

Paralyzed

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

JOHN (30s) sits shirtless at his desk in front of his laptop. His eyes have deep bags under them, he hasn't slept well for days, and there's a concerned expression on his face.

He appears deep in thought as he scrolls through his laptop and reads, the screen reflecting off his sunken eyes.

EMILY (30s), wearing sleepwear, walks over to him from behind, places her arms around him and kisses him on the neck. John doesn't take his eyes off the screen.

Emily looks at the laptop, her smile fades away.

EMILY  
Still on that?

JOHN  
I'm not the only one.

EMILY  
It's nothing, John. Come on, let's go to bed. It's late.

John pauses for a moment, takes a deep breath and rubs his face. He looks at Emily with a weak smile.

JOHN  
Okay.

He kisses her and gets up from his chair. As the couple walks away, we finally see what's on the computer screen. A page on sleep paralysis and the image of a dark, shadow figure that appears to people.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

John and Emily are asleep in bed. John sleeps facing up, like a mummy, and there are sweat droplets on his forehead. His eyes dart left and right under his eyelids.

In the silence of the night, we hear the bedroom door CREAK. John's eyes spring open and he sees the door slowly opening by itself.

From the darkness, a SHADOW FIGURE with glowing eyes emerges. It slowly creeps into the room, walking towards John.

John's eyes open wide with horror and he tries to move his hands, feet, head, but can only manage the slightest of movements, as if being tied down.

Unable to open his mouth, John begins to mumble desperately, he can't scream. Emily wakes up and quickly hovers over John, she eyes him up and down, concerned. The Shadow figure moving closer and closer behind her.

Emily looks back but sees nothing, she turns back to John and begins shaking him.

EMILY

John. John wake up!

John tries to scream even harder, still unable to move. His eyes, fixated on the shadow figure, say everything. Emily looks back again but still sees nothing. She continues shaking John, sitting on top of him.

EMILY (cont'd)

It's just a dream, John. Wake up.

The shadow figure is now standing directly behind Emily.

BANG! All of a sudden, the shadow figure yanks Emily off the bed.

At this moment, John is finally freed and jolts up with a haunting scream. He's breathing heavily.

JOHN

Emily?

John looks around in the dark room but Emily is no longer there, everything is calm.

JOHN (cont'd)

Emily!?

He looks at the door, it is wide open. John jumps out of bed and runs out of the bedroom door in a frenzy.

EMILY

Emily!

FADE TO BLACK.