

THE SCARY STORY OF GRANNY GRUNT'S SPECIAL RECIPE ICE-CREAM

BY

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Screenplay adapted from an original short story by the author.

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FADE IN:

EXT. VILLAGE GREEN - DAY - ESTABLISHING

EXT. GRUNTER'S CAFE - DAY

A small building, GRUNTER'S CAFE, sits on the edge of the VILLAGE GREEN in a picturesque village.

EXT. RACK OF POSTCARDS - CLOSE SHOT

Outside the cafe, by the door, is a RACK OF POSTCARDS. The postcards show several views of the café and the village green.

EXT. BLACKBOARD - CLOSE SHOT

Below the RACK OF POSTCARDS is a BLACKBOARD listing a range of flavours of home-made ice cream: "BLACKCURRANT", "STRAWBERRY" and "SPECIAL RECIPE ICE-CREAM", "ALL MADE FROM LOCAL PRODUCE".

NARRATOR (V/O)

The lady in Grunter's Cafe looked nice and friendly, and she always had a cheerful "hello" for the children who came to the village on holiday.

Some of the local youngsters told visiting children tales of how holidaymakers' kids would disappear, but the grown-ups who lived in the village tended to pooh-pooh these stories as nothing more than yarns cooked-up by young imaginations to frighten the children from the campsites and the holiday cottages.

The local children referred to the shop lady as "Granny Grunt" because the village shop was called "Grunter's". (Lots of things in villages in the area had jokey pig-related names because there were lots of pig farms in this part of the world, and everyone thought that the tourists would like it.) Nobody knew the shop lady's real name but if anyone did, they might have been surprised to find that it was Gretel, which is the same as the little girl in "Hansel and Gretel", the fairy story that tells the tale of a little girl and a little boy who find a house made of sweets in the woods.

Granny Grunt liked nothing better than to invite children on holiday to try her ice cream. Once they'd had a taste, they would run to their parents to ask for a pound so

they could buy an ice cream cone. The local children didn't seem to be at all interested in Granny Grunt's ice cream though. Perhaps it was because they lived there all year round, so it didn't seem as new and exciting to them as it did to the children on holiday. Or perhaps there was another reason. Whatever the reason, the local children didn't seem to eat any of Granny Grunt's ice cream at all, while the holidaying children didn't seem to be able to get enough of it ...

EXT. THE WHEEL HOUSE - DAY

DAD

Come on twins! Let's choose an ice cream!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GRUNTER'S CAFE - DAY

DAD

Blackcurrant, strawberry and special recipe ice-cream.

While MUM fixes PIP's LEAD to the PICNIC TABLE outside the café, EMILY and HERO listen as DAD rattles through the various flavours on the BLACKBOARD. When he's finished reading, the trio disappear into the cafe.

DAD, EMILY and HERO emerge from the cafe and sit at the PICNIC TABLE with MUM and PIP.

DAD

The lady in the shop seems nice and friendly.

MUM

Did she say if she makes the ice cream herself?

HERO

(worriedly)

She's not nice, she's scary.

EMILY

I think she's a witch.

MUM

(happily)

Oh, don't be silly, children! There's no such thing as witches.

GRANNY GRUNT appears with a tray full of ICE CREAMS. PIP growls as GRANNY GRUNT approaches the table.

DAD

(jokingly)

Be quiet Pip! She must think you're after her

ball!

GRANNY GRUNT

Yes ... she must (hissing). Here you are children ... Two lovely ice cream specials for two lovely children.

GRANNY GRUNT places the ICE CREAMS on the PICNIC TABLE in front of EMILY and HERO. DAD notices HERO is looking particularly worried.

DAD

Don't worry little Hero; I'm sure the ice cream'll be fine.

EXT. VILLAGE GREEN - DAY

After the family finish their ice creams, they set off in the direction of THE WHEEL HOUSE. A FIGURE in the distance, silhouetted against the summer sky, appears to be fixing something to a TELEGRAPH POLE near the entrance to a camping field. The family group are too busy chatting and telling the dog to "keep close" and "pick up your ball" to notice the "MISSING CHILDREN" SIGN on the TELEGRAPH POLE as they pass by.

EXT. VILLAGE GREEN - EVENING

Later that evening our family of holiday-makers decide to have dinner at THE PIG'S ARMS, the pub on the VILLAGE GREEN near GRUNTER'S CAFE. If they had been observant as they passed the TELEGRAPH POLE near the camping field, they would have noticed there was no sign on it now, but they were too busy thinking about a pub dinner to be observant.

EXT. THE PIG'S ARMS - EVENING

MUM, DAD, EMILY and HERO sit at a PICNIC TABLE, one of several set in front of the pub, poring over the menu. PIP lets her BALL roll down the hill, bounds after it, leaping on it to "capture" it before bringing it back to the PICNIC TABLE and letting it "escape" to start the process again. After PIP has allowed her BALL to "escape" and brought it back a few times, MUM notices PIP is taking a long time to come back.

MUM

Smallies! Smallies, go and see if Pip's ball has got stuck somewhere, or if it's gone down a drain.

EXT. GRUNTER'S CAFE - EVENING

EMILY and HERO set off, taking care to make sure the road is clear, to see if they can find PIP's BALL. PIP is snuffling at what appears to be a ground-level BOARDED-UP WINDOW to the basement of GRUNTER'S CAFE.

EMILY

Where's your ball, Pip?

PIP

[SPECIAL NOISE]

PIP scratches at the BOARDED-UP WINDOW, making the SPECIAL NOISE she makes when her ball is lost or stuck somewhere.

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HERO
I don't like this, Emmy.

As PIP scratches at the BOARDED-UP WINDOW, HERO notices a gap in the wood. He peers through the gap into the cellar, which is, in fact, GRUNTER'S CAFE STOCK ROOM.

INT. GRUNTER'S CAFE STOCK ROOM - EVENING

HERO'S POV: WE SEE PEOPLE-LIKE SHAPES IN GRUNTER'S CAFE STOCK ROOM.

HERO
(worriedly)
Look, Emmy!

Emily looks through the gap in the BOARDED-UP WINDOW.

EMILY'S POV: WE GET A BETTER VIEW OF THE PEOPLE-LIKE SHAPES MOVING IN GRUNTER'S CAFE STOCK ROOM.

SOUND FX: We hear the sound of gagged voices: "Hmmm! Hmmm!"

EMILY
Listen Hero! Can you hear that noise?

HERO
I don't like this, Em. Let's get dad.

EMILY
Wait. I think it's coming off.

EMILY slips her fingers through the gap in the BOARDED-UP WINDOW and starts pulling at the wood.

HERO
Come on, Em! Let's go.

EMILY
It's off! Look Hero!

HERO looks through the enlarged gap in the BOARDED-UP WINDOW. We see two children inside, a GIRL and a BOY, tied with ROPE and GAGGED, and we hear them too: "Hmmm! Hmmm!"

EMILY
Hero, help me pull off another piece.

Emily and Hero pull at another piece of the BOARDED-UP WINDOW until it comes away to expose a larger opening.

EMILY
Gosh, Hero! We should get Dad!

HERO
I don't like this, Em! I think we should get them out.

PIP puts her head into gap and jumps down into GRUNTER'S CAFE STOCK ROOM. She runs around, sniffing at the bound children and various boxes and sacks while wagging her tail, as if she's looking for her BALL.

HERO

Come on Em, let's get them out.

HERO slips through the large gap and drops into GRUNTER'S CAFE STOCK ROOM. EMILY follows, dropping to the floor behind him.

GIRL

Hmmm! Hmmm!

HERO pulls the GAG away from the GIRL'S mouth.

The café woman kidnapped us! She tied us up
and was going to churn us into ice cream!
You've got to help us escape!

EMILY removes the GAG from the BOY, and struggles to untie the ROPE securing him to a chair.

EMILY

I can't untie the knot, Hero.

Hero tries to untie the knot in the ROPE holding the BOY.

HERO

We need a knife.

PIP starts to gnaw the ROPE.

HERO

Good girl, Pip!

The ROPE begins to fray. Soon, it is frayed enough for HERO to be able to pull it apart and he then unwinds the ROPE holding THE GIRL to the CHAIR. PIP (THE DOG) chews through the ROPE holding THE BOY and EMILY unwraps the ROPE, freeing THE BOY from the CHAIR.

HERO

We'll have to climb out through the window to
escape.

GIRL

Yes, and quickly before the wicked shop woman
comes back.

The cellar door flies open and GRANNY GRUNT stands in the doorway.

GRANNY GRUNT

Fe-fi-fo-fum! What the fe-fi-fo-fum's going
on here?

Granny Grunt strides menacingly into GRUNTER'S CAFE STOCK ROOM.

MONTAGE SEQUENCE AND VISUAL FX: A SWIRL OF CHILDREN, A DOG, GRANNY GRUNT, BITS OF ROPE, SPLINTERED BITS OF WOOD.

It seems that somehow the children and the dog manage to overpower GRANNY GRUNT (or perhaps she trips and falls): it's hard to be sure quite what happened, but the result is that GRANNY GRUNT ends up dead on the floor.

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WE SEE GRANNY GRUNT LYING ON THE CELLAR FLOOR, DEAD.

A LARGE SPLINTER OF WOOD pierces her wicked heart.

VISUAL FX: GRANNY GRUNT appears to begin to move.

She isn't really moving, she is MELTING--just like the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*.

VISUAL FX: GRANNY GRUNT MELTS.

Soon, there is just a pool of YUCKY STUFF, like melted ice cream, and a PILE OF OLD LADY'S CLOTHES on the cellar floor where GRANNY GRUNT had been.

PIP sniffs at the YUCKY STUFF and licks it.

EMILY

Oh, gross!

HERO

I don't like this, Emmy. I think we'd better go.

GIRL

The door leads up to the café.

EMILY

Yeah, but it's our story.

HERO

And we're going back through the window.

EMILY

Besides, the café might be locked and we might not be able to find the key.

HERO

(ominously)

And there could be untold horrors on the other side of the door.

WE SEE EMILY, HERO, THE BOY, THE GIRL AND PIP CLAMBER BACK THROUGH THE OPENING IN BOARDED-UP WINDOW.

EXT. GRUNTER'S CAFE - EVENING

EMILY, HERO, the BOY, the GIRL and PIP emerge from the opening in the BOARDED-UP WINDOW to stand in the evening sunlight. Just a few dozen yards up the hill, HERO and EMILY'S MUM and DAD sit at the PICNIC TABLE joking and drinking as they wait for dinner outside THE PIG'S ARMS.

EXT. VILLAGE GREEN - EVENING

A FIGURE in the distance, silhouetted against the summer sky, walks into view. We will discover in a moment this FIGURE is the FATHER of the GIRL and the BOY.

FATHER

Leander! Kevin! Where have you two been all

night, you naughty children?

The GIRL and the BOY exchange a conspiratorial look with EMILY and HERO and then run to join their FATHER. EMILY and HERO look at each other and smile.

DAD

Hero! Emily! Dinner's here!

EMILY

Come on, Pip ...

EMILY, HERO and PIP trot back up the hill to join their MUM and DAD at the PICNIC TABLE outside THE PIG'S ARMS.

EXT. THE PIG'S ARMS - EVENING

FATHER

(emphatic)

We were really quite worried, you know. If you're going to spend the night in a friend's tent, you should tell us--anything could have happened to you!

The FATHER is being emphatic as he passes the PICNIC TABLE where Emily and Hero's MUM and DAD are sitting. He has his BOY and GIRL in tow. Just after they pass, EMILY and HERO arrive back at the PICNIC TABLE with PIP.

DAD

Does anyone fancy an ice cream after dinner?

HERO

(laughing)

No thanks!

EMILY

(laughing)

No thanks!

PIP

(Sound FX)

[Grunt]

PIP lies on the floor beside the PICNIC TABLE, her BALL between her front paws. She licks her lips and gives a little grunt.

FADE