

Something Unfamiliar

by John Halas, ScreenwritersForHire.Com

based on the book, *Something Unfamiliar*

by Richard Wharton

Logline

A little boy afraid of the dark helps a midnight visitor save his world and overcome his fear of the dark in the process.

Characters

Little Boy (M) - He is scared of the dark and the unknown creatures that lurk within. He gets visited by a robotic creature, but no one believes him. Eventually, the creature informs him that his help is needed to save the robotic world, and he visits with his dad and saves the day.

Boy's Father (M) - He thinks the little boy was just scared of the dark like kids usually are but eventually realizes that he was not making up stories about his visitor.

The Unfamiliar - A robot from another world who ventures into the human world through a portal in the closet to seek the little boy's help in saving his world.

Three-Act Summary

Act One

- A little boy is alone in his room at night, scared of the dark, as certain objects begin to take shapes and look scary. His heart continues to thump in his chest, and his fear eventually overwhelms him, so he screams out for help.

His dad rushes in and carries him into the main bedroom so Harry can sleep with his parents.

- The next morning, the little boy's brother teases him for being scared of the dark, but the little boy is convinced he saw a metallic creature with luminous eyes and an antenna in his room. In school, the little boy asks the teacher if ghosts and monsters exist, and his teacher tells him that if they do, he shouldn't be afraid of them but should try to get to know them.

Act Two

- In the playground, the little boy continues to ponder on his visitor, and his friend, who is also afraid of the dark, tells him that she has a night light that helps keep her room illuminated. Back home, the little boy plays with his toys, but once it is nighttime, he becomes scared again and asks his dad to come to sleep in his bed.
- In the middle of the night, the little boy's closet opens, and the robotic creature, The Unfamiliar, reappears. The Unfamiliar is surprised by the father's size, startling him. The father is initially in disbelief, but The Unfamiliar convinces him that the robotic world needs the little boy's help and he needs to wake him up. The father agrees and wakes the little boy up.
- The little boy and the father follow The Unfamiliar through the portal in the closet into the world of the robots. There, they meet several shy and sad robots and discover that their world is colorless and missing its spark. The robots enlist the little boy's help, while the father continues to ask several questions that threaten to scare the robots away.

Act Three

- Eventually, the little boy has an idea. He tells The Unfamiliar about music and dance, and with the father's help, he plays hip-hop and dances while the robots watch. Gradually, the robots begin to get in the groove and slowly start to dance. As they do, the color starts to return to their world, and they start glowing in different shades of bright colors.

- The robots are grateful that their world has become brighter and happier. The unfamiliar takes the little boy and The father back through the closet door and says his goodbyes. The little boy learns not to be scared of the dark and becomes more accepting of the people who do not believe him. He is happy that his dad witnessed his glorious feat.