

"Mythics: Bumps in the Night"

By

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FADE IN:

BLACK.

For a moment there's silence. Then BUMP! BUMP! BUMP!

Reveal title: Mythics: Bumps in the Night.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-NIGHT

Establishing shot, a house in the suburbs. A nice place to live once you hit financial stability.

BUMP! BUMP!

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-MASTER BEDROOM-NIGHT

Shot of ALEX WINTERS, a man in his late thirties.

BUMP!

And with that last bump, he's wakes up. Tired, but alert, Alex gets out of bed, but in his haste (or perhaps tiredness in his case), he wakes up his wife NICOLE, a woman not that much younger than him. With blurry vision, Nicole looks toward Alex, who has picked up a metal bat from under the bed.

NICOLE

Alex? Wha...what are you doing?

Alex opens the door slightly to have a peek outside.

ALEX

(quiet)

Shh! Someone's in the house.

A BUMP! BUMP! BUMP! Startles both Alex and Nicole. Neither of them expected that from an intruder who is supposed to be silent.

Nicole goes for her charging smartphone.

Alex opens the door some more.

NICOLE

Stay in here! I'll call the police!

ALEX

Calling the police won't do much if we
can't identify our "guest".

Nicole has 911 already on call, while Alex quietly moves
out of the bedroom.

NICOLE

(quietly)

Be careful.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Alex moves through the house, bat held ready to smack
anyone unfortunate enough to startle him.

BUMP! BUMP! BUMP!

Alex turns where the noise is coming from.

Shot shows the open basement door.

Alex shows confidence in that he knows where the intruder
is.

ALEX

All right, I've got you now.

Alex goes over to the basement door, closes, and locks it.

ALEX

That should hold you until the police
come!

Alex turns to the bedroom, confident that he handled the
problem.

Until the basement door opens behind him.

Alex looks at the door, surprised, and a little fear. He
holds the bat up to get ready for whatever comes.

ALEX'S POV:

We're moving closer and closer to the basement door.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Alex checks the doorknob, still locked.

Closing the door, Alex walks away, deciding that it's better to retreat to safety and wait for the police.

And the camera turns to the basement door, opening again. The camera goes toward the darkness, closing out on:

BUMP!

BUMP!

INT. APARTMENT-OFFICE-MORNING

BUMP!

The last bump is on MARIA "ELTHIA" FLETCHER, a woman in her early thirties, and she just slammed her head on her desk. The computer screen shows a screenplay that she's still working on. And slamming her head on the desk could either be how much she hated the last line, she fell asleep and hit her head on something hard, or a little of both. Her tiredly annoyed expression tells us that the last option is entirely possible.

ELTHIA

Owww...

Nursing her injured head, Elthia stands from her chair, and goes to get coffee from her office coffee maker.

The "office" is a bedroom furnished with bookshelves, and a couch that can be converted into a futon if there's a guest.

Elthia returns to the desk but doesn't yet sit down. Instead she takes a few sips from her coffee to reflect upon her writing.

ELTHIA

"It is my duty to sacrifice myself."

(smacks herself in the forehead)

That's so lame!

Elthia thinks for a moment then sits back in the chair.

ELTHIA

Another five hours at it!

The door opens, and GALATYN, a man who looks to be in his early forties, enters. Elthia turns, surprised by his appearance.

GALATYN

You're still up, I see.

ELTHIA

Yup. This sacrifice scene has been a problem for me all night.

(beat)

But why are you in human form?

(realization)

What a damn good time to be given a new case!

Galatyn chuckles quietly.

GALATYN

You did have the choice to refuse the call to join the Mythic Order.

ELTHIA

Sure, but what kinda choice did I have? "Seek adventure, and guaranteed work!" or "Go to college! Amass debt and work the same deadend job!"?

(sigh)

So, what's the job?

GALATYN

A haunting. A couple by the name of Winters have been tormented for the past month.

ELTHIA

Hm...the Order wouldn't be sending us the job if it was something as simple as an aging house spooking people.

GALATYN

Indeed. While there hasn't been anything malicious done to the couple themselves, there have been signs that there's more than one ghost.

Elthia clicks save on the document.

ELTHIA

Give me forty minutes, and I'll be ready to go.

GALATYN

Certainly.

Elthia does a check to see where her laptop and supplies are as Galatyn leaves the room.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Elthia's car parks on the side of the road.

INT. ELTHIA'S CAR

Elthia puts the car into park. Galatyn gets out of the car to get the bags from the backseat. Elthia pulls the laptop bag over her shoulder. She gets a look at the house.

ELTHIA'S POV.

A look at the house, it looks ominous to her, a touch of shadow to the lighting.

RETURN TO SCENE.

Elthia leaves the car, grabbing her notebook as she goes.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUE-AFTERNOON

Elthia and Galatyn are standing in front of the door, Galatyn has Elthia's equipment bag slung over his shoulder.

The door opens to reveal Alex, he doesn't look like he's rested for a month.

ELTHIA

Mr. Winters, I presume?

Alex nods.

ALEX

Indeed I am. You're the experts Father Thomas contacted?

ELTHIA

Yes. I'm Elthia Fletcher.

(motioning toward Galatyn)

And this is my assistant, Galatyn.

An awkward moment arises as the tired Alex forgets his manners.

ALEX

Please come in.

ELTHIA

Thank you.

Elthia and Galatyn enter the house, while Alex is uncertain if he wants to close the door, which he inevitably does.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-ENTRANCE-AFTERNOON

Elthia and Galatyn take off their shoes, while Alex turns toward them.

ELTHIA

So! What're the symptoms?

ALEX

Symptoms?

ELTHIA

What's causing you to lose sleep? Anything that's supernaturally motivated?

ALEX

Ah, well, we think it all started with misplaced keys a month and a half ago.

Elthia raises a quizzical eyebrow, she thought the Mythic Order had it all covered.

ELTHIA

So, it didn't start a month ago?

ALEX

We don't think it did now.

And with that Nicole comes from another room. Just as tired as her husband, she looks like she just woke up from a nap and is not much more together than her husband.

ALEX

(continued)

Ah! Nicole was the primary victim, she can explain it better.

NICOLE

Hi, I'm Nicole, Alex's wife.

Nicole extends a hand.

ELTHIA

I'm Elthia. Pleased to meet you.

NICOLE

Likewise. Perhaps we should sit down.

Nicole leads the group to the kitchen.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

The four of them are sitting at the kitchen table. Elthia has her notebook opened, and a pencil ready to take notes.

ELTHIA

Alex tells us that you were the earliest victim of the haunting?

NICOLE

Yes, it started with missing keys.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-KITCHEN-MORNING

Nicole is seen here ready to start her day in this flashback.

NICOLE

(narration)

It started one morning when I had some errands to run.

Nicole goes for the keys and can't find them. Bewildered, Nicole looks around the kitchen for them.

NICOLE

(narration)

We keep our keys in the kitchen to give ourselves some more exercise in our lives. So, it was unusual that they weren't where we put them.

Nicole searches through various rooms.

Until.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-ENTRANCE

Nicole finds the keys on the floor.

NICOLE

(narration)

The keys were on the floor to the front door.

Nicole picks up the keys, very confused.

NICOLE

(narration)

It was very odd, but back then the idea of ghosts was just a very ridiculous theory.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

Elthia is listening to what Nicole is saying while taking notes.

NICOLE

But with how many times it's happened, and it's still happening.

ELTHIA

(thoughtfully)

Hmmm...

Galatyn has been listening.

GALATYN

Have your keys always ended up at the front door?

ALEX

Always. Even when it happens to me.

Elthia stops writing and exchanges looks with Galatyn before looking towards the couple.

ELTHIA

Perhaps we're looking at the possibility of two ghosts in the house.

The couple appear terrified by the thought.

ALEX

Two? Then why haven't they chased us out yet?

ELTHIA

My guess is that we're looking at a ghost who is trying to tell you to escape from whatever the second entity is.

(beat)

Please continue.

Alex hesitates.

ALEX

The first time the encounters became malevolent was a month ago, when we started hearing bumps in the night. We thought it was just some clumsy burglar. I saw the basement door open, which I always have closed during the night, and thought I'd keep the burglar there until the police came.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-BASEMENT-NIGHT

Police (redressed extras perhaps) search the basement and find nothing.

ALEX

(narration)

It was quite embarrassing to find out that we called the police on a ghost, and they were not pleased with the idea that we wasted their night.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-KITCHEN-AFTERNOON

Elthia is writing it down.

ELTHIA

Did the bumps continue afterward?

NICOLE

Yes, they did.

ALEX

They would continue on until morning. Three bumps every five minutes between 3 am, and 4 am.

NICOLE

But they've been escalating in the last couple of days.

ELTHIA

(realization)

The witching hour.

ALEX

Excuse me?

Elthia puts the pencil down.

ELTHIA

The witching hour is the term coined as the hour where supernatural activity is at its strongest.

Elthia looks down at her notes.

ELTHIA

(whisper)

Three bumps during the witching hour and increasing. Keys found at the front door...

Elthia thinks it over.

ELTHIA'S POV.

Then looks up, straight at the Winters. There's nothing odd about them.

ELTHIA

I don't feel any kind of supernatural presence attached to the two of you. So, you can go while we work. The demon won't follow you.

NICOLE

Go? Why?

GALATYN

This is what demonologists have termed an "inhuman spirit", or in layman's terms, a demon.

Gasp from Nicole.

ELTHIA

Normally demons want to inhabit their victims, but it doesn't seem like it's interested in doing that with the two of you.

ALEX

Meaning?

GALATYN

There's another spirit here, one that's protecting you from the demon.

NICOLE

So why can't we stay?

ELTHIA

The usual M.O. for a demon is that it makes bumps to scare their intended targets. If the bumps are increasing, that means the power of whomever is protecting you is failing.

Alex and Nicole exchange terrified looks.

ALEX

How long will you need?

ELTHIA

It depends on how powerful this creature is. One night is needed for observation and to see if we can contact your guardian spirit, a second night to banish it. So, unless this is more powerful than I expected, I'd say two nights.

ALEX

We'll pack for a week.

GALATYN

Wise decision.

The four rise from their seats.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-ENTRANCE-EVENING

Elthia and Galatyn watch as the Winters head to their car with the last of their luggage.

ELTHIA

I'll call you when the job's done.

ALEX

We'll talk then!

Elthia closes the door behind them, and sighs in discontent.

ELTHIA

What're we going to do, Tyn-man?

GALATYN

I do not know. The spirit could be an ally, but for all we know it could be part of the demon's tricks.

Elthia looks to the basement.

SHOT: BASEMENT DOOR.

Open and shadowy.

RETURN TO SCENE.

Elthia has a slight smile.

ELTHIA

Well, time to set up our base of operations.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-GUEST BEDROOM-EVENING

Elthia is lining the floor of the door with salt, a common defense against demons.

Then she sets up paper wards around the room. Near the door. Near the window. Near the closet. On the Wall.

Elthia places her bag of equipment on the bed, showing the gear she uses which includes a bar of pure iron, a pair of shock sticks and a bowl to pour water in, and use to observe areas of the house from the safety of the room.

And last, but not least, her laptop for her to continue her screenplay on.

ELTHIA

Well, we're more than ready for what this thing will throw at us.

Elthia looks at the clock, 7:45.

ELTHIA

Let's go exploring.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-GROUND LEVEL

Elthia is at the door, and she tries to turn on the lights, which it fails.

GALATYN

I suspect this is where the demon is at its strongest.

ELTHIA

I suspect you're right.

With a sigh, Elthia pulls her phone out of her pocket, and turns on the flashlight. They walk down the stairs.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-BASEMENT

The light from the phone shined through the darkness as Elthia and Galatyn walk through the basement.

Elthia trips on something but recovers before she hurt herself.

GALATYN

Careful.

ELTHIA

Seems like the demon always gets up on the wrong side of the bed.

Elthia shines the light on the floor, and we see all kinds of objects thrown on the ground as Elthia walks through the basement.

ELTHIA

Demons are the worst kind of pests.

GALATYN

This one seems full of wrath.

ELTHIA

Yeah...hey!

On the floor is a crystal ball. The crystal ball has a huge chunk taken out from a high fall, there's jagged pieces of glass protruding from the orb's wound.

Elthia carefully makes her way toward the damaged crystal ball. She places the phone on the table, light up, and equally careful as she picks up the damaged orb, to not cut herself. As her hands approach the crystal ball, the electrical current of magic crackles around them.

Held in her hands, Elthia examines the crystal ball to the best of her abilities in the limited light.

ELTHIA

(with wonder)

Is this what I think it is?

Galatyn closes in on the crystal ball.

GALATYN

Yes. I believe it is.

(beat)

This one feels familiar to me..

ELTHIA

Oh?

GALATYN

We need to take it with us for further examination, I..

Around them random objects begin to shake around them. Elthia looks around the basement. Galatyn takes the crystal ball from Elthia.

ELTHIA

Time to go.

GALATYN

Indeed.

The two of them rush out of the basement, those same objects are thrown at them. A few hit Elthia, but they're largely aimed at Galatyn.

The demon wants the crystal ball to remain in the basement.

Elthia shields Galatyn from the flying objects the moment she realizes this.

One particularly deadly object comes at Elthia and Galatyn...

...a glimpse of a female ghost in eighteenth century clothing is seen for a brief moment...

...and is knocked out of the air by some invisible force.

Elthia waits a moment before going up the stairs, and sees the ghost standing in defiance of the demonic force.

GHOST

Go. Now.

Elthia wastes no time in obeying.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM-DUSK

The crystal ball is carefully laid on the bed by Galatyn. While Elthia's hurt by taking the hits, she's more focused on the ghost she saw confronting the invisible demon.

GALATYN

The creature has shown itself.

ELTHIA

As has the other spirit in the house.

Galatyn's attention switches from the crystal ball to Elthia. He didn't sense anything else in there.

GALATYN

Strange, I didn't sense the presence of another spirit.

ELTHIA

I looked back when we got to the stairs and saw her standing her ground.

Galatyn looks over at the crystal ball, which we hold the CAMERA on.

GALATYN

Perhaps the spirit is the former owner of this.

ELTHIA

It's possible, but it's strange that you weren't able to pick her up.

GALATYN

It could be that the demon's presence overwhelmed hers.

Both are disturbed by this statement.

ELTHIA

If so, then we have less time than we thought.

(thoughtful)

We don't even know the name of this creature, never mind which realm of hell it came from.

GALATYN

Well...

On the crystal ball for the moment as it rests on the bed.

GALATYN

...it's possible that our find in the basement is responsible for the demon being here.

Elthia's confused, by the time she became a member of the Mythic Order, use of crystal balls were retired in favor of using bowls filled with water.

ELTHIA

How?

Galatyn lifts the crystal ball in his hand.

GALATYN

Crystal balls, in the old days, weren't just for seeing the future, or observing from a safe location. They were last resorts for whenever we faced a threat that was too powerful for us.

(heavy beat)

It was a sacrifice play, as you would term it.

Elthia's horrified by it.

ELTHIA

If the spirit of a Mythic was in that crystal ball, would her familiar too?

Galatyn shakes his head.

GALATYN

One spirit is enough for the sacrifice.

Heavy silence.

ELTHIA

(low)

Unless preparations are made, the bonded partners will face death together...

Galatyn nods gravely.

ELTHIA

We still have other options, let's just put that off to the side for now.

Elthia picks up the bowl and pulls a water bottle from her bag. After she pours the water into the bowl, she says a few words under her breath.

The water in the bowl shows the basement, and a dark force brewing in there. Absent is the spirit Elthia had seen.

ELTHIA

It looks like our friend is keeping the demon confined for now.

GALATYN

Until the witching hour at least.

ELTHIA

Thankfully we have wards in here to keep a repeat of what happened in the basement from happening in here.

Galatyn goes over to the crystal ball, with his hands held slightly over the crystal ball, a light comes from his hands and slowly repairs the damaged orb.

ELTHIA

What are you doing?

GALATYN

Repairing the crystal ball, we may need it.

The look on Elthia's face is a horrified "I don't think we do." But it's only on there for a moment, which it's replaced with a more professional expression.

ELTHIA

Good idea.

(low)

Well, at the very least I won't have to worry about that sacrifice scene not having meaning after this.

GALATYN

What was that?

ELTHIA

Nothing.

Galatyn gives her an "if you say so" look before going back to work.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM-DAWN

A distant BUMP! BUMP! BUMP!

Elthia is working on her screenplay, which she's in the middle of a page that isn't the sacrifice scene. Galatyn is still working on the crystal ball.

ELTHIA

The witching hour.

The BUMP! BUMP! BUMP! is getting closer.

GALATYN

It's getting closer.

BUMP! BUMP! BUMP! is near.

Neither Elthia, nor Galatyn are concerned.

ELTHIA

Looks like it can't get in.

An otherworldly growl from outside the room replies instead of Galatyn.

GALATYN

Yes.

Elthia puts the laptop aside and goes to the door to get a look at the demon.

ELTHIA'S POV

There's nothing staring back at her.

RETURN TO SCENE

The otherworldly growl tells Elthia that it is still there, waiting for her in the darkness.

Elthia's disturbed by it.

ELTHIA

You'll never get used to that...

GALATYN

I'm always glad to hear you say that.

Elthia expression shows that she's heard it repeatedly from him.

ELTHIA

"Overconfidence leads to downfall." Right?

A knowing grin forms on Galatyn's lips.

GALATYN

There's no point in confirming what you already know.

Elthia looks back out of the room, more curious than afraid.

ELTHIA

I wonder where our friend is while this is going on.

BUMP! BUMP! BUMP! With each bump it gets quieter. The demon is leaving.

GALATYN

There are a great many things that could have happened, the only thing is that she's likely recovering her power to entrap the demon once more.

Elthia is still looking out the door.

ELTHIA

How long will she last, I wonder?

GALATYN

Likely a day.

Elthia reacts with a questioning look.

ELTHIA

Only a day?

GALATYN

She's been in this struggle with the demon for a while now. I doubt there's much left in her to continue the fight.

With the information taken in, Elthia considers their options.

ELTHIA

How long until you fix the crystal ball?

GALATYN

Several more hours.

ELTHIA

(resolve)

Then we'll confront the demon tomorrow night.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-KITCHEN-NOON

A tired Elthia stumbles into the kitchen, she's wearing her bedclothes, and her movements show that she just woke up. There's a fresh pot of coffee brewed.

Elthia pours some into a thermos she brought with her from the apartment. She drinks some with a satisfied expression.

ELTHIA

That's good!

Elthia walks around the kitchen, part of her routine of waking up. It was a long night, and she does it for a while.

FLASHBACK.

The ghost's defiant stand against the demon.

BACK TO SCENE

The flashback causes Elthia to take a moment and think.

ELTHIA

The ghost of a Mythic.

(beat)

Lots of dedication to continue serving in death, but they did drill that in our heads that the Mythic Order protects humanity from the supernatural in the shadows.

And Elthia is inspired and looks for her phone.

ELTHIA

"Serve in death." Gotta write that down!

SHOT. GHOSTLY POV

As Elthia is looking for her phone, a spirit is observing her.

GALATYN

Elthia!

RETURN TO SCENE.

Elthia finds her phone, and goes to where she heard Galatyn, the direction of the basement. Elthia's distracted with her writing.

ELTHIA

Yeah?

GALATYN

I think you might want to come down here!

Elthia looks up from the phone, confused.

ELTHIA

Sure.

INT. SURBAN HOUSE-BASEMENT-AFTERNOON

Elthia is watching where she steps as the basement is more torn apart than before.

ELTHIA

What is it that...oh...

Staring in shock, Elthia sees a message cut into the basement's wall.

"Sacrifice is the only way."

Elthia is silent, thinking about what that could mean.

ELTHIA

If it's the demon, it's obviously lying.

GALATYN

What if it's not? What if it's one of the elder demons?

ELTHIA

I thought they were all tucked safely away in their realms of power?

GALATYN

Elder demons, different from demon lords in that most of them have withdrawn from the affairs of their "lessers".

ELTHIA

Does the Order know any of their names?

A slow headshake from Galatyn tells Elthia what she needs to know.

ELTHIA

Damn.

A sigh of resignation, Elthia continues to stare at the message.

ELTHIA

So, which one of us will it be?

The lack of response from Galatyn tells Elthia everything she needs to know. He doesn't want either of them to do it. He wants Elthia to live a long and fulfilling life, and Galatyn wants to see his family again.

Then Elthia has a thought.

ELTHIA

Galatyn, what can you tell me about the crystal ball, is it possible for anyone but the owner to use the sacrifice spell?

There's a moment where Galatyn has to think.

GALATYN

No. The crystal ball is attuned to the spiritual energy of the owner.

Elthia gives Galatyn a look that can be translated into "we're doomed", or "well we have a way out."

ELTHIA

We need to find the spirit.

And with that, we start seeing objects in the basement begin to levitate, and the duo escape the basement as one of them is shot at them.

INT.SUBURBAN HOUSE GUEST'S BEDROOM-AFTERNOON

Elthia, now in her regular clothes, looks at the now repaired crystal ball.

ELTHIA

Now we have to find the spirit to help us.

Galatyn points toward the door.

GALATYN

We don't have to go far.

Elthia looks and sees the spirit in a translucent form standing just outside of the door.

ELTHIA

Hello there. Who are you?

SPIRIT

My name is Betia, I am the one you seek.

Cautiously, Elthia approaches Betia, weary of demonic tricks.

ELTHIA

I am Elthia, and this is...

BETIA

Galatyn. I know. He was my familiar once.

Galatyn stands in disbelief.

GALATYN

I'm sorry, I don't believe that I ever had a partner named Betia.

BETIA

That's because you lost all memory of me when the bond was broken.

As Galatyn approached the spirit, he falls to the ground in pain, coming from the head, and he lets out a shriek in pain.

And after a few moments it's over. The familiar gets up again, and numbly looks at Betia.

GALATYN

By the Elder Spirits, so much has come back. So much.

BETIA

Seven years' worth of memories.

GALATYN

I remember how you died. I'm sorry I failed you.

BETIA

It was my sacrifice to make.

Betia looks over at Elthia.

BETIA

And it shall be mine again.

ELTHIA

How?

Both Betia and Galatyn look at Elthia, whom is confused over how a ghost can sacrifice itself.

ELTHIA

If you don't have a body, how can you sacrifice yourself again? It doesn't seem possible.

BETIA

Do you remember what Galatyn said about the crystal ball?

ELTHIA

Sure, bonded by the spirit...

And then it hits her in the "I can't believe I'm such a dummy!" kind of way.

ELTHIA

You still have a spiritual form, only one problem.

BETIA

I cannot hold the crystal ball itself. Neither can the demon.

ELTHIA

Right, because if it was, the ball would be smashed into a thousand pieces by now.

Elthia looks to Galatyn.

ELTHIA

You wanna do it, or should I?

Galatyn picks up the crystal ball.

GALATYN

I was there once before...

Betia smiles at Galatyn.

GALATYN

...I can do it again.

Galatyn puts the ball on the bed and goes over to Elthia.

ELTHIA

Perhaps the two of you should catch up, I can tell you that Galatyn's been up to a lot in the past two hundred years.

Galatyn gives Elthia a smirk.

GALATYN

And only I know how much this one's been putting me through over the past twelve years!

BETIA

That would be grand!

(grim)

Only you saw that the demon is growing more powerful. Before today I could keep it from threatening the living in the day.

A shadow falls over Galatyn's face.

GALATYN

That means we'll have to make the sacrifice now.

Galatyn goes to get the ball. Elthia is conflicted, but ultimately, she knows what has to be done, as she goes over to get some wards from her bag. As well as the box of salt.

ELTHIA

We may need the wards, but the salt should work.

Galatyn silently nods, as he and Betia lead the way.

BETIA

Still bonding with the members of my lineage?

GALATYN

Hard to say, since I had no memory of you after the sacrifice.

Betia looks back at Elthia.

BETIA

(sadly)

She looks like my mother when I finally met her.

GALATYN

Betia, I'm not leaving you behind again. We'll take you to the Order, and they'll figure out a way to extract you from the ball.

BETIA

That's a nice thought.

They stop at the entrance of the basement.

BETIA

But I'm fine with the outcome of this. When the time calls for it, we serve in death as we had in life.

Elthia is behind them, taking it all in.

ELTHIA

(low)

I hope I have Betia's resolve should I ever be presented with the same choice.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-BASEMENT-AFTERNOON

Elthia places a ward on the stair wall. Two altogether when she steps off the staircase, and into the basement.

Galatyn holds the ball in his hands, and Betia floats beside him, ready for whatever happens.

Objects in the basement begin to float, one of them is thrown at Galatyn.

Galatyn avoids the projectile, and Elthia throws salt in a spread toward where the object came from.

There's a roar of pain, and another is let loose.

Betia says a spell under her breath. The object passes through the ghostly body.

BETIA

(softly)

Goodbye.

A bright flash is seen from the crystal ball, bright enough to whiteout the scene.

And it clears to the clattering of all the floating objects. The first clue to success is the lack of a demon keeping them in the air.

The second is that Betia is no longer there.

And Galatyn is barely able to hold the ball, as he feels great sadness over the passing of Betia again. Not the whiplash of a bonded partner getting ripped away from him, but close enough. The memories of their travels together are still with him, and the cause of the remorse.

Elthia gently takes the crystal ball from him, as he slumps to the floor.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE-KITCHEN-EVENING.

Elthia and the Winters are sitting at the table. Galatyn is away, as he has taken the crystal ball to the Mythic Order. Elthia is fatigued from the whole ordeal and would rather leave as soon as possible.

ELTHIA

If you need recommendations for a cleaning service, there are some excellent services that can clean and repair your basement at a fair price.

ALEX

No, we can take care of it. We were going to renovate the basement anyway, so all

the demon did was give us a reason to get it done sooner.

Elthia understands, her parents were the same way.

ELTHIA

Very well. It was a pleasure doing business with you.

NICOLE

You look tired, maybe you should stay the night?

ELTHIA

Thank you, but I didn't sleep well on the guest bed.

NICOLE

Ah. Safe travel!

ELTHIA

Thank you.

Elthia walks away from the two, who are very happy that their nightmare is over.

INT. ELTHIA'S APARTMENT-OFFICE-NIGHT

Elthia is sitting at her computer, typing away at the screenplay, and as a result of her observation of Betia and Galatyn, she's found a way to write the sacrifice scene.

She stops and reads the final result.

Elthia grins, satisfied.

ELTHIA

It may have the "it's my duty" cliché, but hopefully it'll have an emotional impact!

FADE OUT

THE END