

TELL ME WHERE

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

1

We open to a medium sized child's bedroom. The room looks clean and tidy, with several personal items placed neatly around the room.

An acrylic canvas painting hangs on the wall above the bed, depicting pink flamingos.

A bedside table is home to a sippy cup of water and a unicorn coin bank.

Several other unicorn ornaments are visible in the room, alongside a named fabric ring, named picture board and various soft toys.

A pretty young woman with a warm welcoming face is tucking her daughter AMY (3) into bed. This is GINA (20s) and she is dressed casual in dark blue jeans and a medium brown jumper. Her daughter Amy is in her pajamas and looking sleepy. Amy is clutching a TOY DOLL. *

GINA

I love you very much.

Amy nods.

AMY

I love you too mummy.

Gina smiles with love in her eyes.

GINA

Remember, you can have anything you want in life.

She motions towards the toy doll and strokes its hair, which Amy giggles at

GINA (CONT'D)

But people won't just give it to you. Ok. You have to take it for yourself. Understand?

AMY

Understand.

Amy grabs the toy doll, yawns and rolls over to try and sleep.

Gina smiles as she gives her a kiss on the forehead then moves to the doorway. She takes one last look back. *

GINA

Sweet dreams *

She flicks out the light. *

2 EXT. FRONT GARDEN - NIGHT 2

Gina exits from the house, leaving the front door ajar, she is putting out the garbage for the night. *

There is a sense of someone, or something lurking in the background, although we can't make out anything specifically.

Gina is unaware of anyone's presence and dumps a heavy rubbish bag into the bin, then moves on autopilot back into the house, not really looking where she's going. She shuts the front door behind her, which was clearly opened much further than where she left it. *

3 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 3

Gina is collapsed onto the couch, staring wide-eyed up to the ceiling. There is something going on in her thoughts but we don't see what it is. *

A LARGE ROUND CLOCK on the wall shows 8.15pm.

Gina's eyes fall shut.

4 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 4

It is later that night. We see the clock on the wall now says 9.35pm.

Gina yawns and stretches a little before heading up to Amy's bedroom

5 INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 5

Gina creeps into the dark room to check on her daughter, but she is not there. The only thing on the bed is the toy doll Amy was clutching earlier.

At that moment she notices a man (STRANGER)(30s) standing behind the door. She barely has time to react before he hits her with an unseen weapon, knocking her out cold.

6

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

6

The room is in total darkness. We can hear the sound of someone whimpering and wriggling. *

Suddenly the light comes on and we see that Gina is sitting on a chair, gagged. *

Each of her ankles are tied to a chair leg. *

There is a heavy rope round her mid-rift, holding her tight to the chair. *

Her hands are fixed behind her back, tied at the wrists. She pulls at the ropes but there is no escaping these tight knots.

Her previous attempts at escape in the dark stop suddenly for fear that someone might see. *

She looks at her surroundings with panicked eyes, not knowing what to do. *

She keeps her head very still and lets her eyes do the searching. *

She is in a garage with no obvious windows.

There is a girls scooter leaning against one of the walls, it has a unicorn head. *

This appears to be the garage where she lives.

Moments later the stranger enters. He is wearing dark jeans and a dark shirt with the sleeves rolled up. He looks strong and imposing. He moves around with a deliberate calmness, but there is an air of anger beneath his outward demeanor. *

He approaches her, removes the gag and pulls up a chair opposite. *

Gina's eyes follow him around the room, keeping her head as still as possible. *

He holds her eyes for a while before breaking the silence with a calm but assertive tone.

STRANGER

Tell me where.

Gina waits for him to give her more information, but nothing comes. She doesn't know what to respond, so she responds with nothing.

The stranger produces a KITCHEN KNIFE from behind his back and makes a point of Gina seeing him slowly put it on the floor beside him. *

Gina's eyes follow the weapon onto the floor, then flick back to the stranger. She is keeping her head as still as possible. *

The stranger repeats his question, hanging on her every movement, like a tiger waiting to pounce. *

STRANGER (CONT'D)

Tell me where.

Again, Gina has no idea what he means.

GINA

Where, what?

She is beginning to cry again. *

GINA (CONT'D)

Where's my daughter? Please don't.
Please don't hurt her. *

The stranger gets angered at her response and jumps up, moving towards her with purpose. *

Gina's eyes widen in fright.

GINA (CONT'D)

No. No. No. Wait...

He makes one large slash across both her thighs, cutting through her jeans.

Gina screams out in pain, rocking the chair.

The stranger returns to his chair in frustration.

His hand begins to shake as he puts the kitchen knife down on the floor.

He takes a moment to calm himself before continuing.

STRANGER

Tell me where.

Gina still has no idea what he means, as we see blood begin to come through her jeans.

She can barely speak through the tears.

GINA

I don't know where. I don't know
what you're talking about.

STRANGER

Yes. You. Do.

The stranger emphasizes each word slowly to convey his
message to her.

He pauses for a second, then shouts quickly at her.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

TELL ME WHERE!

Gina's eyes are flooding with tears from a mixture of pain
and emotional torture.

GINA

I don't know where, ok. You took
her. Why don't you tell ME where.

*
*

Her words come out quite assertive, which only infuriates the
stranger even more.

He jumps up from his seat and motors towards her.

*

The stranger grabs at her throat with both hands, pressing
his thumbs into her larynx, causing Gina to gasp for air.

He looks up to the heavens, scrunching his eyes closed.

He clearly doesn't want to see what he is doing.

Just as his choking seems like it will put her unconscious,
he releases his grip and once again returns to his seat.

His whole body is shaking and his breathing has increased,
almost to the point of hyperventilating.

He doesn't wait for her to calm down and begins again,
shaking his head as if he knows what her answer will be.

*

STRANGER

Tell me where.

Gina doesn't respond this time, she can barely breathe, let
alone talk.

*

The stranger waits a moment longer, before accepting she is
not going to answer him.

He moves towards her and pulls her slumped body up hard onto
the chair.

*
*

He holds the knife near her head, implying he is going to use it. Then decides against it and replaces her gag. *

He heads out the room, flicking off the light as he goes. *

Once again the room is plunged into darkness. All we can hear is Gina's muffled cries.

7 INT. GARAGE - NIGHT 7 *

It looks like Gina has been sitting there all night and day as the stranger enters. *

The stranger is also wearing the same clothes as before, which are covered in some of Gina's blood.

This time he approaches her from behind and puts his hands onto her shoulders, pushing hard down into the chair. *

He brings his head up close and slightly behind hers, whispering into her ear. *

For the first time he says something different.

STRANGER

How many children do you have?

Gina looks up and back towards him. There is fear in her eyes, wondering what he means and what he might have done to her daughter. *

GINA

One. My Daughter. Please tell me where...

She pauses, realizing that she's now asking him the question he was asking her and feels it may anger him.

GINA (CONT'D)

I mean. I don't know where, ok. *

The stranger seems unmoved. He walks around her and sits down on the chair opposite. He addresses her again. *

STRANGER

I didn't ask you about that. I asked you how many children do you have. *

Gina looks confused.

GINA

I have one. My daughter, Amy, ok.
Please. Please don't hurt her.

*
*

The stranger seems to be angered by the mention of Amy's name and he shakes his head and closes his eyes in frustration.

STRANGER

Amy? No no. You have no daughter.

*

Her answers seem to be angering him more and more, but he is desperately trying to contain his rage. He looks down at the ground before returning his gaze to hers.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

How many children do you have?

Gina looks upset and continues begging.

GINA

She's just a child, ok. I'll tell
you whatever you want. I have
money.

*

The stranger is taking purposefully long breaths to contain his rage.

STRANGER

How many children do you have?

*

Gina knows no other answer, save the one she has already given him.

GINA

One. My daughter.

The stranger is now looking psychotic and jumps up off his seat.

He moves quickly towards her and puts his face directly in front of hers. She can feel his breath as he speaks.

He shouts the words quickly, trying to get a rise out of her.

STRANGER

I told you. You have no daughter.
How many children do you have?

Gina is scared now that he is so close, but isn't going to let him play mind games with her.

GINA

I have one child. My daughter. One.
One!

She is trying to move her face away from his, but has no space to maneuver

The stranger places his hands onto her thighs leaning his whole body weight onto the previously slashed wounds.

Gina writhes around in pain rocking the chair. But the stranger keeps a calm tone as he whispers in her ear.

STRANGER

No you don't. You have no daughter.

He stands up removing his hands and releasing the pressure on her legs. He pauses for a second then screams maniacally into her face.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

YOU HAVE NO DAUGHTER!

He turns around, shaking after his outburst and contemplating his next move.

Gina takes the opportunity to kick at his feet and is able to knock him to the floor, temporarily stunning him.

She quickly rocks her chair onto its side and begins shuffling as fast as she can towards the door. Using her feet and hands where she can to push herself along.

She reaches the garage door but is unable to get over the foot high step leading to the house. She convulses her body to try and bounce the chair up and manages to get her top section into the doorway, the chair angled between the two rooms.

Unfortunately this is where her attempt ends as the stranger has now recovered and is standing over her.

He brings his fist down heavily onto her skull, knocking her out cold.

8

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

8

The room is bright as Gina slowly opens her eyes. She is still tied to the chair and it is back in its original position.

Gina looks very broken. Her face and jeans have dried blood on them and her neck is bruised and red. Her energy levels are low and her whole body is slumped in the chair.

The stranger is a few meters away with his back to her. He hasn't noticed she is awake yet.

Gina looks around, knowing she needs to try something quickly, before she has no energy left.

She starts twisting her hands slowly back and forth inside the ropes.

She bites back the pain as the friction makes her wrists bleed.

She glances over at the stranger, but he still hasn't noticed she is awake; he seems caught up in his own thoughts.

She wriggles her hands, trying to use her own blood as a lubricant to free herself.

It seems that she is making some headway, but lets out a small whimper as the pain overcomes her.

This wakes the stranger out of his trance.

He turns around, once again brandishing the knife in his hand.

He looks like he hasn't slept much either.

The stranger sits down on his chair opposite and once again begins his questioning.

He seems persistent now to try and get a specific answer from her.

STRANGER

How many children do you have?

Gina takes all her effort to pull her head up to look at him.

GINA

Please.

This is all she can muster.

He repeats the question, louder and stronger.

STRANGER

How many children do you have?

Gina's head drops as she barely has the energy to hold it up.

She whispers something under her breath, but we can't make out what she is saying.

The stranger comes closer to hear, bringing the knife dangerously close to Gina's throat.

He lowers his voice but keeps his tone strong.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

How many children? *

Gina whispers it again, but still the stranger can't make out her answer

He gets even closer and moves his ear right up to her mouth.

Now his words are all but a whisper.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

How many? *

Gina still whispers but this time the stranger is able to hear her answer.

GINA

None.

It looks like the stranger has finally broken her, as he nods with approval and backs off a few steps *

Suddenly Gina's demeanor changes and she brings her gaze up to meet his and speaks in a horrifically creepy, calm unemotional tone. *

GINA (CONT'D)

But that should be your answer, not mine.

The stranger's face changes as he processes what she has just said. Slowly the realization sinks in and he tries to hold back the tears. *

He alternates between pointing the knife directly at her, ready to attack and dropping it to his side in defeat; his face in increasing torment / emotional overload. *

He eventually brings the knife up to her throat as Gina closes her eyes for the inevitable. *

But he can't go through with it. He drops the knife onto her lap and falls to his knees clutching his head in his hands. *

Gina looks down at this weakened and crumbled soul. She seems to be enjoying his pain. *

The stranger stays motionless for a few moments, head in hands then suddenly thrusts himself towards Gina, trying to strangle her once again. This time he is not going to stop. *

We hear a gargle as his attempts are halted abruptly and his face turns to shock.

He falls backwards clutching his stomach.

We see the blood soaked knife now gripped between Gina's hands. Her wrists are red raw, covered in blood, but she is free.

The stranger collapses onto the floor, staring up at the ceiling, blood flowing from his body.

9

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

9

We are in Amy's bedroom but we don't yet see anyone here. We hear a radio announcement in the background

RADIO ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

If anyone has any information at all in relation to this case then please call immediately. And now the mother of the missing girl would like to make a plea.

*

We hear the voice of the MOTHER who is trying to hold back her tears; however it is not Gina's voice

MOTHER

Please, if anyone knows anything about my daughter Amy or my husband. Anything that could help, then please come forward. I just want them both back safe.

The CAMERA PANS across the room and we see Gina is sitting on the end of Amy's bed. Her wounds look partially healed and her appearance is almost back to normal again.

*

Her eyes are glazed over. She looks inhuman and emotionless.

*

We continue to pan across the bed to where Amy used to sleep.

*

FLASHBACK.

*

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

*

The room changes to the opening scene where Amy is lying in the bed. However this time Amy looks nervous and upset.

*

*

We see the happy earlier face of Gina.

*

GINA

I love you very much.

Amy however looks distressed.

AMY

Where's my mummy?

Gina ignores Amy's words and smiles with love in her eyes.
It's as if she is seeing a different reality.

GINA

Remember, you can have anything you
want in life. But people won't just
give it to you. Ok. You have to
take it for yourself. Understand?

Amy is shaking her head and starts to cry.

AMY

Let me go!

Gina keeps her smile as she leans forward. There are sounds
of a struggle and after a short while Amy goes silent.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

We see the older Gina again, still void of emotion. She moves
her head from looking at where Amy was, down towards the
floor beside the bed.

FLASHBACK.

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

We are in the past again and can see a garbage bag on the
floor, with something heavy and body shaped inside it.

Gina picks up the bag with both hands, moving towards the
doorway. When she arrives she glances down.

A horrific smile comes across her face as she addresses the
bag.

GINA

Sweet dreams

She flicks out the light.

*
*
*
*

FADE OUT.