

MONKEYING AROUND

THE TALES OF ADAMSVILLE

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EXT. WOODS - SMALL CLEARING - DAY

1965 - Adamsville, Georgia

An unsuspecting squirrel sits on log gnawing on an acorn.
POW! POW! A BB gun sounds off sending the squirrel into a panic.

OLLIE
SHIT! GOD DAMMIT!

OLIVER "OLLIE" (12) throws his bebe gun to the ground. His younger sister, HILDA (8) holding a toy monkey stares at him astounded while his youngest brother, JIMMY (5) quietly builds a house out of sticks.

HILDA
Oooohh, Ollie! I'm tellin' Mama you cussin! Big ones too!

OLLIE
Hilda, would you shut up! I coulda shot the damn thing if you hadn't been yappin' away and playin' with that creepy ass monkey..

Hilda looks down to her toy monkey. At a closer look, the monkey is creepy. The fur is matted, teeth dirtied and yellowed. The big, wide and captivating eyes have a humanistic quality in them.

HILDA
Mama said its just had lots of love... 'sides, MRS. KATE gave it to me and said to keep it safe!

OLLIE
First of all, Mrs. Kate is a witch and eats kids. Second, the only thing that monkey is good for is my target practice...

Ollie grins while eyeing the toy monkey suspiciously. Hilda glares at Ollie holding the monkey closer. He lunges for the toy, Hilda jumps back but isn't quick enough as he snatches it from her grasp.

HILDA
Give it back Ollie!

Ollie laughs dangling the toy out of her reach. Hilda begins to hit Ollie landing a solid **SLAP** on his face. Jimmy looks up at his siblings. Ollie stares at Hilda menacingly before taking off with the toy.

Close on his heels, Hilda screams for him to stop. He runs to the tallest tree and throws the toy up. It lands perfectly on a limb.

HILDA (CONT'D)
Why did you do that?!

OLLIE
Should'na slapped me!

HILDA
I'll do it again if you don't get my monkey down right now!

OLLIE
Get it yourself.

Determined, Hilda goes to the tree but can't reach the branch. Ollie stands back laughing at her failed attempts. Jimmy walks over to Ollie and silently watches Hilda jump around. She eventually stops and looks at Ollie.

HILDA
(crying)
I'm tellin' Mama! Mama said--

OLLIE
(mockingly)
"Mama said!", I don't care--

ESTER (O.S.)
Oliver Bailey Williams!

The three children freeze. The mother, ESTER's (40s), authoritative shadow towers over the children. Tired, she stands in a maid uniform glaring at the back of Ollie. Hilda runs to her as Jimmy looks aimlessly into the bushes. Ollie is careful not to move.

ESTER (CONT'D)
Boy, I know you hear me!

Ollie turns around slowly.

OLLIE
(sheepishly)
Oh, hey Mama...

HILDA
(crying)
Mama, Ollie threw my monkey
in the tree!

OLLIE (CONT'D)
(hisses)
Shut up.

ESTER

Why in the hell would you do that?
My boss lady gave that to her!

OLLIE

She slapped me in the face!

HILDA

(pointing to tree)
Look what he did!

ESTER

Aht! Aht! Hush!

The kids stop bickering. Ester rubs her temples.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Both of y'all... be quiet. I've had
a long day and I don't wanna hear
this mess no more!

OLLIE

Yes, ma'am.

HILDA

Yes, ma'am.

ESTER

And Oliver, I'm tired of gettin'
calls from your school. What's this
I hear about you and David Brown
putting glue in the teacher's
chair?

OLLIE

I-I-- Well, David did it first!

ESTER

So! I told you quit doin'
everything that boy does. He jumps
off a cliff you goin' with him?

OLLIE

No ma'am--

HILDA

Ollie didn't walk us home either,
Mama. Him and David were down at
the bridge throwin' rocks at cars.

Ollie glares at Hilda. Anger and fear flash across Ester's
face and she grabs Ollie's arm hard.

ESTER

You did what? You could have killed
someone! Or have been killed!

OLLIE

I'm sorry Mama! I'm Sorry!

ESTER (CONT'D)

Oh, don't be sorry now!

Ester gets on Ollie's level grabbing his chin.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Listen here lil' boy, you better
get your shit together or you gone
end up just like that monkey
hanging in that tree.

Ollie looks at her fearfully.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Remember what I been tellin' you.
Monkey see, monkey do. Everything
that monkey do...

ESTER (CONT'D)

Comin' right back to you.

OLLIE

Comin' right back to you.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Damn right... And don't you ever
leave your brother and sister like
that again. **Anything** could have
happened.

Ollie nods slowly.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Oliver, I **will** have the **best**
behavior out of you the rest of the
night or I'ma cut yo butt,
Understand? And, you better get
that monkey down before supper
starts.

Ester glares him down as she stands.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Alright, Hilda and Jimmy come help
me get ready.

Hilda grabs Ester's hand. Jimmy stares into the bushes.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Jimmy... Jimmy, baby... time to go.

Ester sighs and walks over to Jimmy. Hilda smirks at Ollie
and sticks out her tongue. He silently mocks her and flicks
her off. Jimmy waves goodbye towards the bushes. Ester looks
back and forth between the two.

JIMMY
(softly)
Hi, what's your name?

Everyone stops and looks at Jimmy in shock.

ESTER
Baby, did you say somthin'?

JIMMY
What's your name?

Ester and Hilda squeal with excitement. Ester picks up Jimmy twirling him around. Ollie is excited but becomes fixated on the bushes that Jimmy is staring into. In a trance, he watches the bushes slightly rustle and dance around.

ESTER
My baby is talking! Thank God! I knew you could do it! Hilda, lets get home so we can make something special. Daddy is gonna be so happy! Ollie, you need to hurry--

Ollie is fixated on the bushes. They rumble a bit harder.

ESTER (CONT'D)
Didn't I just have a talk with you?

OLLIE
What? I said I'll get it!

He turns around and is meet by Ester's glare. His face drops.

ESTER
Tone, fix it.

Ollie nods "yes" quickly. Ester, Hilda and Jimmy exit the clearing. Jimmy waves to the bushes as he leaves. Ollie looks at him questioningly but shrugs it off.

He picks up his bebe gun and shoots at random things while mumbling obscenities under his breath.

OLLIE
(mockingly)
*"You better get that monkey out
that tree our I'ma cut yo butt."*

A bird flies by, Ollie shoots. **POW!** He misses. His aggravation grows.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
I wish she would try and whoop
me... I'm twelve years old. I'm a
grown ass man.

Another bird flies by, he shoots again. **POW!** Ollie misses and grows even more frustrated. He looks around until he sets his sights on the toy monkey in the tree. He smiles devilishly, positions his gun and squints his eye.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
I'll get that monkey down alright.

POW! Ollie shoots at the monkey and makes contact. He's ecstatic but the monkey doesn't budge. He continues to shoot. **POW! POW! POW!** It finally falls to the ground.

Ollie runs over picking up the monkey. He thoroughly inspects it turning it upside down. The name "PETER" is etched on the bottom of one foot. He rubs his thumb across the name.

An unfamiliar circular sigil is on the other foot. His thumb follows the circular lines of the sigil.

EXT. WOODS - BUSHES - DAY

POV FROM INSIDE THE BUSHES

A figure watches Ollie while he inspects the monkey.

Ollie freezes. He senses something watching him. Questioningly, he looks around. He sets his gaze towards the direction of the bushes where the unknown figure is.

The figure inches closer. A branch **CRACKS** under it's weight.

EXT. WOODS - SMALL CLEARING - DAY

ESTER (O.S.)
(yelling)
Ollie! Come wash up!

Startled, Oliver **YELPS** and falls over his own feet.

OLLIE
Coming!

The bushes **RUMBLE** again. Ollie scrambles to his feet and hightails it out of the clearing.

INT. THE ADAMS' HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

The Adams' family sits around the table eating dinner. The father, CHARLES SR. (Mid 40s) sits at the head of the table looks annoyed as he eats his food.

Hilda quietly eats her food with her toy monkey sitting on the table beside her. Ollie eyes the toy suspiciously.

Ester sits next to Jimmy spoon feeding him peas that he refuses to open his mouth for. His focus is on the window in front of him. Flustered, Ester looks at an empty chair realizing her eldest son CHARLES JR "CJ" (15) is not seated.

ESTER

CJ!... Charles Jr.!

OLLIE

He's on the phone with "Taabithaa".

CJ (O.S.)

Shut up, Ollie!

ESTER

CJ, get off my phone and come eat dinner... Now!

CJ saunters into the room and plops down in the empty seat.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Did you not just see that girl at school today?

CJ ignores Ester and eats his food. Ollie eyes the toy monkey at the end of the table. He tries to look away but can't. The monkey's eyes appear to follow him.

CJ

Daddy, you think you'll be able to make it to my football game Friday? Coach says I'm starting varsity!

CHARLES SR.

I'll try, but you know I work late on Friday's.

CJ

Oh, yeah... That's right...

Ester continues to feed Jimmy but he wont open his mouth. She sighs and places him in her lap. Charles Sr. watches the two of them disgustedly. Ollie watches Hilda mimic her mother as she puts the toy monkey in her lap.

CHARLES SR.

See, the boy acts like that 'cause
you spoil him too much.

ESTER

Charles, not now--... We had a good
day... I thought you'd be happy.

Ollie looks at Hilda in annoyance.

OLLIE

(whispers)

Stop playin' with that ugly thing.

He pokes Hilda's side hard under the table. She jumps and
pinches him back.

HILDA

Leave me alone!

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Ouch!

Ollie elbows Hilda on her arm. She holds her arm in pain.

HILDA (CONT'D)

Ollie hit me!

CHARLES SR.

Ester, I'm happy the boy
finally said somethin'... I
just think he wouldn't be so
odd if you didn't coddle him
all the time.

Hilda pinches Ollie harder again.

ESTER

Well, what do you suppose I do
Charles? Since you have **ALL** the
answers?

Ollie uses his spoon to fling peas at Hilda. Only a few make
contact. CJ kicks Ollie hard under the table.

CJ

(hisses)

Stop, you little shit! You're gonna
make Daddy mad, stop!

HILDA

He's wastin' food!

ESTER (CONT'D)

Ollie! Don't do that!

OLLIE

But she pinched me!

HILDA (CONT'D)

He started it!

CHARLES SR.

(to Ollie and Hilda)

The two of you need to stop
fighting!

(MORE)

CHARLES SR. (CONT'D)

(to Ester)

If you'd let the boy do stuff on his own, he'd probably stop actin' like this!

Hilda shoves Ollie and he almost falls out of his seat.

ESTER

Hilda, what did I just say?

(To Charles Sr.)

It's just a phase, he'll grow out of it.

CHARLES SR.

It ain't no phase. Somethin' aint right. The boy came out feet first and had that damn thing on his face.

ESTER

It was a caul. A lot of people in my family are born with it.

CHARLES SR.

I bet they are. All y'all Adams' strange. That's why I say we need to move into town. I been told you somethin' wrong with this land.

Ester glares at him.

CJ

(nervous laughter)

It ain't that bad, Daddy.

CHARLES SR. (CONT'D)

Stay out of this, Son.

ESTER

We gone move into town on your salary?

The silence is deafening as the couple stare each other down.

Ollie gets a big spoonful of peas and launches it at Hilda. He misses and hits Charles Sr. in the face.

CJ

Ooohh...

HILDA

Ooohh...

The room grows even more uncomfortably quiet. Jimmy continues to look out the window.

Charles Sr. **LUNGES** at Ollie grabbing him by the collar.

CHARLES SR.
Oliver!! I'm gettin' sick of your
shit! You know what--

He regains his composure and lets Ollie go. Charles Sr. wipes his face and stands. He grabs his plate and walks into the other room. Ester eyes burn a hole in to Ollie. He shifts uncomfortably under her gaze.

ESTER
You're washing dishes.

OLLIE
Bu-- but it's CJ's turn!

ESTER
Well it's yours tonight!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ollie stands in front of the sink washing dishes. He mutters his annoyances and obscenities while he cleans a plate.

OLLIE
(mumbles)
I'm runnin' away... I hate livin'
here... always makin' me do
somethin' I don't wanna do.

A loud **CREAK** sounds off behind Ollie. He quickly turns around. No one is there.

While turning back around, something catches his eye. The toy monkey sits at that end of the counter. He jumps at the sight of it. By the look on Ollie's face, he questions had it been sitting there all along?

OLLIE (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ!

Ollie hesitantly walks up to the monkey.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
(shaky)
Hi-Hilda... Hilda...

No one hears him. He walks closer to the monkey and grabs it throwing it out the back door. Quickly, he locks the door behind him.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
(scoffs)
Stupid monkey.

He walks back to the sink and resumes washing dishes. A light **TAP** is heard from the window in front of Ollie. He freezes.

TAP... TAP

Ollie slowly moves closer to the window. Hesitantly, he pulls back the curtains to the window only to reveal a beautiful night sky.

Ollie looks to both sides of the window. Nothing. He looks straight ahead and sighs in relief.

Suddenly, a large, menacing monkey face pops up in the middle of the window growling.

Ollie **SCREAMS** and runs out of the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The family sits around the TV watching Star Trek. They become startled as they hear Ollie scream and run into the room. Ester and Charles Sr. jump up to see what's the matter. Charles Sr. grabs Ollie in efforts to calm him down.

ESTER

Ollie! Ollie, what is it?

Ollie looks around dazed. Charles Sr. shakes him.

CHARLES SR.

Speak boy! Spit it out!

OLLIE

It's a m-m-monkey in the kitchen window! It was lookin' at me!

Everyone becomes quiet, then burst out laughing in unison.

CHARLES SR.

Boy, this better not be one of your lil' pranks!

OLLIE

(crying)

It's not! I know what I saw!

Ester hugs Ollie tight.

ESTER

(To Charles Sr.)

Would you just go check?

Charles Sr. looks to CJ nodding towards the door. He grabs his shot gun and the two head out the door. CJ makes monkey noises and gestures at Ollie before walking out the door. Hilda joins in as Jimmy sits quietly on the couch. Ester swats at them to stop.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ollie sits on the couch with his head in his hands. Ester rubs his back consoling him. Hilda and Jimmy quietly sit on the floor below them.

Charles Sr. and CJ enter the house. Ester stands up.

ESTER
Find anything?

CHARLES SR.
Nope... Not a thing.

CJ
Nothin' 'sides this.

CJ throws the toy monkey on Ollie. He screams and jumps to the back of the couch. Hilda picks up the monkey chasing him. All of his siblings laugh except for Jimmy who continues to quietly watch everyone.

ESTER
(To Ollie)
Boy, quit jumpin' all over my couch!

OLLIE
Get it away from me!

ESTER (CONT'D)
Stop laughing at him! I just got him to calm down.

He jumps off the couch.

OLLIE
(crying)
I know what I saw!

Ollie runs to his room, slamming the door behind him. Ester looks at Charles Sr. concerned.

EXT. WOODS- SMALL CLEARING -DAY

Hilda and Jimmy collect sticks from underneath a tree.

POW! POW! Bebe gun shots whiz past them.

CJ (O.S.)
What the hell, Ollie?!

HILDA
Hey! Watch it!

OLLIE
(mockingly)
"Hey, watch it"

The two continue to add sticks to their small house they're building. CJ walks over jacking Ollie up by his arm.

CJ
Boy, what is wrong with you?!

Ollie pulls his arm away from CJ and rolls his eyes.

OLLIE
Oh shut up, CJ! You don't tell me
what to do!

HILDA
You better stop before I put my monkey on you!

Ollie (CONT'D)
You ain't gonna do shit!

CJ pops him on the back of his head and Ollie hits him back.

CJ
Daddy gone cut yo butt when I tell
him how you been talkin' to Hilda--

Ollie
CJ, shut up! You ain't gonna do
shit either! Stay over there and
keep tryna be "Mr. Perfect" so
Daddy will **finally** notice you.

Silenced, CJ looks at Ollie with hurt and frustration. Ollie smirks at his siblings.

Ollie (CONT'D)
(smugly)
That's what I thought.

Ollie turns his back on the two and picks up his BB gun. He sets his sights on another unsuspecting squirrel. **POW! POW!**

Hilda looks up to a solemn CJ. She looks at the toy monkey in her hand questioningly. Slowly, a sneaky grin crosses her face and she silently nudges CJ's arm. He looks down at her as she holds up the toy. She motions her head towards an unaware Ollie and back to the toy. Quickly realizing her intentions, CJ smirks with a confirming nod.

Stealthy, Hilda sneaks up behind Ollie and holds the toy monkey up right behind his head.

CJ
(yelling)
Ollie, watch out! Th-The monkey!
It's behind you!

Ollie quickly turns around dropping his BB gun and is face to face with the toy monkey. He screams and falls back as Hilda shoves the toy in his face. Ollie flails over the ground.

OLLIE
Stop, Hilda! Stop!

HILDA	CJ
(mockingly)	(mockingly)
"Stop, Hilda!"	"Stop, Hilda!"

Hilda and CJ double over in laughter. Jimmy watches in silence.

ESTER (O.S.)
Hiilllidaaaa! Come help with supper!

HILDA
(laughing)
You lucky Mama callin' me, cause I
was gone let it get you.

CJ
(laughing)
Alright, enough fun. Let's go guys.

Heated, Ollie scrambles to his feet.

OLLIE
I'm not goin' with you!

CJ
Fine, let the monkey get yo bad ass
then.

CJ tries to grab Jimmy's hand but he pulls back. Shrugging, he grabs Hilda's hand and she gives Jimmy the toy monkey.

CJ (CONT'D)
Make sure you watch Jimmy.

Ollie waits until he sees Hilda and CJ exit the clearing and runs over to the house she was building. He pushes past Jimmy and pulls his pants down and grunts. He starts to take a shit in the middle of the small stick house. Jimmy watches silently.

While Ollie relieves himself, Jimmy hears a branch **CRACK** and notices the bushes **RUMBLE**.

With the monkey in hand, he walks closer to the bushes.

Ollie pays him no mind. Jimmy inches closer.

JIMMY
Hi, what's your name?

OLLIE
(to himself)
And that's what she gets!...
Got a nice little surpr--

Ollie realizes what Jimmy said. He quickly looks up, Jimmy is using his hands to peer into the bushes.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
NOOO!! JIIMMMYYY!!

Ollie tries to pull up his pants and run towards him..

Jimmy turns around to look at Ollie and smiles.

Ollie tries to run towards him--

A huge hairy hand forcibly SNATCHES Jimmy through the bushes.

At the bushes, Ollie peers through the hole Jimmy was snatched through but can't see anything.

He pushes past the bushes making his way to the other side.

EXT. BUSHES - DAY

He falls flat on his face but sees Jimmy and the monster that took him are nowhere in sight.

OLLIE
JIIMMMYYY!! Where are you?!

Something is under his leg. He pulls out the toy monkey.

He holds it carefully.

The toy monkey **BLINKS** at Ollie. He **SCREAMS**.

THE END