

Halloween Hijack

FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Trick or Treaters sprinkle the night.

LAWRENCE, 15, in all black, creepy rubber mask hangs over his messy hair, stands in the middle of a sidewalk observing the activity.

MANNY, 10, homemade Halloween costume, and a pillowcase of candy approaches Lawrence. He stops and looks up. Waves.

Lawrence grins. He pulls down his mask.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Used paper plates, cups and old beer cans litter the floor.

Lawrence walks in the pigsty. He tows the pillowcase and five other different trick or treat bags into his bedroom.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Month old dishes in the sink. Stained counters. A cabinet sits open with nothing but canned foods.

Lawrence holds a can as he throws open drawer after drawer.

He moves to the moldy dishes and filters through them. Finding nothing, he tosses a plastic cup and moves to the --

LIVING ROOM

LAWRENCE

Gary, where the hell did you put the
can opener?

GARY, mid 30s, lies on the couch with a half downed bottle of Jack in hand, and a shrine of empty beers around him.

Lawrence kicks his feet and shakes the can in his face.

LAWRENCE

Yo, Gary! None of them have the
tabs to open. Where's the can opener?

Lawrence shakes him. Gary stirs but nothing. Lawrence shakes his head. He sees a comforter on the ground. He picks it up and covers his father then walks away.

LAWRENCE

God damn drunk.

But Lawrence stops at an unopened beer.

INT. LAWRENCE'S ROOM - NIGHT

A replica of the living room, just swap the beer cans with dirty clothes.

Lawrence digs inside a Fairy Princess Halloween bag as he laughs at a gruesome scene from a horror movie.

Lawrence takes a swig of his beer, and then chuckles again.

LATER

The tv plays a scene - which suddenly goes popcorn gray.

Candy wrappers lie all over the white bed sheet which Lawrence lays under, fast asleep.

The wrappers crunch as the bed sheet moves. The sheet gradually pulls off of him toward the end of the bed.

Lawrence awakens, just as the sheet slips off of his feet.

He rubs his eyes, confused, looking around the room. But his attention stops at the foot of the bed.

A **FIGURE** draped in Lawrence's bed sheet stands five feet tall. It's stillness is eerie. But Lawrence masks his fear with a squint and sits up, like a real man should.

LAWRENCE

You supposed to scare me or something?
I should knock you square in the
jaw. Girl or not.

The five foot figure hovers its way to the side of the bed.

Lawrence looses the tough guy act and scrambles up until he stands on the bed. He balls up his fists and eyes a bat in the corner of the room by the closet.

LAWRENCE

Get out of here.

The ghostly figure catches the moonlight. Lawrence sees straight through the sheet, and nothing lies underneath it.

LAWRENCE

Gary! Wake up, you drunk! GARY!

The ghost backs away to the door as it creaks open by itself. Down the long dark hall are doorways on either side and at the end is a part of the living room, lit by the tv.

Lawrence watches as the ghost floats down the hall and stops at a bedroom doorway.

A **FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY** runs out the bedroom with a Halloween costume on and darts out of view into the living room.

The ghost looks back at Lawrence, then follows the boy.

Lawrence musters the courage to step off the bed. He cautiously walks out his bedroom and down the hallway.

Halfway to the living room, Gary paces into view, holding his bottle of Jack, screaming something. But his voice is muffled and scrawled as if he were two apartments over.

LAWRENCE

Gary. Who the hell are these kids
in our house?

But Gary doesn't pay Lawrence any mind as he throws his arms up in a fit of rage, spewing his inaudible words to someone in the unseen part of the living room.

Lawrence creeps down the hall until he can see the living room in full view.

The boy in the Halloween costume is balled up in his mother's arms. **VIVICA**, 22, a frightened mess.

Her cheeks stain with tears as she protects her son.

LAWRENCE

Mom?

The boy turns around in his mom's arms.

Lawrence touches his own face.

Gary grabs a small sack of candy off the floor. He shakes it violently over Vivica's head.

The ghost appears beside Lawrence, within the shadows of the hallway. Lawrence looks over.

LAWRENCE

What is this? Who are you? Why
can't they see me?

Gary walks away and continues to throw his arms in the air as he argues. Lawrence looks at his mother with sympathy.

LAWRENCE

He was asleep. She said if we left
for only an hour, he would have never
have found out.

Vivica cradles little Lawrence and wipes his tears away.

Gary tosses the bag at Vivica but it hits little Lawrence.
Vivica screams back at Gary. Gary yells inches from her
face.

LAWRENCE

Hey!

Gary keeps spewing his hate at her.

LAWRENCE

Leave her alone!

Lawrence steps forward, wanting to intervene - but he runs
into a small lamp. The lamp falls and breaks. The light
bounces into the hallway. Lawrence turns as the ghostly
figure SQUEALS a bit and retreats back into the shadows.

Gary turns. He storms over and inspects the lamp.

LAWRENCE

You paying attention now, you dick?!

Lawrence shoves Gary -- but he only passes straight through
him. Lawrence watches his father pick up the broken lamp.
Gary seems to boil with more anger than before.

Lawrence looks around. His bat lies in the corner. Lawrence
reaches out to the bat. He successfully touches it. He
goes to grab it, but SHACKLES are around his wrists.

The ghost yanks chains that are attached to the shackles and
pulls Lawrence toward him.

Gary gets up and pulls Vivica up by her arm. Lawrence tugs
on the chains

LAWRENCE

Let me go!
(to Gary)
Don't touch her!

Little Lawrence tries to pull his dad off but Gary just pushes
the little man away and drags Vivica past Lawrence and to
the bedroom and SLAMS the door.

Lawrence tugs on the chains. He finally breaks free.
Lawrence races down the hall bangs on the door --

But his fists just strike the air

LAWRENCE'S BEDROOM

Lawrence sits up, fist balled up in front of him. Sweat drips off of his face.

He sits straight up and scans the room.

Lawrence hears a CRACKLE at the base of his bed.

Lawrence slowly peaks over the bed. He sees the white sheet -- but it's just balled up. Another CRACKLE. Lawrence looks further and see an empty wrapper, slowly unfolding.

Lawrence hears a television outside. He gets up and opens the door and peaks down the dark, familiar, hallway.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gary, barely on his feet, slaps a VCR, mumbling in anger.

Lawrence watches the pathetic drunk from the hallway.

Gary slaps the VCR again and shouts like a brute -- but suddenly turns with a drunken panic in his eye.

But no one is there.

INT. LAWRENCE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence lies on his back, wide awake. His hand comes across a piece of candy. He starts to open it but stops. Looks at all the candy on the bed. The empty beer can lies beside him as well.

Lawrence gets up and clears all the debris off of his bed.

TAP TAP TAP. Lawrence spins around. Looks to the window. The closet. His dresser. Nothing... but he waits.

TAP. TAP. The closet. It gently opens and closes as if a light breeze were in the room -- or a person on the other side poking it open and letting it fall back on its own.

Lawrence eyes dart to his bat, which is conveniently in front of the closet door.

TAP. TAP. TAP... goes the door again. Lawrence looks around his room. No other weapons. But he grabs a pillow.

Lawrence inches toward the closet with his pillow out. The door creaks open, slower, wider than before. Lawrence inadvertently holds his breath...

Then the door SLAMS SHUT.

A CREAK. Lawrence's attention darts to a dark corner of the room where a WOMAN sits in a chair, in a long black dress with a slit on the side exposing her lengthy milk chocolate legs. Her face is lost in the shadows, destined to be something repulsive.

Lawrence cocks his head to the side.

LAWRENCE

I know I'm awake this time. And I don't know how you got in here, but to be honest, looking at those legs, I'm not too sure I want you out.

The woman uncrosses her legs and stands. She steps out of the shadows. Her face, a rigid frown with pin needle teeth. Her eyes are sunken in her skull and all white, which are almost covered by her wild, stringy black hair.

The **DEMON** lifts her arm and points, simultaneously discharging a ghastly HOWL.

Lawrence backs up.

LAWRENCE

Never mind, I want you out! I want you out!

The closet door rattles then flies open. A gust of air spews out, then sucks in. Lawrence is swept off of his feet and pulled inside. The demon follows. The door slams shut.

INT. DINGY HOUSE - NIGHT

Boarded up windows. Patched up walls. Busted light bulbs.

A termite invested closet door swings open. Lawrence falls inside the desolated home. The door shuts.

Lawrence looks around the mysterious home.

LAWRENCE

Where am I?

A shuffle. Lawrence turns to see Manny, in his homemade costume, washing his face over a rusty bucket of water.

A large flashlight is his only light.

LAWRENCE

I - I know that kid.

Lawrence's eyes dart to a dark corner where the Demon stares in the child's direction with her milky eyes.

Manny turns around. He holds a dirty wet rag to his swollen eye. Lawrence looks him in the eye, feeling bad.

LAWRENCE

Why didn't you just give it up, man?
All that fight for some candy?

The boy drapes the rag over the bucket and walks toward a door to another room.

Lawrence glares at the demon.

LAWRENCE

What is this? The past and now the
present? Some Christmas Carol
bullshit?

The demon turns to Lawrence with it's rotten stare.

LAWRENCE

I jacked a few kids for their candy
tonight. So what? I'm suddenly the
Goblin who stole Halloween? I
probably did this kid a favor.

Manny turns the flashlight off and gently sets it down by the door. He quietly opens the door and walks in. The demon follows and gestures Lawrence to come along.

LAWRENCE

I'm not going anywhere with you.
"Don't steal from kids on Halloween"
Lesson learned. Now get me home.

The demon pulls a chain. Lawrence notices the shackles on his arms. He scoffs as he moves forward.

INT. DINGY ROOM - NIGHT

Manny tries to slip under the covers next to TWO OTHER CHILDREN, 6 and 7, without being heard, but they awaken.

The children look to him with smiles, but Manny, keeping his head down, shakes his head with disappointment. Then looks up. The moonlight hits his face. They see his black eye.

The children cuddle up next to Manny and show him love.

Lawrence stands in the doorway looking at the kids. The Demon hovers over his shoulder.

Lawrence can't take it. He looks away then walks out and closes the door -- but stops at the sight of the demon, looking him directly in the eye.

LAWRENCE

So you're going to show me my future now?! That I'll become just like my dad! Drunk and alone?! Then what? Am I supposed to help these kids? How? Help my dead mom? What is this for?! I can't help anyone!

The demon floats toward him. Wind blows her hair back and her white eyes pierce into Lawrence's. Lawrence steps back.

The demon grabs his face. She opens her mouth to reveal pin sharp teeth. A white fog emerges out of her mouth and goes into Lawrence's -- but Lawrence pushes her off.

He falls into the wall by the door. The flashlight tumbles next to him. He grabs it and points it at the demon.

She squeals. The closet door opens - and she's sucked inside then the door shuts.

Lawrence catches his breath. He hears footsteps and watches the kids run past him to the closet door.

Lawrence stands -- and the kids jerk their attention to him.

Lawrence stares back at them. They clearly are looking directly at him.

Manny points. He staggers back in fear -- then falls into the other two.

LAWRENCE

I'm - I'm sorry.

Lawrence runs out of the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence walks in. The light from the tv illuminates Gary, fast asleep on the couch again.

Lawrence stumbles over a pile of empty beer cans. He grumbles as he picks them up and walks into the --

KITCHEN

Lawrence walks in with the cans. He notices that the dishes have been washed.

Lawrence opens the trash to throw the cans away but stops.

He digs in the garbage can and pulls out the bottle of Jack, still half full.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence stares at his dad. He notices what's on the tv for the first time.

Little Lawrence, Vivica, and Gary, smiling, laughing with each other, looking happy.

Lawrence half smiles, then shakes his head and goes in the room.

INT. LAWRENCE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence walks in and stops at the sight of a piece of paper on his bed. He picks it up.

The note reads: *I'll buy the ones with the tabs next time.*

Lawrence looks on the bed. A can opener lies in the center.

Lawrence smiles. He picks it up. Then looks at the bag of candy.

INT. DINGY HOUSE - DAY

A THUD at the door. Manny comes out of the room with the flashlight, on high alert.

He creaks open the door to take a peak. He sees his pillow case and four other trick or treat bags in front of the door.

Manny opens his pillowcase full of candy. A smile creeps on his face. He digs inside, but his hand comes across something.

Manny pulls out the can opener. He quizzically stares at it, then opens the other bags. Inside lies several can goods.

Manny looks around for the person to thank, but the streets are empty.

EXT. DINGY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lawrence watches from behind a tree as Manny closes the door.

Lawrence smiles. He gets up as he sees GIRL, 12, in a pink tutu with her face covered in a blank white mask.

She lugs a large sack of candy and walks past him without a care in the world.

Lawrence stares at the candy and licks his lips as she passes him -- but he shakes the feeling off.

Lawrence walks away -- but stops at the sounds of CHAINS. He looks down at his arms. They're shackled.

The little girl, still facing the other direction, holds the other end. She slowly turns toward Lawrence.

LAWRENCE

What the hell?

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Trick or Treaters sprinkle the night.

Lawrence, in all black, creepy rubber mask hangs over his messy hair, stands in the middle of a sidewalk observing the activity.

Manny, with his homemade Halloween costume on, and a pillowcase of candy approaches Lawrence.

Lawrence can't believe his eyes. He looks around, a little scared.

Manny stops and looks up. He waves at Lawrence.

Lawrence sheepishly grins.

He pulls off his mask.

BLACK