

**Lurking in Lonebrooke**  
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Children make up 26% of our world and about 23% of our lives are spent being minors. And yet, children are deemed as naive creatures who spend most of their time believing in fake things and learning basic life skills. For example, they believe in the monster under the bed. Almost all children have sworn they saw him and almost all adults have once believed in him. But, we brush the fact of monsters existing aside into the fake category of our brains, and call it a day. Why is that? I mean, if 90% of adults saw something it would have to be dealt with because they are the “wiser” and far “better” age group. But who decides what age dictates what is “true”? That's right, adults.

Amanda Speeler, the most imaginative child of her age, was just 7 years old when she was declared missing. The year was 1979, and it was the time to be alive in the small town of Lonebrooke, Ohio. KISS had just released “I Was Made for Lovin’ You”, and the Walkman had just hit the shelves. Good times, right? But, while all the grownups worked, and while all the children played their cares away, monsters were hunting for the kill. Monsters only children like Amanda believed in.

Now, these monsters aren’t exactly what you have heard of. They aren’t the boogie man and they aren’t the simple monster under the bed. Because if monsters were beings that simple, adults would have discovered their existence. How could they not? These monsters feed on fear and target children and imaginative people. That is because they don’t just see the dark at night. Their imagination leads them into seeing what lurks in the dark. And with that imagination, fear can grow and branch into so much more.

For our main victim, poor Amanda, it all started on Wednesday, October 31st. She had just started counting her Halloween candy, and the cool air from the window had brought the October chill straight to her room. Her parents had just left for a Halloween party, which meant her older brother, Danny, was left in charge. To be honest, he was doing a horrible job watching Amanda. He was way too busy blasting songs on his Walkman and watching Charlie’s Angels to actually notice what was happening. To notice what was about to go down.

Now, the story of Amanda’s disappearance is not for the faint of heart. Because, unlike the times when the monsters stayed on the sidelines, this time they were ready to attack. To feast on pure, raw, fear, and flesh. The monsters knew she was alone and defenseless, just like all their other victims were at their opportune moments; mere minutes before their deaths. While cars honked, music played, and storms raged on outside, the unimaginative were kept at bay, while the poor lives of the monster’s victims were ended.

During that exact moment in Lonebrooke, Danny’s tv blared, covering the sound of wind and candy wrappers. A sudden darkness swept through the main floor of the house, shielding it from the world. But, that wasn’t the main problem. An unholy creature beyond any description was inching right towards Amanda. But, she was very weak considering she was just a young child. And so, Amanda grabbed the nearest lamp and tried to protect herself from the troubles ahead. Her heart skipped a beat as the monster leapt at her with its dagger like claws. Having a normal Halloween was just too good to be true.

But, just like all good things that exist, Amanda's life must too come to an end. Amanda screamed, running frantically looking for an escape. But there were none. And while her body was brutally slaughtered, her soul was taken with no form of eternity to escape to. The main root of her imagination, which had once seeped into her thoughts, was now gone. She was left a dead, numb, shell of a person. A mere corpse amongst the thousands of others the monster had taken. While Danny's music continuously raged on and her parents partied, the indescribable monster had gotten to her. The world was immune to it all, just like they always were.

Along with the monster disappearing without a trace, so had Amanda's body. Her family was left in a state of false security with the idea that Amanda was in fact not dead, but just missing. Just like most of the parents of the 460,000 yearly missing kids in America, whose children were ravaged by the monsters. But, just like all "unreasonable" ideas and creatures, they stayed unbelieving. The world metaphorically has a very large curtain around it, which people use to feel secure about reality. And, if we ever so slightly lift it, we can see the true terrors.

Now, heed my warning, dear readers. Don't be fooled by reality. Along with the darkness there is also what lurks in that dark. The things that are shielded by the curtain we use to rationalize ourselves, are out there. Lurking, waiting, for those opportune moments to find you and pull you under the curtain. And as you look into the eyes of death, covered by the sounds of life, you'll finally realize that monsters under the bed can actually be real. So pay close attention. VERY close attention.....