

THE MIDNIGHT SCARECROW'S GAME



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mntwvsvikes



Mak, with wide, excited eyes, leans into Layla, whispering about the scary midnight rumors, while Layla, with a defiant smirk, playfully shoves him, yelling she isn't scared. Their mom, a whirlwind of cheerful energy, calls from off-panel, her voice echoing through the bright, cozy kitchen, reminding them about school.



In their zippy, colorful car, Layla gazes out the window with a thoughtful expression, while Mak points a nervous finger at a tall, menacing scarecrow standing eerily still in a field. Its straw hat is tipped low, and its button eyes seem to follow them, casting a long, strange shadow against the vibrant morning sky.



At the bustling schoolyard, Layla and Ivy chat happily, while Mak high-fives JJ, who is puffed up with bravado, declaring he'll stay up past midnight. Ivy quietly expresses concern, which JJ dramatically interprets as a dare, his cartoonish face full of exaggerated challenge, just as the school bell rings with a cheerful clang.



JJ sits alone in his dimly lit room, boredom etched on his face, when a sudden, thunderous BANG makes him jump, eyes wide with fear. A shadowy, elongated scarecrow figure with glowing red eyes materializes in the corner, its voice a chilling whisper: "YOU KNOW THE RULES... RIGHT!?" JJ screams, his face contorted in terror.



JJ's mom, her face creased with worry, cautiously peeks into his silent room, then gasps, dropping her phone, as she sees her son motionless on the floor. Police officers, with their serious, simplified expressions, arrive quickly, but one shrugs helplessly, explaining they can't act without a suspect, leaving her distraught.



Layla, Mak, and Ivy huddle together at school, their faces etched with sadness, as Layla clutches a newspaper with a headline about JJ's mysterious death. Ivy's eyes well up, and Mak cries out in disbelief, realizing the terrifying connection to JJ's midnight dare, prompting Layla to invite Ivy over for a serious discussion.



Inside Layla and Mak's cozy bedroom, the clock ticks ominously towards midnight, casting long, nervous shadows. Suddenly, a monstrous scarecrow face, with glowing eyes and a gaping, toothy grin, presses against the windowpane, its straw hands reaching. The children shriek in horror, scrambling to their feet to flee to their mom's room.



Back at school, the three friends gather, their expressions a mix of fear and determination, as Layla passionately explains their close call with the scarecrow. Mak nervously suggests setting up traps, while Ivy, her eyes sparkling with a sudden idea, agrees enthusiastically, proposing they strategize their defenses against the midnight threat.



As night falls, Layla lies perfectly still in her bed, "fake sleeping," while the scarecrow's shadowy form looms over her, its eyes peering closely before moving on. Mak, meanwhile, 'sleepwalks' around his room, confusing the scarecrow into thinking he's harmless. In Ivy's room, the scarecrow thrashes, caught in a giant, sticky fly trap, roaring in frustration about their cleverness.



The next morning at school, Ivy animatedly recounts how her trap worked, while Layla and Mak, with wide-eyed expressions, describe their terrifying 'fake sleep' encounters. Mrs. Lafave, a stern but kindly teacher, bustles into the hallway, her arms crossed, reminding the startled trio to get to class, leaving the lingering threat of the scarecrow hanging in the air.