

Day 18

Shrink

by

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WIFE

I don't see anyone.

HUSBAND

I don't either.

WIFE

(Indicating the man)

Maybe him?

HUSBAND

They don't look like they're related.

WIFE

They don't have to be related to be together. Maybe that girl.

HUSBAND

She's on her own; I saw her walk up.

MAN

(to the wife)

He's not hurting anyone.

WIFE

Who?

MAN

The kid.

WIFE

Oh, I know. I wanted to make sure he was taken care of.

MAN

That's not your problem.

WIFE

I didn't say it was my problem. I didn't say it was a problem at all. It's a young boy on his own in a large crowd. If it were my son, I'd want someone there with him.

MAN

It's not your problem.

WIFE

If I saw someone pulled over on the side of the highway, a blown out tire or something, I would stop. There's a young boy, on his own, and there are people everywhere, I don't want it on my conscience if he were to get abducted.

TEENAGER

I got my eye on him.

WIFE

You're his sister?

TEENAGER

I don't know him. I'm just watching him. Someone has to.

WIFE

Yes, exactly.

(to her husband)

She's watching him.

HUSBAND

Good. That's good.

The teenager sits next to the boy.

TEENAGER

They're going to throw candy. You got a great seat for it.

MAN

Leave the kid alone.

TEENAGER

(to the man)

I'm talking to him, not to you.

(to the boy)

You here alone?

BOY

It got so small.

TEENAGER

What did?

BOY

The balloon. I let go. It shrank.

TEENAGER

As it went away?

BOY
Yeah.

TEENAGER
Why'd you let go of it?

MAN
Would you leave the kid alone. Just leave him alone.

WIFE
(to the man)
She's just talking to him.

MAN
He just wants to watch the parade on his own. Let him watch the parade.

HUSBAND
(to the man)
She's not bothering him.

BOY
I wanted them to see.

TEENAGER
Who?

BOY
The angels. I wanted them to see me.

TEENAGER
What angels?

MAN
Leave him alone.

BOY
I wanted them to find me.

TEENAGER
Why?

BOY
I'm tired.

WIFE
Do you need to go home? Do we need to call someone?

I'm tired of running.

BOY

Why are you running?

TEENAGER

I want it to be over.

BOY

What to be over?

TEENAGER

The boy looks at the teenager. Her eyes get large, and she keels over. Dead. The husband and wife rush to the teenager.

HUSBAND

(to the boy)

What did you do to her?

The boy looks at the husband. The husband's eyes grow wide, and he keels over. Dead. The wife screams, goes to her husband.

BOY

Do you think they saw?

MAN

I think you got their attention.

BOY

Good. I'm tired of running.

End.