

Red Bird
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SCENE 1

The scene opens in darkness. then the lights turn on to reveal a mother and her daughter. the mother is seen painting but then the father walks in. He hangs up his coat and kisses his wife. The daughter walks up to her father excited as if waiting for something. The father reveals a cage with a small red bird inside. The girl takes it and sets it down on a table near the couch. Her mother and father watch as she talks to the bird. The lights then fade to black and then come back up shortly to reveal the father and daughter playing. Then the father hears a knock and rushes to the door. He opens it to reveal a police officer. After a small conversation, the police leave and the father stumbles to the couch. He then looks at his hand and takes off his wedding ring and holds it with both hands sobbing. His daughter rushes to him afraid, for she has never seen her father like this. The lights fade once again and then reappear to reveal the father and daughter standing at the doorway with suitcases. The father takes one last look and then leaves. The daughter looks around and then wipes her eyes. She grabs the cage holding her little Red Bird and finally leaves closing the door behind her. The entire stage is silent as we listen to the empty house while the lights slowly fade.

SCENE 2

The scene opens with scott sitting on a couch across from another man sitting on a chair.

SCOTT

And that's where it ended.

THERAPIST

Well Scott, that is a very interesting dream. Let's try to break it down a little. You said there was a family correct?

SCOTT

Yes sir. A father, a mother and a daughter.

THERAPIST

Did any of them look familiar to you?

SCOTT

No not at all, but it was strange. I could feel what the little girl was feeling.

THERAPIST

And what exactly did you feel?

SCOTT

Sad. Like I had lost something. I think her mother died.

THERAPIST

Scott. I would like to ask you a question. Do you believe these people are real?

SCOTT

Of course not. It was a dream.

THERAPIST

That is correct. It is only a dream but sometimes dreams show us things about ourselves. Perhaps you are still upset over your parent's deaths? I apologize but it seems we are out of time.

SCOTT

It's fine.

THERAPIST

I believe we already have an appointment scheduled for next week.

SCOTT

Yes.

THERAPIST

Alright then I will see you next time. Have a good day Scott.

SCOTT

You too.

SCENE 3

The scene opens with SCOTT getting ready for bed, He gets into bed and pulls the covers over himself.

SCOTT

He's wrong. These dreams aren't like other dreams.

They feel real or at least like memories. I just don't understand.

He then lays down to sleep and the lights slowly fade. The set is then rearranged to look like the house from the first scene. The lights then come up and we see Scott laying on the floor of the little girl's house. He slowly "wakes up" and then notices where he is.

This is the house from my dream.

He looks around the house.

Hello? Is anyone there?

He looks around. A door opens to reveal a tall cloaked figure.

Who are you?!

The figure begins to walk towards Scott. It gets closer and closer but then suddenly stops and screams in pain. A girl then walks in from the opposite side carrying a cage with a red bird. She walks past SCOTT without fear towards the figure.

ELLIE

You know the rules. Now get out.

She holds the cage outwards towards the figure and it backs away slowly. She walks forward until the figure flees through a door. She then closes it and locks it.

SCOTT

What the hell was that thing?

ELLIE

It's a nightmare.

SCOTT

What? What are you talking about?

ELLIE

I don't know how you got here, but I can tell you don't belong here

SCOTT

What is this place. Why did you bring me here?

ELLIE

This place is my dream. A place where anything I want

happens... Well, sometimes.

SCOTT

Okay. Why am I in your dream?

ELLIE

I don't know. You tell me.

SCOTT

Like I would know. The last thing I remember is going to sleep in my bed.

ELLIE

Well either way, you're stuck here now.

SCOTT

What do you mean?

ELLIE

You will never wake up.

SCOTT

What do you mean I won't wake up?

ELLIE

I've been here for seven years. I assume they think I'm dead out there and I'm just somewhere underneath the ground.

SCOTT

By "they" do you mean your parents?

ELLIE

Yes. Well my dad at least. My mother died when I was younger.

Scott looks at her with wide eyes

SCOTT

And you moved away from your home?

ELLIE

How did you know?

SCOTT

I had a dream about you. That Red Bird, your father gave it to you.

ELLIE

Yes, she was a gift for my birthday. My mom and dad made it a big secreting but I knew they were getting her for me.

She smiles as she remembers her family.

SCOTT

So how come that "nightmare" is afraid of that little bird?

ELLIE

You would think I'm crazy.

SCOTT

Please, I'm in someone else's dream. It can't be any crazier than this.

ELLIE

I think it's my mom. Protecting me while I sleep.

There is silence between the two as they stare at the Red Bird

SCOTT

Don't you want to leave?

ELLIE

Why would I want to leave? This place is perfect! I have everything I could ever want here.

SCOTT

But there's nobody here. Don't you get lonely?

Ellie takes a step back holding the cage close to her chest.

ELLIE

Why would I be lonely? I have my mom. She's back. Maybe not in human form but she's back and...

SCOTT

But you can't stay here forever! This isn't a life!

ELLIE

This IS my life! There isn't anything out there for me anymore! Even if I could go back I would have anywhere to go!

SCOTT

What about your Dad?!

ELLIE

Wha... I... He...

SCOTT

You never thought of that did you? How do you think your dad feels? You say you have nobody out there but there is a real, living person out there waiting for you to come back to them. In here there's just that bird... That little Red Bird you think is your mother. You need to wake up and not just physically but

mentally as well. You need to accept the fact that here, in this dream, your lonely!

The door bursts open and the figure walks through the door.

SCOTT

It's back!

ELLIE

It's okay! My mom will protect us!

She holds out the cage once again. The figure slowly walk closer and closer until finally it raises its arm and hits the cage out of her hands. The cage falls to the floor with the little Red Bird inside. ELLIE looks at the figure in horror.

SCOTT

Look out!

He quickly pulls her away as the figure swings its arm to slash her.

Stay away from us!

The figure picks up the birdcage and looks inside.

ELLIE

Mom!

SCOTT

It's not your Mom! It was just something that made you feel safe! You must have started to doubt it could protect you!

ELLIE

And whose fault is that?!

SCOTT

That doesn't matter right now! We need to get out of here!

ELLIE

We can't! There isn't a way out.

SCOTT

Yes, there is! There must be!

The figure slowly walks towards them while SCOTT looks around trying to figure a way out.

That's it!

What?
 ELLIE

The door! It always comes through there!
 SCOTT

Yeah, so?
 ELLIE

That must be the way out!
 SCOTT

What if it's not?!
 ELLIE

It's our only shot. I need you to trust me. When I say go, you run around it!. Alright 3...2...1... Go!
 SCOTT

SCOTT leaps forward and attacks the nightmare while ELLIE runs to the door. She tries the handle but it doesn't open.

It's locked!
 ELLIE

The nightmare turns to face ELLIE and walks toward her. SCOTT quickly runs past the nightmare to her and holds his arms out.

If you want her you're going to have to kill me!
 SCOTT

What are you doing?!
 ELLIE

Protecting you!
 SCOTT

You can't! Not without my Red Bird!
 ELLIE

Then I'll be your new Red Bird!
 SCOTT

ELLIE looks at him in shock

And I'll protect you no matter what!
 SCOTT

The figure slowly walks towards them.

SCOTT

You're not alone! If you think nobody is there for you, you're wrong, because I'm here!

(The figure suddenly stops)

And when you wake up, I'll be there too. I promise.

ELLIE slowly walks back to the door and turns the handle. SCOTT walks forward toward the nightmare and it begins to back up.

SCOTT

Go! Wake up!

ELLIE

My-my name is Ellie! Ellie Lone!

(He looks back at her.)

I won't wake up until you keep your promise!

SCOTT

My name is Scott.

ELLIE

I'll see you in a while then.

They both smile at each other. ELLIE walks through the door. SCOTT turns to face the nightmare.

SCOTT

It's over. You can't hurt her anymore.

Laughing

Everyone is alone in the deepest part of their heart.

The nightmare then runs towards SCOTT and the lights go dark. There is silence.

SCENE 4

The lights come up and we see ELLIE lying in a bed. The scene stays like this for about a minute before SCOTT walks onstage.

SCOTT

I'm here like I promised.

(Silence)

Ellie. Come on wake up. I kept my promise.

(Silence)

ELLIE'S FATHER

She isn't going to wake up.

SCOTT

Who are you?

ELLIE'S FATHER

I'm Ellie's father and have sat here saying the same words you just said for 7 years.

SCOTT

But this time she WILL wake up. She told me so in-

ELLIE'S FATHER

In a dream?

(Scott looks at him confused)

I have had that same dream many times. Every time she promises she will wake up. I don't know how you know my daughter but I suppose you should know. Ellie was cut off from life support this morning. She's gone. You can sit there and shout at her body but it won't do you any good. I loved her very much but even I know when it it time to let go.

He exits

SCOTT looks at ELLIE and then rests his head on the side of her bed and begins to cry. After a while of crying he gently lifts her up.

SCOTT

You're not alone Ellie. I'm here like I promised.. I was just too late. Now I'm the one who is alone.

He hugs her corpse. Her face is visible to the audience. As he hugs her, ELLIE begins to open her eyes.

ELLIE

You are not alone.

SCOTT moves to look at her. The two smile and each other and grasp hands.

Thank you Scott, for being my Red Bird.