

An Abhorrent Thing

written by

Luke Uliasz

07487585026
lukeuliasz@gmail.com

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS- DAY

A young lad around 11 years old cycles through the streets. He reaches an opening to the woods. Parks his bike, hops off, puts on his wellies and begins his journey.

EXT. THE WOODS- DAY

He pulls out an old radio and tunes it. An upbeat track begins to play. He proceeds to search for the most sword-like stick he can find. He continues on through the woods swinging around his new weapon. After a while he sits on a log by a small swamp and pulls out a jam sandwich wrapped in cellophane. As he's eating he looks down and notices something. He drops his sandwich and runs away.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS- DAY

He hops back on his bike and cycles home.

INT. HOME- DAY

He bursts through the front door.

 TOBY
MUM! COME QUICK.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WOODS- DAY

Toby stands looking over the swamp with his mum. She speaks with a thick northern accent.

 MARIE
 (disgusted)
What is it?

 TOBY
I don't know!

 MARIE
It's an an-

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 TOBY
I don't know. I think it's kinda cool.

MARIE

It's vile.

TOBY

Can we take it home with us mum?

MARIE

No we bloody can't. You're starting big school in a few weeks you don't have time for whatever-

TOBY

(somber)

If dad were still with us he'd let me.

MARIE

What have I told you Toby!

TOBY

Stop acting like Dad's dead.

MARIE

He only lives 40 minutes away!

TOBY

Then how come we never see him anymore!

MARIE

I told you. He ran off with a 22 year old to start a strip poker league. I told him it would never work.

TOBY

But it did.

MARIE

I know.

TOBY

I heard he's a millionaire now.

MARIE

I said I know Toby!

TOBY

Sorry.

MARIE

You are not to bring that thing
anywhere near my house-

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS- NIGHT

Toby cycles through the streets light by a torch on the front of his bike. He has a grappling hook wrapped around his arm.

EXT. THE WOODS- NIGHT

Toby throws the grappling hook down into the swamp and pulls.

INT. HOME- NIGHT

Toby pushes a thing bundled in blankets up the stairs.

INT. TOBY'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Toby sits across from the bundle of blankets. He moves the torch along the ground before meeting it's face. The things mouth hangs open, inhabited by a few sparse teeth, leaking a black goopy substance. It has 7 eyes dotted at random across its face. It has no distinguishable head or neck as its shoulders seem to be at the top of its body. It has two horns one longer than the other and two arms one considerably longer than the other. It has patches of matted brown fur across its grotesque body.

TOBY

Ok if you're staying here there's
gonna be some rules. You can't let
my mum see you.

THE THING

(releasing a gutural
noise)

Blah

TOBY

You can't let any of the neighbours
see you.

THE THING

Argh

TOBY

I'll bring you up food a few times a day, do you have any requests.

THE THING

Glarghh

TOBY

Okay I'll try to keep that in mind. Wait a minute, you need a name. Have you got one?

The thing releases the most wretched noise yet before blowing a bubble of dirt from its mouth.

TOBY (CONT'D)

I think maybe a nickname that's easier to pronounce. How aboutttttt...

The boy looks around his room before seeing a space jam poster with Lebron James on it.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Lebron!

It gargles another horrendous noise.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Yeah I like Lebron too! Do you need a bed or-

The thing splats onto the floor.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Oh, okay. Goodnight Lebron!

EXT. WOODS- DAY

We hear the boy scream. The pair explode onto screen running through the woods. The thing has two sticks of dynamite in its hands. We then cut to the pair blowing up a bird house together. Then to the pair smashing bottles with his slingshot. We then see Toby throw one of the small explosives into the things belly. It sticks init and we hear an explosion. Toby's face drops. The thing has a great hole in its belly straight through to the other side. The pair begin to laugh.

INT. HOME- DAY

Toby pushes the thing, covered in blankets, down the stairs.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD- DAY

The pair lay with their heads next to each other staring at the sky.

TOBY
What do you think happens when we die?

The thing makes a confident noise.

TOBY (CONT'D)
Yeah I think monotheism is for me but I need to do more research.

INT. HOME- DAY

Toby is pushing the thing upstairs in blankets again.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD- DAY

The pair still lay in the same position.

TOBY
Lebron. Do you know what a strip poker league is?

The thing makes a confused noise.

TOBY (CONT'D)
Yeah me neither.

INT. HOME- DAY

Toby is once again sneaking the thing down stair. As he gets half way down he see's his mum and her friend sat at the table doing their nails. Neither one of them looks up.

TOBY
Bye mum! Bye Mrs Pankovic!

MARIE
Where you going darling?

TOBY
Uhhhhh... to get ice.

There is a long pause.

MARIE
Alright bye bye darling.

Toby runs out clattering the thing down the stairs behind him, before slamming the door behind them. Neither of the two women look up.

MRS PANKOVIC
What's up with Toby?

MARIE
Oh he found this thing in the woods
and I told him he couldn't keep it
so he's been sneaking it in and out
the house all summer.

MRS PANKOVIC
Why don't you stop him?

MARIE
Well if he's doing this, I know
he's too busy to be experimenting
with drugs.

MRS PANKOVIC
Hm.

The pair continue painting their nails without a single glance up.

INT. CORNER SHOP- DAY

Toby and his mum enter. An Irish man in his mid-40's stands behind the till. His eyes light up when he sees the pair.

TONY
Tobster! This fell off the front of
a magazine if you want it!

TOBY
Oh sick! Nice one Tony.

TONY
(turning his attention to
Marie)
Why hello madame, how are you
today?

MARIE
Fine thanks Tony, just got a bit of
shopping to do.

TONY
Shopping to do or dinner for two?
Tonight. With me.

TOBY
What the hell Tony!

TONY
Zip it.

MARIE
I've told you before Tony I'm not interested.

TONY
Oh come on. We've got this flirtatious back and forth and im great with your son.

MARIE
You're friends with my son, and that's weird because you're in your late 40's.

TONY
Mid-40's and I'm not friends with him!

Toby looks hugely offended. Tony shakes his head and mouths to him "We are!". Marie arrives at the till. Tony begins to scan her items.

TONY (CONT'D)
Oh come on! What are we then?

MARIE
You are unpaid babysitter.

TONY
Ouch.

MARIE
Bye bye Tony.

Marie leaves. Toby stands and stares at him with disappointment.

TONY
Oh come on I didn't mean it!

Toby shakes his head and leaves.

TONY (CONT'D)
One day you'll be in your mid-40s and single and you'll understand.

He rests his head on the counter. Another customer approaches. He doesn't move his head.

TONY (CONT'D)
 (muffled)
 Will you need a bag for that.

EXT. TOBY'S BACKGARDEN- DAY

Toby is sneaking the thing through his back garden when one of his nosey neighbours sees it. She screams as though she were in a 1950's horror movie.

INT. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING- DAY

A group of women sit in a circle lit by one dangling light. The woman that had screamed previously begins to speak.

MEL
 I saw it. It was an an-

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MEL (CONT'D)
 We have to put an end to it. We can't have something like that terrorising our neighbourhood.

SALLY
 Maybe we should call the police. I really don't think this is the job of the neighbourhood watch. I'm not even sure most neighbourhood watches have meetings like this.

MEL
 Sally you can leave whenever you'd like.

DANA
 So what did you say this thing was doing?

MEL
 It was in the back garden with Toby, Marie's son.

DANA
 And?

MEL
 And it was an absolute eye-sore.

No one is impressed.

MEL (CONT'D)

And it tried to eat little Toby!

Everyone is shocked!

SALLY

What?!

DANA

Outrage!

MEL

We have to kill the beast! Linda,
we need the handyman.

LINDA

You can't just call my husband
every time you need something
killed.

MEL

Oh when was the last time we called
him!

LINDA

The postman!

MEL

Welllllll, he really was far too
chatty and I always got my
neighbours post. That really
couldn't be helped. Just call him
in. All in favour say Aye!

No one speaks.

MEL (CONT'D)

Say aye!

In unison.

EVERYONE

(unenthusiastically)

Aye.

INT. CORNER SHOP- DAY

Toby enters.

TONY

Hey Tobster, you still mad at me?

TOBY

Yes. But I want to show you something. I've been thinking about it all summer and I wasn't sure but I've decided... I want you to see my thing.

TONY

What?!

TOBY

You can't tell anyone okay.

TONY

What?! No! Don't show anyone your thing!

TOBY

I know my mum says it's disgusting, but I really like it.

TONY

Well it's not that you should be disgusted by it, but you shouldn't show it to anyone! No ones asked you to see it have they?

TOBY

What? No. No one else knows about it.

TONY

Well they probably do.

TOBY

Look just come around back and I'll show you.

TONY

NO!

TOBY

I left it round there.

TONY

You left it?!!

TOBY

Well yeah.

TONY

(A beat)

WHAT?!

EXT. BACK OF THE SHOP- DAY

The pair stand looking at the thing.

TONY
What the hell is this?

TOBY
The thing I was telling you about.

TONY
Oh thank god!

Toby looks to camera.

TOBY
You know im surprised people aren't more shocked by it. Everyone seems to go with it at a speed that is extremely efficient for a short story.

TONY
What was that?

TOBY
What was what?

TONY
Don't do that. You're not deadpool.

TOBY
(in a batman voice)
I could be.

TONY
That was clearly batman.

TOBY
My mum won't let me watch deadpool.

TONY
What a bitch.

We see the scene continue through the scope of a rifle.

TOBY
Hey!

TONY
Well really.

As they all stand around a bullet flies into the wall next to them.

TONY (CONT'D)

WHAT THE-

Toby and the thing both run away. An older greying man dressed in wellies, a tweed farmers jacket and a flat cap stands holding his rifle and begins to menacingly walk in their pursuit. Tony runs after them but is winded after a couple of metres.

TONY (CONT'D)

I'm the worst babysitter in the world.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREETS- DAY

The pair run through streets. Bullets flying. The bullets then mysteriously stop. The pair stop running and look around. The handyman steps out of nowhere pointing a hunting rifle at the thing.

HANDYMAN

I've got you now beast.

Toby runs and stands in front of the rifle. Neighbours start coming out of their houses. Tony catches up.

TOBY

I won't let you! You'll have to shoot me to shoot him!

HANDYMAN

You're half the height of him I can just aim above your head.

Toby begins jumping. The handyman keeps trying to aim above his bobbing head.

HANDYMAN (CONT'D)

Stop... doing... that!

He grabs Toby.

TOBY

No! Other than a middle aged man who works at my local corner shop, Lebron is my only friend!

TONY

I'm in my mid-40's.

Marie storms out of her house.

MARIE
 DON'T YOU DARE POINT A RIFLE AT MY
 SON AND HOW DO YOU LAY A FINGER ON
 HIM! IF YOU EVER COME NEAR MY SON
 EVER AGAIN SO HELP ME GOD I WILL
 END YOU!

The handyman looks petrified. We see a shadow from the thing grow over his face with tentacles spreading array. He releases a shriek and the handyman faints.

MARIE (CONT'D)
 I think it's time your friend goes
 home, Tobes.

TOBY
 I don't want to say goodbye!

MARIE
 It doesn't have to be goodbye
 Tobes, just farewell. You start big
 school next week anyway!

EXT. WOODS- DAY

Marie, Tony and Toby all stand in a line as the thing looks at them. We hear an enormous screech from the distance, wind blows past all of them leaving their hair standing up. The thing begins to release gargled noises. We see subtitles for what he is saying.

THE THING
 That's my mum, I should probably go
 home now. I had a really fun summer
 though.

TOBY
 Yeah I love you too buddy.

We hold on the things face, a look of confusion. It blinks with a squelch before walking away.

TOBY (CONT'D)
 I wonder what he was metaphorical
 for.

TONY
 Will you stop doing that!

TOBY
 Sorry.

Toby yells towards the thing as it plods away.

TOBY (CONT'D)

Wait!

(beat)

I'll see you next summer?

The thing turns around and walks back to him. It extends out its arm towards Toby. It turns its hand to expose another lit stick of dynamite. Toby's face lights up, they all run away. As they run we hear Toby laugh.