

Phasmos

by

(c) 2017

EXT. ASYLUM - DAY

ANNE, 15, mousey brown hair in pig tails, pink dress and worn-out cardigan, stands at the bottom of concrete steps, small suitcase in hand.

She glowers at a sign above large double front doors:

"Lindel's Children's Institution"

INT. ASYLUM - RECREATION HALL - DAY

A morbid dreary place.

Anne stands in the centre of the room and watches tables of CHILDREN, tatty clothes, aged 6 to 18, they sit and play chess, checkers or stare blindly into nothingness.

PHIL, 17, pitch black hair, disheveled pyjamas, he sits in a wheel chair in the corner, staring at his knees.

PHIL

You're back.

He snaps at Anne with big blue, terrified eyes.

PHIL

You shouldn't have come back.

A NURSE, 20's, enters from a hallway to the side. She reads from a clipboard in her arms.

NURSE

Phil.

She looks up at him.

NURSE

Time for your appointment with Mr. Stevens.

Phil glares at Anne as he stands up from the wheelchair. He quickly scuffles past her and follows the Nurse down the hallway.

INT. ASYLUM - ANNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Anne, asleep, tosses and turns.

ANNE

No...No...Don't...Please dont!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She wakes in a cold sweat.

She gets up and puts a dressing gown on.

INT. ASYLUM - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Anne peeks her head out of her room. No one there.

She tip toes out and down the corridor. As she nears the nurses station at the end, a door beside her creaks open.

Phil, half asleep, unaware of Anne's presence, almost bumps into her on the way out of his room.

Eyes suddenly wide awake, Phil screams --

PHIL

Don't touch me! Don't touch me!

Phil cowers to the floor. He cups his ears and rocks back and forth.

Anne, shocked, steps back, hands in the air.

ANNE

I'm sorry. I don't know what I did.

PHIL

Get away from me!

Two NURSES come running. One holds him down while the other jabs him with a needle.

INT. ASYLUM - CORRIDOR (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Anne runs down the corridor. A BLACK SHADOWY FIGURE follows, hot on her heels.

At the end of the corridor, Anne runs down a wide staircase.

INT. BASEMENT (CONTINUED)

Anne bursts through the door.

She runs across the room towards the incinerator.

She trips over her own feet and falls to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As she turns to see the Shadow, it engulfs her.

END DREAM

INT. ANNE'S ROOM - MORNING

Anne's eye's jolt open. She takes a deep breathe, relieved.

Sunshine beams through the bars on her window, showing off sketches of shadowy figures stuck around her walls.

She gets out of bed, slips her slippers on and dressing gown over her shoulders. She grabs a sketchbook from her bedside table before leaving the room.

EXT. GARDENS - DAY

Anne sits on a bench. She draws another morbid black shadowy figure onto a page of her sketchbook.

Phil scarcely sits down on the other end of the bench.

PHIL

I'm sorry about how I've been acting. I asked Dr. Stevens for some more meds. He's always telling me I need to face my fears. So I have to steal 'em when I can.

He pulls a bottle of Valium from his pocket and chugs back one of the pills. Anne gives him a friendly grin.

PHIL

Need one?

She shakes her head.

ANNE

No thanks.

Phil slips the bottle back into his pocket. He looks down at the grass and grazes it with his slippers.

PHIL

Why are you here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNE

Because of the nightmares. I can't stop them. Nothing helps. Not even the meds.

She continues to sketch.

PHIL

And that's what's haunting you?

He points to the drawing.

ANNE

Yes.

PHIL

Every night?

ANNE

Every night.

Phil hugs his knees to his chest. He shuts his eyes.

PHIL

What if I said I could help you?
Would you leave me alone then?

ANNE

What? I haven't done anything to you.

PHIL

What if I told you that you stole my heart once.

She stops sketching and eyes him off.

ANNE

I'd say your crazy.

PHIL

Look who's talking.

ANNE

I don't even know you.

PHIL

You're wrong. You just can't remember. You have to let me help you. And then you have to let me go.

INT. ANNE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Anne sleeps restlessly. Phil creeps into the room and shakes her awake.

She sits up, rubs her eyes.

ANNE

What the hell are you doing? You can't be in here?

Phil paces her room.

PHIL

I can't sleep with the noises. I can't sleep with them around me. I hear them. I see them all the time. More so now you're here. I have to face my fear and you're the only one I can talk to. You're the only one I feel comfortable with.

He sits, cross legged, on the end of her bed.

PHIL

Tell me about it.

She squints at him.

ANNE

What?

PHIL

The Shadow. What does it do that scares you so much?

ANNE

Go away and let me sleep.

She lies back down, pulls the blanket over her head.

PHIL

No. The only way I can help you is if you tell me about it. I need to be free of this.

She pushes the blanket down.

ANNE

I don't understand.

EXT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Phil drags Anne down a corridor to the basement door.

PHIL
This is where it happened didn't
it?

ANNE
We can't go down there.

PHIL
Sure we can.

Phil takes a set of Nurses keys from his pyjama pocket.
He unlocks the door.

ANNE
But how--

PHIL
When you're classified as low
risk, anything's possible.

INT. BASEMENT (CONTINUED)

Phil follows Anne into the centre of the room.

ANNE
Here. This is where it catches me.

She looks around the room.

ANNE
I can't get away. There's no
escape. There never is.

Phil kneels to inspect the floor. He brushes it with his
hand, as if to find something hidden beneath.

PHIL
There's nothing here.

Anne closes her eyes, walks towards the incinerator.

ANNE
It feels as if I'm supposed to be
here. Like I'm being pulled in
this direction.

He stands up and reaches out to hold her shoulders then
retracts his hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHIL

Think Anne, think.

He sighs, as if letting go of inhibitions. He takes a hold of her hands.

PHIL

I need you to remember.

She opens her eyes, nostalgic look on her face.

ANNE

I know you.

FLASHBACK

1) Phil and Anne sit side by side on the bench in the gardens.

ANNE

Why are you here?

PHIL

Phasmophobia. You?

Anne dips her head, shy to answer.

ANNE

Pyrophobia.

PHIL

Two p's. Two pea's in a pod.

He leans over and bumps shoulders with her.

2) Anne sits beside Phil on the floor of his room. She comforts him.

ANNE

They can't hurt you.

3) Anne and Phil stand across from each other in the corridor.

PHIL

I got you something for your birthday.

Anne bites her lip with excitement.

ANNE

I never get anything, well not since I was little.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He pulls a silver bracelet from his pocket.

ANNE

That's Nurse Penny's

Phil puts a finger to his lips.

PHIL

Shh.

4) NURSE PENNY pushes Anne against the corridor wall.

NURSE PENNY

I know you have it! Where is it?

5) A DOCTOR and DETECTIVE observe Phil through a glass window to an interview room.

Phil sits at a table with his head in his hands.

DOCTOR

I assure you, he's innocent.

DETECTIVE

So how did she escape? She must've had help from somewhere.

DOCTOR

My staff are highly qualified. I won't have you interrogating them again. Just keep this under wraps. Nobody needs to know.

6) Nurse Penny shoves a drowsy, half sedated Anne into the basement. She opens the incinerator and shoves Anne into it.

NURSE PENNY

Affraid of fire are we?

Anne screams as the incinerator burns her alive.

BACK TO SCENE

Anne opens her eyes.

ANNE

The Incinerator. It's there.

Phil opens the incinerator door. He pushes ash around with his hands until he looks up to see a silver bracelet clasp stuck in the hinge of the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Phil turns to see Nurse Penny behind him.

NURSE PENNY

Boo!

Phil steps backward.

NURSE PENNY

Little thief. I know you have something that belongs to me.

PHIL

Which one?

He holds up her keys in one hand and the bracelet clasp in the other. She gasps at the sight of the clasp.

NURSE PENNY

Where--

PHIL

You want it? Come and get it.

He throws both items in the incinerator.

Nurse Penny, assured of herself, stomps past Phil to retrieve the items.

Phil picks up a fire poker that leans against a wall nearby. He runs it through Nurse Penny's back - right through to her chest.

She falls to the ground, blood spilling from her mouth. She grins at Phil and barely mutters--

NURSE PENNY

Aren't you afraid I'll come back to haunt you?

Anne reappears beside Nurse Penny. Phil smiles at Anne and answers.

PHIL

No.

Nurse Penny lies in a pool of blood on the floor. Eyes open. Dead.

ANNE

You know what you have to do.

Nurse Penny appears in ghost form. She lunges towards Phil.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Anne reaches forward and grabs Nurse Penny's hair. She pulls her backwards and they disappear into thin air.

Phil rips Nurse Penny's dress from her dead body. He rips the dress into smaller pieces, setting each one alight.

EXT. ASYLUM - NIGHT

The entire building is engulfed by flames. Windows smash. Patients run screaming from the premises.

Phil watches from the shadows of another building down the street.

EXT. ASYLUM - DAY

SUPER: 20 Years Later

Phil, 37, stands in a business suit, business case in one hand, bunch of flowers in the other, in front of a pile of rubble surrounded by wire fencing.

He stares at a faint female figure standing in the middle of the rubble, smile upon her face.

PHIL

I couldn't save you, but you saved me. You were the only one that could.

He puts the flowers at the door step.

PHIL

RIP Anne.

FADE OUT.