

Decimate
Day 22

by
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A little boy in bed. A dad sits on the bed next to him.

BOY

Dinosaurs are real?

DAD

They're real. They *were* real. They're not around anymore.

BOY

What about monsters?

DAD

Like Cookie Monster?

BOY

Like Kill You Monsters.

DAD

What?

Behind them, on a scrim, we see shadows, shadow puppets as the boy describes things.

BOY

They have long nails.

DAD

Claws?

BOY

And they have big teeth. And have lots of hair.

DAD

All over?

BOY

And they come up behind you and-- KILL YOU!

The light of the scrim goes out.

DAD

They're not real.

What about dragons? BOY

The scrim returns with new shadows.

Dragons? DAD

Fire-breathing dragons that fly and kill people. BOY

They're not real. DAD

Or witches. BOY

What kind of witches? DAD

There are kinds of witches? BOY

Harry Potter witches, evil witches. Salem witch trial witches. DAD

What's a Salem? BOY

Witches aren't real. DAD

What about robots. BOY

Yes, robots are real. DAD

The boy hides in the coves.

Why are you hiding? DAD

Robots. BOY

Robots? DAD

You said robots are real. BOY

They are. DAD

They're going to come get me. BOY

No. DAD

Yes, the giant robots with lasers and big hands that crush people. They'll stomp on our house. BOY

I don't mean robots who will decimate mankind. DAD

What's decimate? BOY

I mean helpful, happy robots are real. Like the Roomba. Or Robots at Disneyland. DAD

Wall-E? BOY

Not Wall-E. There are robots for convenience. DAD

Convenience? BOY

They help us. DAD

They don't kill us? BOY

Not yet they don't. Unless you count unmanned drones. DAD

BOY

What's--

DAD

Nothing, never mind. It's just.

(Beat)

There can be some scary things out there. There are. But we're together.

The boy scoots over in bed, invites his Dad to get into the covers. They put their covers over their heads. Behind them, the scrim reveals all the shadows of dinosaurs and dragons and monsters and, yes, robots. There are loud sounds. Suddenly, the Dad turns on a flashlight under the covers; their silhouettes show them sitting together under the sheet. When the flashlight turns on, all the sounds immediately stop, the shadows of monsters all disappear. We wait a moment in quiet. The Dad clicks off the flashlight.

Darkness.