

NOTES

Most children have a fear of the dark, and their active imaginations run wild when the lights are turned off; however, while many children feel there's a monster lurking *under* their beds, many little *monsters* think there is a small *child* lurking on *top* of *their* beds. This clever comedy allows for two performers to showcase their talents both as a small child or little monster, as well as the frustrated *parent* of a small child or little monster. This short play may be performed by either a male and a female, two males, or two females, and may be entered in either Duo Interpretation, Duet Acting, or Humorous Interpretation. The performers have permission to change the gender of the child, the little monster and both of the parents; therefore, the performers have permission to change the words "Mommy/Mom" to "Daddy/Dad" and "boy" to "girl," etc. For purposes of continuity, the performer portraying the Human Child *must* play the role of the Monster Parent. The performer playing the role of Monster *Child* must portray the role of Human *Parent*. By adhering to these casting restrictions, the two performers will be able to interact as the child version of both human and monster in the final scene. Challenge yourselves! Be creative with the physical and vocal aspects of the Monster characters. Also, be creative with how you transition from the Human scenes to the Monster scenes. This is a sweet, humorous tour de force for two "go-for-it/think-outside-the-box" performers!

Characters:

Human Parent

Human Child

Monster Child

Monster Parent

Human Parent: Alright, Charlie, we've had another big day. Moving from our old neighborhood out here to the country is tiring, isn't it? It's been three long days, but we're finally all moved into this beautiful old farmhouse. Time for bed, because tomorrow morning you'll start going to your brand-new school.

Human Child: Mom? Would you look under the bed for me?

Human Parent: Now, why would I do that?

Human Child: Because...I'm pretty sure there's a monster living under my bed.

Human Parent: A monster? Don't be silly. There are no monsters under your bed or anywhere else for that matter. Don't you know that monsters are just make-believe?

Human Child: No, they're not! Don't you remember that movie you let me watch before we moved here?

Human Parent: That settles it! No more late-night television for you, young man. I *knew* you were too young to watch a scary movie.

Human Child: I'm not too young!

Human Parent: Yes. Yes, you are. We go through this every time I think you're

old enough to stay up late and watch a scary movie.

Human Child: Nuh-uh!

Human Parent: Oh, yes! When we saw the movie about the vampire, you thought everything that flew past your bedroom window was a vampire.

Human Child: Because it was!

Human Parent: You were so sure a vampire was going to fly into your room and bite your neck. Don't you remember? You made me find every scarf in the house and wrap your neck with them. Then I had to cover all of the scarves by wrapping them with an entire roll of aluminum foil.

Human Child: Vampires don't like metal. It hurts their fangs!

Human Parent: And what about that time I let you spend the night at your friend's house?

Human Child: I didn't know we were going to watch a marathon of *Nightmare on Elm Street* movies!

Human Parent: No, you're right. You didn't know. BUT...you knew we lived on *Elm Street*! Honestly, sometimes, I'm not so sure that isn't the reason we moved out here to the country in the first place.

Human Child: (*Not thrilled about their moving*) This new house is old.

Human Parent: Yes, it is, but it's full of history! And over the next few years, we'll make our *own* history out here; but first— you need to go to sleep. Okay? Now, be my good little boy, and shut your eyes. I'll see you in the morning.

Human Child: Goodnight, Mommy.

Human Parent: Goodnight, Sweetheart.

The scene changes, and the Human Child becomes the Monster Parent. The Human Parent becomes the Monster Child.

Monster Child: MOOOOMMMMM!!!

Monster Parent: Oh, my little Monster, what is it, baby?

Monster Child: I think there's a boy on top of my bed. I heard him! He's right on top of my bed! A boy!

Monster Parent: Little Monster, you know there are no little boys anywhere, let alone on top of your bed! I've told you a million times that little boys are just make-believe. Now, you've got to go to sleep, because tomorrow your teacher is taking you and all of your little monster classmates into the city on a field trip to explore the sewers! You certainly wouldn't want to miss that, would you?

Monster Child: The sewers in the city?? No way, I don't want to miss that! We might see—an alligator or—or a dead rat! I'll go to sleep, Mom. I'll go to sleep right now. I promise.

Monster Parent: Now, pull that moss up over your fur, and close your eyes. Okay?

Monster Child: Goodnight, Mom.

Monster Parent: Goodnight, Little Monster.

The scene changes, and the Monster Child becomes the Human Parent. The Monster Parent becomes the Human Child.

Human Child: Mommmmmmyy! Hurry! Please, hurry!

Human Parent: (*Rushing into Charlies' room*) What is it, Charlie? Are you having a bad dream?

Human Child: No, Mommy, but I heard it! I heard the monster under my bed. (*Almost in one breath*) It was—it was—making all sorts of monster noises and it kept me from going to sleep and I think it wants to EAT me alive and then it will probably come after you!

Human Parent: (*Exhausted*) Charlie, we go through this all the time. There is NO MONSTER under your bed!

Human Child: (*Peering over his bed*) Then what's that long TAIL sticking out from under the bed ruffle?

Human Parent: (*Bending down to retrieve the monster's 'tail'*) You mean...this cord to your gaming system?

Human Child: (*Embarrassed*) Oh...well, it LOOKED like a monster's tail.

Human Parent: Listen, Charlie, if you don't close your eyes and go to sleep right now, I'm going to ground you from playing video games all weekend. Is that what you want?

Human Child: No, Mommy, I'll go to sleep. I will. (*Charlie sneezes*) Right now.

Human Parent: Are you catching a cold?

Human Child: No, Mommy. I think it's just all the dust in this old house.

Human Parent: Well, pull up your covers. I'll ask Daddy about getting an air purifier for your room tomorrow. Meanwhile, I want you to get under the covers and get some shut eye. Okay? Goodnight, Charlie.

Human Child: Okay. Goodnight, Mommy.

The scene changes, and the Human Child becomes the Monster Parent. The Human Parent becomes the Monster Child.

Monster Child: Mommmmmmm!!!

Monster Parent: Little Monster, what is it this time?

Monster Child: I heard him! I heard the boy on top of the bed! He sneezed and everything! It was so loud I thought it was a comet hitting the earth!

Monster Parent: A comet isn't hitting the earth, and there aren't any little boys sneezing on top of your bed. Now, Little Monster, your older Monster Brothers have been teasing you with all of their talk about little boys and space aliens, but I want you listen to me, okay? There are no, and I repeat, NO little boys in this room—not on top of your bed, not in the closet, and not even in the basement! Are we clear on that?

Monster Child: Yes, Mom.

Monster Parent: I hope so. Now, go to sleep. I love you, but enough is enough.

Monster Child: Goodnight, Mom.

Monster Parent: Goodnight, Little Monster.