

The Dummy Factor

LOGLINE

A 12-year-old boy investigates the disappearances of some children in his neighbourhood.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

After two children go missing and another is followed home by a strange man, 12-year-old Noel (Will Saleken) and his friends launch an investigation.

Some believe the Supermarket Psycho is to blame. Noel's brother Jason (Rhys Saleken) thinks it could be the murderous groundskeeper from his summer camp. Noel's best friend Oscar (Jaime Naranjo) says it's the weird guy who lives nearby, and that the abducted kids might be locked in his basement.

It's a big mystery, one that's equal parts exciting and frightening, and Noel might just be in the middle of it all.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Strange and unsettling things are happening in the neighbourhood, and 12-year-old Noel (Will Saleken) appears to be smackdab in the middle of it all.

It starts one night when Noel thinks he sees someone creeping around his house. The next day, while doing his paper route, he reads an alarming story. A child has disappeared – the second one to go missing in recent weeks – and the authorities believe it might be connected to a man he was last seen talking to at a nearby supermarket.

Later that afternoon, Noel's brother Jason (Rhys Saleken) relates the story of Cargo, the groundskeeper who supposedly murdered a child at his summer camp two years earlier. Cargo disappeared and was never caught. Perhaps, says Jason, he's returned in the guise of the so-called Supermarket Psycho?

The tension is ratcheted up even further when a notice is sent home from Noel's school, informing the parents that a girl was recently followed by a strange man. When Noel's best friend Oscar (Jaime Naranjo) informs Noel and their other friend Josh (Eduardo Naranjo) about a related news story he heard on the TV, the group decides to launch their own investigation.

After school, the three boys go to the house of a local weirdo who they believe must be responsible for the kidnappings. They're convinced the two

missing children are locked up in the basement and figure they'll receive a big reward when they free the kids and catch the bad guy. They creep around his property, looking in windows and finding clues, but they're spooked and run away before anything concrete is discovered. Far from dissuading Noel, though, the incident only serves to confirm his suspicions and solidify his resolve to uncover the truth.

Can he figure out what's really going on? Will he find the missing kids and save the day? Or, will he become the next victim of the Supermarket Psycho?