

LAG 7th Grade- RESA 3

Behind the Window

November 4th, 1990. A little girl named Darla is sleeping in her bed, snuggling with her small toy rabbit. Wind blows through the curtains, making a whistle sound. Darla is around 6 years old, and she always has a friend to play with behind the window. Darla calls him "Mr. Shadow", but her father calls him a figment of her imagination. But Darla knows he's real, she always knew.

Darla woke up, it was about midnight. She giggles in excitement and runs to the window. She looks outside, trying to find her best friend. Nothing. There's nobody there. Her smile fades as she slowly goes away from the window. Darla closes the window and holds her arm by her side, disappointed that her best friend hasn't come back to play tonight.

Then... *knock knock*. Darla looks over and sees that her friend has returned! He looks the same as always, all black, white eyes, a cute white mouth, very lanky, long black rabbit ears, everything. She starts to smile again. She walks over and opens the window again. The shadow waves, smiling at her. She giggles, holding her arms out. He picks her up, putting her

LAG 7th Grade- RESA 3

in his arms. She snuggles close to him, happy to see her best friend again. The shadow then twirls her around in his arms, his rabbit ears flying with the wind. She laughs, holding his arms tightly so she doesn't fall down. He stops twirling her and puts her down. He sits on the grass beside her, making sure he's near her level. She gives him her toy rabbit. The shadow takes the toy, stroking its fake ears. He nods in acceptance. Darla giggles in excitement, hugging him again.

"Hey!" A man shouted.

The shadow looks over, surprised. He then fades away, still with her toy rabbit. Darla gets scared, wondering where he went. The man walks over.

"Darla honey... You can't be out here this late... You'll freeze..." The man said, crouching over to her.

"But daddy, I saw him again!" Darla said, her voice sounding like an average young girl. "Baby I told you... It's just your imagination..." The father said. Darla frowned. "Let's go back to bed, okay?..." He asked. "Yes daddy..." Darla said in a sad tone. She takes his hand and they both walk back into the house. After that night, she never saw the shadow ever again. She kept

LAG 7th Grade- RESA 3

guessing that he had family like her and her father, but she also thought that she was a bad friend that night after leaving him.

June 11th, 2006. Darla is an adult now, she already finished school and now she has a decent job as a librarian. She was adding the last books to the newly built library. She sighed, tired from a long day of sorting and cleaning. She took a step, looking at the hall. She thought for a second and looked back at the shelf. She always wondered where her friend went, but at this point she thinks that she was crazy as a kid. She looks back at the hall, seeing her friends talking about new plans about the library. She smiled a little, but turned around and walked the opposite direction. She looked around at all the books, running her fingers off them while walking.

"Hey Darla!" Someone shouted, speedwalking over.

"Oh, hey Mark." Darla responded, looking at him. "Hey, so can you help me put the rest of the books on the right side of the library? We have around 2 more shelves to fill and then we can start getting ready to open!" Mark exclaimed, excited. Darla thought for a second, then nodded. "Great! C'mon!" Mark said, grabbing her wrist and speedwalking to the empty shelves.

LAG 7th Grade- RESA 3

After they show up to the empty shelves, Mark starts handing Darla a few books to put on the shelves. "So, the 2 empty shelves are all the way over there." Mark said, pointing east of the library. Darla nods and starts walking over.

Darla starts placing books on the empty shelves, looking at each of the labels and titles.

Chunk chunk.

Darla looks over, looking at the knocked over books, then up in front of her. Her jaw drops a little, still holding a few books. She turns her whole body toward that way. Mr. Shadow. Her best friend from so many years ago. She drops the books she's holding, covering her mouth with her left hand. The shadow waves slightly. He looks different from what she remembers. His ear is missing, he's way lankier, but he still has his cute face that she always remembered him from. She slowly walks over, holding her hand out. She touches his face, stroking it. The shadow tilts his head, curious on what his friend looks like now. Darla smiles, almost teary. She missed him so much. She hugs him, almost crying. The shadow strokes her head, touching her hair.

LAG 7th Grade- RESA 3

He then pulls out a toy. She looks over. Her eyes go a little wider, seeing that it was her toy that she gave him. He smiled and held it close to her. Darla giggles in happiness. The shadow pats her head. Darla's smile fades into a confused face. The shadow is looking down, sad. Darla realizes. He's not coming back to her. She frowned, hugging him again. The shadow ruffled her hair.

He then slowly fades away. Darla stood there, looking at the ground. She stroked her toy rabbit, missing her best friend already. She sighed; she knew it wouldn't last forever. Nothing lasts forever, so sometimes you have to let it go.