GAME DAY

by

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#### 1 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A MINIVAN winds its way through a small suburban neighborhood. As the van enters a driveway, a FIGURE can be seen watching the van from an upstairs window. The figure pulls away from the window as the garage door opens.

### 2 EXT. DRIVEWAY

A young WOMAN exits the van, opening the rear driver-side door and unbuckling her BABY. Groceries are visible on the floor. The woman leaves the door open as she cradles her child and makes her way inside the garage.

### 3 INT. KITCHEN

The door to the garage opens as the woman and child enter. The woman makes her way through the kitchen to the great room. She fails to notice a male INTRUDER, standing near the pantry. He is holding a video camera, taping her, following her.

### 4 INT. GREAT ROOM

Cooing to her child, the woman gently lays the baby to rest on the waiting blanket. As she kneels to the floor, the intruder stands in the kitchen doorway, still filming. The woman pauses mid-coo and turns slowly. Did she see something out of the corner of her eye? No, only an empty doorway. She rises and smiles at her child.

#### WOMAN

Mommy's going to get the groceries out of the van, sweetie. I'll be right back, okay?

## 5 INT. KITCHEN

The woman walks through the kitchen and out through the garage door. The intruder, pressed close to a wall, turns his camera from the empty kitchen to the great room. Slowly, he walks out to where the baby is resting and zooms in on the baby's face.

### 6 EXT. DRIVEWAY

The woman struggles to close the van door with her arms full of groceries. She makes her way back into the garage.

### 7 INT. KITCHEN

The woman enters through the kitchen door. The intruder steps out of the laundry room and gives the door a gentle nudge. The woman turns as the door slams shut. Again, she sees no one.

WOMAN

(to herself)

The wind...

The woman lays out bags on the counter and the floor. As she sorts through the groceries, the intruder emerges from the laundry room. Still filming, he now wields a knife in his left hand. He creeps slowly toward the woman.

The woman turns and knocks a box of macaroni to the floor. The noise startles her, and the baby begins crying from the other room. Ignoring the box, the woman leaves the kitchen to tend to her baby.

# 8 INT. GREAT ROOM

The woman picks up the baby and begins consoling it. From the kitchen doorway, the intruder catches the entire scene on tape.

WOMAN

It's ok, little one. It's ok. Want to go lie down for a while?

She begins heading upstairs. The intruder is not far behind.

## 9 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

At the top of the steps, the woman turns right toward the nursery. A moment later, the intruder turns left, into the loft.

### 10 INT. NURSERY

The woman gently lays her baby in the crib, caressing its cheek. The baby is quick to calm down. As the woman turns to leave, she hesitates, and then returns to turn on the monitor.

### 11 INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

The woman walks down the stairs. Almost simultaneously, the intruder exits the loft and heads for the nursery.

### 12 INT. KITCHEN

The woman returns to the kitchen and begins putting away groceries. It isn't long before the baby begins fussing. The woman glances toward the baby monitor.

### 13 INT. NURSERY

The intruder stares at the baby monitor, then the child, willing them both to keep his secret. The man lifts the knife in one hand, the camera in the other. He moves toward the crib.

#### 14 INT. KITCHEN

As the woman prepares to head back upstairs, her baby suddenly stops fussing. A worried look crosses her face as she stares at the monitor. She turns quickly and moves hurriedly for the steps.

### 15 INT. NURSERY

The woman enters the silent nursery, concern etched on her face. She cautiously makes her way to the crib.

WOMAN

Sweetie?

Looking in the crib, she takes a deep breath. The baby is fast asleep, sucking on a pacifier.

WOMAN

(with pride)

You found your paci all by yourself, sweetheart. Good job!

The woman picks up the monitor and rattles it. She traces the cord back to the outlet, where the plug is falling out of the outlet. Securing the plug in the socket, the woman affords one last glance at the peaceful child before leaving the room. She fails to notice the knife, casually placed on the baby's dresser.

## 16 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD

The intruder strolls down the sidewalk, the house at his back. The camera hangs dormant in his hand.

## 17 INT. CAR

Entering his car, the intruder ejects the tape from the camera before reaching into the backseat. He brings forth a shoebox full of video tapes, each bearing a label for the days of the week. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday... The man extracts a Sharpie from the box and writes Thursday on a new label, which he then affixes to the new tape.

The intruder then removes a day planner from the box. Opening it to an earmarked page, he places a heavy black X over Thursday. An identical X has been placed over each preceding day of the week, marring the word "practice" each time. Friday, pristine and unmarked, contains two words in bold red ink: Game Day.

Smiling serenely, the man closes his shoebox, starts his car, and drives off in silence.

THE END