

Untitled [Redacted]: Episode 3

By Nicholas Tran

KAREN

Duuude.

There's like, so much stuff here. Do you think they have any food?

KEITH

Dunno. Should we check?

KAREN

Nah, we can look later. Check out these books.

Beat.

JOANNE

Benji! It's time for lunch!

BENJI

Coming Mommy!

Beat.

Footsteps.

JOANNE

Oh, you're such a mess. Come here so I can wash you up before dinner.

What have you been getting up to outside?

BENJI

I'm just playing with Mr. Biggs!

JOANNE

Oh, are you now? Who's Mr. Biggs?

BENJI

My friend!

JOANNE (*Chuckling*)

And where did you meet Mr. Biggs?

BENJI

In my room! I was drawing a picture and then he came up behind me and then he scared me and then-

JOANNE (*Laughing*)

Oh dear. Why is he called Mr. Biggs?

BENJI

'Cause he's biiiiiig!

JOANNE (*Laughing*)

Well, you tell Mr. Biggs that he can come eat with us next time. Now go help your Meemaw to the table.

BENJI

Okay!

MEEEEEMAAAAAW!

Beat.

KEITH

This room is creepy, it's like a little kid's room.

KAREN

Duuude, it's because it is a little kid's room.

Chuckles.

Little dude's an artist; check out all of these drawings. It looks like he draws his family a lot. Mom, Dad, Sister? Maybe Aunt. And probably Grandma.

Beat.

And is this like a dog...crab-human thing?

Beat.

BENJI

And this is all of us! Mommy, Daddy, Alexis, Meemaw, me, and you! And we're all going on a walk!

MR. BIGGS

Ooh, such a pretty little drawing. And where are we walking to?

BENJI

Dunno! I just wanna walk! Maybe we'll see a doggie! Do you think we'll see a doggie? I wanna see a doggie!

MR. BIGGS (*Chuckling*)

In due time my boy. You'll get to see lots of doggies soon.

Beat.

KEITH

I mean, he's a kid. It's probably like a dog or something. Kids aren't great artists.

KAREN

Grandma must've been really into knitting too. This is a lot of blankets for just a kid.

KEITH

Who knows, he might've just been a cold kid.

Beat.

BENJI

Meemaw! Meemaw!

MURIEL

Yes, baby?

BENJI

Thank you for the blanket!

MURIEL

Oh, you're very welcome baby! Are you warm now?

BENJI

Yes! Mr. Biggs said that your blankets keep me safe!

MURIEL

Oh, did he now? Well, you tell Mr. Biggs that he is a gentleman, and I can make him a blanket too.

BENJI

I will! Thanks, Meemaw! I love you!

MURIEL

I love you too baby.

Beat.

KAREN

Kid got a lot of toys too.

Beat.

These G.I. Joes look like they're from the 60s.

KEITH

I mean, they're probably from the 60s, how old do you think this house is?

KAREN

Oh, is this a real Jack-in-the-Box?!

KEITH (*Laughing*)

You act like you've never seen one before.

KAREN

I haven't.

It's not like my family had money to get me stuff like this...

KEITH

Beat.

Sorry.

KAREN

Anyways, I've always wanted one of these things.

Beat. Jack-in-the-box music plays.

BENJI

The sound of a Jack coming out of the box.

I'm BOOOORED!

MR. BIGGS

You've played with that toy 30 times today. Why don't we go outside?

BENJI

Mommy says it's too dangerous to go without anyone else watching.

MR. BIGGS

Well, I'm watching.

BENJI

You're right! Let's go!

MR. BIGGS

Shhh, we don't want to wake your Mom up from her nap.

BENJI *(Whispering)*

Oh, sorry.

What do you wanna play?

MR. BIGGS

How about some hide-and-seek?

Beat.

KAREN

What did you play with as a kid?

KEITH

Well.

I guess, just the normal things for kids, like action figures, video games, just riding bikes with friends.

KAREN

Must be nice.

KEITH

Hmm?

What about you? What did you do for fun?

KAREN (*Wistfully*)

Well, not much. My parents never really let me go outside, so I just made up stories and games to play by myself.

KEITH

I'm sorry.

KAREN

It's okay.

It was a long time ago.

KAREN (*Cont.*)

I just sorta wish, I could've been this kid instead.

KEITH

Well.

It's not too late.

KAREN

What do you mean?

KEITH

You have me. Let's play a game!

Like hide-and-seek!

KAREN (*Laughing*)

Didn't you say this place was creepy?

KEITH

Oh wait, you're right.

Well, exploring is a thing that kids do, right? We're doing that now, so let's make up for what you never got to do!

KAREN (*Laughing*)

Alright.

KEITH

Like check this out! In the closet, it's like a secret compartment.

Huh, it looks like I can fit...

Beat.

BENJI (*Crying*)

I hate you Mommy!

MR. BIGGS

Oh, my poor boy. What happened this time?

BENJI

Mommy found out I went outside with you. And then she yelled at me and then she spanked me and then she said that I couldn't leave the room for the rest of the month!

MR. BIGGS

Sounds terrible. Well, we can still have lots of fun in your room.

BENJI (*Calming down*)

We can?

MR. BIGGS

Yes, my boy.

Why don't we...

Play hide-and-seek from your family?

BENJI

What do you mean?

MR. BIGGS

Well, we can hide from your family together.

MR. BIGGS (*cont.*)

And later, your family can try to find us!

BENJI

But the room is too small! There's no good hiding places!

MR. BIGGS

Let me show you a secret.

Go to your closet.

BENJI

Okay.

MR. BIGGS

Now move that box there. Just push on the wall behind it.

BENJI

Oh, it opened up! It's like a secret door.

MR. BIGGS

Yes. It's our little secret.

Now, you can hide in there.

BENJI

Are you going to hide with me?

MR. BIGGS

Of course. We'll be together, forever.

Beat.

KAREN

STOP!

KEITH

Huh, what's wrong?

KAREN

Sorry, I was just getting creeps, let's get outta this room.

KEITH

Uhh, okay.

JOANNE (*Distantly, Screaming*)

Benji!

Benji!

BENJI!

Crying.

Benji.

Static.

An uncomfortable beat.

DISTORTED VOICE (Mr. Biggs)

Backwards.

And then there were three.