

WAKE UP, HOWARD

Written by

Daniel Harding

Version (1.3)
30.10.2020

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

KATE (early 30s) is sat in bed reading a book - a horror fiction. HOWARD appears from the bathroom, brushing his teeth.

HOWARD
(mumbling)
How's the book?

KATE
(distracted)
Hmm?

HOWARD stops brushing.

HOWARD
(mumbling)
I said, how's the book?

KATE stops reading and looks at HOWARD.

KATE
What?

HOWARD
(mumbling)
Don't worry.

HOWARD carries on brushing and returns to the bathroom.

Distracted, KATE decides to stop reading. She places the book on a side cabinet, turns off a side light, and lays down - pulling the duvet over her.

HOWARD joins her and kisses her goodnight. He too turns off a side light.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
Good night.

KATE
Night.

A beat. Silence.

Slowly, a deep, groaning noises begins to stir. It's hard to determine what the noise is.

HOWARD sits up. He waits. The noise has stopped.

He lays back down.

The groaning noise slowly returns, but this time it escalate and evolves into a deeper, darker growl.

HOWARD abruptly sits up and turns the light back on. He looks down at KATE who is fast asleep.

HOWARD
...Did you say something?

Silence.

HOWARD looks around the room. Slowly, sheepishly, he lays back down - he goes to turn the light off, but this time he decides to keep it on.

INT. BEDROOM - THE NEXT NIGHT

KATE is laying on top of HOWARD - under the covers. She kisses him on the forehead.

KATE
That was great, thanks.

HOWARD
I'm glad I could've been of service.

KATE gets out of bed and heads towards the BATHROOM - HOWARD watches as she disappears from view.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
...Did you hear any strange noises last night?

KATE (O.S.)
What do you mean?

HOWARD
I don't know. Like a fox calling, or... *dying*, outside.

KATE (O.S.)
No, I was out for the count as soon as my head hit the pillow. Those pills work wonders.

HOWARD
(anxious)
Hmm. It was quite... *disturbing*.
Kept me awake for a while.

We hear the toilet being flushed and KATE soon reappears - she turns the bathroom light off.

KATE
Aww, it was just your overactive imagination playing tricks on you.

HOWARD

Yeah, maybe. But then again, I haven't been scared of the dark, in say, oh, I don't know, twenty-odd years!

KATE

(frustrated)

Alright, I'm just saying!

HOWARD

It just felt *so* real.

KATE climbs into bed, turns her light off, and lays down.

KATE

Night.

HOWARD

...Night.

KATE

Don't like the beg bugs bite.

KATE laughs.

HOWARD doesn't find the joke funny and immediately turns over - he goes to turn the light off but hesitates. Eventually deciding that he must.

A beat.

Silence.

We hear a car drive past outside and the distance sound of laughter.

We hear a voice, KATE's voice.

KATE (CONT'D)

(panicked, scared)

Howard... Howard...

HOWARD

Hmm?

KATE

(desperate)

Wake up, Howard!

HOWARD

(groggy)

...Hmm, what?

KATE slowly sits up in bed - her hair fallen down to cover her face.

KATE
I've got something important to
tell you, Howard.

HOWARD is still half-asleep.

HOWARD
Okay. Can it wait till morning?

KATE
I've done something terrible.

HOWARD reluctantly puts on his side light, but as he does so, we see that KATE is now laying down next to him - fast asleep.

He looks at her - confused.

HOWARD
Kate, what have you done?...
Kate?... Kate?

He shakes her gently on the shoulder, but she is fast asleep.

HOWARD thinks for a moment - maybe he was dreaming again. He turns away, eventually turning off the light and going back to sleep.

INT. BEDROOM - THE THIRD NIGHT

KATE is sat in bed - reading her book. She is noticeably about half way through now.

HOWARD climbs into bed.

HOWARD
(whispering)
Sorry to interrupt. But... Do you
mind?

KATE stops reading and looks at HOWARD.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
(awkward)
Do you remember having a
conversation with me last night?

KATE
When?

HOWARD
When we were asleep.

KATE
A conversation when we were asleep?

HOWARD nods.

KATE looks worried - but decides to laugh it off.

KATE (CONT'D)
Aww, have you been dreaming about
me? That's cute.

KATE returns her attention back to the book.

HOWARD
So, we didn't?

KATE
Not that I remember.

CUT TO:

Both HOWARD and KATE are fast asleep.

KATE (CONT'D)
Stop... Stop! Howard stop!!!
Please, no! Don't!

HOWARD quickly turns over.

HOWARD
...Kate? What's happening?!

KATE
Please, Howard! Please. I beg you.
You're hurting me-

HOWARD
Kate? I'm not doing anything-

KATE
(panicked)
Howard... Howard...!!

KATE screams.

HOWARD tries to shake her awake.

HOWARD
Kate?! You're having a nightmare,
wake up!... Kate?!

KATE
(dark, deeper in tone)
I'm going to kill you, Howard. For
what you've done to me.

HOWARD moves away - we see that KATE's eyes are closed.

HOWARD
...I haven't- Kate? Stop it now-
stop messing around! Please. Please
stop! This isn't fun anymore.

HOWARD shakes KATE awake - who stirs.

KATE
(groggy)
...Hmm? Howard? What's the matter?
(confused) What are you doing?

HOWARD
What the fuck was that? It's not
funny anymore! I saw you that time.

KATE
(groggy)
Saw me what?

HOWARD
You just... you just said something
pretty scary. I'm a little freaked
out if I'm being honest.

KATE
Howard, I was asleep.

HOWARD
You just said that... You were
going to... *hurt* me!

KATE
Aww sweetie, you must have dreamt
it again. Come back to bed. It's
okay, we'll talk about it in the
morning-

KATE grabs HOWARD by the hand and forces him to cuddle her.

HOWARD
It was quite scary!

KATE
Nawh, I'm sure it was, but I'll
protect you. Come on, lay down,
that's it-

HOWARD reluctantly cuddles KATE - unsure whether he wants to be that close to her after what just happened.

INT. BEDROOM - THE FORTH NIGHT

HOWARD is stood by the book shelf - positioning a small camera aimed towards the bed.

KATE is watching him - her book in hand.

HOWARD turns and looks at her. He smiles, triumphantly.

KATE shakes her head and goes back to reading her book - almost to the end now.

HOWARD

This way, we can *both* see what actually happens!

KATE

Mhmm.

HOWARD

I know you don't believe me, but last night I was definitely not dreaming.

KATE is noticeably annoyed - HOWARD goes to kiss her goodnight, but KATE turns away slightly.

HOWARD pulls away. He reluctantly turns away - switching off his side light.

CUT TO:

The room is dark, but we can see KATE slowly getting up out of bed - her hair fallen down to hide her face again.

She walks towards the camera - slowly, as though gliding across the floor. HOWARD remains fast asleep.

We see from the recording of the SMALL CAMERA, KATE walking towards it. She stands in front of it. Her eyes darkened. She does not look like the KATE we've seen before.

She appears demonic. Terrifying.

INT. BEDROOM - THE FIFTH NIGHT

HOWARD is looking at the SMALL CAMERA - confused, and noticeably agitated.

KATE (O.S.)
Anything?

HOWARD
(disappointed)
...No. Nothing. We're just asleep
the whole time.

KATE comes in from the bathroom wearing a facemask. HOWARD continues to be fixated on the camera.

KATE
See! I knew it. I said, didn't I?

HOWARD
Or maybe nothing happened last
night, but that does mean the
previous night didn't.

KATE
If you say so.

KATE carefully gets into bed - she lays down facing upwards.

HOWARD
...You still don't believe me?

KATE
I didn't say that.

HOWARD
You didn't have to.

HOWARD switches his off in turn - but with some aggression.

KATE switches off her light and turns over.

CUT TO:

We hear a deep groaning, followed by some disturbing chitter-chatter.

KATE
(deep)
You must do it. You must. It's the
only way. The only way.

KATE (CONT'D)
Okay. Okay! I will. I will do it
now. But I'm scared. What if he
wakes up?

KATE (CONT'D)
(deep)
I will protect you.

Some more chitter-chatter.

KATE slides out of bed - disappearing from view.

The CAMERA slowly tracks in to HOWARD - fast asleep - finishing on a CLOSE UP.

We hear a child-like laughter coming from OFF SCREEN.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm going to do it. I'm going to do it now.

KATE (CONT'D)

(deep)

Yes, do it! He deserves it. For what he's done to us, to you. This is how it is. It must be done.

SLOWLY the figure walks into frame - hovering over HOWARD.

HOWARD stirs - feeling the movement of the bed. He abruptly wakes, knowing quickly that something bad is happening.

We CUT to see KATE's facemasked face directly in front of him - staring back. Her eyes black. She smiles, her teeth rotten.

KATE leans back and pulls a large blade into view. HOWARD immediately starts to scream. He jumps out of bed - flinging his arms around in self defence.

HOWARD

ARRGH!! Get off! Get off me! Kate, no! Please, don't! Don't!

HOWARD runs around the room, eventually falling against the wall on the far side of the room.

A light switches on.

KATE is looking down at HOWARD from the bed - she sees HOWARD cowering in the corner. She looks panicked.

KATE

Howard?! What's going on?

HOWARD

You! You... You were just- just about to-

HOWARD points to where he say KATE - but she is no longer there. HOWARD cannot explain it.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

You had a knife. You were about to...

KATE

(scared)

...I think you need to see a doctor, Howard. This can't go on...
You need help.

HOWARD thinks for a moment - he can see how worried KATE is.

He nods gently.

INT. BEDROOM/BATHROOM - THE LAST NIGHT

HOWARD is in the BATHROOM - he is staring down at a handful of pills.

KATE

Don't look so worried. They're prescribed by a doctor. They'll help you sleep normally again.

HOWARD

It says a side effect could include a bloated stomach, a loss of smell and momentary, and sometimes prolonged, paralysis. God.

KATE

But you'll be asleep, so what does it matter?

HOWARD

(worried)

...You're right. No harm in trying, is there?

HOWARD hesitates, but eventually throws all the pills into his mouth - he pours himself a glass of water and takes a gulp.

He turns and smiles at KATE - before leaving the bathroom. We briefly see KATE's expression change as he walks out of view. She switches the bathroom light off.

CUT TO:

They both switch off their side lights and settle down.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP on HOWARD's face, we see that he is peacefully asleep.

After a moment, the bed begins to shake, and then more aggressively, violently.

Suddenly everything stops.

KATE (O.S.)

(dark)

...Wake up, Howard... Wake up,
Howard... Wake up, Howard... Wake
up, Howard (over and over).

His eyes open, panicked, but he instantly realises that he cannot move - he is totally paralysed. He tries to say something, but can't. He tries to move, but can't. He looks around, but it is too dark to see anything.

HOWARD eventually locks eyes with something moving towards him - they widen as he looks DIRECTLY INTO CAMERA - this *something* instantly scares him more than he's ever been before.

He desperately wants to scream. But can't.

KATE starts to laugh.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END