

A VERY HAUNTED HOUSE
Short Film by Luis Garza

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FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

A camera crew stands outside the front porch. The door opens, an overly-friendly looking woman appears behind it. This is KATE (43)

KATE
(hushed tone)
Come in! Come in!

The camera crew squeezes through the door frame.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

INTERVIEW: KATE

Kate sits cross-legged on the sofa.

SUPER: Kate

INTERVIEWER(O.S)
So you say you have a demonic
presence in your home?

KATE
(smiling) Yes. Well... Three ghosts,
and two demons. But who's counting?
Also a few rodents, but those didn't
come with the mortgage.

INTERVIEWER(O.S)
Can you recall the first occurrence?

KATE
Well, it was our first day moving in.
And Billy was actually the first one
who saw the ghost.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Kate puts some plates inside a cabinet. BILLY (5) comes running in.

BILLY
Mommy mom!

KATE
Hi sweetie.

BILLY

Can I have a Popsicle for the white
boy in my room?

Kate quickly turns to the camera, distressed.

END FLASHBACK:

INTERVIEW: KATE

KATE

You know, I don't scare easily. I've
watched the first two seasons of 'Are
you Afraid of the Dark?' with my kids.
I own both 'Ghostbusters' movies on
Blu-ray. I even went on the Seven
Dwarfs Mine Train at Disney World...
Twice.

Billy appears from the kitchen hallway, and mechanically marches
towards the fridge; Kate is oblivious to this.

KATE (CONT'D)

But I don't know... I guess seeing
your kids terrified to death
really does strike you as a mother,
you know.

Billy begins pounding his head on the fridge.

KATE (CONT'D)

Also, have you noticed that every kid
in every horror movie is named Billy?

There's a beat.

INTERVIEWER (O.S)

Or Tommy.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

A tired, calm, and disinterested middle aged man sits on the couch.

INTERVIEW: PATRICK

SUPER: PATRICK

INTERVIEWER (O.S)

So how do you personally feel about this
presence living right in your home,
endangering your family?

PATRICK
(scoffs) This is a lie fabricated by my
wife just to get back at me for not...

INTERVIEWER(O.S)
What?

PATRICK
What?

Patrick awkwardly glares at the camera for a couple of seconds.

INTERVIEWER(O.S)
Your daughter sounded very convincing
about the matter.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

SHARON (17) is in the middle of a rant.

INTERVIEW: SHARON

SUPER: SHARON

SHARON
Okay yeah, we get it. You don't believe
in ghosts. You think you're special?
What if I told you that the ghost in
my room was a gynecologist before he
died? Huh? Not so funny anymore. Right?
(breathes) And then he blames me for
messing with the thermostat.

SMASH CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: PATRICK

PATRICK
Sharon... Is just a very jumpy girl.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

An oblivious Patrick sits on the kitchen bar, headphones blasting
music, newspaper opened in front of him. Sharon gets dragged violently
towards the hallway by an invisible force.

SHARON
(screaming) Dad!! DAD!! HELP ME!

Patrick bobs his head to the tune of his song.

END FLASHBACK

INTERVIEW: PATRICK

PATRICK

(ponders)
Yeah, she's just a jumpy girl.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: KATE

KATE

It's been getting much worse the past few nights. Footsteps turned into screams. Doors closing by themselves turned into demonic apparitions. The sound of children laughing turned into finding Billy hanging from the basketball hoop with a penis drawn on his forehead.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: BILLY

Billy sits innocently on the couch, his legs dangling off, the words "ANTICHRIST" written on his forehead.

INTERVIEWER(O.S)

So, you haven't seen anything?

Billy's eyes follow something across the room, he LAUGHS.

BILLY

No.

INTERVIEWER(O.S)

Are you sure?

Billy eyes fall right behind the camera. His laughter intensifies, and then he stops abruptly.

BILLY

Yes.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: KATE

KATE

Yesterday, Billy used my lipstick to write a message on the mirror. He wrote "lick". But he spelled it like: L-L-I-K. At first I thought he wanted to lick something and he just didn't know how to spell it. But then it turns out he was just spelling "Kill" backwards. (pause) So there's that.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: SHARON

SHARON

So I googled the history of the house because apparently that's a thing you can do, and I found this:

Sharon levels a piece of paper with her eyes. She reads.

SHARON (CONT'D)

So apparently a doctor lived in this house with his son and daughter. And I think he got fired from his job for getting a little too friendly with his patients. So he built his own surgery room here in the house. I'm guessing that's where the sealed door underneath the stairs leads too. Anyway, so that's where he would take kidnapped victims to "perform alternating surgeries". And he was killed by the maid. (pauses, proof reads) Apparently there was a maid. (pauses) There's always a maid.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: KATE AND PATRICK

KATE

So how would you explain all the incidents with Billy?

PATRICK

What incidents?

KATE

I don't know. Why don't we start with the basketball hoop incident?

PATRICK

He probably pissed off one of the kids from the block.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: SHARON

SHARON

(reading) Wait I'm sorry. Apparently it was the maid who did all the surgeries, the dad was just depressed. The maid was a bitch and she killed the son. And then the dad killed the maid and then killed himself and then I think the daughter ran.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: KATE AND PATRICK

KATE

The house is haunted.

PATRICK

Is not.

KATE

Is too.

PATRICK

Is not.

KATE

Is too.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: SHARON

SHARON

(reading) Wait no, the son drowned in the bathtub and the daughter hung herself. The husband had Alzheimer's and the maid was his lover. The wife killed both of them. And then drowned herself in the bathtub as well.

7.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: KATE AND PATRICK

PATRICK
Is not.

KATE
Is too.

PATRICK
Is not.

KATE
Is too.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: SHARON

SHARON
(reading) Wait, forget I said that.
The wife shit herself. (proof reads)
Sorry, she shot herself. Which made
her husband drown their son in the
bathtub. When the maid saw the dead
body she shot herself (proof reads)
wait no, she shit herself. And then
the daughter hung herself and then
there was an exorcism.

INTERVIEWER(O.S)
And then?

SHARON
I don't know, the rest of the article
is in Latin.

CUT TO:

INTERVIEW: KATE AND PATRICK

PATRICK
So you're just going to pretend to
be mad at me after the unforgettable
night we spent together?

KATE

I don't know what you're talking about, I went straight to sleep last night.

PATRICK

Then who's apron is this?

Patrick pulls out a French maid apron from underneath the cushions. Kate raises her eyebrows.

Several SCREAMS emerge from behind the camera.

KATE

Billy! Put that knife down!

The camera gets tipped over, and it falls with a THUD. Feet scatter around as the entire room erupts with SCREAMS.

BILLY

(violent whisper)
Lick! Lick! Lick! Lick!

CUT TO: