

Grab Me

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SEASIDE AMUSEMENT ARCADE - DAY

GARY, early 30s, and a little overweight, stands at the 'Grab Me' machine watching the mechanical claw descend towards a garish doll, all sequins and glitter.

GARY
C'mon, c'mon.

The claw descends, hits one of the fluorescent dolls, tightens round it and pulls it up.

GARY
This time, please.

The doll moves towards the prize chute.

GARY
Please!

The doll drops at the very last minute, hits the edge of the chute and falls back in with the other dolls.

GARY
Fuck!

JANEY (O.S.)
Gary! Not in front of Lucy.

JANEY, late 20s, plain but not unattractive, moves to the side of Gary, she has LUCY, 8 and cute as a button, by the hand.

GARY
Yeah, sorry - it's just this robbing fu...

JANEY
Gary...

GARY
Fu, fudging, cheating, stoopid machine.

JANEY
Yeah, imagine that.

LUCY
 (tugging at his arm)
 Pleaaaaseee Daddy, I reaaaallllyyy
 love it.

JANEY
 Sorry Baby, the machine's broken.

LUCY
 No, Daddy can get it, he always
 fixes things. You said so Mummy.

Gary and Janey exchange a wry smile.

GARY
 Right, one last go and then we've
 got to get going, long drive home.

Gary rummages in his pocket, finds a coin and feeds it into
 the slot.

JANEY
 Fingers crossed.

Gary grabs the controls and the claw descends again.

Gary targets the dropped doll from before, it jerks
 unsteadily into the air, tantalisingly close.

Closer, beyond the edge.

The claw judders open.

The doll drops into the chute.

GARY
 Get in!

LUCY
 (chanting)
 Daddy, Daddy, Daddy

JANEY
 Wow, that's a first.

Lucy retrieves the doll.

LUCY
 Look Mummy, it's all shiny.

Janey takes the proffered doll and examines it.

The doll looks like it's been created by a colour blind two
 year old, all primary colours and glued on sparkles.

JANEY

You can say that again. What are you going to call her?

LUCY

Hmm, I don't know.

Lucy's brow furrows as she concentrates.

LUCY

Dolly maybe?

JANEY

Dolly the doll? Are you sure baby?

LUCY

Yes, it is a great name!

GARY

Right, Dolly it is then. But now it's time to go, long drive ahead.

They move off and out of the arcade.

Lucy runs ahead, holding her doll aloft in celebration, sparkles catching the sunlight.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Lucy eats Fruit Loops at the formica kitchen table, Dolly sits on the table facing Lucy.

Mum washes pots in the sink.

LUCY

Mum, can Dolly have some supper?

JANEY

Of course, baby.

Lucy spoons some multi coloured cereal towards Dolly.

LUCY

She doesn't like it Mummy.

JANEY

Really? Does she want something else?

Lucy picks Dolly up and holds her to her ear.

BEAT.

LUCY
Dolly said she'd like some
chocolate.

JANEY
(laughing)
It's bedtime for the pair of you,
so no, no chocolate before bedtime.

LUCY
Aw Mum.

JANEY
Don't 'aw Mum me' you little minx!

They both laugh.

Lucy jumps down from her chair, grabs Dolly and runs out of
the kitchen.

LUCY (O.S.)
Night, Daddy.

GARY (O.S.)
Night baby.

LUCY (O.S.)
Say night to Dolly.

GARY (O.S.)
Sorry baby, nighty, night Dolly.

Lucy re-appears in the kitchen doorway.

LUCY
We're ready Mummy.

Janey takes Lucy by the hand and leads her out of the
kitchen.

Feet CLUMP upstairs.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Janey flicks on Lucy's nightlight adding to the light coming
in from the landing.

The room is awash with pink tones. Princesses, fairies and
cuddly toys are scattered everywhere.

Janey tucks Lucy into bed, smoothing the covers down.

JANEY
So where is Dolly going then?

LUCY
In here with me Mummy.

JANEY
Sorry baby, she's not a cuddly toy.

LUCY
Soooo?

JANEY
So - if you roll on her in your
sleep you might hurt yourself.

LUCY
No, I won't.

JANEY
You won't mean to, but it would
still hurt.

LUCY
Aw Mum, that's not fair.

JANEY
Maybe not, but that's the rules,
Let's put her over here.

Janey takes Dolly over to the radiator and sits her down on
it.

JANEY
There we go, she can watch over you
from here.

LUCY
S'pose so.

JANEY
Good, settled then.

Janey moves back to her daughter and plants a kiss on her
forehead.

JANEY
Night, night - don't let the bed
bugs bite.

LUCY
Night Mummy and thanks for taking
me to the seaside.

JANEY
No problem baby, love you.

LUCY
Love you too Mummy.

Janey repeats her kiss, leaves the room and pulls the door almost closed behind her.

The night light casts gentle shadows in the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Gary watches TV, football from abroad.

Janey enters the room and joins him on the sofa.

GARY
She go up ok?

JANEY
Yeah, but wanted to sleep with
Dolly.

Janey picks up the remote and starts looking for something else to watch.

Gary groans as an Eastenders repeat fills the screen.

GARY
Hope you said no, cheapest bit of
tat I've ever seen.

JANEY
I did, and it's perched on the
radiator.

GARY
Good, bloody ugly thing!

They both laugh and return to watching the TV.

Janey watches intently, Gary feigns interest.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Lucy fidgets under her covers.

She's still for a few moments.

Fidgets again.

Her head peers out from under her duvet and scans the room.

Dolly shimmers in the light of the night light, appearing haloed.

As the night light's shadows move across the room it appears as if Dolly shifts slightly.

LUCY
(quietly)
Dolly's alive.

Lucy cocks her head on one side and listens intently.

There's no noise from downstairs.

She drops down from the bed, tiptoes over to Dolly and picks her up.

Lucy examines Dolly, turning her round and round in her hands.

LUCY
You're my new favouritest Dolly.

Lucy returns to the bed and tucks Dolly in with her.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Janey enters the room and shuffles over to the bed to check on Lucy.

She spots Dolly on the pillow.

JANEY
(whispering)
Little monster.

Janey turns to put Dolly back on the radiator.

LUCY
Aw, Mummy, I really want Dolly with me.

JANEY
Now we talked about this already love.

LUCY
Yeah, but she's alive now.

JANEY

Alive?

LUCY

Yes Mummy, I saw her sparkling on the radiator, she moved too.

JANEY

Ah, I see, that'll be the night light.

LUCY

No Mummy, Dolly is really alive.

JANEY

Well, even so she's still not sleeping with you.

Lucy pulls a face, but doesn't respond beyond a tired yawn.

Janey returns Dolly to the radiator and turns to leave the room.

JANEY

And leave her there this time.

Lucy is already asleep, lightly snoring.

Janey smiles at her daughter and leaves the room.

BEAT

Janey's footsteps retreat downstairs.

BEAT

Lucy slowly raises one eyelid, eyeball scans the room.

The other eyelid opens and she raises her head.

She listens to the sound of her parents downstairs.

LUCY

(whispering)

Sshhh now Dolly.

Dolly turns her head slightly to fix Lucy with her dead gaze.

DOLLY

Playtime.

Dolly raises her arms to be picked up.

FADE OUT:

THE END