

"Back In My Dollhouse"

A Wes Anderson Inspired Horror Short

Written by

SCENE 1 - EXT. DOLLHOUSE - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: *October 23rd - 2:59 a.m.*

A perfect dollhouse sits in absolute stillness.
Symmetrical. Pristine. Slightly unsettling in its perfection.
Beyond it, roaring countryside.

Visible rooms: attic, two bedrooms, hallway, kitchen, living room.

Only one figure moves - MC, asleep in her bed.

In the attic: a light flickers once. Then again.
The house hums faintly, as though alive.

SCENE 2 - INT. MC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: *3:00 a.m.*

CLOSE-UP.

A sleeping mask fills the frame. Hands lift it away. Eyes
blink open - curious and alert.

WIDE SIDE SHOT.

The room is frozen in childhood.

Pastel walls. Toys. Tiny trophies, to the side sides a
comically large bottle of toothpaste.

She sits up, switches on a lamp. Half of her hair is cropped
short, the other long. She doesn't notice.

(beat)

CAMERA PANS RIGHT.

A family portrait - two parents and two children smile back.
(beat)

CUT. CLOSE-UP

The sisters face in the picture.

(beat)

CUT. CLOSE UP

MC's face.

(beat)

MC looks to her left, her right before returning to the camera.

MC

(softly)

"Why am I... back here?"

SCENE 3 - INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LOW ANGLE / FROM UNDER BED.

Childish slippers sit neatly before the lens.

Two faint red lights blink.

(beat)

From the eyes, a tiny mouse appears and scurries past the frame.

From above, MC's feet slide into the slippers. She stands.

SCENE 4 - EXT. DOLLHOUSE - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: *3:06 a.m.*

Same framing as before.

MC's bedroom light glows softly.

Her figure now stands in the upstairs hallway.

In her brother's dark room, a silhouette lingers motionless.

SCENE 5 - INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

The hallway is impossibly long.

Family photos line the walls in perfect symmetry.

MC stands centre-frame with her brother's room to her left and a gallery wall to her right.

Inside the brother's room, a shadow drags a body like silhouette slowly across the floor. MC doesn't see it.

MC

(to herself)

"I remember these pictures..."

(beat)

"...but not like this."

She lifts her hand toward one.

POV SHOT.

MC is looking at photo of her and her brother as children.

She gently traces her hand on the picture.

MC

(to herself)

"I should really give you a call."

A faint crash downstairs. Muted adult voices – angry, distant.

WIDE SHOT.

The hallway stretches further now.

Each photo shows MC and her brother aging until only he remains.

His door is now closed. A handmade sign reads *DO NOT ENTER*.

MC

(Lightly Shouting)

"Mum?"

"Dad?"

"Is that one of you?"

She turns, glancing toward the stairs and hesitates.

(beat)

She walks towards the stairs.

SCENE 6 - INT. STAIRCASE / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: *3:12 a.m.*

The staircase fills the frame, perfect and symmetry.

MC descends slowly. The house creaks.

Only her breathing is heard.

At the bottom step, she turns right.

PAN RIGHT.

The living room is calm. Pastel furniture. Porcelain lamps. A broken table lies in the middle.

The light flickers.

Then - blackout.

A low scrape. Something heavy, dragged.

Then - a giggle.

MC is standing still, her ears twitch as she's listening.

PAN LEFT.

Toward the kitchen.

A shape flickers in the dark.

The lights return.

A silhouette is standing at the kitchen island.

SCENE 7 - EXT. DOLLHOUSE - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: 3:18 a.m.

Only the living room light glows now.

Evenly spaced trees flank the house. A tire swing sways gently.

A child's laughter drifts faintly, far away.

SCENE 8 - INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

DOWNWARD CLOSE-UP / DOLLY ZOOM.

MC stands perfectly centred beneath the ceiling light.

Still.

MC

(quietly)

"What the cuss..."

She tilts her head.

WIDE SHOT.

The furniture is gone.

Only MC's shadow remains.

In its place is a toy tea party setup.

Three plastic dolls sit neatly, one chair is empty.

WIDE SHOT.

We are facing MC. She is stood in the right.

MC

"This one's new"

A black shadow of a hand sweeps the back wall behind her. It gets closer to MC.

CUT.

MC

(loudly)

"Screams"

SCENE 9 - UNKNOWN VOID - WHITE SPACE

TITLE CARD (distorted): *Tberoco r32d - 2:m31a*

Stop-motion styled.

A single doorframe floats in white void.

MC like a doll, clings to the door frame, fighting an unseen pull.

A deep hum vibrates the space. Echoing giggles.

She drags herself back through the door - slams it shut.

Silence.

(beat)

SCENE 10 - INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: *3:24 a.m.*

Perfect symmetry again.

MC leans against the closed door, panting.

For the first time, she looks genuinely afraid.

(beat)

She slides down, head in hands.

MC

(whisper)

"I'm so alone."

A warm glow blooms from behind camera, spilling across her face.

She looks up.

POV SHOT.

Giant hands descend from the glow slowly.

WIDE SIDE VIEW.

They pluck MC from the floor – gentle, precise.
Like a doll returned to its shelf.

SCENE 11 – EXT. DOLLHOUSE – NIGHT

TITLE CARD: *October 23rd – 3:33 a.m.*

The same house.

The backdrop now resembles a cardboard cutout of children's drawing.

In the upstairs, MC sleeps.

The attic light flickers. Once. Twice.

TITLE CARD: *October 23rd – 2:59 a.m.*

(beat)

The clock ticks.

Reset.

SCENE 12 – INT. MC'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

WIDE SHOT.

MC in bed. She sits up, something is wrong.

Her left arm is missing from the shoulder down.

CLOSE UP.

She looks down at the absence, then back up, looking directly into camera.

Smiles faintly.

A child giggles off-screen.

CUT TO BLACK.

SCENE 13 – EXT. REAL WORLD – DAY (Epilogue)

WIDE SHOT.

A dollhouse sits on a table. Children play around it,
laughing.

Through one tiny window, MC's face stares out.
Blank. Still.

A faint tick-tock echoes — mechanical and endless.

END.