

**Tortuga**

By Les Hunter

A Note about Staging:

Set is minimal. Props include a rock, a stick, a box, and a sandwich. The ending should convey a sense of finality with little ambiguity.

Characters:

Annabel            A girl, 8. Preferably played by an older Actress (50-70 would be ideal).

Wookie            Annabel's brother, 9. Preferably played by an older actor (again, 50-70 is good, though there should be parity between their ages).

Mom's voice      Offstage. A woman in her 30's.

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SETTING:            A wooded area behind a house. The present.

AT RISE:

WOOKIE and ANNABEL stare into a medium sized box, S.C. WOOKIE is holding a rock in his hand, he raises it above his head and violently throws it into the box. Fascinated, ANNABEL absent-mindedly holds a sandwich that she occasionally nibbles at.

WOOKIE

I think we should kill it.

ANNABEL

Let's let it go.

WOOKIE

It must be like a thousand years old.

(WOOKIE begins to search the stage for something on the ground).

ANNABEL

How do you think it got here, Wookiee?

WOOKIE

It dug.

ANNABEL

From where?

WOOKIE

Prob'ly Afghanistan.

(WOOKIE searching takes him off stage).

ANNABEL

Is that where they come from?

WOOKIE

Prob'ly.

(WOOKIE returns carrying a big stick. He does not speak softly).

ANNABEL

What're you gonna do?

WOOKIE

Do you think it bleeds?

(WOOKIE jabs the stick into the box).

ANNABEL

Stop it!

(Surprisingly, he does, as if he were looking for a way out.

Then from off-stage:)

MOM (offstage)

William! Annabel! What are you doing?

(A moment of panic and then--)

ANNABEL

Nothing!

MOM (offstage)

Can I bring you anything?

WOOKIE and ANNABEL

No!

MOM

Well. If you need some lemonade come inside.

WOOKIE

Mom would totally kill it. Not like your dad.

(WOOKIE loses the stick).

ANNABEL

He's your dad too.

WOOKIE

He sucks.

ANNABEL

He just has too much work.

WOOKIE

She would take out one of those big knives she has in the kitchen.

ANNABEL

She doesn't have any big knives.

WOOKIE

You don't know anything. She keeps them there to cut meat.

ANNABEL

That's not true.

WOOKIE

She also keeps 'em back there in case Dad comes back.

ANNABEL

No she doesn't.

WOOKIE

If he came back he'd come to our room. Then she'd take a big one out.

(WOOKIE pantomimes taking out Mom's knife. ANNABEL reacts.

WOOKIE, sensing the power of the imaginary knife in her fear, continues the scene).

A really big one. She'd see him. She'd say:

(to ANNABEL)

"Howie. I told you never to come back! Don't you dare touch him, Howie."

(Approaches ANNABEL, wielding the imaginary knife).

ANNABEL

Wookie, stop it!

WOOKIE

And then she'd get real close and grab Dad by the throat!

(does so)

And then—

MOM (offstage)

Kids!

(The freeze in tableau).

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