The MotherLess Child: The Story of Pand & The Ghost

By

Saeed Hooshyar

October 2019

I. INT. ROOM IN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A close-up view of a door being slowly opened, revealing a seven-year-old boy with long hair. There's a strange concern in the boy's eyes.

Boy's Point of View: A nurse pulls a white sheet over a woman lying on a bed. Beside the bed, a tall, chubby man stands, crying. The boy gently closes the door.

2. INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR-NIGHT-CONTINUOUS

The boy enters a hallway and approaches a chair where a five or six-year-old girl is sleeping. The boy quietly sits beside the girl and places his hand on her. The girl wakes up.

Girl's Point of View: The boy's face shows deep concern. The little girl looks at her brother. The image fades to black.

3. EXT. STREET- RAINY DAY

A close-up view of a dry leaf on a tree branch. With each raindrop, the leaf's resistance weakens until it finally falls from the branch. The camera follows the leaf. It's almost about to touch the ground, then a bicyclist passes by, causing the leaf to rise and fall again. It lands on the front windshield of a school bus, and the camera enters the bus.

4. INT. BUS SCHOOL -RAINY DAY

Schoolboys and schoolgirls are talking and even playing together, filling the air with laughter. The camera finds our boy, who is left alone on a chair. Beside him, instead of a student, there is a figure in a long white shroud, covering everything except for two sad, round black eyes.

5. INT. HOME -DAY

The boy enters a house alone. There's no sign of the shrouded figure. The boy passes through a room and enters the kitchen. We enter the room.

6. INT. GIRL'S ROOM -DAY

The girl is busy drawing. She is not alone; a blue-pink panda is sitting next to her, keeping her company. The girl reaches out her hand, and the panda hands her an orange crayon.

7. INT. BOY'S ROOM -DAY

The boy lies on the ground, reading a book. The room opens, and there's the little girl, showing the drawing she made to her brother. The drawing depicts a family of four, apparently in the sky. The boy glances at the drawing with a hint of annoyance, then stands up, goes to the door, and hangs it on the little girl. She's upset. The boy returns to the room and encounters the shrouded figure (the ghost). They both stare at each other for a while, then the boy lifts his shoulders to let the ghost know it's okay.

8. EXT. PARK -NIGHT

Rain is pouring down, but a cold wind is blowing. The little girl, with a gloomy expression, sits on a swing, and the panda is next to her.

9. INT. BOY'S ROOM -NIGHT

A close-up view of the boy's eyes as he watches his sister through a window. He gently closes the curtain.

10. EXT. BUS STATION -DAY

The girl and the panda are standing side by side among the people.

cut to:

11. EXT. SUBWAY STATION -DAY

The boy and the ghost are standing together among the crowd. A train rushes into the frame. Quick cut to:

12. EXT. BUS STATION -DAY

A bus speeds into the frame.

13. INT. CLASSROOM -DAY

The classroom is empty, except for the girl and the panda. The girl is looking at the completed painting. From the girl's point of view, we see the painting depicting a family of four on a beach, apparently in the sky. The camera approaches a paper and enters it.

14. EXT. BEACH-DAY (FLASHBACK)

The boy and the girl are running on the beach. With each step they take, raindrops scatter irregularly in the air. The sounds of joy fill the space.

15. EXT. BEACH-DAY-CONTINUOUS (FLASHBACK)

The sister and brother tumble on the sandy beach and laugh.

The mother dries the sister's hair with a towel. From the girl's point of view, the boy looks at her with a smiling face.

cut to:

16. INT. CLASSROOM -DAY

We're back in the classroom. The girl is looking at the painting when suddenly the shadow of someone falls on the painting. The girl lifts her head. In the wide shot, we see the teacher standing over the girl and signaling her to gather her art supplies.

17. EXT. SHOOL GROUNDS -DAY

The school is closed, and children are running in a hurry. The camera finds our boy, who has separated from the crowd and is sitting on a bench. For a moment, he's

alone, then the ghost appears and sits beside him. The boy is absorbed in watching happy children.

18. INT. BOY'S ROOM -NIGHT

The boy, along with the ghost, sits by the window and gazes outside at a gloomy view. The room opens again, and it's the little girl wearing winter clothes, showing her ice skates to her brother and asking him to join her for a game. The boy shakes his head in refusal, and the girl leaves.

19. INT. THE HALLWAY OF THE HOUSE -NIGHT

The upset girl goes out through the exit. For a brief moment, her body disappears into darkness, and when she reappears in the light, the panda is beside her.

20. INT. BOY'S ROOM -NIGHT

The ghost watches with apathy as the girl plays with the panda. He looks at the boy sleeping and then back at the girl and the panda. It's as though an idea has crossed his mind.

21. INT. MOTHER'S ROOM -NIGHT

The ghost enters the mother's room and examines it. He opens drawers and sees albums, photographs, and various items but apparently doesn't find what he's looking for. The ghost looks under the bed and pulls out a box. Inside the box, there are various odds and ends, including an old film camera. The ghost opens the camera, but no matter what he does, he can't press the play button because he has no fingers. Suddenly, a pink furry hand appears and presses the play button. The ghost looks behind him; the panda is sitting beside him. Panda and the ghost are mesmerized by the camera's screen. It's unclear what they see, but both are deeply affected.

22. INT. BOY'S ROOM -NIGHT

Light and a bit of background noise wake up the boy. The boy stands up, curious about the source of light and sound.

23. INT. RECEPTION HALL -NIGHT

The boy enters. The source of light and sound is the TV, but no one is in the living room. The boy is captivated by what he sees: an old family home video recorded shakily with a camera. It's the video of the girl's first birthday. The baby girl sits beside her brother, and she blows out a candle. Then, the boy gives her a gift, and she opens it—a pink and blue panda doll. The boy walks forward and sits in front of the TV. The clip freezes on a cheerful image of their mother, apparently at the end of the film. The boy raises his hand and touches the small screen of the TV. Unbeknownst to him, his sister stands behind him and watches him. The little girl moves forward and sits beside her brother. The boy takes his sister's hand and presses the play button again. Panda and the ghost, who have been hidden while watching this scene, reappear and become serene.

THE END