried. "Please get

away from me". She raised the gun and shot him, but the bullet just went through him. "heh" he smirked.

He pushed her down the stairs and she hit the ground hard but she gathered up her strength and sat up. The old man was slowly walking down the stairs. "*You're mine Aditi*" He whispered. She dragged herself out of the house. He came near her in a flash. "*You're mine, Aditi*" he repeated. He lifted his hand to get to her, she didn't want to see this, she looked the other way and remembered her son.

She remembered how her Son made it possible for her to cope up with her husband's death. She remembered his smile. "My Angel" She whispered to herself. She closed her eyes in defeat. A sound of a strange scream opened her eyes and she saw that the old man disappear in front of her eyes as Ajay struck him with a big iron rod. He helped her get up. "What happened?" she asked. "Iron, it hurts Ghosts." He replied.

"How did you know this?"

"Well, you're not the only one who has, heard ghost stories, it was worth a shot."

Aditi sighed in relief. "we have to search somewhere else, I know my son is out there somewhere, I can feel it." A spark of hope glimmered on her face. "I found this diary in those girl's room."

"What does it say?" She asked. Ajay opened the book.

"We killed and buried that Evil monster's body near the Mulberry tree, we hope the ground takes him to the fiery fire of hell. The physical pain has ended with his death, But the images, everything he did to us, the scars, they won't ever heal. We are never going to forget what he did. We have decided to end our lives. Maybe the afterlife can make us forget this. Maybe whatever awaits us after, will bring us joy and nothing else. We are sorry mom and dad but remember that we are going to a better place than this and we'll be happy."

Chapter 5 – Man with the demonic voice

They both remained silent for a second. “We have to give those girls justice.” Said Aditi. “We know where he’s buried. We have to burn that monster’s body. once we do that, we don’t have to worry about him hurting Aarav anymore, it will be just a matter of finding him then.”

Ajay removed the matchsticks that he had in his pocket, and they brought the Half bag of salt from the Cabin, which the old man used, to torture the girls. They both started digging near the mulberry tree. The temperature went cold all of a sudden. “He’s coming” pointed Ajay.

“*Mine*” they heard the demonic voice again. They started digging faster. The shovel finally hit the end spot. They cleared the soil around it and there it was. The soil had degraded his body faster and only his bone’s rested in the ground.

The invisible force hit Ajay and he was thrown and pinned at the tree. Aditi rushed and grabbed the iron rod. She held it high above her shoulders. “COME OUT AND FACE ME.” She demanded. She kept turning around but he was nowhere to be seen. “Aditi get inside the cabin” screamed Ajay.

“No, I can hit him, and we’ll get enough time to burn his body and send him away forever.”

“How will you send him away when *you can’t burn him*”, replied Ajay. “What...” Confused for a second, she turned towards him. He had the matchsticks in his hand, but something was not right. Ajay stood there, Eyes as dark as the coal. “*heh, come on use that rod on me now, STAB ME.*” He shouted in a demonic voice. “No...Nooo” she knew she couldn’t stab Ajay so fell on her knees in defeat, “Please give me back my son.”

Ajay came near her and grabbed her by the neck, “*You’re too weak to understand, you’ve always been weak. You belong to me Aditi, you’re MY AHHH....*” he screamed as Aditi dropped the rod inside his Shirt. The Rod burned the ghost’s essence as it touched Ajay’s skin. She picked the

matches from him as he trembled in pain. She poured down the bag of salt on his bones. Ajay threw away the rod and turned towards her covered in smoked steam. “No.” he screamed.

She burned the matches and looked him straight in the eyes, “Burn in hell”, The match stick left her fingers and dropped on the grave. The bones of the old man burned like phoenix. Ajay screamed in utter pain. Smoke started to come out of his eyes, mouth and nose and went up high in the sky before disintegrating into dust.

She smiled, thinking that, wherever her son was, he was safe from the monster, “Mommy’s gonna find you my little angel,” She whispered to herself.

Chapter 6 – Revelations

“Uh”, Ajay spat blood as he tried to get up. Aditi ran up to help him. “Uh, damn my mouth tastes like dirt...” he said and puked on the ground.

“You okay?” Aditi inquired. “Yea, Yea I’m fine.”

“Come on we still have to find my Aarav. He might be scared to death.”

Ajay stood still and she looked back, “Come on we have to go”

“No, we don’t have to find him anymore.” Replied Ajay.

Aditi looked at him in confusion. “What do you mean we don’t have to find him?” she asked.

“He’s out there somewhere, afraid.”

“Now I know everything.”

“You’re scaring me Ajay, what do you mean you know everything.”

“When I saw that old man...” He paused. “Sixteen years ago, something happened in this town that shook everyone. A woman, a single mother was murdered in cold blood. But before dying she nicked her killer, stabbed him with his own knife and he dragged himself here from that house. The twins then killed the man and hanged themselves later. Four people died that day, the old man, the twin sisters...and you.”

“What do you mean Sixteen years ago, it’s the year 2002.”

“Its 2018 Aditi, Locals said that every year on April 20th, a woman used to come in front of them and ask for help to find her son the people who went with her were never found alive. I thought it was you killing the people. So, I came here to see if the stories were true. But now I know it was the old man the whole time.”

“No no no no, what is this, why are you telling me this. You mean to say I’m... I’m dead” replied Aditi. “How do you know all this.”

Ajay stood still. “HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS.” Demanded Aditi

“Because I was there that night, I saw you stab that man in my bedroom, I saw him take you away from me, mom”

She could not believe what she just heard, her soul was crushed. “Aarav” she whispered. “My Boy.”

“Yes mom, your Angel” He replied.

“Angel” She replied. “I only used to call him that when no one was around.”

“I hated you when you called me Angel in front of others” Aarav smirked with tears still flooding down his face

She reached for his cheeks and at that moment she knew, it was him. She believed that he was alive, somewhere within her she believed and the entire time, he was there standing right beside her. She hugged him tightly, the thought of her being dead crossed her mind and the only thought that blossomed her was; *My son is alive.*

“So, what happens now?” She asked him.

“I don’t know mom,” Replied Aarav, “I was the one who kept you in this world, now you know that I’m safe. Maybe letting go of that, will finally break you free.”

Aditi kissed Aarav on his cheeks and smiled with tears of Joy flowing through her eyes.

Aditi wiped the tears from Aarav’s face. “Thank you, mom, thank you for giving me a life”

“No son, you gave me one.” She smiled as the heavenly light shined down upon her, descending into the light she said her last words to her son, “I will always be with you, alive in your heart, Until the end of the world... My little Angel”.

“Until the end of the world.” Aarav replied. The light took her somewhere, a place where Aarav knew she could finally, rest in peace.

Bio

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