

A LOGICAL EXPLANATION

Written by

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FADE IN.

INT. ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL - ANESTHETIC ROOM - DAY

It's the Spring of 2018 in New York City. BENICIO, a husband, and a father of two, is on an operating table attached to monitors.

DR. MUNOZ , the main surgeon conducting the operation, walks Benicio through the process.

DR. MUNOZ

All right, Mr. Rios, your vital signs look fine. So, you're good to go. We're going to be administering the anesthesia now. How are you feeling?

BENICIO

To tell you the truth, I'm starting to feel a little nervous here, Dr. Munoz.

DR. MUNOZ

It's natural. Open heart surgery is nothing to sneeze at. But, don't worry. We've all been battle tested. You're in good hands with us. The whole procedure will be over before you know it.

A anesthesiologist assistant places a small drip on the back of Benicio's hand to administer the anesthetic drug and covers his mouth and nose with an oxygen mask.

DR. MUNOZ (CONT'D)

We'll see you in about an hour's time.

The anesthesiologist assistant proceeds to inject the anesthetic drug into Benicio's bloodstream, and Benicio drifts off.

INT. ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL - WARD - DAY

Benicio dreams of the talk he had with his family and friends just hours before going into surgery.

BENICIO

I know this sucks, Lorenzo. It's not fair to you.

(MORE)

BENICIO (CONT'D)

I know that you're a kid, and the last thing you want to be bothered with is grown up stuff. But, in case things don't go my way, I'm going to need you to step up, and be the man of the house. Help out more around the house, and don't give your Mother a hard time.

LORENZO, (9), Benicio's son, gives him his word.

LORENZO

Okay, Dad.

A nurse comes in to escort Benicio from the ward to the anesthetic room.

NURSE

Benicio Rios?

BENICIO

That's me.

NURSE

How are you, Sir? I'm here to escort you to the Anesthetic room, so if you would be good enough to say goodbye to your family...

DENISE, Benicio's wife, leans over to give him a hug and a kiss.

DENISE

Okay, Honey, I love you. Nivia, say goodbye to your Dad.

NIVIA, (8), Lorenzo's sister, steps forward to kiss and hug Benicio.

NIVIA

See you soon, Daddy. I love you.

Benicio puts his hand up and Lorenzo gives him a high five.

LORENZO

I love you, Dad.

BENICIO

Okay, Nurse, I'm ready.

Benicio pulls himself away from his family and follows the nurse out of the ward.

INT. ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

On his way to the anesthetic room, Benicio passes through the waiting area and comes across CARMEN, a creepy looking little girl, who wants to give him her stuffed animal.

INT. ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL - OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Dr. Munoz gets Benicio's heart starting again with a defibrillator and brings him out his dream before he could take the stuffed animal from the little girl.

DR. MUNOZ

It looks like you guys can take
over from here. I'm going to tell
Mrs. Rios the good news.

INT. ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL - WAITING AREA - NIGHT

Carmen, the same creepy looking little girl from Benicio's dream, finds Denise sitting alone and sits down next her.

CARMEN

Hi, I'm Carmen.

DENISE

Hi, Carmen. I'm Denise?

CARMEN

Hi, Denise. What are you doing
sitting here by yourself?

DENISE

I'm waiting on my husband. He's
here having an operation.

CARMEN

Can I sit here and wait with you?
You look like you can use the
company.

DENISE

Sure.

CARMEN

How do you like my doll?

DENISE

It's cute.

CARMEN

Thanks. His name is Oso. That's Spanish for bear. Wanna hold him?

Denise takes Oso from Carmen.

DENISE

Hi, Oso.

CARMEN

Oso and I been through a lot together. He's very special, but I think Benicio needs him now more than I do. Why don't you give it to him?

DENISE

No, I can't take your doll.

Denise tries to give the doll back to Carmen.

CARMEN

It's okay. Benicio can have him.

DENISE

How did you know my husband's name?

Dr. Munoz steps in before Carmen can give Denise an answer.

DR. MUNOZ

Mrs. Rios.

DENISE

Dr. Munoz, thank goodness. I was going out of my mind just sitting around waiting. How is he? How did it go?

DR. MUNOZ

Not to worry. The operation was a success. Everything went smoothly. We were able to replace his aortic aneurysm with a Dacron graft and repair the aorta's diseased valves. There were no complications whatsoever.

DENISE

Can I see him?

DR. MUNOZ

Well, he's not conscious at the moment, but you can sit with him.

DENISE

It doesn't matter, as long as I get to see him.

DR. MUNOZ

Right this way.

Denise turns to give Carmen back her stuffed animal but sees no sign of her anywhere.

INT. ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL - OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT

Dr. Munoz shows Denise into the room, only to leave her alone with Benicio.

DENISE

Hi, Honey. I'm here. Dr. Munoz told me the great news. You still have a long road to recovery ahead of you, but with the proper diet and therapy prescribed to you, there's no reason why you can't get back to your old self.

Denise realizes that she's still holding the stuffed animal.

DENISE (CONT'D)

Oh, I almost forgot. I just met the cutest little girl in the waiting room. She was so sweet, that she wanted you to have her stuffed animal, Oso. I'll just put him right here for you to find when you wake up.

Denise places the stuffed animal on the bed with Benicio.

FADE OUT.

INT. TIA MARITZA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

It's the Summer of 2018 in Easton, PA. Lorenzo is on the couch and uses the remote to raise the volume on the television so that he could muffle the phone chatter taking place behind him.

Nivia can't hear their father over the phone.

NIVIA

Lorenzo, can you turn down the TV?
I can't hear Dad.

Lorenzo ignores Nivia.

NIVIA (CONT'D)
 (on the phone with Dad)
 Nothing. I was just telling
 Lorenzo to turn down the TV, but
 he's ignoring me.
 (listens)
 Okay, hold on.
 (to Lorenzo)
 Hey, what's your face, Dad wants to
 talk to you.

Lorenzo shakes his head. Nivia covers the mouth piece.

NIVIA (CONT'D)
 What's the matter with you? Come
 to the phone. Dad already knows
 that you're here.

Lorenzo refuses to come to the phone and Nivia covers for
 him.

NIVIA (CONT'D)
 (on the phone with dad)
 Dad, Lorenzo can't talk right now.
 He just dropped dead from something
 funny that just happened on TV.

Lorenzo gives Nivia a thumbs up.

NIVIA (CONT'D)
 I don't know what he's watching.
 (listens)
 Yeah, he just can't stop laughing.
 He's holding himself. His sides
 are hurting from laughing so hard.
 His face is all red. What a
 weirdo. Anyway, how are things at
 home? Are you feeling any better?

TIA MARITZA, the kids Auntie, joins Lorenzo on the couch.

TIA MARITZA
 Hey, Lorenzo, who is Nivia talking
 to on the phone?

LORENZO
 She's talking to Dad.

TIA MARITZA
 You all packed? Remember, we've
 got an early day tomorrow.
 (MORE)

TIA MARITZA (CONT'D)

The bus to New York leaves at 10:45
in the morning.

LORENZO

Yeah, I'm all packed.

TIA MARITZA

So, are you excited to be going
back home?

LORENZO

No, not really. I like it out here
in Pennsylvania.

TIA MARITZA

Well, I'm glad you enjoyed your
stay. Maybe you can visit again
next Summer.

LORENZO

Or maybe you could talk my stuck on
stupid parents into buying a house
out here, and leaving New York City
behind for good.

TIA MARITZA

I know what you mean, Lorenzo. You
know I used to live in New York
before I moved here. I never did
care for it all that much myself.

LORENZO

Yeah, but did your apartment in New
York come with a closet that had a
demon in it?

TIA MARITZA

Um, no, nothing like that.

LORENZO

I didn't think so.

EXT. GREYHOUND BUS DEPOT - DAY

Tia Maritza has a word with the bus driver as he collects
tickets from boarding passengers.

TIA MARITZA

Hi, can I ask you to keep an eye on
these two?

BUS DRIVER
 (to the kids)
 No problem, just take the seat up
 front behind me.
 (to Maritza)
 I'll make sure they get to where
 they're going.

TIA MARITZA
 Thank you.

Tia Maritza gives Lorenzo and Nivia a hug before letting them
 on the bus.

TIA MARITZA (CONT'D)
 Okay, guys, you're all set. Give
 me hug.

NIVIA
 Bye, Tia Maritza.

TIA MARITZA
 I love you both.

LORENZO
 Bye, Tia Maritza.

Lorenzo and Nivia give their tickets to the bus driver and
 board the bus.

BUS DRIVER
 (to Maritza)
 Don't worry. They'll be just fine.

The bus driver follows Nivia and Lorenzo onto the bus and
 gets in his seat. Tia Maritza and the kids wave bye to each
 other until the driver finally puts his bus into motion and
 pulls out of the depot.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

There's a greyhound bus in route to New York City. Lorenzo
 and Nivia are sitting directly behind the bus driver.

NIVIA
 So, why didn't you want to talk to
 dad on the phone last night? That
 wasn't cool. What was that about?

LORENZO
 I just didn't feel like talking to
 him, that's all.

Nivia removes her headphones.

NIVIA

You still mad at Dad for not believing you about seeing two glowing eyes in your closet?

LORENZO

He didn't have to make me feel so stupid. It's his fault for making things awkward between us.

NIVIA

Well, when we get home, try not to upset Dad too much. He's still recovering from his heart surgery.

LORENZO

Sure, I'll just go on pretending that there's nothing creepy living in my bedroom closet. For all we know, it might have been the thing in my closet that triggered the heart attack.

NIVIA

(air-quotes on Logical)
Now, that we know is not what triggered Dad's heart attack. How many times have you heard Mommy tell Dad to stop stuffing his face with junk? There's a logical explanation for everything, Lorenzo. And I'm sure that if you actually think about it you'd be able to come up with a logical explanation for whatever it is you think is in your closet.

LORENZO

Do you have to do that dumb thing with your fingers?

NIVIA

Huh? What are you talking about?

LORENZO

I'm talking about the air-quotes. You gestured with air-quotes when you said "Logical Explanation." Why?

NIVIA

I don't know. I wasn't even aware of it.

LORENZO

Well, from now on if there's something you wanna get off your chest, try doing it without doing that dumb stuff with your fingers. Lose the air-quotes, okay? They irk me.

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - LORENZO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SONNY, Lorenzo's friend from down the hall, plays with his toys and hears all about his time in Pennsylvania.

SONNY

So, how does it feel to be back?

LORENZO

How do you think it feels? It sucks to be back. I hate it here. I wish my Mom and Dad could be more like my aunt Maritza, and buy a house far away from New York City.

SONNY

I can't say I blame you. I don't know how I would feel if there was something creepy living in my closet. Has it shown itself to you, yet?

LORENZO

Not since I've been back, no. But, anyway, my Mom and Dad wouldn't like it if they knew I was in here talking to you about it.

SONNY

Hey, you're the one who told me about it.

LORENZO

I know I did but I shouldn't have. You haven't said anything about what I've told you to anyone, have you?

SONNY

Are you kidding? If I told my Mom I doubt that she would let me come around here anymore. I already told you your secret is safe with me.

LORENZO

Well, make sure you keep it that way.

SONNY

Hey, why don't you open the closet and see if it's in there?

LORENZO

It's not.

SONNY

How do you know? You want me to open it?

LORENZO

Be my guest.

SONNY

Okay, I will. I ain't scared.

Sonny puts down the Dinobots and gets up to open the closet.

SONNY (CONT'D)

I'm opening it.

Sonny takes his sweet time walking over to the closet, hoping that Lorenzo would do or say something to stop him.

LORENZO

I'm waiting.

Sonny finally makes it to the closet.

SONNY

Okay, here I go.

Denise enters the room.

DENISE

Sonny, your Mom is here to collect you.

KATHY, Sonny's mother, enters the room.

KATHY

Hi, Lorenzo.

LORENZO

Hi Kathy.

KATHY

How was your Summer in Pennsylvania?

DENISE

Oh, boy, please don't get him started on that, not again.

LORENZO

I loved it. I wish I was still there.

KATHY

Beats being in New York, right?

LORENZO

Yup, you said it.

KATHY

Come on, Sonny, let's go.

SONNY

Just give me ten more minutes, Mom, please?

KATHY

Absolutely not. We still have some back to school shopping to do. We've got an early day tomorrow. Now, say good night to Lorenzo.

SONNY

Bye Lorenzo.

LORENZO

Later, Sonny.

Lorenzo and Sonny high five each other.

SONNY

Oh, wait! Where's my smartphone?

Sonny checks his pockets for his smartphone.

KATHY

You don't have your phone?

SONNY

I forgot where I left it. I thought I had it on me.

KATHY

Well, let's not look for it now.
It's here somewhere. You'll get it
tomorrow. Come on.

LORENZO

Yeah, I'll look around for it,
Sonny.

SONNY

Alright, thanks, Lorenzo.

Lorenzo is left alone in his room.

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - LORENZO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The clock on Lorenzo's night stand reads 2:14 a.m. A nightmare's got Lorenzo tossing and turning in bed. He sits up in bed and can't see anything in the dark. Lorenzo is too scared to go back to sleep, so he grabs Sonny's tracfone off his night stand and lays flat on his back. The light from the phone shines on Lorenzo's face when he turns it on. Just for fun, Lorenzo tries to figure out Sonny's draw pattern to sign into his tracfone.

LORENZO

You got yourself a cool phone,
Sonny... tracfone.

Lorenzo tries another draw pattern.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

I'll try to talk my mother into
getting me one of these in the
morning.

With his eyes fixated on the screen, the face of a creepy little girl appears out of the darkness and hisses at Lorenzo, freaking him out.

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lorenzo walks into his parents' bedroom and tries to climb into bed with them.

DENISE

What do you think you're doing,
Lorenzo?

LORENZO

Can I sleep in your bed tonight?

DENISE
What? Why?

Benicio is woken out of his sound sleep.

BENICIO
Hey, hey, hey, what's going on?

DENISE
It's Lorenzo. He wants to sleep in
our bed tonight.

BENICIO
Boy, you know that you are too old
for that mess. Go back to bed.

Lorenzo climbs off the bed and leaves the room.

BENICIO (CONT'D)
Can I sleep in your bed tonight?
What is it with that boy?

DENISE
Now, now, Benicio, don't let that
upset you. It's over. He's going
back to his room. Go back to
sleep.

Lorenzo leaves his parents room and bypasses his bedroom to
go to the living room.

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lorenzo turns on the television. He then grabs a magazine
off the coffee table and rolls it up as he makes his way to
the kitchen in the dark.

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Without turning on the lights, Lorenzo sneaks up on the
roaches foraging for food in the darkness and starts whacking
away at the roaches on the kitchen counter. He then switches
the light on to see how many roaches he got and takes a
couple of more whacks at the roaches still trying to get
away.

LORENZO
Damn roaches!

Lorenzo then gets a water bottle out of the refrigerator,
only to be startled when he closes the refrigerator door and
finds Denise standing there.

DENISE
Lorenzo, weren't you told to go
back to bed?! What are you doing
watching television?!

Lorenzo ignores his mother and leaves the kitchen with his
water bottle to go back into the living room.

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lorenzo sits his butt on the couch and cracks open his water
bottle.

LORENZO
I can't sleep in that room. I'm
staying out here.

DENISE
I don't think so.

Denise goes over to the television and turns it off.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Go to bed. Do you want your father
to come out here?

LORENZO
I can't sleep in that room.

Benicio enters the room.

BENICIO
What the hell is going on out
here?!

DENISE
You happy now, Lorenzo? He's up!
Your father is still recovering
from heart surgery, and the last
thing he needs is for you to
agitate him with childish behavior.

BENICIO
Go to bed, Lorenzo, now!

LORENZO
I'll go to sleep out here, but I'm
not sleeping in that room.

BENICIO

Boy, you go to bed right now, or you're going to get the beating of your life! So, what's it gonna be?!

LORENZO

Get it over with, then! You could beat me with your belt, you could beat me with your chancletas, but there's nothing that you can do to make me go back into that room. So, go ahead and get your belt. I'll wait here.

Benicio and Denise look at each other and don't know what to make of Lorenzo's defiance.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Denise and Benicio are standing in line waiting to place an order. Benicio looks out the window and sees a police officer taping a sketch of a man wanted for burglary onto a lamp post.

CASHIER

Next in line.

Denise steps up to the counter and places her order.

DENISE

Hi. I would like boneless chicken with french fries. Sweet & Sour chicken with fried rice. Boneless Spare ribs with fried rice...

Benicio leaves Denise in the restaurant and goes outside to take a look at the sketch.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHINESE RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Benicio takes the sketch down from the lamp post and gets an idea. Denise steps out of the restaurant and finds Benicio with the sketch.

BENICIO

I got it. I got it.

DENISE

You got what? Do you know that guy. Do you want to turn him in to get the reward money?

BENICIO

You know how I've been telling you that if we're ever going to help Lorenzo get over that fear of his, we're gonna have to start thinking outside of the box?

DENISE

Yeah.

BENICIO

I think I finally found the solution to our problem.

DENISE

Well, let's hear it.

Benicio keeps waving the sketch in Denise's face.

BENICIO

Try to stay with me on this one, okay? Seeing this sketch reminds me of a sketch artist I knew when I was on the force. His name was Taylor. Taylor, the sketch artist, a sketch artist, Denise.

DENISE

Okay, saying sketch artist over and over again is not going to make it any easier for me to understand what the hell you're talking about, Benicio.

BENICIO

Never mind. Let's go back inside and wait for our food.

Benicio puts the sketch of the wanted man back on the lamp post.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - DAY

There's a sign on a door which reads Interview in progress.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

TAYLOR, a sketch artist, is catching up with Benicio.

TAYLOR

Psychic mediums?! Come on, Benicio, you can't be serious?
(MORE)

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

You're a retired New York city traffic cop. Your ass should be on a nice sandy beach somewhere in Puerto Rico taking care of that heart of yours.

BENICIO

You know how hard it must have been for me to come here and ask you about this, so just tell me, Taylor. In all your years of doing this, have you ever had to do a sketch of a person some psychic medium had described to you after having a vision?

Taylor humors Benicio.

TAYLOR

Well, without getting into specifics, a psychic medium did come in here a year ago claiming that a guy we had picked up for something was the wrong guy, and that the guy we should've been looking for appeared to him in a dream.

BENICIO

So, what happened?

TAYLOR

As it turned out, the psychic medium was on the level. The guy he described to me actually existed, and the NYPD was able to track him down and close the case with the help of my sketch.

BENICIO

What was the Psychic medium's name?

TAYLOR

Mark Silver.

BENICIO

Is there any way you can make an introduction?

TAYLOR

You're really serious about this, aren't you?

BENICIO
What can I tell you? I'm at my
wits end.

TAYLOR
I'll see what I can do.

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

There's a knock on the door.

DENISE
That's him now. Okay, here we go,
and, whatever you do, try to keep
an open mind, Benicio.

BENICIO
Hey, this was my idea, remember?

MARK, a reiki master/psychic medium, is greeted at the door
by Denise.

MARK
Denise?

DENISE
Hi Mark. Come on in. It's good to
finally meet you in person. We've
been chatting for so long through
social media, I feel like I know
you already.

MARK
Yeah, I know. I feel the same way.

Mark enters, and Denise locks the door behind him.

DENISE
This is my husband, Benicio.

MARK
Nice meeting you, Benicio.

BENICIO
Same here, Mark. I never got a
chance to compliment you on your
awesome facebook page design, very
professional looking.

MARK
Thanks.

DENISE
I'll take your jacket.

MARK
Okay.

Mark removes his jacket and hands it to Denise.

MARK (CONT'D)
So, where's Lorenzo? I can't wait
to meet him.

INT. LORENZO'S BEDROOM - DAY

Denise knocks on Lorenzo's door before entering and
introduces him to Mark.

DENISE
Lorenzo, you have company. Mark,
this is Lorenzo. Lorenzo, this is
Mark.

MARK
How's it going, Lorenzo? I've
heard a lot about you. It's good
to finally meet you.

Lorenzo pauses his video game to give Mark his undivided
attention.

LORENZO
I've heard a lot about you, too.
So, you're the one with the answers
to all my problems. They told me
that you would be stopping by.

DENISE
Well, I'll leave you two alone to
talk.

Denise leaves the room, leaving the door open behind her.

MARK
Nice size room you got here. Mind
if I sit down?

Lorenzo pushes his toys aside and makes room on his bed for
Mark to sit down.

MARK (CONT'D)
What's that you're playing?

LORENZO
State of decay.

MARK
Are you any good?

LORENZO
Yeah, why? Do you wanna play me?

MARK
No, I'm not much of a gamer.
You'll only embarrass me.

LORENZO
Well, I really don't know what I'm
supposed to say.

MARK
Why don't you tell me why you're
having such a hard time sleeping in
your room?

LORENZO
You mean you don't know? My Dad
didn't tell you?

MARK
No, he did. I just want to hear
you tell me.

LORENZO
All I know is that everything was
fine here until they brought my Dad
home from the hospital.

MARK
How long was he in the hospital?

LORENZO
Doctors had to crack his chest
open, so he was in the hospital for
about two weeks.

MARK
So, what's changed?

LORENZO
Well, for one thing I keep seeing
glowing red eyes in my closet.

MARK
Is that your closet?

LORENZO
Yeah, that's it.

Mark gets off the bed and walks over to the closet.

MARK
Can I take a look inside?

LORENZO
What for? I already know what's going to happen. You're going to open the closet, not find anything, and think that it's all in my head.

MARK
Well, just for the hell of it.

LORENZO
(shrugs his shoulders)
Okay.

Mark opens the closet door and is hit with a blast of negative energy.

MARK
Uh-huh.

LORENZO
Nothing, right? I told you. Sorry you had to come all this way for nothing.

MARK
What are you talking about?

Mark closes the closet door and sits back down on the bed.

MARK (CONT'D)
We've got work to do. It looks like whatever this thing is that's in your closet followed your Dad home from the hospital.

LORENZO
Are you saying you saw something? You gotta tell my Dad. His stuck on stupid ass thinks I'm just making it all up!

Mark stops Lorenzo from leaving the room.

MARK
Not so fast, Lorenzo.

Mark sits Lorenzo down on the bed.

MARK (CONT'D)

Your parents mean well, okay? And, just because they can't see what you see that doesn't make you crazy. Always remember that. Now, the reason why you can see things that others can't is because you're open.

LORENZO

I'm open? What does that mean?

MARK

It means that you have the ability to communicate with those who are no longer living. I noticed it the second I entered your room.

LORENZO

So, what do I do about it?

MARK

That's where I come in. Your parents are concerned about you, Lorenzo, and they reached out to me because I happen to be one of the founders of a retreat in Boston called Second Sight. It's a place where kids with abilities like yours can grow to become well adjusted individuals in society. If you think about it, three weeks of interacting with kids like yourself can be just the ticket to give the dark entity that's in your closet the boot. So, how does that sound to you? Is this something you might be interested in?

Lorenzo takes a second to think about it.

MARK (CONT'D)

It's up to you. You don't have to make up your mind right away. Think it over, but if you do decide that this is something that you would like to take part in, your Mom and Dad already know how to reach me.

Lorenzo glances over at his closet hoping that whatever is in there will show itself while Mark is still in the room.

FADE OUT.

EXT. THE SANDERS' HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

LUCAS, and his team of paranormal investigators invite a television production crew to tag along and document their interview with the man of the house.

LUCAS

Okay, are you guys ready?

Lucas gets a thumbs up from the producer of the show.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm about to knock. Here we go.

Lucas knocks on the door and waits for someone to answer.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Frank Sanders?

FRANK, the man of the house, speaks to Lucas behind his screen door.

FRANK

That's right.

LUCAS

How are you? I'm Lucas Garvey from the Show Paranormal Dicks. I believe your neighbor Felix called ahead to let you know that we were coming.

Frank steps outside and shakes Lucas' hand.

FRANK

Sure, Felix told me that you guys would be stopping by.

LUCAS

Did Felix also tell you what we were coming to talk to you about?

FRANK

Yeah, he told me that you guys wanted to know more about what I experienced at his house the other day.

LUCAS

And would you be okay with sharing those details with us on camera?

FRANK

No problem. What channel are you guys on? I would love to see myself when this episode airs.

LUCAS

You just gotta go to my Youtube channel and subscribe.

FRANK

That's social media, right? That sucks. I'm not into social media, but, nonetheless, I'm still willing to talk to you guys.

LUCAS

Okay, great, is there someplace where we can go to talk?

FRANK

What's wrong with talking out here?

LUCAS

Nothing. Out here is fine.

FRANK

Well, take a seat on the bench.

LUCAS

Oh, there's a bench, I didn't even see it.

With cameras still rolling, Lucas joins Frank on the bench.

FRANK

So, Lucas, how can I help you guys?

LUCAS

Well, we were called in because your neighbors, the Schaefer's, want us to investigate their claims of the paranormal activity going on in their house. From what I understand, you and your family went over there to welcome them to the neighborhood, then something happened to you when you went in to use their bathroom, do I have that right so far?

FRANK
That's right.

LUCAS
Did you see something? What was
it?

FRANK
It was the creepiest thing...

INT. THE FRIDAY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

STEPHANIE FRIDAY, another one of the Schaefer's' neighbors, is
picking up where Frank left off.

STEPHANIE
I was walking down the hallway when
the door to the basement opened
just wide enough for a shadow
figure to try and pull me in and
join it in the basement.

LUCAS
You must have been freaked out of
your mind.

STEPHANIE
Of course, I was! What the hell do
you think?! Look at my arms... I'm
getting goose bumps just talking
about it.

Stephanie rolls up her sleeves to show Lucas her arms.

LUCAS
What did you do?

STEPHANIE
I managed to break free and ran out
into the backyard.

LUCAS
Did you tell the Schaefer's about
what happened?

STEPHANIE
No, I know I should have, but I
didn't want to hurt their feelings.
The way they tell it, the
Schaefer's bought their house from
one of those used-house lots, and
it took their life savings to have
the house moved here from New York.

LUCAS

I understand. Well, Stephanie, I think we've got enough. Thanks for talking with us. We'll be going now.

Lucas ends the interview and gives the camera man the cut signal.

STEPHANIE

Hey, when you guys are done investigating the Schaefer's house, do you think you can swing by here with all of your ghost hunting devices and investigate my house? I got some weird stuff going on, too.

EXT. RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

CHASE, a Paranormal Dicks crew member, recaps for Lucas what was said in the interviews.

CHASE

So, this is incredible. We got two people to validate the Schaefer's claims of a shadow figure in their house.

LUCAS

It's a good thing we were able to get a world renown psychic to join us for this case. We need to hurry up and get back to the Schaefer's house to prepare for Jackie's arrival.

CHASE

Her plane should be landing soon.

Lucas and Chase pick up the pace.

EXT. THE FRIENDLY SKIES - NIGHT

There's a plane in flight. JACKIE, 33, psychic extraordinaire, sits comfortably in her window seat. A STEWARDESS comes over to wait on her.

STEWARDESS

Would you like a beverage?

JACKIE

No, nothing for me. Thank you.

Stewardess keeps it moving and leaves Jackie in peace. With no one sitting next to her, Jackie rolls her eyes to the back of her head and goes to a spiritual place, where she recites a prayer of protection.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Father, I come to you today, bowing
in my heart, asking for protection
from the evil one. Lord, surround
me with your divine hedge of
protection. Encompass me round
about with your strength and your
might. For it is you who blesses
the righteous, O Lord. You
surround us favor as with a shield.

EXT. EXPRESSWAY - MOMENTS LATER

A green suburban with a logo that reads Poof Be Gone Paranormal Dicks on the outside is doing about forty five. Jackie is sitting in the back seat being driven to her destination. The driver splits his time between keeping his eyes on the road and watching Jackie recite another prayer of protection through the rear view mirror.

JACKIE

Let all who take refuge in you be
glad, let them ever sing for joy.
And may you shelter us, that those
who love your name may exult in
you. Lord, I ask that you protect
our minds. Father, the mind set on
the flesh is death, but the mind
set on the Spirit is life and
peace.

The suburban continues down the expressway.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - VESTIBULE - NIGHT

Lucas enters and calls out to Chase when he can't find him anywhere.

LUCAS

Chase?!

CHASE (O.S.)

In the dinning room, Lucas!

Lucas follows the sound of Chase's voice.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas enters and finds Chase placing family photos face down.

LUCAS
They're pulling into the drive.
Are all the family pictures face
down?

CHASE
Yup.

LUCAS
What about the crucifixes and the
rosaries --- are they all covered
up?

CHASE
That depends.

LUCAS
On what?

CHASE
That calender with Jesus' face on
it. You want me to cover that up,
too? It's not really a religious
artifact, is it?

LUCAS
Yeah, I think you better, just in
case.

Chase takes the calender off the wall and hangs it back up
backwards.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Okay, good, so we're all set in
here.

CHASE
Can I ask you a question?

LUCAS
What's that?

CHASE
What's all this for?

LUCAS

Hey, don't ask me. It was what Jackie requested. Every psychic medium has their own quirky way of doing things, this is hers.

CHASE

Well, it looks like I got everything. I guess we could get out of here now.

LUCAS

Good.

Chase and Lucas leave the house to greet Jackie.

EXT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Jackie steps out of the suburban and walks up to the house, where she is met by Lucas and Chase.

LUCAS

Hey Jackie. Welcome to Virginia.

JACKIE

Don't be silly. I've been here lots of times. So, are you ready for me?

LUCAS

Yes, we're all set up in here. Right this way.

JACKIE

Let me at 'em.

Lucas escorts Jackie to the house, all while being followed by a television production crew.

LUCAS

How was Seattle?

JACKIE

Seattle was cool.

Jackie takes a look around the neighborhood and takes it all in.

LUCAS

I didn't call you away from anything important, did I?

JACKIE

No, not at all. Besides, I could hear the urgency in your voice when you called to tell me about this case, so I knew I had to hurry up and get here to see how I could help.

LUCAS

Well, I'm glad you could make it. Now, you're sure you don't want to know anything about the family and what they've been dealing with before going in?

JACKIE

That's right. I don't want to know anything. I want to find out about whatever it is that's here on my own.

LUCAS

Have it your way.

JACKIE

Did you remove the family portraits like I asked?

LUCAS

Yup, we took care of that for you.

JACKIE

Good, I don't want anything to influence my findings.

Jackie and Lucas set foot on the front porch.

LUCAS

Do you need time to warm up or anything?

JACKIE

Nope. I recited my prayers of protection on the way over here. I'm good to go.

LUCAS

Then, after you.

Jackie sets foot inside the house, and Lucas follows her in armed with a portable camera.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - VESTIBULE - NIGHT

Jackie is not in there a minute before she starts picking up something.

JACKIE

Okay, the first thing I'm getting is the roller coaster of emotions coming off the walls --- Everything from anger to resentment. You name it, I'm feeling it. Oh man, the negative energy coming out of these walls is nauseating.

LUCAS

And how might that affect the living here?

JACKIE

Well, I'm sure that the people who live here must have mentioned something to you about feelings of depression, anxiety, mood swings --- there's just something about these walls, but more about that later.

LUCAS

Okay, what else?

Lucas has Jackie in the cross hairs of his view finder.

JACKIE

Is that the kitchen over here?

LUCAS

Yeah, that's the kitchen.

JACKIE

I'm being pulled into the kitchen.

LUCAS

I'm right behind you.

Jackie leads the way and Lucas follows her into the kitchen.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

MISSY, the main reason why a paranormal team had to be called in, hears someone coming and moves the table getting out of her seat. She confronts Jackie when she walks in with Lucas still filming her every move.

LUCAS

Oh Shit! What was that?! Did you see that?! The table moved! The table moved!

MISSY

What's this?! More Paranormal investigators?!

Missy tries to enter Jackie's body and is knocked back by her protective shield.

JACKIE

There's a woman here.

LUCAS

Where?

Lucas doesn't quite know where to train his camera.

JACKIE

Right there. She just tried to enter my body, but my protective shield knocked her back.

LUCAS

Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Time out! Time out here! Get the lights on. I gotta see if this could be debunked.

Lucas' team scramble to get the lights on for him to investigate the chair Missy was sitting in.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

From what I can tell, there's nothing in the video that can push the chair away from the table.

Lucas puts down the camera to investigate the chair.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

For all you skeptics watching at home, as you can see, there are no wires tied to the chair, and there is no one under the table. The Schaefer's don't own any pets, so you know it wasn't a dog or a cat that could've knocked the chair over.

Lucas puts the chair back under the table to get to the bottom of things.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

At this point, the only thing outside of the paranormal that could've caused the table to move is a tremor of some kind, and none of us felt a tremor.

JACKIE

Knock it off, Lucas! I already told you what happened. The woman was sitting right there, and as soon as we walked in, she pushed away from the table to get out of her seat.

LUCAS

That must be the woman the Schaefer's have been seeing. Can you describe this woman?

JACKIE

She's about 5 foot 7 with long, dirty blonde hair. Late teens, early twenties.

LUCAS

What about the time period? What time period would you say she was from?

The corset and fishnet stockings Missy is wearing helps make it easier for Jackie to make an educated guess.

JACKIE

From the corset and the fishnet stockings, I would say early nineteen hundreds.

LUCAS

Alright, turn the lights back off, and let's resume our investigation.

The house goes dark again, and Missy picks herself up off the floor.

JACKIE

There's a hand print around her throat. So, it looks like she may have been strangled to death.

Jackie suddenly has trouble speaking and grabs at her throat.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I'm even starting to feel some tightness around my throat. She's trying to show me what it felt like.

LUCAS

Yeah, that definitely sounds like the woman the Schaefer's have been seeing.

Jackie stops Lucas from talking too much.

JACKIE

That's too much information, Lucas.

LUCAS

Oh, sorry about that, Jackie. Go ahead go on with your walk. You won't get anymore help from me.

JACKIE

Thank you.

Missy gets in jackie's face.

MISSY

You must be the clairvoyant the Schaefer's have been going on and on about. Nice protective shield, but you could tell the Schaefer's for me that, no matter who they bring in, they will never get rid of me!

JACKIE

Lucas?

LUCAS

What?

JACKIE

Have you been talking to the Schaefer's about me?

LUCAS

Yeah, why?

JACKIE

She's listened to every conversation you guys have had regarding my participation in this case. She was expecting me to come.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

She was not surprised by my visit at all. She knows our plan, she's been five steps ahead of you guys the whole time, so removing this spirit from this house isn't going to be so easy.

LUCAS

Well, where's the strangled woman now? Is she still around?

MISSY

The name is Missy, asshole!
(to Jackie)
Hey, you there, would you tell that asshole my name is Missy?!

Jackie won't take her eyes off Missy.

JACKIE

Yeah, she's still here.

LUCAS

Where?

JACKIE

She's standing in front of me. She says that her name is Missy and for you to stop calling her the strangled woman.

LUCAS

Well, tell Missy to make something else move for me. The way she moved that table was amazing. I wanna see more of that.

Missy goes around Jackie to get to Lucas.

JACKIE

Lucas, she's coming for you!

LUCAS

What?!

JACKIE

Watch out! She's about attack you!

Lucas doesn't know which way to go.

LUCAS

Well, don't let her, Jackie! Do something. I don't see shit! Where is she?!

Missy swings at Lucas and knocks the camera out of his hand.

MISSY

How do you like that, huh?! I'm not going to perform tricks for you like some damn circus animal!

Jackie checks on Lucas.

JACKIE

Are you okay, Lucas?!

LUCAS

Yeah, I'm fine. I just hope she didn't cause too much damage to my camera.

Lucas retrieves his camera and checks it out.

JACKIE

Is it working?

LUCAS

Yeah, it's still functional. Thank goodness. Boy is she pissed.

MISSY

So, I was strangled to death! You think I'm happy about that?! The way you say it, you make it sound as if I had it coming just because I'm a woman. Well, the hell with you! I didn't have it coming!

BARNABY, a male spirit, enters and chases Missy away.

BARNABY

Like hell you didn't! Come here, bitch!

Missy manages to give Barnaby the slip.

JACKIE

This is interesting.

LUCAS

What is?

JACKIE

A male spirit just came in and chased the female spirit away. Boy, he does not like her one bit.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Did the Schaefer's ever mention anything to you about being woken up in the middle of the night to the sounds of constant back and forth bickering?

A spirit orb floats by undetected.

LUCAS

As a matter of fact, they have.

JACKIE

Missy and this male spirit are the reason why.

LUCAS

But why? Why does this guy hate Missy so much?

Barnaby forgets about Missy and addresses Lucas.

BARNABY

Who are you?! Why don't you mind your business?

Jackie stops Barnaby from getting to Lucas.

JACKIE

(to Barnaby)

He can't hear you, so whatever you have to say, you can say it to me. I'll get your story out, but there's no need for aggression.

BARNABY

You can see me?

JACKIE

Yes, I can see and hear you.

Jackie can sense that Barnaby had suffered some kind of trauma to his head.

BARNABY

I'm not an evil man. Yes, I have killed, but I am not evil.

Jackie's head starts to hurt and realizes that there is blood coming from the back of Barnaby's head.

LUCAS

What's going on, Jackie? Is this guy communicating with you, or what? Talk to me.

JACKIE

Yeah, he's communicating with me.
My head just hurts. I think this
guy must have fell to his death and
hit his head.

LUCAS

What's this guy's name?

JACKIE

He didn't give it.

LUCAS

What does he look like?

JACKIE

He's a good looking guy with a
goatee. He's about 5 foot 11,
athletic build. It looks like he's
in his late twenties, early
thirties.

LUCAS

Try to get his name.

JACKIE

Can you tell me what your name is?

BARNABY

My name is Barnaby, Barnaby Atkins.

JACKIE

Barnaby Atkins --- that's his name.

LUCAS

Is it safe to say that this is the
guy who strangled Missy to death?

BARNABY

You tell me... What kind of whore
wouldn't want a man to make an
honest woman out of her, huh?
That's all I wanted to do.

Barnaby walks it back.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

No, she's not a whore. I take it
back. I don't know why I said
that. I was in love with that
woman.

JACKIE

Whoa, not so fast, okay? Why don't you start by telling me a little bit about yourself, and who is Missy to you?

Barnaby turns his back on Jackie when he starts to tell her about himself.

BARNABY

I don't know what I was thinking. I knew what kind of woman she was, I knew how she made her money, but I convinced myself somehow that all I had to do was keep throwing my hard earned money at her for as long as it took to get her to know me better without the sex, and then that way she could see that I was different from all the other Johns that were paying to treat her like a piece of meat.

LUCAS

What's happening, Jackie? Is he talking to you?

JACKIE

Shhhh! He's confiding in me. Give me a minute.

LUCAS

I'm just so excited.

JACKIE

Okay, so she spurned your advances, and that upset you. Is that why you killed her?

LUCAS

Is that why he killed who? Talk to me, Jackie.

JACKIE

I thought you wanted me to get answers for you to take back to your clients.

LUCAS

I do.

JACKIE

Well, then, please, stop interrupting.

LUCAS

Sorry.

JACKIE

Okay, Barnaby is now showing me a time when he and Missy were together in the same room.

Jackie's physical body remains in the house but her subconscious astral projects and ends up in a room of a brothel in Staten Island.

INT. BROTHEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Jackie's subconscious is present when Missy lets Barnaby into her room.

MISSY

So, why are you here, Barnaby? I thought I told you that it wasn't a good idea for us to keep meeting like this.

BARNABY

But that was over a week ago. That's plenty of time for you to have come to your senses. So, I figured that I would come over here and see if you had reconsidered my proposal. This is no way for you to live, Missy. I can give you a much better life, so why won't you let me?

MISSY

I'm sorry, Barnaby, but it wouldn't work out between us. I'm really trying to turn you down gently.

BARNABY

No, don't do that. I don't want anybody feeling sorry for me. I can't stand that. You try to do something nice for someone, and they spit in your face.

MISSY

Nice try, Barnaby, but it's not going to work.

BARNABY

What's not going to work?

MISSY

The guilt trip you're trying to lay on me.

BARNABY

Is that how it seems to you? That's not what I'm doing.

MISSY

I think it's time for you to go home now, Barnaby, but if you happen to run into a real man of the world along the way be sure to send him to my room.

BARNABY

Okay, I'm going, but don't say no one's ever tried to do anything nice for you.

MISSY

Goodbye, Barnaby.

BARNABY

Before I go, do you have anything to drink?

MISSY

Are you serious?

BARNABY

One quick drink.

MISSY

Unbelievable.

Missy turns her back on Barnaby to make her way to the refrigerator. She opens the refrigerator door to get the juice out. She then opens the kitchen cupboard for a glass, that's when Barnaby sneaks up behind Missy and tightens a belt around her neck. Missy puts up a fight, and Barnaby manages to get her to the floor. He continues to squeeze until there is no sign of life left. He then douses her body with flammable liquid from around the house and sets her on fire.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jackie's subconscious returns to her physical body with the answers she was looking for.

BARNABY

When you go back to your clients
with your findings, you tell them
that I'm not their problem.

Barnaby vanishes.

JACKIE

Okay, he's gone.

LUCAS

Yeah? Where did he go?

JACKIE

He could come back, but, even if he
doesn't, I think he left me with
enough information for you to take
to your clients.

LUCAS

Awesome. I guess we can wrap this
up and call it a night, then. It's
a wrap, guys. Good job, everybody.

Lucas, Jackie, and the rest of the film crew start to file
out of the house.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - DINNING ROOM - DAY

FELIX, the man of the house, is expecting Lucas and Jackie to
come in and share their findings with him and his wife any
minute.

FELIX

How bad do you think it's going to
be, Yvonne?

YVONNE, Felix's wife, follows him pace back and forth with
her eyes from where she is sitting.

YVONNE

Sit down, Felix. You're going to
burn a hole right through the floor
board.

Felix pulls out a chair and joins Yvonne at the table.

FELIX

I thought you'd be more nervous
about this. What if the news is so
bad that they deem our house unsafe
for our kids to return from your
sister's? Doesn't that worry you?

YVONNE

Of course, it does. But, someone has to be the calm one. Let's just wait and see what Lucas has to say.

FELIX

I love this house, Yvonne. This was supposed to be our forever house. What if they tell us that this was once Indian land, and that the Indians have rendered it uninhabitable for all white folks to live here? What then?

Yvonne puts her hand on Felix's and tries to reason with him.

YVONNE

Whatever the news is we'll deal with it, Felix. Besides, we're both fans of the show. Has there ever been an episode where a family experiencing paranormal activity couldn't be helped by the Paranormal Dicks team?

FELIX

Yeah, how about season three, episode twelve? Remember, that married couple from Wisconsin? Granted, the team managed to bring the paranormal activity down to a minimum, but, in the end, the Wisconsin couple still had to put their house up for sale and find another place to live. I think that episode was dubbed "The Witching Well."

YVONNE

All I know is that the Paranormal Dicks team have had more success with cleaning houses than failures, so I'm feeling good about what the outcome is going to be.

Felix is too anxious to stay seated and has to get back up.

FELIX

I keep asking myself if it was something that we did that could've brought this on. But, I can't think of a single thing. We don't mess around with Ouija boards, we don't mess with witchcraft...

Yvonne chimes in.

YVONNE

Remember the Goth kid we didn't want Curtis to hang out with anymore? What was his name?

FELIX

David?

YVONNE

David, right.

FELIX

What about him?

YVONNE

He looked like he may have dabbled in witchcraft.

FELIX

So, what are we saying, that he may have put a hex on the house to get back at us?

YVONNE

Well, is that theory so fantastic? Man, if it turns out that he, in fact, is behind all of this, it won't mean a damn thing to me if that kid is a minor. I'm going to crack that kid's face open with nothing but elbow strikes.

FELIX

You know what? I think your instincts were right the first time. I think we're letting our worst fears get the better of us. We should just wait for Lucas to get here with his findings.

YVONNE

They should've been here by now. I wonder what's keeping them.

FELIX

I think that's them coming now.

Felix and Yvonne get out of their seats to greet Lucas and Jackie as they enter with a film crew to document the reveal.

LUCAS

Felix, Yvonne, how are you guys holding up?

Lucas and Felix shake hands.

FELIX

How do you think we're holding up? We're anxious to hear what you've got for us.

LUCAS

Let my film crew set up their cameras.

Yvonne is star struck by Jackie.

YVONNE

Hi, you must be the psychic medium. I'm Yvonne.

LUCAS

We'll get to that. Why don't we all sit down, first?

YVONNE

Are you sure I can't get you guys anything before we get started?

LUCAS

No, we're good.

FELIX

Just sit down, Yvonne.

YVONNE

Okay.

Lucas and Jackie and the Schaefer's sit on opposite sides of the table.

LUCAS

Are you ready to roll there, Chase?

Chase makes sure that everyone is in frame.

CHASE

Yeah, we're ready when you are.

Lucas waits for Chase to give him the green light before proceeding with the reveal.

LUCAS

Jackie Winters, I would like for you to meet Felix and Yvonne Schaefer. They live here with their two kids Curtis, and Tina.

Lucas shows Jackie a photo of Felix and Yvonne together with their two kids CURTIS and TINA.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Curtis is fourteen, and Tina is eleven. This picture was taken the day they moved into the house, and you can see how happy everyone is.

JACKIE

Yeah.

LUCAS

This house was built from the ground up a year and a half ago, but the Schaefer's have been experiencing paranormal activity almost immediately after moving in. They say that things have gotten so bad here that they actually had to send Curtis and Tina away to stay with Yvonne's sister in Rhode Island until everything that's going on here is sorted out.

(to Felix and Yvonne)

Unless you have any questions for Jackie, I'll let her describe her walk.

JACKIE

Just out of curiosity, what kind of experiences have you guys been having?

A spirit orb floats by undetected.

YVONNE

I had my hair pulled a bunch of times. Mood swings. Head aches. Depression. Anxiety. Felix here has been waking up with scratches and bruises. We could barely sleep. What's strange is that we only feel these things when we're in the house. Outside of the house, we're fine.

JACKIE

Got it. The reason I asked is because as soon as I walked into this house, I was hit with a roller coaster of emotions. What I felt coming out of these walls was so debilitating, I wasn't sure if I'd be able to get through with my walk.

Yvonne and Felix hold hands as they listen to Yvonne describe her walk.

FELIX

That's what we as a family can't understand. We've always been a happy, close knit family. Of course, if our son, Curtis, couldn't hang out with a friend we didn't approve of, he would throw a fit, or if our daughter, Tina, had a crush on a boy who didn't feel the same way about her, she would get bummed about that. But these are all normal things for kids to get upset about. But living here, we're all at each other's throats when there's no reason for it. The whole thing is so damn frustrating, that it's stressing everybody out.

YVONNE

Tell her about the apparitions.

FELIX

We've seen two apparitions here, a man and a woman.

JACKIE

Well, I have some good news and some bad news.

Felix and Yvonne look at each other and hold hands.

FELIX

What's the bad news?

JACKIE

The bad news is that the female spirit is so fond of you, Felix, that she will do whatever it takes to have you all to herself, even if it means getting Yvonne out of the picture.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

As far as the male spirit goes, he was so in love with the female spirit in life, that even in death he's hell bent on following her to the ends of the earth. Wherever she goes, he goes. So, cleaning your house from the female spirit is going to be much harder to do than the male spirit.

YVONNE

What's the good news?

JACKIE

The good news is that there's nothing demonic about this case, so if your wish is to continue to live in this house as a family, I don't see any reason why that couldn't be possible.

LUCAS

I actually had Jackie sit down with a sketch artist and describe these figures to him. I have them here, if you would like to see it.

FELIX

Okay, let's see it.

Lucas tears open a sealed envelope and lets Felix and Yvonne see the sketch for themselves.

FELIX (CONT'D)

That's her! You know I actually woke up in the middle of the night with this woman hovering over me? She was just inches away from my face. I've never been that freaked out in my life.

Yvonne can't stop looking at the sketch.

YVONNE

I've got to be honest. I had my doubts about you, Jackie. I wasn't quite sure if you were the real deal at first, but after looking at this. There's no doubt in my mind that you are the real deal. This sketch is spot on, Jackie. You nailed it. This looks exactly like the woman I saw.

FELIX

So, she's the reason for all the mood swings and everything else?

Felix still has his finger on Missy's sketch.

JACKIE

That's right.

CHASE

We've caught some great EVPs to share with you as well.

Chase produces a tape recorder and plays it back for Yvonne and Felix.

YVONNE

Evps, what is that?

FELIX

It stands for Electronic Voice Phenomenon, you know that.

YVONNE

Oh, right.

FELIX

(to Lucas)

We really are big fans of your show.

YVONNE

(to Chase)

We really are. My mind just went blank for a second, that's all. I know what EVP means.

CHASE

I'm sure you do.

YVONNE

Are they clear? Will we be able to make out what they're saying?

CHASE

We'll let you be the judge of that.

Chase plays the tape recorder. Felix and Yvonne listen closely and hear a ghostly voice.

FELIX

(repeats what he hears)

I'm not going anywhere?

CHASE

That's what we hear, too. I'll play it back for you.

Chase rewinds the tape and plays it back a second time.

FELIX

Yeah, that's what it says... I'm not going anywhere. It's clear to me.

YVONNE

It's clear to me, too. Is that the woman spirit saying that? It sounds like a woman's voice.

LUCAS

That is the female spirit speaking, yes.

YVONNE

That is so creepy.

CHASE

I'll play another one for you.

LUCAS

First, let me set up this EVP for you. The first voice you're going to hear is me freaking out over a table that just moved by itself. You're going to hear me say Oh shit! What was that? And then you're going to hear the entity respond.

Felix and Yvonne listen closely and hear the same ghostly voice say something different.

FELIX

(can't make out the EVP)
What's this? More... Something else... I can't make out the rest it.

LUCAS

We think she's saying What's this... More Paranormal investigators?

CHASE

And it's the same voice, too. So it appears that you're dealing with a very powerful, very intelligent entity.

YVONNE

That's just great.

FELIX

Who is this lady? What does she want? Were you able to get anything out of her at all?

JACKIE

Her name is Missy. She was a Native New Yorker. She was in her late teens, early twenties, when she died, and I believe she worked out of a brothel in Staten Island as a prostitute.

FELIX

What else?

JACKIE

Barnaby, the male spirit who was also in his late twenties, early thirties, was a regular John of Missy's. What differentiated Barnaby from the other Johns in Missy's life is that he actually cared for Missy and thought that they could live happily ever after, but when she rejected his proposal, he didn't take it so well, and he ended up strangling her to death.

YVONNE

So, he's a killer?

JACKIE

He strangled her to death, so yes.

Yvonne looks at Felix and back at Jackie.

YVONNE

And you're telling us that there's nothing demonic about these two entities?

JACKIE

I know it sounds weird, but neither one of these entities were evil in life.

FELIX

What does this Barnaby guy look like?

JACKIE

I had sketch done of what he looks like.

Lucas tears open a sealed envelope and lets Felix and Yvonne see the sketch.

YVONNE

So, we know how this Missy woman died. How did Barnaby die?

A spirit orb appears and disappears into a wall.

JACKIE

After strangling Missy to death, Barnaby tried to cover his tracks by burning the house down.

YVONNE

Oh wow.

JACKIE

But he didn't do a very good job of it, and the law was able to trace the evidence back to him.

Jackie is being shown images of law enforcement showing up at Barnaby's residence.

INT. BARNABY'S FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Barnaby stands by the window and sees the four patrol cars parked outside in front of his house. He pulls himself away from the window and makes his way over to the table where there is a loaded gun resting on it.

JACKIE (V.O.)

The law shows up at Barnaby's home, but he wasn't about to let them take him alive, so he sits down at the dinner table and puts a gun to his head, taking his own life...

Police kick in the door to the house and find Barnaby dead with his head down on the table.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - DINNING ROOM - DAY

Jackie comes out of her trance and rejoins the living in the room.

JACKIE

Which explains the massive headache I was feeling the moment I set foot inside to investigate your house.

YVONNE

I know I should be angry at these two spirits for being in my house, but, at the same time, I can't help feeling bad for them after listening to their stories. Yes, she was a prostitute in life, but even she didn't deserve to die in that way. And as far as Barnaby is concerned, Yes, he murdered Missy, but I think I agree with you, Jackie, when you say he was not an evil man at heart.

JACKIE

And it's okay for you to feel that way. I totally get it.

FELIX

There's one thing that I'm confused about. None of these spirits were anywhere near, or on our property when they died, right?

LUCAS

That's right?

Lucas double checks his notes.

FELIX

So, how is it that they all ended up here?

JACKIE

Ah, that's where it gets interesting. It all stems back to what I was saying about the roller coaster of emotions coming out of the walls.

FELIX

What do you mean?

JACKIE

Was this house moved here from somewhere else?

FELIX

How did you know that? Did Lucas tell you that?

JACKIE

No.

LUCAS

No, I didn't tell her that. She picked up on that on her own.

FELIX

That's incredible. Before moving here, we lived in New York for a few years, but the cost of living there was starting to take a toll on us, so we found this house on a Structural Movers website, and we had it moved here from New York.

JACKIE

Well, I hate to be the one to tell this, but, because Missy's body was left to burn inside her room, the residue from her burning flesh soiled the wooden floor boards, and some of those floor boards were salvaged and used to build your home.

Felix and Yvonne look at each other.

FELIX

Are you serious?

JACKIE

Yes. Not only are you dealing with a residual haunting, there's an intelligent haunting going on here as well.

YVONNE

So, what's it going to take to get our house back? What needs to happen in order to remove them from our lives?

JACKIE

It's not going to be that easy because like I said before what Missy wants is you out of the way, so that she could have your husband to herself.

Yvonne sighs and buries her face in her hands.

FELIX

Why does she want me all to herself? Does she not know she's no longer alive, or something? Is that what it is? I'm confused.

JACKIE

Missy rejected Barnaby's proposal, not because she thought she didn't deserve the kind of life he was trying to sell her but because she knew that he was all talk. And now that she sees you, and sees how happy you make Yvonne...

Yvonne glances over at Felix.

FELIX

You're telling me that Spirits still think about stuff like that, even in the afterlife?

JACKIE

Sure, they do.

Yvonne has to excuse herself from the table.

YVONNE

I'm sorry. I need a minute.

Yvonne leaves the room in tears.

LUCAS

Do you want to go check on her?

FELIX

No, she'll be all right. She just needs some air.

LUCAS

Well, Felix, you and Yvonne contacted us because you wanted to know if the paranormal activity you've been experiencing here is for real, or just all in your head.

(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Now that your claims have been validated, the question now is what, if anything, could be done to make this a safe place for your two kids to come back to. For that answer, I'm going to let Jackie take that one.

JACKIE

I do know people with special skills that I could reach out to and have them come in to remove the spirits in your home.

FELIX

Wait a minute! Where are you going? You're here already. Why can't you do your thing and remove the entities from my home yourself? Why do you need to bring in a team?

JACKIE

You're not my only client, Felix. Can I call you Felix?

FELIX

You can call me Felix.

JACKIE

You're not my only client, Felix. I have other cases to tend to. You've got a lot of stuff going on in your house, stuff that can't be taken care of over night, so this is going to take some time. But, trust me when I tell you that the people I work with are very reliable. They will be up to the task at hand.

Felix looks at the empty seat next to him.

FELIX

Wait a minute. My wife should really be here for this part. I'm going to get her. She should've been back by now.

Felix excuses himself and leaves the table to look for Yvonne.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Felix finds Yvonne slumped over rubbing the left side of her face.

FELIX

Yvonne?!

Felix comes to Yvonne's aide and helps her to her feet.

FELIX (CONT'D)

What happened to you? Are you alright?

Yvonne is disoriented.

YVONNE

I feel like I just got punched in the face.

Felix notices the left side of Yvonne's face is red.

FELIX

Oh man. Look at that!

Felix calls out for Lucas and Jackie.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - DINNING ROOM - DAY

Lucas and Jackie talk amongst themselves while they wait for Felix and Yvonne to return.

JACKIE

I know a guy who would be perfect for this case.

LUCAS

Really? Who is it? Is it anyone I know?

Jackie and Lucas can hear Felix calling for them.

FELIX (V.O.)

Lucas!

JACKIE

Is that Felix?

LUCAS

I think so. Let's go see. It sounds like he's in trouble.

Lucas and Jackie leave the Dinning room and make their way to the kitchen.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Lucas and Jackie walk in on Felix tending to Yvonne.

LUCAS
Is everything okay in here?

FELIX
No, it's not. Look at my wife's face. I think it was that Missy chic again.

LUCAS
How did that happen?

YVONNE
I was about to go out into the back yard when I felt this force on the left side of my face.

Lucas gets his smart phone out to document Yvonne's swollen face.

LUCAS
That's some whelp. I'm sorry, but I have to document this for evidence.

Lucas takes several snap shots of Yvonne's face.

YVONNE
Is she still here, Jackie? Do you see her?

Jackie takes a look around the kitchen.

JACKIE
No, I don't see her.

Felix looks at Jackie and asks her a direct question.

FELIX
How soon can your people get here?

A spirit orb floats by undetected.

EXT. RETREAT FOR PSYCHIC CHILDREN - DAY

Lorenzo makes an acquaintance with another kid his age.

LORENZO

What do you think of Mark, Grace?

GRACE, a kid with psychic gifts, is on a tire swing being pushed from behind by Lorenzo.

GRACE

I think he's cool. Don't you like him?

LORENZO

No, I like him. I think he's cool, too. Mark was the only one who ever took the time out to explain to me why I'm able to see things that others can't.

Lorenzo keeps pushing Grace on the tire swing.

GRACE

Okay, it's your turn. Why don't you let me push for a while?

LORENZO

Fine by me.

Lorenzo tries to slow the swing down for Grace to get off.

GRACE

So, your folks are big time skeptics, huh?

Lorenzo gets on the swing, and Grace starts to push from behind.

LORENZO

Big time.

GRACE

My Dad is, too. You should've seen the look on his face when I told him there's a spirit in our house who's been harassing me. My mother is more of a believer, so she was much easier to convince.

LORENZO

You know what kills me about these stuck on stupid skeptics, as I like to call them?

GRACE

What?

Other kids can be seen running around in their own cliques.

LORENZO

These stuck on stupid skeptics,
they like to drag their kids off to
church early every Sunday morning
to pray to a God they've never seen
or heard from before, but let their
kids come to them with a story
about a ghost they've seen, and
they're told that there's no such
thing.

GRACE

Yeah, I know what you mean. My Dad
is a God-fearing Christian and was
raised to believe in everything
that came out of the bible, but you
can find scriptures about
paranormal events everywhere in the
bible. And, there's nothing more
paranormal than God, so I don't
know why my Dad would be so quick
to dismiss my claims.

LORENZO

I don't know. Adults like to talk
a good game about how much they
believe in God, how much they
believe in Heaven, but they're not
true believers.

GRACE

Here comes Mark now.

Mark walks up on Grace and Lorenzo.

MARK

Hey, Lorenzo.

LORENZO

What's up, Mark?

MARK

How's everything?

LORENZO

Everything's cool.

MARK

I'm glad to hear it. How about
you, Grace? Have you been enjoying
your stay here so far?

GRACE

Yeah, I'm having a good time. I like it here.

MARK

Well, if there's anything more we can do for you here, you just let me know.

GRACE

Okay.

MARK

You know I saw my first apparition when I was five.

GRACE

Were you scared?

MARK

No, not really. Lucky for me, it was the apparition of my dead grand mother. But, at the time, I thought it was totally normal to see people who aren't actually there. That was, of course, until I told my parents about what I saw, and they looked at me as if I had three heads. So, it got me wondering about all the other psychic kids out there whose parents couldn't understand them. If they couldn't count on their parents for help, who can they turn to? Where do they go? If only there was like a support group or something where these kids can go to learn how to cope with their abilities. That's when I came up with the idea for this place.

LORENZO

Well, it's a good thing that you did. You've done a good thing here, Mark.

MARK

Well, I just wanted to check on you guys before I go.

GRACE

Go where?

MARK

A psychic friend of mine needs me in Virginia to remove a couple of entities from someone's home. So, I'll have to leave you kids. But it shouldn't take me more than two days tops, so I should be back here soon.

LORENZO

But you're our mentor. Who's gonna look after us if you're gone?

MARK

Don't worry. You'll be in good hands with the team of parapsychologists I have on staff, unless you guys would rather come along with me?

LORENZO

To remove spirits from someone's home? Are we even ready for that?

MARK

I wouldn't have suggested it if I didn't think so. Don't worry. I'll be there to hold your hands through the whole ordeal the entire time. So, what do you say? Are you kids up for it, or what?

Lorenzo and Grace look at each other and smile.

GRACE

I'm in.

LORENZO

Me too.

MARK

Good. The only thing left to do now is call your parents and have them meet us at the location.

LORENZO

Our parents get to come too?

MARK

Why not? I'm sure your parents would get a kick out of seeing you kids in action.

EXT. THE SCHAEFER'S FAMILY HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

EMMA, television producer, is there to greet the Rios family as they step off the van.

EMMA

Mister and Misses Rios, I'm Emma,
the show's producer.

DENISE

Hi Emma. This is our daughter,
Nivia.

EMMA

Welcome Nivia.

NIVIA

Thanks.

EMMA

Now, if you would all follow me to
the trailer over here, we have a
little nerve centre all set up
where you'll be able to monitor the
children.

Emma leads the way.

INT. NERVE CENTRE - NIGHT

JASON, Grace's father, is seated next to Benicio and gets to know more about him.

JASON

So, tell me something, Benicio.
Your daughter, Nivia, is she open
like Lorenzo?

BENICIO

No, it's just Lorenzo.

JASON

And when Lorenzo came to you and
told you about the thing in his
closet, did you believe him right
away?

BENICIO

No, I wish I had, though --- the
poor kid. What kind of a man goes
out of his way to make his own son
think he's losing his mind?

(MORE)

BENICIO (CONT'D)

I wouldn't blame him one bit if he went his whole life resenting me.

JASON

You shouldn't feel that way, Benicio.

DENISE

That's what I keep telling him.

BENICIO

What about you, Jason? How did you react when Grace told you there was a ghost in your house harassing her?

JASON

I was the same way as you. I'm the kind of guy who has to see it in order to believe it. Sorry, Mr. Lynch, but unless your daughter gets a C on the next exam, she won't graduate, sorry Mr. Lynch, it's going to cost you another ten thousand dollars to get your roof fixed, these are the kind of day to day problems I can get my mind around, but when your child tells you that she can communicate with the afterlife, what are you supposed to do with that? That's just something they don't prepare you for in home ec class.

Denise looks at the monitor.

DENISE

Oh look! The kids are about to go inside the house with Mark.

EXT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Mark gives Lorenzo and Grace one last pep talk before entering the house.

MARK

Alright, Lorenzo, Grace, now that you know who these spirits were in life and how they've come to be here, we don't have to know any more than that, so there's really no need to press the issue.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

Our only goal is to go in and remove these entities from the house.

GRACE

Got it.

MARK

One last thing before we go in, a good paranormal investigator doesn't have to resort to provoking the spirits just to get a response. If a spirit has something to get off its chest, it'll make itself known to you, so no provoking. Stick to these rules, and there's no reason why we shouldn't be able to come out of this in one piece.

LORENZO

Okay.

MARK

Here we go.

Mark is the first one to enter the house followed by Grace, Lorenzo, and the film crew.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - VESTIBULE - NIGHT

Mark, Grace, and Lorenzo stand in one spot to see what they can pick up on.

MARK

Anyone picking up on anything so far?

GRACE

I am.

MARK

What are you feeling, Grace?

GRACE

I'm getting mad for some reason.

LORENZO

That's what I'm feeling.

A spirit orb floats by undetected.

MARK

Good, go with that. What else?

GRACE
 Something's telling me to go this way. I'm being pulled over here.

MARK
 Okay, let's go this way.

Mark leads Grace and Lorenzo to the kitchen.

LORENZO
 Is anyone else having a hard time breathing?

GRACE
 Yes.

MARK
 Yeah, the energy is very heavy.

GRACE
 I don't know how anybody can live here.

MARK
 I think it's the walls. The walls have been imprinted with negative energy, that's what we're feeling.

Mark pops his head in the kitchen and looks around before going in.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The chandelier over the kitchen table is moving by itself.

CAMERA MAN #1
 Oh shit! Look at the chandelier! It's moving by itself! Get a shot of it!

CAMERA MAN #2
 Try not to cuss in front of the kids.

CAMERA MAN #1
 Oh, grow up.

CAMERA MAN #2
 Sorry kids. I have to apologize for my friend.

Camera man #1 finds his camera being drained of its power.

CAMERA MAN #1
Uh-oh, this is weird.

MARK
What's weird?

CAMERA MAN #1
I had a fully charged battery, but
now I'm down to twenty three
percent.

Camera man #1 turns to Camera man #2

CAMERA MAN #1 (CONT'D)
How's your camera?

CAMERA MAN #2
My camera's running low on power,
too. What the hell?

CAMERA MAN #1
I'm just a camera man on the show.
I never believed in any of this
stuff before today.

INT. NERVE CENTRE - NIGHT

The two families go into a panic when the picture on the
monitor goes out.

DENISE
What's going on? Why can't we see
anything?

EMMA
I think the battery packs on their
cameras are running low. It's
gonna take a minute for them to
switch battery packs. Don't worry,
Denise, they'll have the picture
back up in no time. This tends to
happen when a house is this active
with paranormal activity.

NIVIA
Great, the spirits are gonna get
Lorenzo, and I don't get to see
it?!

DENISE
No, I'm sure your brother's going
to be fine. He is going to be
fine, right, Emma?

The picture on the monitor is back on.

EMMA

See, the picture's back on.

DENISE

I don't know how much more of this
I can take.

The family relaxes and gets back to watching the monitor.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Camera man #1 and #2 get their cameras working again and resume filming.

CAMERA MAN #1

Okay, we're good to go.

MARK

Lorenzo, Grace, listen to me very carefully. If you start to feel like you're being influenced by something dark or negative, just remember what you learned your first week at the retreat, and keep in mind that you are always at your best when you are in favor of positivity.

Grace sees a shadow figure zip across the doorway of the dining room.

GRACE

Look! I just saw something!

MARK

What did you see, Grace?

GRACE

It went by so fast. It was blurry, but it looked like a shadow figure.

MARK

Alright, calm down. Let's check it out.

Mark, Lorenzo, and Grace leave the kitchen and step out into the hallway with the film crew.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mark looks up and down the hallway and finds nothing.

MARK

Well, Which way did it go?

GRACE

It zipped across from the right side of the doorway to the left.

MARK

Well, there's no point in dragging this out any longer than we have to, so we might as well get this over with.

LORENZO

Where do we go now?

MARK

According to the Schaefer's, the most active part of the house is the master bedroom and the dining room.

Mark goes into his bag of tricks and comes up with a couple of sage smudge sticks to give Grace and Lorenzo.

MARK (CONT'D)

So, I'm going to give you each a sage smudge stick.

LORENZO

What do you want us to do with that?

MARK

We're going to smudge sage into the four corners of the dining room and Master bedroom...

A loud growl carries through the hallway.

LORENZO

What was that?

MARK

It came from over there. I think it's Missy. I guess she overheard us and doesn't like what we're up to. Everybody stay close and follow me.

Grace and Lorenzo follow Mark into the dinning room.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Mark makes sure that the coast is clear before allowing Lorenzo and Grace to follow him in.

MARK
Alright, come in.

Lorenzo and Grace set foot inside the dinning Room and look around for Missy.

MARK (CONT'D)
Grace, why don't you start on that side of the room. Lorenzo, you start on that side. Be sure not to miss a spot.

Before he could get a chance to light their sage sticks, Mark suddenly feels a sharp pain in his lower back and gets down on one knee.

LORENZO
What's wrong, Mark?

MARK
There's a pain in my lower back.

Lorenzo and Grace look up and see Missy's apparition behind Mark.

LORENZO
She's here! Behind you! Missy's behind you, Mark.

MISSY
They brought in children to get rid of me?!

GRACE
She's laughing at us now? What do we do, Mark?

The apparition of Missy vanishes.

LORENZO
She's gone now.

MARK
You two come over with your sage sticks.

Grace and Lorenzo walk over to Mark.

GRACE
Are you okay, Mark?

MARK
I don't know. There's something
burning my back.

Mark gets up off his knee feeling around an area on his lower back.

LORENZO
Do you want us to take a look?

Mark lifts the back of his shirt to show the kids.

MARK
How does it look?

Grace holds a light to Mark's lower back and sees four long whelps.

GRACE
Oh man! She got you good, Mark.
You've got four lines going across
your lower back.

LORENZO
Yeah, the skin around this whole
area is rising.

MARK
I'll be alright. Come on, let's
get back to it.

LORENZO
What do we do now?

MARK
Hold out your sticks.

Mark uses a cigarette lighter to light their sage sticks.

MARK (CONT'D)
Now get to smudging! But as you
smudge I want you to say these
words: Only love, peace, and
positivity may stay... all negative
energy must go.

MISSY
Shut up!

Missy punches Mark on the side of his head putting him on the seat of his pants.

GRACE

Mark!

MARK

Don't worry about me! It'll pass.
Just get to work.

Lorenzo and Grace split up and work on opposite sides of the dinning room.

GRACE

Only peace, love, and positivity
may enter... all negative energy
must go!

MISSY

Stop what you're doing!

GRACE

No, I'm not listening to you! You
don't belong here!

MISSY

You little shit!

MARK

Stay strong, Grace. She won't hurt
you as long as I'm here.

Missy charges Lorenzo and pushes him to the floor before fleeing from the dinning room.

LORENZO

Hey!

GRACE

Are you all right, Lorenzo?

LORENZO

I'll be okay.

Mark recovers from his attack and gets back to his feet.

MARK

Alright, I think we need to regroup
and catch our breaths before we
continue.

Grace looks around for Missy.

GRACE
Where did Missy go?

Lorenzo looks into the camera.

LORENZO
I'm okay, Mommy.

Lorenzo walks away from the camera.

INT. NERVE CENTRE - NIGHT

Benicio is trying to calm Denise down.

BENICIO
You see? He's fine. You could
open your eyes now, Denise.

DENISE
Now I see why these shows are so
popular.

NIVIA
It's a gyp if you ask me. Only
they get to see the spirits coming
to attack them. All we get to see
is them reacting and toppling over.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - STAIRS - NIGHT

Mark takes the lead up to the second floor.

MARK
Why don't you take the lead on this
one, Lorenzo?

Lorenzo gets in front of Mark and leads the way.

LORENZO
Last door on the left must be the
Master bedroom. I'm being pulled
that way.

Barnaby shows himself to the team for the first time.

BARNABY
Careful. She's waiting for you.

LORENZO
Whoa, some guy just appeared out of
nowhere. He's standing in my way.

MARK

That must be Barnaby. What does he look like?

LORENZO

Like someone from the olden days.

MARK

Yeah, that's Barnaby. I was wondering when he was going to show up.

GRACE

He's letting us know that Missy is waiting for us in the master bedroom.

A spirit orb floats away and disappears into the wall.

MARK

Yeah, but we don't know for sure if we could trust him, so stay sharp.

CAMERA MAN #1

I don't believe this. She did it to me again.

CAMERA MAN #2

What? She drained the power from your battery again?

CAMERA MAN #1

Yeah. She's pissing me off.

Camera man #1 needs a minute to switch his battery pack.

CAMERA MAN #2

I have one battery pack left. Here you go.

Missy throws a can of shaving cream that misses Grace's head by inches.

LORENZO

She threw a shaving cream bottle at us!

CAMERA MAN #2

God damn it! I missed it.

Camera man #2 trains his camera on the shaving creme on the floor.

GRACE

It came this close to hitting me in the head.

LORENZO

There was nothing said about her being a poltergeist.

MARK

Missy must be getting desperate. She's willing to do whatever it takes to remain in this house.

Grace is angry at Missy and gives her a piece of her mind.

GRACE

Why are you throwing things at us?! One way or another, you're going to leave this house! We're here to do a job and we're going to do it!

MARK

This is getting dangerous. Maybe you kids better wait outside. I couldn't be prouder of the two of you, but I better finish cleaning the rest of the house myself.

GRACE

No, I want to stay, Mark. I'm not afraid.

LORENZO

Yeah, I want to stick it out, too.

MARK

I don't know about this. You guys are my responsibility. I can't risk the chance of you two getting hurt in here.

A spirit orb shoots down from the ceiling.

CAMERA MAN #2

I just caught a ball of light shoot out of the ceiling.

Missy belts out a loud growl that reverberates through the house.

MARK

Grace, take this.

Mark goes into his bag of tricks and comes up with a bag of black salt to give to Grace.

MARK (CONT'D)

I want the two of you to go outside with this bag of salt and sprinkle it around the house.

GRACE

Why? I don't understand.

LORENZO

I don't either.

MARK

I'll explain later. Now go.

LORENZO

Come on, Grace.

Grace and Lorenzo run down the stairs.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Missy looks for something else she can throw at the living coming to remove her from the house.

MISSY

These people think they can come in here and smoke me out! What do I have to do to make them understand that I'm not going anywhere?!

Missy sees a cologne bottle and goes for it.

MISSY (CONT'D)

I tried to warn them.

Barnaby appears to stop Missy.

BARNABY

Why don't you stop all this?

MISSY

You stay away from me!

BARNABY

I can't let you hurt these people. It's time for the living to get their house back.

Missy throws the cologne bottle at Barnaby knowing it won't hurt him.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mark can hear things being thrown in the master bedroom.

CAMERA MAN #1

Was that coming from the last room
on the left?

MARK

Let's go see.

Mark leads the way to the master bedroom.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mark enters the room and finds Barnaby holding Missy down on
the floor.

BARNABY

You need to open yourself up, and
let her attach herself to you.
That's the only way you're going to
remove her from this house! Open
yourself up!

MARK

I have to let her take over my
body.

CAMERA MAN #1

Have you ever done this before?

MARK

No, but I'm a Psychic Medium, and
all psychic Mediums are beacons of
light. If you let them, spirits
will latch themselves on to you
like a moth to a flame. It's the
only way to remove Missy from the
house.

CAMERA MAN #2

It sucks to be you, dude.

MARK

Okay, Barnaby.

Mark readies himself and tells Barnaby to release Missy.

MARK (CONT'D)

I'm ready! You can let go of her
now!

Barnaby lets go of Missy.

MARK (CONT'D)
Come into me! I give you
permission to come into my body!

Mark places his hand on Missy's head and absorbs her.

BARNABY
Out you go!

Mark leaves the master bedroom.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lorenzo and Grace are still sprinkling salt around the house.

GRACE
Hey, there's Mark.

Mark sets foot on the front lawn.

LORENZO
Mark!

MARK
Stay back. Don't come near me.

Mark makes sure he's a safe distance away from the house before ejecting Missy from his body.

MARK (CONT'D)
Okay, Missy, you no longer have
permission to be in my body! I
want you out! Now, get out! Out!

Missy leaves Mark's body, draining him of his energy.

MISSY
You think it's that easy?!

Missy tries to reenter the Schaefer's house, but is blocked out by the black salt Lorenzo and Grace sprinkled around the house.

MISSY (CONT'D)
I can't get in!
(to Lorenzo and Grace)
What did you do?! Why can't I get
in?! I want back in!

GRACE

No! This house belongs to the Schaefer's! Find somewhere else to go!

MISSY

You win this time, but you haven't seen the last of me. It's going to take more than black salt to keep me out.

Missy vanishes before Lorenzo's eyes.

GRACE

She's gone. We did it, Lorenzo.

LORENZO

Let's tell Mark.

Mark struggles to get back to his feet.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

Mark, we did it! Missy's gone.

GRACE

Are you okay, Mark?

MARK

I will be. I just need a few minutes to regain my strength.

LORENZO

Missy said she'd be back, that the salt wasn't going to be enough to keep her from returning.

MARK

Well, she's right about that, but don't worry. Before we leave here, this house will be secure enough to keep any dark entity out.

Lorenzo and Grace high five each other.

MARK (CONT'D)

You kids have come a long way in such a short time. You should be proud of yourselves. I'm proud of you guys. Now, let's go tell your parents all about it.

Lorenzo and Grace help Mark back to his feet.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE NERVE CENTRE - DAY BREAK

Grace's father is the first to emerge from the trailer followed by Nivia, Denise, Benicio, and Emma.

GRACE

Daddy!

Grace comes running to her father and jumps into his arms.

JASON

There's my girl. You were a rock star in there. I saw the whole thing from out here.

Grace gives Jason a hug.

NIVIA

I thought you'd be the first one to run out screaming like a girl, but you didn't. You stood your ground, and looked the spirits in the eye, not that we got to see any of them. You have my respect, Lorenzo. I'm gonna start seeing you in a whole new light from now on.

LORENZO

And thank you for getting all that off your chest without the stupid air-quotes.

DENISE

Cut it out, you two. You were great in there, Lorenzo.

Benicio has a man to man talk with Mark.

BENICIO

Mark, I can't thank you enough for going out of your way to help my son. But there's still a matter of the dark entity in my son's closet that we can use your help with. What do you say?

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Benicio opens the door to his apartment and holds it open for the rest of his family to come in.

BENICIO

Okay, Nivia and Lorenzo, I want you two to put your things away and get to bed.

Nivia and Lorenzo haul their luggage down the hallway and go into separate bedrooms.

INT. LORENZO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lorenzo pushes his door open and turns his light on to see if the coast is clear before fully committing to going all the way inside.

LORENZO

Just as I left it. What a surprise.

Lorenzo shuts his door behind him and throws his luggage on the bed to unpack.

DENISE

I just wanted to see if you were okay with going in your closet to put your luggage away.

LORENZO

Yeah, I'll be okay.

DENISE

Good for you, honey. Good night.

LORENZO

Good night, Ma.

Denise leaves the room and shuts the door behind her.

LORENZO (CONT'D)

Let's get this over with.

Lorenzo goes to his closet and takes a deep breath before he opens it. After checking the closet, he puts his luggage away and shuts the closet door.

INT. THE RIOS' FAMILY APARTMENT - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

The clock on the wall reads 2:23 am. Benicio and Denise are fast asleep.

INT. NIVIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nivia is fast asleep in bed.

INT. LORENZO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lorenzo wakes up when he hears shuffling sounds coming from inside the closet. He sits up in bed and looks on as the closet door starts to open.

LORENZO

I know you're in there.

Carmen freaks Lorenzo out even more with the sound of her voice.

CARMEN

Where you been, Lorenzo?

Lorenzo musters up the courage to answer the dark entity.

LORENZO

Off somewhere building up the courage to confront you.

Lorenzo makes the dark entity laugh.

CARMEN

Confront me?

LORENZO

What are you? Are you a demon?

CARMEN

Not yet.

LORENZO

So, you were alive once?

CARMEN

You wanna know my life story? I'll be more than happy to show you.

Lorenzo's subconscious astral projects and ends up in a parking lot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

It's a hot Summer day in New York City. TERRY, Carmen's father, pulls into his parking space. He turns the engine off and turns around to talk to his daughter who is sitting in the back seat.

TERRY

I'm sorry about this, Carmen. But with your Mom bedridden, and babysitters so hard to come by in such short notice. I have no choice but to bring you to work with me. But it won't always be like this, Baby girl. I promise.

CARMEN

Okay, Daddy.

TERRY

Now, I want you to lay down, close your eyes and go to sleep, and by the time you wake up, it'll be like I never left. Go ahead and lay down.

Carmen lays down and makes herself comfortable in the back seat of Terry's car.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Look at that. You even have your stuffed animal with you to keep you safe.

Carmen holds Oso close to her.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Atta girl. Okay, I'm going now. I'll be back in a bit.

Terry opens the door on his side and gets out of the car without cracking the windows open. He slams the car door behind him and walks away.

INT. TERRY'S WORKPLACE - MOMENTS LATER

Terry is on the phone trying to collect a debt from behind his cubicle.

TERRY

Hello, I'm trying to reach Mr. Darnel Brown. Is he available?

(Listens)

Mr. Brown, I've been trying to reach you for some time now. You're a hard man to reach. But, just to be sure that I'm speaking to the right Darnel Brown. I have your date of birth October 4th, 1995. Is that correct?

(MORE)

TERRY (CONT'D)
(listens)
Hello?

Terry hears a dial tone on the other end of the line and hangs up.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Well, that's it for me. I'm outta here.

Terry gets up from his seat and starts packing up his things.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Lorenzo's subconscious is standing by as Terry approaches his vehicle. Terry looks in through the window and thinks that Carmen is still asleep. Terry opens the car door on the driver's side and gets in.

TERRY
Carmen, Daddy's back. Time to wake up.

Terry looks behind him and can see that Carmen is drenched in sweat.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Come on, Carmen, wake up.

Terry reaches behind him to give Carmen a nudge.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Carmen, come on now. You're scaring me. Wake up!

Terry climbs in the back seat and tries to revive Carmen.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Oh, God, What Did I do?! What Did I do?!

Terry cradles Carmen in his arms and kisses her head before laying her back down.

TERRY (CONT'D)
It's gonna be okay! I'll take you to the hospital, and you're going to be okay. Just hold on for me, baby!

Terry gets back in the driver's seat and starts the car. He puts the gear in reverse and backs the car up. He puts the gear in drive and slams his foot down on the gas peddle.

Lorenzo's subconscious sticks around to see the car leave the parking lot.

INT. LORENZO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lorenzo is still communicating with Carmen.

CARMEN

So, that's my story. I had my whole life ahead of me, but, no, my dad just had to keep his bullshit bill collecting gig, so he left me to die in the back seat of his hot ass car. And I still resent him for that to this very day.

LORENZO

You can't stay here! You need to go now! I'm sorry for what happened to you, Carmen. I really am. It's a damn shame what happened to you, but you can't stay here.

Lorenzo angers Carmen.

CARMEN

I don't like what I'm hearing, Lorenzo. What are you going to do about it?

Lorenzo jumps out of bed and leaves the room.

INT. THE RIOS FAMILY APARTMENT - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lorenzo storms in and turns the light on, waking Denise and Benicio.

BENICIO

What the hell are you doing, Lorenzo?

Lorenzo tears the room upside down trying to find the stuffed animal Carmen gave Denise at the hospital.

LORENZO

Where is it?!

DENISE

Where is what?! Do you know what time it is, Lorenzo?!

Lorenzo looks in the closet.

LORENZO

The stuffed animal that Carmen gave you when you were visiting Dad at the hospital, where is it?!

DENISE

How did you know about that? I never mentioned her to you. Is Carmen the one in your closet? Have you been talking to her?

LORENZO

Ma, where is it?

DENISE

It's right above you.

Lorenzo looks up and takes Oso down from a shelf in the closet.

LORENZO

The girl you talked to in the hospital attached herself to this stuffed animal and didn't tell you that you were bringing home a package deal.

BENICIO

So, what do you want with it?

LORENZO

We've got to get this doll out of the house before things get worse around here.

Denise reacts to a burning feeling on her back.

DENISE

Motherfucker! Benicio, Look at my back. There's something burning my back.

Benicio lifts the back of Denise's shirt and sees long scratch marks going across her back.

BENICIO

Whoa! What the fuck is this? You got four whelps going across your back.

DENISE

Are you serious?!

BENICIO
Yeah, I'm serious! That's crazy.

The light in the room starts flickering like crazy.

BENICIO (CONT'D)
All right, that's it! We're getting rid of this thing right now. We're not going to wait till the sun comes up. We're doing this right now! Let's go.

Lorenzo leaves the room with the stuffed animal, leaving Denise and Benicio alone to get dressed.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. THE SCHAEFER'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Felix and Yvonne and their two kids are shooting an update video to send to the Paranormal Dicks Television show.

FELIX
Hey, Lucas and Jackie, we just wanted to give you guys an update on how we've been doing. It's been a month since your team came in to remove the spirits from our home, and I'm happy to say there has been no new paranormal experiences to report. Everything has been peaceful here, so peaceful and calm, in fact, that our two kids, Curtis and Tina, are back with us where they belong.

Curtis and Tina smile and wave at the camera.

FELIX (CONT'D)
So, again, thank you for everything, Lucas and Jackie. And may you and your paranormal investigating team go on to help people for many more years to come. Thanks, Paranormal Dicks.

The Schaefer's wave goodbye to the camera and sign off.

FADE OUT.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)