

HOUSE PROUD

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A fire dances in an old fashioned fireplace, illuminating various antiques worn out by years of idleness.

Heavy velvet curtains are interrupted by a vicious, howling wind, it causes a rocking chair to creak back and forth...even after the wind has died down.

From toe to head an image, previously unseen, reveals itself. That of AGNES, 75, complete with cardigan and patchwork quilt. Her smile straight to the camera is easy and relaxed.

AGNES

This house, did you know, has kept my hide in comfort and peace, for all of Forty years. All it took was a little care and attention. Well, I know what your thinkin', I can't look after her as well as I once could, but I do my best. That's what's wrong with the folks of today, they think if it don't speak and it don't hear then it don't feel...But it does, it certainly does. This ol' place has a lot of feelin' in her, powerful magic here in these bricks and mortar. But who would know? That's why you can't fully blame them...Those ignorants.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

A wholesome all American family stand embraced in front of their slightly run down all American home, parents proud and happy. Head of the house, ANDY, 27, kneels down and ushers his family into one huddle, camera attached to his face.

ANDY

Okay...Everyone smile.

His wife, ROSE, 24, pretty and fashionable, stands tall beside JOSHUA, 11, who yawns, and ALICE, 6, who frowns.

ANDY

Aw, come on kids your gonna love it here.

(CONTINUED)

ROSE

That's right, your father hasn't told you about the climbing frame in the back garden.

JOSHUA

Yeah?...Cool.

His feet scurry off as fast as they carry him.

ROSE

Alice, hunny...Wanna go play?

ALICE

Nope.

Alice quickly grabs hold of her Mother's hand.

ANDY

Hey, Why don't we take a proper look at our new abode? Come on...

ROSE

Your gonna love this house, hunny, you'll see.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Andy stands hands on hips, a smile that could be seen from mars.

ANDY

Well, whatcha think?

Alice 'coughs'.

ROSE

Erm, well it needs a little more work than you told me about hunny.

ALICE

It's dusty.

ANDY

Yeah, it's gonna be great...

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rose kneels down in front of Alice, eye level. She inspects her child for cleanliness.

ROSE

Your first night in your new bed
hunny, you excited? They say dreams
are always better on a new bed,
nightmares only come with smelly
old mattresses like your last one.

Alice's face wilts in uncertainty.

ALICE

Mommy, why did we have to move to a
house that talks?

ROSE

What? Houses don't talk baby.

Rose rises to her feet, her face drained of color.

ALICE

Well, it speaks to me...I don't
know some of the things it tells
me.

ROSE

Just try and get to sleep okay.
Nighty, night.

INT. ATTIC - DAY

Andy quick draws a hammer from his tool belt.

The house's pipes begin to rattle in anger.

He surveys his kingdom.

ANDY

You feel lucky...House?

He takes a seemingly random swing.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

A washing machine rumbles, disguising a deep groan from
within the house's core.

Rose is slumped upon a mountain of unwashed clothes.

(CONTINUED)

The family's ginger tomcat trots down from the stairs, injured.

ROSE
Hey Red, What's wrong?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Joshua bashes through the front door and tramples mud all along the floor and through to the back garden.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

ALICE
(O.S)
Arrgh!

Rose spins into action, hurries up the stairs and into the...

KITCHEN

She peers around a wall, sees Alice frozen still at the back door.

ROSE
Alice, What's wrong?...Alice.

Alice jabs an arm out toward the climbing frame.

ROSE
Josh?...

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Andy and Rose wait with bloodshot eyes for the doctor's verdict. Alice is cradled by the two.

ROSE
As soon as we get back I want that thing out of our garden.

ANDY
He's just a boy hunny, it's what they do.

ROSE
He could be paralyzed! I want it moved.

ALICE

It was the house mommy.

A young doctor walks in, a smiles, weakly.

DOCTOR

Mr and Mrs Hansen, I'm glad to say your boy is going to be fine. We found no major damage to his spinal cord, and with a little rest and recuperation, he'll be back up and running within weeks.

ANDY

Thank God, and thank you Doctor.

ROSE

Can we see him?

INT. JOSHUA'S BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: ONE WEEK LATER

Sat upright in bed, Joshua reads a book. Bored, he puffs out his cheeks and slams the book shut. He can hear a conversation between Alice and her dolls.

Intrigued by what she says, he wearily creaks out of bed and hobbles over.

ALICE

(O.S)

Hello...Are you my friend?...I could be your friend, if you wanna...He's okay, I think he's sleeping...I tried to tell them...They wouldn't listen...But why?

Joshua walks over to Alice into her...

BEDROOM

JOSHUA

Alice?

Alice spins round, spooked.

ALICE

You scared me Josh...I thought you were sleeping.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA
Who ya talkin' too Allie?

ALICE
No one...

She motions for him to come close. Whispers in his ear.

ALICE
She won't let me tell you...

EXT. ROOF - DAY

Atop a ladder, resides Andy, who fixes the gutter, a couple of nails stick out from his mouth.

The bottom of the ladder is unsure.

He drops a screwdriver...

ANDY
Goddamit! I'm gonna fix this house
if it's the last thing I do.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Joshua hurries into the kitchen and bounces round his Mother, excitedly.

JOSHUA
Mom! Mom!

ROSE
I told you Josh, no more running in
the house, especially in your
condition.

JOSHUA
But Mom, Alice...

ROSE
Oh God, What's happened?

JOSHUA
No, nothing bad, well I think she
can speak to...

The crash of metal sounds from outside.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA
Ghosts...

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Rose, Andy, Joshua and a MEDIUM hold hands around the dining table. Andy wears a neck brace.

JOSHUA
Mom, Dad, Why isn't Alice allowed
you know, round the table?

ROSE
She's too young, and the
investigator says she may
compromise his work. Due to
her...Involvement.

MEDIUM
Okay family, everything's set, now
we mustn't break our bond, and we
must chant our words in tandem...I
will take care of the rest.

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The wind howls through Alice's bedroom, and in an instant,
Agnes appears. She sits next to Alice on the bed.

AGNES
Alice dear, I'm gonna have to leave
you, your family don't want me
round here no more.

ALICE
But why?

AGNES
It's the house, they don't
understand like you or I. When
they're ready to listen, you tell
them how to treat this place, or
they in for a world of trouble.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

His eyes now in the back of his head, the Medium trembles
with rage.

(CONTINUED)

MEDIUM

Now you must leave these people be,
You are not welcome anymore!

The curtains behind Joshua form hands and try to reach for him.

A great swirling wind tries to break their chain.

The light bulb flickers furiously.

The fireplace roars 'IT IS YOU WHO ARE NOT WELCOME!'

ANDY

We should have got a large...

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice watches from her window as Agnes walks slowly down the street.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Joshua's hand starts to slip from his Mother's hand.

The medium's face has now drained of colour, out of his depth.

MEDIUM

Don't break the chain...

Joshua's hand slips from his Mother's grip.

All goes dark, still, the eye before the storm...

ROSE

...Alice!

Joshua springs to action, chases toward the...

STAIRS,

Halfway up the stairs, he slips. Somethings got his leg, it's the banister, animated, wrapped around his foot. He tries to fight, drag himself up.

IN ALICE'S BEDROOM

She hysterically pounds on the door trying to get out.

DOWNSTAIRS,

Rose and Andy fend off all kinds of animated antiques flying through the air. The Medium cowers under the table.

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALICE
 (Through the door)
 It's the house! The house is what's
 doing this!

DOWNSTAIRS

ANDY
What?

JOSHUA
 She said it's the house!

ANDY
 The house...

The penny drops...

Andy goes runs through his Dining Room which now resembles an obstacle course.

And into the Kitchen...

He rapidly rummages through draws, not noticing a knife dangling in the air next to his head. He grabs a tin of VARNISH.

ANDY
 Ah, ha!

He spins round. Stares at the knife between his eyes. Gulps. He sways from side to side, hypnotic, then grabs the knife and throws it in the opposite direction.

He sprints over to the STAIRS.

He desperately tries to open the tin. His wife is now being strangled by a curtain, Joshua struggles with the banister.

ANDY
 I need a screwdriver, a
 screwdriver!

ROSE
 Just use your goddamn hands!

He strains with all his might and...open!

(CONTINUED)

He spreads the varnish lovingly upon the stairs.

ANDY

There, there house, in need of some
attention, huh?

The banister and then the curtains begin to release their grip. Alice is then freed. They all embrace at the bottom of the stairs. They know what they have to do...

ROSE

I'll get the paint...

INT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

Alice and Joshua run out of their good as new home. Their parents follow, slowly, in tow.

Alice stops suddenly and turns. She looks right at an old rocking chair on the porch and smiles.

FADE OUT:

THE END