

THE PHANTOMS

Written by

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How do you survive against something you can't ?

EXT. STORE - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A delivery van pulls into a parking space. Something in the van shakes the rear doors violently, trying to escape.

The DELIVERY MAN (35, a stern private military contractor) steps out the van and puts on "normal" glasses.

He unlocks the rattling doors and snatches them open.

A PHANTOM (20, a hideous bioengineered zombie in lab clothes) glares at him, foaming at the mouth like a rabid dog.

Leaps out the van and scans the lot, looking for prey.

The delivery man points at a customer (30s), ordering the Phantom to attack.

Phantom's body and clothes turn invisible.

DELIVERY MAN'S GLASSES: Hi-tech screen. He sees the Phantom.

The invisible Phantom sprints to the customer, its feet heard clashing against the ground.

As the customer opens his car door, the Phantom's teeth rip into his neck.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

A jolly woman (30s) drives past the house, humming a song and heading home.

CHARLOTTE WRIGHT (17, a small, untrusting teenager) rushes out the house with a pink cellphone and keys.

She drops her phone on top of a car in the driveway. Text messages show.

MOM: *"Your dad should be there soon"*

CHARLOTTE: *"I DONT wanna c him!"*

MOM: *"Come on Charlotte. Give him another chance."*

Charlotte unlocks the driver door and grabs her phone.

BRIAN (O.S.)

Hey.

She swings around. Her muscular, estranged dad, BRIAN WRIGHT (35), stands with a gift. They stare in awkward silence.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Um... Good to see you again.

She glares at him. He remembers the gift and holds it up.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
I bought you something.

She hops in the driver seat, and he steps toward her.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Hey, I just got here --

A horrifying scream rings out in the distance. They spin around and look toward the scream, rattled.

A confused NEIGHBOR (40s, male) peeks out a window.

Brian and Charlotte hear another scream, and she clutches her keys. Screams flood the driveway from every direction.

The neighbor slowly exits his house, spooked. He looks around and rushes to Brian.

NEIGHBOR
What's going on?

BRIAN
I don't know.

A woman (the jolly driver) sprints down the street, screaming like a banshee.

The neighbor runs into his house and bolts the door.

The woman slams into Brian, knocking the gift out his hand.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Hey. Calm down, calm down. What's wrong?

The woman's freaking out too much to speak. Charlotte's in her car and Brian's blocking the woman, so Charlotte can barely see what's going on.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Just calm down and tell me what happened. Why is everyone screaming?

The woman calms down and opens her mouth to talk -- a PHANTOM chomps down on her neck. Her blood shoots out onto Brian.

The woman thrashes around and howls in pain as the Phantom bites her.

Brian backs up in shock, almost tripping on his foot.

CHARLOTTE
What's going on?

The woman drops to the ground dead, falling in view of Charlotte. Charlotte gasps and covers her mouth.

Brian watches blood drip from the Phantom's mouth.

PHANTOM POV: The Phantom cuts its eyes at Brian. It leans to the side and spots Charlotte.

Charlotte sees the blood dripping from the Phantom's mouth and screams out.

The Phantom stomps toward the car. Its foot kicks the gift.

Brian snatches open the passenger door and jumps in the car.

BRIAN
Drive!

Charlotte cranks on the car. Her hood flies open.

PHANTOM POV: The Phantom rips her engine to pieces.

Charlotte and Brian hear the engine being ripped apart. She tries to drive off, but her car dies.

The dead woman on the ground stands up, a Phantom now. She turns invisible --

Brian sees her disappear.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
What the --

The first Phantom bangs on Charlotte's window, scaring the shit out of her.

Brian eyes his truck that's across the street, down from the house. Too far.

He looks at the house's front door.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Come on, we're going inside.

CHARLOTTE

What!? I'm not going out there!

PHANTOM POV: The first Phantom watches Charlotte. It bangs on her window repeatedly.

BRIAN

We'll be safer inside.

Charlotte stares at her window as the first Phantom bangs. She shakes her head at Brian and looks back at her window.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Trust me.

Charlotte whips her head to Brian, shocked. She frowns and glares at him.

CHARLOTTE

Trust you!?

Brian opens his mouth to speak but stops.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I'm calling the cops.

BRIAN

If whatever's going on is happening around the city, nine-one-one's gonna be backed up.

Charlotte ignores Brian and dials 911 hopeful. The hope drains from her face.

The first Phantom shatters the window, and Charlotte screams.

Brian grabs Charlotte and pulls her out the car through the passenger side.

Brian rushes Charlotte toward the house -- the woman Phantom grabs Brian's arm.

Too strong for the woman Phantom, Brian pulls away from her, slinging the Phantom. It crashes into the passenger door.

Brian grabs Charlotte's hand -- the first Phantom grabs Charlotte's other hand. She freaks out.

Brian and the first Phantom pull on Charlotte, like a terrifying tug of war.

Unsure what to do, Brian swings his fist, striking the first Phantom. It stumbles back. They hear it drop to the ground.

Brian grabs Charlotte's hand.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian bursts into the house, holding Charlotte's hand.

He swings the front door to shut it -- the woman Phantom's arm stops the door.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

PHANTOM POV: The woman Phantom pushes against the front door.

PHANTOM POV: The first Phantom runs to the woman Phantom, and they push against the door.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian struggles to keep the Phantoms outside. They shove the door open, knocking Brian back.

The Phantoms rush in, feet clashing against the floor.

Brian grabs Charlotte and flees to --

INT. HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S ROOM - NIGHT

The room is full of pink, girly things and high school books.

Brian runs in, gripping Charlotte's hand. He locks the door. The Phantoms ram against it.

Charlotte paces, panicking. Brian watches the door.

CHARLOTTE

We're gonna die... We're gonna die.

She cries. He rushes over and hugs her.

BRIAN

We'll be ok. I won't let them get you.

Charlotte snatches away from Brian.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, sure! Whatever you say!

BRIAN

This isn't the time.

CHARLOTTE
It is the time since we're gonna
die!

BRIAN
(infuriated)
You're not dying! I'm not letting
that happen!

She stares at him, hoping what he said is true.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

PHANTOMS POV: The Phantoms hammer the room door with their
fists and shoulders.

INT. HOUSE - CHARLOTTE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte and Brian hear the door crack.

CHARLOTTE
Dad.

He looks around, thinking of a plan.

BRIAN
Hide in the closet.

CHARLOTTE
In the closet?

BRIAN
Yeah. You'll be safe in there while
I kill them.

Charlotte looks at the window.

CHARLOTTE
Let's just climb out the window and
run.

BRIAN
No. We won't get anywhere on foot.

She stares at the closet unsure. He grabs her shoulders
gently and looks her in the eyes.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
I promise you'll be safe.

Charlotte thinks a few seconds and nods. She rushes into the
closet and shuts the door.

He hears the room door crack again and grabs a cricket bat.

Brian cautions to the door. He opens the door and backpedals. The Phantoms barge in.

Hearing their feet against the floor, Brian looks down.

Brian swings the bat wildly, striking both Phantoms with one swing.

Brian hears the Phantoms hit the floor. He thrashes them with the bat. Blood flies from the Phantoms, covering Brian, the walls, and things.

Brian stops striking the Phantoms. Their dead, naked bodies turn visible.

Brian kicks each Phantom a few times, making sure they're dead. They don't move.

Brian looks at the closet.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
It's safe.

Charlotte steps out the closet. She sees the bloody Phantoms and covers her mouth, disgusted.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

Brian sticks his head out the front door and checks the yard and street. It's dead outside. He exits with Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE
What do we do now?

Brian ponders.

BRIAN
Find your mom, then get out of the city. My brother has an underground shelter. We'll be safe there.

Charlotte smiles.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Come on.

They run across the street and hop in his truck. As he drives off, they hear noise down the street.

The noise grows louder, louder, louder. Brian and Charlotte watch the street, terrified....

A swarm of PHANTOMS stampedes through the street. The sound of their feet is deafening.

PHANTOMS POV: The Phantoms charge at Brian and Charlotte.

Brian slams on the gas and plows through the swarm. Phantoms bounce off the truck left and right. His truck disappears down the road.

END