

SHUDDER

By

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FADE IN:

INT. GRANDPARENTS HOUSE - SPRING 1963

Thirty-three month old DAVID ALLAN, is standing at the top of the staircase leading down to the first floor at his grandparents house.

AUNT VERA

David, let me carry you downstairs.

Vera walking up behind David.

DAVID

No. Me walk.

AUNT VERA

Honey, I'll carry you.

Vera grabs David from behind. Startling David, he topples down the flight of stairs.

DAVID

(SCREAMS; followed by  
silence)

AUNT VERA

(frantic)

SOMEBODY, CALL THE SQUAD!

The red and white ambulance with its red swirling cherry lights on top, rush David down the mountainside.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY HOME - MORNING

THURSTON, OHIO. Daylight fills the upstairs L shaped hallway. Light footsteps as ANNA MARIE ALLAN climbs the staircase up to the second floor. As she reaches the third stair step, she hears a female humming. She stops for a moment and looks around.

Anna Marie is both young and beautiful, and loves being a housewife and mother of five. Wearing a yellow sleeveless summer dress, she stands in front of the baby bed in the L shaped hallway where David is entertaining himself. David wearing a white eye patch over his left eye due to his injury during his fall, he smiles as he is looking just past Anna Marie. Anna Marie looks to the corner of the hallway ceiling where David is looking.

ANNA MARIE

There's my boy! Did you have a good nap? I'll bet you'll be glad to get rid of that eye patch. Yes you will, yes you will. What are you looking at, David? Well c'mon, lets go downstairs.

Anna Marie gets David out of his bed and carries him down the stairs.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

FRED ALLAN is sitting on the couch in the living room reading the newspaper when his wife, Anna Marie walks in. Anna Marie picks up a magazine off of an end table and sits down in her rocking chair across from FRED ALLAN without saying a word.

FRED

Honey, is something wrong?

ANNA MARIE

No... Yes, I don't know.

Anna Marie sniffing trying to fight her tears.

FRED

What's wrong? Obviously something has you upset.

Anna Marie gets out of her rocking chair and joins Fred on the couch.

FRED (CONT'D)

Honey, talk to me. Why are you so upset?

ANNA MARIE

I think that I'm losing my mind! There are things happening around here that I don't understand.

Fred laughs as he sets the newspaper down on the couch beside him.

FRED

I'm sure you're not losing your mind. Just tell me what happened.

Fred giving Anna Marie his complete attention.

ANNA MARIE

This morning when I went upstairs to get David from his nap. I..., he... something or somebody was upstairs with David. I could feel us being watched; I know we were not alone!

Anna Marie trembling.

FRED

Honey, calm down. Did you see someone? Who was it? Where were they?

Fred not giving Anna Marie a chance to respond.

FRED (CONT'D)

Start from the beginning!

ANNA MARIE

I knew you would think I'm crazy! I wasn't going to say anything to you because I knew you would look at me like that!

Fred now trying to console Anna Marie.

FRED

Of course I believe you. Tell me what happened.

ANNA MARIE

David was awake so I went upstairs to get him. When I started up the stairs, I heard a woman humming or singing some sort of tune that I've never heard before. The voice was coming from the upstairs hallway. When I got upstairs, David was smiling and laughing as if he was interacting with someone. I know that there was no one in the house other than me and the three kids!

FRED

Did anything else happen?

ANNA MARIE

Isn't that enough? This is not the first time that I have heard someone humming and singing upstairs while David is napping!

(MORE)

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

It scares me and makes me very nervous! Today, I could feel someone watching us which I have never felt before.

FRED

Honey, I guess I should have mentioned this to you before. I can't explain it either, but what you felt and heard today is not your imagination. I have heard and felt the same thing.

Ten year old DIANA ALLAN walks into the living room and stands there for a second.

DIANA

I hear women upstairs sometimes too. I always look all around when I hear them, but I never see anybody.

FRED

That's enough, Diana.

DIANA

Dad hears the women too! He knocked on my bedroom door one night asking me what I was humming. I told him that it wasn't me; but I heard it too!

FRED

I said, that's enough Diana! Go upstairs and get to bed; you have school in the morning.

Diana kisses Fred and Anna Marie on the cheek as she disappears into the parlor.

ANNA MARIE

Why didn't you tell me about this before? How long has this been going on?

FRED

I didn't say anything because I thought I had imagined it the first time. When I heard it again and asked Diana what she was humming; and she told me that it wasn't her; what was I going to tell you? I have heard it a couple of times since.

ANNA MARIE

Well, you could have said something!

FRED

I didn't want to say anything until I could figure out where it was coming from.

ANNA MARIE

So, where is it coming from?

Fred stands up from the couch.

FRED

I don't know. I wish I did.

ANNA MARIE

You don't think we have a ghost do you?

FRED

You know there are no such things!

ANNA MARIE

BULL! My mother could see and hear spirits all of her life! And; my mother wasn't crazy!

FRED

It's getting late. I need to go and shave so I can get to bed. Are you coming?

ANNA MARIE

When was the first time you heard the female voices?

FRED

The first time was a day or two after we went to Mom's for the weekend. That's all I can tell you. Are you coming?

FADE OUT.

INT. TV ROOM - AFTERNOON

ANNA MARIE turns the tv on just as the news of President John F. Kennedy's assassination fills the airwaves.

ANNA MARIE

OH DEAR GOD!

DAVID  
(screaming)

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY HOME - AFTERNOON

Anna Marie rushing up the staircase. She reaches the fifth step from the upstairs landing and sees David to her right through the wooden bannister spindles.

ANNA MARIE  
(screams out)  
DAVID! NO!!

David is falling over the top of his baby bed side rail. Anna Marie trips on the steps trying to reach David. Without taking her eyes off David, something or someone catches David mid fall and sits him on the hallway floor. Anna Marie rushes over to David.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
BABY! Are you okay? You scared the wits out of me. Don't you ever climb over the bed rail again!

Anna Marie hugging David as a tear trickles down her cheek. Looking all around the L shaped hallway and down the staircase; she looks towards the corner of the ceiling.

Fifteen month old SHERYL ALLAN is awake from her nap. Anna Marie gets Sheryl out of her baby bed and carries Sheryl in her one free arm, as she is holding David's hand as they walk down the steps.

FADE OUT.

INT. KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Fred gets home from work and walks into the kitchen where Anna Marie is cooking supper.

ANNA MARIE  
Hi, Honey. How was work today? You look tired.

FRED  
Hello Beautiful! Its been a long day. I worked outside all day and I think that I might have over done it.

ANNA MARIE

I wish you would slow down a little bit; I worry about you being out in the sun all day. Go wash up, supper is almost ready. After you eat, you can relax for the rest of the evening.

Fred walks over to the bathroom to wash his hands. Anna Marie is setting the table for supper.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Honey, will you pull the high chairs up to the table?

Walking out of the kitchen and over to the base of the staircase.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Diana, DEBBIE, FREDDIE, suppers ready; come and eat.

Fred puts David in one high chair as Anna Marie sits Sheryl down in the other. The family are at the kitchen table eating supper.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Honey, from now on; I don't want David put back in his baby bed for any reason.

Fred looks puzzled.

FRED

Why? Is something wrong with his baby bed?

ANNA MARIE

No, not exactly. David was trying to climb over the bed rail this afternoon and fell.

FRED

Is he okay?

ANNA MARIE

Luckily he wasn't hurt. I think he was more scared than anything.

FRED

That's a four foot drop to the floor! Are you sure he's okay?

ANNA MARIE

He's fine; I'm the nervous wreck!  
Until we can get another bed, David  
and Freddie will have to share a  
bed.

FADE TO:

INT. TV ROOM - MORNING

Sheryl and David are playing in the TV room. David is playing with his GI Joe's on the floor and Sheryl is playing with one of her doll babies on the couch. David sees movement out of the corner of his eye and looks up. He sees a (ghost) family gliding into the TV room from out of the Parlor. A man, woman, boy and girl all dressed in period clothing.

SHERYL

(Screaming.)

DAVID

Mom! People are here.

ANNA MARIE

What? Why is Sheryl screaming?

David runs to Anna Marie in the utility room.

DAVID

People are here!

Sheryl still screaming in the background.

ANNA MARIE

What, who's here? Wouldn't you know  
it, my hair's a mess!

Anna Marie dusts her clothes off as she walks over to the TV room.

DAVID

Hurry up, Mom!

David and Anna Marie enter the TV room together.

ANNA MARIE

David, I thought you said we had  
company. I don't see anyone; do  
you?

David slowly walking backwards and bumps into Anna Marie.  
David turns around and looks at his mom.

DAVID  
 Mom, there were people here.

David points to the center of the room.

ANNA MARIE  
 Sheryl, stop crying. Everything's  
 okay. And David, you don't lie to  
 me! Understand?

DAVID  
 But, Mom...

ANNA MARIE  
 Don't Mom, me. I don't want to hear  
 it; just stop it!

DAVID  
 Mom...

ANNA MARIE  
 You just wait until your dad gets  
 home. I won't have you kids lying  
 to me.

DAVID  
 I'm not lying!

ANNA MARIE  
 Go to your room and stay there  
 until I tell you that you can come  
 out.

David pouting as he walks up the staircase.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Anna Marie has just finished making everyone's plate for  
 supper except for herself and Fred. Fred makes his supper  
 plate, and then Anna Marie makes hers. They seat themselves  
 at the table.

FRED  
 David, after supper I want to have  
 a talk with you.

David puts his head down.

FRED (CONT'D)  
 David, did you hear me? I am  
 talking to you!

David looks up and glares into Fred's eyes.

DAVID  
Yes; I hear you.

FRED  
Now everybody, bow your heads and  
close your eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - EVENING

David is up in his bedroom when he hears footsteps on the staircase. Moments later; Fred walks into David's and Freddie's bedroom.

FRED  
David, do you know why I wanted to  
talk to you? Did you do or say  
anything today that you know you  
shouldn't have? Let's hear it.

David now staring at the floor.

FRED (CONT'D)  
Look at me, I'm talking to you.

DAVID  
I didn't do nuffing (nothing)  
wrong.

FRED  
You didn't do anything wrong; is  
that what you're telling me?

DAVID  
I didn't.

David now glaring into his fathers eyes.

FRED  
What have I told you kids about  
lying? I will not tolerate you and  
your brother and sisters lying to  
me or your mother! Do you  
understand me?

DAVID  
I didn't lie!

Fred now glaring back into David's eyes with a puzzled look on his face.

FRED

Your mother told me that you had scared Sheryl this afternoon and made her cry. In fact, Sheryl was screaming like you scared her half to death! Your mother also told me that you told her that there were people in the TV room when there was no one there. Why would you lie to your mom about something like that?

David staring down to the floor again.

DAVID

Dad, there were people in the TV room. They came in and when Sheryl saw them she started screaming. They scared her.

FRED

What do I have to do to make you understand that lying is wrong? What do I have too do?! Lying is unacceptable; period!

DAVID

I told you and mom the truth. There were people here.

Fred slowly shaking his head.

FRED

I am going to let you off with a warning... THIS TIME! I ever catch you lying to your mother and me again, you won't be able to sit down for a month when I'm done with you! Now, get back downstairs and wash up and get ready for bed.

FADE OUT.

INT. TV ROOM - MORNING

Six months later.

SHERYL

Mommy, Mommy!

Sheryl running into the laundry room.

ANNA MARIE  
What's the matter, honey?

SHERYL  
People here!

ANNA MARIE  
Who is it?

Sheryl shrugging her shoulders.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
Are they at the door?

SHERYL  
TV room.

Nervously, Anna Marie briskly walks over to the TV room.

ANNA MARIE  
Sheryl, I thought you said someone  
was here?

SHERYL  
Mommy, they were here. I saw them.

ANNA MARIE  
Did you let someone in?

SHERYL  
No, they come from the hallway.

ANNA MARIE  
DAVID! Are you trying to scare your  
sister again?

Anna Marie looking directly at David.

DAVID  
I didn't do anything. We were just  
watching TV when they came in.

SHERYL  
Mommy; I saw them!

Anna Marie shivers with a cold chill.

ANNA MARIE  
Sheryl, what do these people look  
like?

SHERYL  
A man, a woman and a boy and girl.

ANNA MARIE  
Do you know who these people are?

SHERYL  
No, Mommy. They had funny clothes  
on.

ANNA MARIE  
Funny? What do you mean?

SHERYL  
I don't know.

ANNA MARIE  
David, do you know what Sheryl is  
talking about? Did you really see  
these people too?

David looks down to the floor.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
Honey, I asked you a question.

DAVID  
You won't believe me anyway.

ANNA MARIE  
Just tell me. Did you see these  
people too?

DAVID  
Yes.

Anna Marie walks over to the front door and looks through the  
full glass panel where she sees the neighbor outside.

ANNA MARIE  
David, are these the same people  
that you've told me about before?

David's eyes lock with Anna Marie's.

DAVID  
Yes, I see them all the time. They  
come here a lot, Mom.

ANNA MARIE  
You kids stay put. I'll just be  
outside. I want to talk to HARRIET  
for a minute.

David and Sheryl go back to watching tv. Anna Marie walks out the front door.

MOMENTS LATER.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - MID MORNING

ANNA MARIE

Good Morning, Harriet. How are you today?

Harriet walks over to the middle of Anna Marie's driveway with a watering can in her hand.

HARRIET

Good morning, Anna. I'm doing well; how are you?

Anna Marie walks down the porch steps and joins Harriet in the driveway.

ANNA MARIE

I won't keep you since I can see that you're busy. I just wanted to ask you if you happened to see any people at my door this morning.

HARRIET

No, Anna. Being such a beautiful day, I've been out here the past two hours watering my flowers and doing some weeding.

ANNA MARIE

I was washing clothes when Sheryl came and got me and said that there were some people here to see me.

Anna Marie laughing nervously.

HARRIET

I didn't see anyone at your door; but I knew that you had company.

Harriet chuckles.

ANNA MARIE

Company?

HARRIET

Yeah. You know, the man and woman wearing some sort of groovy looking hats?

ANNA MARIE

I don't know what you mean. I haven't had any company today.

HARRIET

That's really strange. Just a few minutes before you came outside I happened to look up and seen two people pass by your hallway window. I thought it was a man and woman.

ANNA MARIE

I don't know what to say. No one has come by the house today. Only David, Sheryl and myself are home.

HARRIET

I guess that I must be seeing things. I could have sworn I saw two people quickly pass by your hallway window.

ANNA MARIE

(laughing nervously)

I guess we all have our days. I better get back inside and finish my laundry. Have a good day, Harriet.

HARRIET

You too, Anna.

Anna Marie turns to walk back up onto the porch.

BACK TO:

INT. TV ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

ANNA MARIE

David, when you said that you see these people all of the time, what do you mean by that?

David is slow to answer and is studying his mother's face.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

What did you mean?

DAVID

They come every week; sometimes more.

ANNA MARIE

More? How many times a week?

David holds up three to four fingers.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Do you let them in the house when they come?

SHERYL

(giggles)

No Mommy; float in.

ANNA MARIE

You mean they walk in? From where?

DAVID

They come in from the parlor. They never walk, they slide across the floor together. That's how they always come.

ANNA MARIE

When these people come; what do they do?

SHERYL

(shrugging her shoulders)

No talk.

DAVID

They don't do nothing. They just smile and sometimes the children wave to us.

ANNA MARIE

What else do they do?

DAVID

That's all. They never talk.

ANNA MARIE

Sheryl said that they wear funny clothes. Do you know what she means by that?

DAVID

Their clothes don't look like what we wear. The man and the boy wear a hat.

ANNA MARIE

What about the woman? Does she wear a hat too?

DAVID

(laughing)

That's funny Mommy. Ladies don't wear hats. The lady wears something on her head and it ties under her chin; the girl does too.

Anna Marie ends the conversation.

ANNA MARIE

You kids watch tv. I'll just be in the laundry room.

CUT TO:

INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Fred is lying in bed with a sheet pulled up to his waist. Anna Marie walks over to his side of the bed where he scoots over so that she can sit down.

FRED

What's wrong?

ANNA MARIE

There is something going on in this house; something really strange!

Fred's face turns somber.

FRED

What do you mean?

ANNA MARIE

It happened again today while I was doing laundry. Sheryl ran to get me and insisted that there were people in the TV room to see me.

Fred looks annoyed.

FRED

Let me guess; there was no one there? I see that David is at it again! He's going to get a whipping he'll never forget!

ANNA MARIE

NO! IT'S TRUE!! I know it sounds crazy, but I am convinced that they are not making this stuff up.

(MORE)

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

I had to coax David into telling me anything. He told me that I don't believe him anyway; but I do.

FRED

Honey, these kids just have a wild imagination; it doesn't mean a thing. This nonsense has got to stop! Don't let these kids reel you in.

ANNA MARIE

You don't understand! I could feel something there with us today when it happened!

FRED

Oh come on! Do you really expect me to believe all this stuff?

ANNA MARIE

I'm telling you; it's true! Even Harriet...

FRED

What about Harriet? Please tell me that you are not telling all of this crap to Harriet.

ANNA MARIE

Of course not! BUT, she told me that she seen a man and woman walk past the hallway window this morning wearing some sort of odd looking hats!

FRED

You've got to be kidding me! The kids are not only reeling you in, now the neighbor too!

ANNA MARIE

It's not like that! After Sheryl came and got me this morning, I seen Harriet outside watering her flowers. With the washing machine running, I thought maybe somebody had come to the door and the kids let them in. All I did was go outside and asked Harriet if she had seen people at the door.

FRED

And that's when she told you about seeing a man and woman walk past the hallway window? And these people were inside of this house... this morning?

ANNA MARIE

Yes! That is what I'm trying to tell you. Talk to Harriet for yourself; she'll tell you!

FRED

I don't know. I don't know what to think anymore.

ANNA MARIE

The only other thing that I need to tell you is, David told me this morning that these people that he and Sheryl see have been coming for months! In fact; several times a week.

FRED

Honey, I don't want to talk about this stuff anymore tonight; okay?

Fred looks angry.

ANNA MARIE

Okay, Honey. I've said enough for one night.

Anna Marie stands up from the edge of their bed and walks over and turns the bedroom light off.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

The family is sitting at the kitchen table about to eat supper.

FRED

Who wants to say the prayer?

Everyone just looks at each other.

FRED (CONT'D)

Anyone? David, you haven't said the prayer for a while; how bout you?

David looks straight ahead.

DAVID  
No, I don't want to.

FRED  
David, I want you to say the prayer. It's not going to hurt you. Okay everybody, bow your heads and close your eyes.

Complete silence.

FRED (CONT'D)  
DAVID! Do I have to get my belt? DO I?

DAVID  
(sighs)  
No, I'll say it.  
"God is great, God is good, let us thank him for this food." Amen.

FRED  
Now; that wasn't so hard was it, David?

David just looks at Fred and begins eating.

ANNA MARIE  
Honey, after we are done eating, I want us to run into town and look for a set of bunk beds for the boys.

FRED  
Do you know where you want to look?

ANNA MARIE  
I think STEWART'S, that's where we bought all of our other furniture.

FRED  
Okay, we'll go right after supper.

The family finishes eating. Anna Marie clears the supper dishes and puts them in the kitchen sink.

ANNA MARIE  
Diana, take Sheryl into the bathroom and wash her face and hands. DEB, you stay put. Don't go anywhere.

Diana and Sheryl come back into the kitchen.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Diana, Deb; I want you two to keep an eye on your brothers and sister while your dad and I run into town. I also want you two to do the dishes while we are gone. You guys are old enough now that you can help out. I've already rinsed the supper dishes.

Diana and Deb are already bickering with one another.

DIANA

Okay, Mom.

ANNA MARIE

You kids be good; we won't be gone long. All of you stay in the house and do not open the door to anyone. Listen to Diana, she will be baby sitting for you.

Anna Marie picks up her purse, kisses her kids and walks out the door to leave.

CUT TO:

INT. FURNITURE STORE - EARLY EVENING

First Floor.

SALESMAN

Hello. Are you finding everything okay?

Fred and Anna Marie smile as they acknowledge the salesman.

ANNA MARIE

We are looking for a set of bunk beds for our little boys. Are these all you have?

SALESMAN

(chuckles)

Not at all. Our third floor is nothing but every kind of beds imaginable. Please; follow me.

The three of them take the elevator up to the third floor.

SALESMAN (CONT'D)

I will let you look around for yourselves. I'll be on the floor if you need me or have any questions.

The salesman smiles as he walks away. Fred and Anna Marie look at several different beds when one catches Anna Marie's eye.

ANNA MARIE

Honey, what do you think about this one?

Anna Marie referring to a trundle bed.

FRED

You like this one?

ANNA MARIE

Yes I do, it's perfect for the boys.

Fred questioning Anna Marie with his eyes. Anna Marie just smiles.

FRED

Honey, the boys don't need this one. They don't need three beds in that tiny room. Besides, we only have two boys; the third bed would be a waste of money.

ANNA MARIE

Yes, I've made up my mind. This is the perfect beds for the boys.

Fred looks confused as Anna Marie turns to face him.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Honey, the baby is going to have to sleep somewhere as he or she gets older. Honey; did you hear me?

FRED

You mean...  
(eyes welling with tears)

ANNA MARIE

We're having another baby!

Fred hugs Anna Marie as he kisses her. The salesman reappears.

SALESMAN

Did you find what you are looking for?

FRED

I'm going to be a daddy again!

SALESMAN

Congratulations to the both of you.  
(shaking hands with Fred)

Anna Marie shows the salesman the beds that she wants.

SALESMAN (CONT'D)

If you will follow me, I will get you checked out and on your way. Thank you for shopping with us.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

FRED

I want all of you kids in the living room right now, it's time for a family meeting.

All five kids walking over to the living room.

FRED (CONT'D)

Your mother and I want to share some good news with all of you. Your mom is having a baby. You kids will have a new brother or sister sometime around Christmas!

SHERYL

Where do babies come from?

DAVID

Mom's belly!

Fred and Anna Marie laughs.

FADE OUT.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - EARLY AFTERNOON

Someone knocking on the front door.

DAVID

MOM, MOM... Beds are here!

Anna Marie answers the front door. She shows the delivery driver where she wants the beds set up. The beds are assembled, positioned and the delivery driver gone.

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

ANNA MARIE

David, what do you think about your new bed? Do you like it?

DAVID

(throwing his hands up  
into the air)

I love it! I don't like sleeping with FREDDIE in his bed.

ANNA MARIE

Well honey, you won't have to sleep with Freddie anymore. Now you've got your own bed.

Anna Marie begins making the new beds.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Whew! I'm glad that's done. Do you think Freddie will like his new bed?

DAVID

He'll love it!

David acting silly.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Mom, do I have to take a nap today? I don't want to.

ANNA MARIE

You know you and your sister need your naps. For the life of me, I don't understand why you hate naps so much.

DAVID

Oh Mom!

ANNA MARIE

(laughing)

Don't you "Oh Mom" me, lil' man. Go back downstairs and use the bathroom and wash your hands.

(MORE)

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

While you're doing that, I'll put Sheryl down for her nap. I'll tuck you in when you come back up.

DAVID

Okay.

David pouting as he walks down the steps.

MOMENTS LATER.

ANNA MARIE

Did you wash your hands and use the bathroom like I told you?

DAVID

Oh Mom.

ANNA MARIE

C'mon my little man. Hop into your new bed. Don't forget to say your prayer.

David hops in his new bed.

DAVID

"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, if I should die before I wake; I pray the Lord my soul to take. Amen."

DAVID (CONT'D)

Mom, I love my bed. Thank you for getting it for me.

ANNA MARIE

You're welcome honey. Now get some sleep and I will see you in a little while.

Anna Marie tucks David in, kisses him on the cheek and disappears down the staircase.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. TV ROOM - AFTERNOON

David runs down the staircase. Anna Marie hears him and goes to check on him. David rounds the corner into the TV room and runs into Anna Marie.

ANNA MARIE

Whoa, whoa; slow down. What's the matter?

David appears to be frightened.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

What's wrong? Why are you up from your nap already?

David hanging on to his mother and is trembling.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Honey; what's wrong?

Tears streaming down his cheeks.

DAVID

Somebody got in bed with me, but... but I couldn't see them! I COULDN'T SEE ANYONE!

David now sobbing.

ANNA MARIE

Honey, you probably just fell asleep and had a bad dream.

DAVID

NO I DIDN'T! I WAS AWAKE!

Anna Marie patting David on the back trying to calm him down.

ANNA MARIE

It's okay, it's okay. Stop shaking, you're okay; I'm here.

David a little calmer, but tears still streaming down his face.

DAVID

Mommy, please don't make me go back to bed. PLEASE!

ANNA MARIE

It's okay. You just stay down here with me.

Anna Marie suddenly becomes nauseated as she scurries away.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

July 28, 1965. Anna Marie is feeding Sheryl in her high chair when David enters the room.

ANNA MARIE  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAVID!

DAVID  
It's my birthday?

David showing excitement.

ANNA MARIE  
You know today is your birthday  
silly. How old are you today?

DAVID  
I don't know. How old am I?

ANNA MARIE  
Yes, you do know. Remember, I told  
you?

David laughing and holding up both hands.

DAVID  
I'm this many.

ANNA MARIE  
No you're not. You are five years  
old today. If you hold up all the  
fingers on one hand; that's how old  
you are. You know what?

DAVID  
What?

ANNA MARIE  
You're getting to be a big boy now.  
You are going to start Kindergarten  
here in a couple of months. What do  
you think of that?

David shrugs his shoulders.

DAVID  
Mommy, what is Kindergarten?

ANNA MARIE  
You will have a teacher that will  
teach you how to count, help you  
learn about letters and numbers.  
(MORE)

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

And they will even teach you how to draw and things like that.

DAVID

What else?

ANNA MARIE

The best part is, you will have other kids your own age that you can play with.

DAVID

Do I have to go?

ANNA MARIE

Yes honey, you have to go. It'll be fun.

David has a strange look on his face.

DAVID

Why?

ANNA MARIE

So you can learn about all kinds of new things. So you can grow up smart and do anything that you want to do, and be anything you want to be. Understand?

David looks confused.

DAVID

Mommy, when I am at Kindergarten; where will you be?

ANNA MARIE

I'll be right here taking care of your little sister and waiting for you to get home. You only have to go to school in the mornings.

DAVID

NO! I don't want to go!

ANNA MARIE

Honey, you have to go. Every little boy and girl has to go to school so you can learn.

DAVID

NO, MOMMY! I don't want to leave you here by yourself.

David looking very serious.

ANNA MARIE

I don't know what you mean, David.  
I'll be right here waiting for you  
everyday when you get home from  
school.

DAVID

(screaming)

NO!!! THEY DON'T WANT ME TO GO!!

ANNA MARIE

David, that's enough! You are just  
being silly.

David runs out of the kitchen and up the hallway stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS - MID MORNING

Anna Marie goes upstairs to check on David and can't find him.

ANNA MARIE

(yelling out)

DAVID. Come here, I want to talk to  
you. DAVID! WHERE ARE YOU?

Anna Marie looks everywhere for David but can't find him. She waits.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

(frantic)

DAVID ALAN!!! You come out here  
right this minute! DAVID!! NOW!!

Anna Marie walks back into David's bedroom and hears a faint noise coming from the corner of the bedroom. David slowly pushes the bottom bed out just enough for him to squeeze through. He crawls out on his knees and sits on the floor with his head down.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

(furious)

STAND UP!

Anna Marie grabs David and puts him over her knee. Just as she raises her hand to strike him on his butt, she grabs him and instead hugs him as she begins to cry.

DAVID

Don't cry, Mommy. Please don't cry.  
I'm sorry.

ANNA MARIE

What has gotten into you? You never  
act like this.

DAVID

I can't go to Kindergarten! Please  
don't make me!

ANNA MARIE

We're not going through this again.  
Now just settle down, you have to  
go and that is that!

David begins to cry.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

David, talk to me. What's going  
on?

DAVID

(sobbing)

They're gonna hurt us if I go!

ANNA MARIE

Why would you say something like  
that? Who's going to hurt us?

DAVID

Can't tell you. It's a secret.

ANNA MARIE

Honey, you can tell me anything. I  
won't let anybody hurt you; not  
ever. Okay?

DAVID

Okay.

ANNA MARIE

So will you tell me?

DAVID

Okay Mommy. They told me they would  
hurt you if you made me go to  
school.

ANNA MARIE

Who told you that? Is it the same  
person that told you they didn't  
want you to go?

DAVID  
Yeah, they...

Suddenly, David begins choking and gasping for air.

ANNA MARIE  
David. DAVID! BREATHE!

David's head now thrashing from side to side trying to breathe.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
OH MY GOD DAVID! BREATHE!!

David is thrust backwards and thrown against the wall.

Anna Marie screams.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Anna Marie is sitting at the kitchen table feeding Sheryl in her high chair. David walks in.

ANNA MARIE  
David, are you ok? Come sit beside  
of me.

David walks over and sits next to Anna Marie. Immediately she sees the red marks on David's neck. She gasps!

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
I've got a lot to do today, but I  
want you to talk to me. Look me in  
the eye s and tell me what is going  
on.

David now staring into Anna Marie's eyes.

DAVID  
Mommy, if I tell you, you'll get  
mad. You never believe me anyway.

ANNA MARIE  
I don't know what you are talking  
about. What is it you don't think I  
believe?

DAVID  
You know.

David looking at the floor again.

ANNA MARIE

I don't have time for this! You tell me what is going on; NOW!

DAVID

Somebody keeps getting in bed with me every time I go to bed. I never see anybody. I don't know who it is. I told Freddie and he said I was weird and said that I was lying. I see that man and woman with those kids all the time and nobody believes me. Mommy; I'm not lying!

David staring into his mother's eyes.

ANNA MARIE

Honey, you are just having bad dreams. All little boys and girls have bad dreams. If you stop thinking about these things; the bad dreams will go away. Okay?

David throws his hands up in the air.

DAVID

SEE!! You don't believe me!

ANNA MARIE

David, I promise you that all of these things will stop. You just have to quit thinking about them. You and Sheryl go and watch TV now. I've got a lot of things that I need to get done today like making you your birthday cake.

Anna Marie smiles softly at David as she takes Sheryl out of her high chair.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

David, another thing. I want you to promise me that you will not say anything to anyone about what you told me, or about what happened today. You promise?

DAVID

I promise.

David walks over to the TV room and turns on the television.

FADE OUT.

INT. KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

The whole family is just finishing supper. Fred leaves the room and returns with his hand behind his back.

FRED  
Happy Birthday, David!

DAVID  
Thank you, Dad.

The family begins singing Happy Birthday to you. Anna Marie takes the birthday cake off of the counter and places it in the center of the table. With five white candles, she takes a match and lights them.

ANNA MARIE  
David, make a wish and blow out  
your candles.

With one breath, he blows out the candles. Fred hands David a gift; wrapped in multi colored balloon paper.

Excited, David rips the wrapping paper off where he sees a yellow, blue and red Jack in the Box.

DAVID  
OH BOY! Thank you! Can I play with  
it now?

ANNA MARIE  
After we have cake and ice cream.

FRED  
David, you have another surprise  
upstairs on your bed. After we eat,  
we'll go upstairs and open it.

DAVID  
Wow, thanks Mom and Dad. I love my  
birthday!

FADE OUT.

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

David is in his bedroom when his Jack in the Box plays a couple of notes. Startled, he darts out of his bedroom and runs down the stairs.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Anna Marie is drinking a cup of tea at the kitchen table when David runs in.

ANNA MARIE  
Whoa, whoa. What's your hurry?  
(laughing)

DAVID  
Mom, my Jack in the Box is playing  
itself. You said I have to turn the  
handle.

ANNA MARIE  
No David, you have to crank the  
handle. When you crank the handle,  
music plays and the clown pops up.  
You must have bumped it. Nothing to  
worry about.

Anna Marie can see that David is serious.

DAVID  
Okay, Mom. But I didn't bump it.

FADE OUT.

INT. TV ROOM - AFTERNOON

Diana is looking through the full glass panel front door.

DIANA  
They're home, they're home!

Fred, Anna Marie and their new baby walks through the front door.

ANNA MARIE  
Kids, I want you to meet your new  
brother.

All the kids making over the new baby.

FRED  
His name is, BRIAN.

DIANA  
Can I hold him?

FRED

Not right now. It's been a big day  
for the baby and your mother. We  
need to let them rest.

FADE OUT.

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

David has the mumps and is home from school. Anna Marie is  
over in her bedroom across from David's when she walks over  
to David's room to check on him. She stands in the doorway.

ANNA MARIE

Are you feeling any better?

As Anna Marie is talking to David, she sees the bed  
decompress right up against David as if someone has just sat  
down beside him. David sees the look on Anna Marie's face  
him.

DAVID

Mom; who is that girl that always  
gets in bed with me?

Anna Marie is horrified by what she has just witnessed as the  
blood drains from her face.

ANNA MARIE

David, you try and get some rest  
now. Sleep will make you feel  
better.

Anna Marie does not acknowledge David's question; she turns  
and walks away.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

November 1968. The family is eating supper when the telephone  
rings. Anna Marie walks over to the TV room adjacent to the  
kitchen.

(telephone ringing)

ANNA MARIE

Hello? How are you? OH NO; I am so  
sorry! How are you holding up?  
Please let me know once the funeral  
arrangements are made. I will be  
praying for you and your family.  
Again; I am so sorry. I will. Bye.

Anna Marie hangs up the phone and walks back over to the kitchen.

FRED

Who was that on the phone?

ANNA MARIE

That was LEE. NANCY JANE died this afternoon at the hospital. She was only 7 years old.

(sniffling)

FRED

That's terrible! I can't even imagine having to bury one of our kids.

ANNA MARIE

Someone will call us once the arrangements are made.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - EVENING

Anna Marie and Fred take David and Sheryl to Nancy Jane's visitation. The Funeral Home was once a two story house that has been converted.

Nancy Jane's mother is standing at her daughters open casket. The casket is placed against a wall that houses the staircase leading up to the second floor. The head of the casket is placed equal to the fourth stair step.

ANNA MARIE

I am so sorry for your loss. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

Anna Marie and her Aunt move back about five feet so that others can pay their respects to Nancy Jane. David and Sheryl are standing to Anna Marie's left. They have not been able to see Nancy Jane for themselves due to all of the grown-ups that are blocking their view. People have walked away, so now David and Sheryl can see the casket.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing?! Behave yourselves! This is no place to be acting like this!

David and Sheryl see Nancy Jane; however, she is standing on the staircase just above where her feet are in the coffin.

Nancy Jane is wearing a mint green dress and has a matching ribbon in her hair. As she stands there, she is waving and smiling to David and Sheryl.

DAVID

But Mom, Nancy Jane is waving and smiling at us.

ANNA MARIE

I said behave! She is not smiling at you; she died and she's in heaven now.

Nancy Jane still smiling and waving at David and Sheryl, they wave back.

DAVID

But Mom.

ANNA MARIE

I said stop it! Don't let me see you two waving again. Period!

Anna Marie resumes talking with her Aunt. Both David and Sheryl look to make sure their mother is not looking, and begins waving back to Nancy Jane. Anna Marie catches them and excuses herself to her Aunt.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

(grabbing David by his arm, she smacks him on the butt)

What did I just tell you!

DAVID

That hurt!

ANNA MARIE

I told you to stop it! You better quit before your Aunt sees you!

SHERYL

Mommy, she is waving to us.

DAVID

Nancy Jane is not dead, she is standing right there!

Both David and Sheryl pointing at the staircase just above where Nancy Jane's feet are in the coffin. David's Aunt hears what David is saying to his mother and begins crying.

ANNA MARIE

Aunt, I am so sorry that David and Sheryl are acting like this. I am so upset and embarrassed by their actions.

AUNT

It's okay Anna Marie, really; it is. They are just kids and don't really understand. With David and Nancy Jane being so close, how is he taking it?

ANNA MARIE

He was really upset when we got the news.

AUNT

I knew he would be. Those two shared a really strong bond. Will you be coming to the Funeral?

ANNA MARIE

Yes, Fred and I will be here. I'm not going to bring the kids though. I felt it would be okay to bring them to the visitation so they could say goodbye, but I'm afraid the funeral would be too much for them especially after the way they are acting.

AUNT

Don't be too hard on them. I'm sure it's hard on them too.

ANNA MARIE

We are going to leave now. We'll see you tomorrow before the service.

Anna Marie hugs her aunt. She turns to David and Sheryl.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

You two just wait until I get you home!!

Anna Marie and the children turn and walk away.

MOMENTS LATER.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - EVENING

Once inside the car, Fred looks through his rearview mirror glaring at David and Sheryl.

FRED

Your mother told me how you two acted. YOU TWO ARE GETTING A WHIPPIN' WHEN WE GET HOME. YOU HEAR ME?

DAVID

We didn't do anything wrong.

FRED

You never do! I don't want to hear it!

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. STAIRCASE - AFTERNOON

May 1969. Anna Marie is home alone and has just finished folding clothes and places them in her clothes basket. She picks up her laundry basket and begins climbing the staircase. With every step, she sees what she thinks is her shadow on the wall. As she reaches the fourth step from the top of the staircase she stops abruptly.

SHADOW PERSON

(growling)

The shadow continues to move. The Jack in the Box in David's bedroom begins playing.

SHADOW PERSON (CONT'D)

(LOUDER, BONE CHILLING GROWL)

ANNA MARIE

Screams.

Anna Marie throws the clothes basket and turns and runs down the steps. She grabs her house keys and runs out of her house locking the door behind her.

FADE OUT.

INT. KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Fred walks in from work as Anna Marie is cooking supper.

ANNA MARIE  
Hi, Honey.

FRED  
Hello, Beautiful!

Anna Marie walks over to Fred.

ANNA MARIE  
(whispering)  
Honey, I need to talk to you in  
private right after supper. I don't  
want the kids to hear what I have  
to tell you.

FRED  
Is everything okay?

ANNA MARIE  
I just need to talk to you about  
something. Supper is almost ready.  
Yell for the kids and get ready to  
eat.

Fred walks over into the TV room and to the bottom of the  
staircase.

FRED  
(shouting)  
Kids, come and eat.

FADE TO:

INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

FRED  
Okay Honey; what's going on?

ANNA MARIE  
You might as well sit down because  
I've got a lot to tell you.

Fred has a look of concern on his face.

FRED  
Okay...

ANNA MARIE  
You know there's been a lot of  
weird stuff going on around here.  
Something happened today that  
scared the crap out of me!

FRED

What did David do this time?!

Fred's facial expression showing disgust.

ANNA MARIE

No Honey! David has nothing to do with this. I was home alone when something happened to me this afternoon. All of the kids were at school, and Brian was up the street playing with Timmy.

Fred looks concerned.

FRED

Well Honey; what happened?

ANNA MARIE

I was carrying the basket of clean clothes that I washed this morning, As I was going up the stairs something growled at me.

FRED

Maybe you heard something outside.

ANNA MARIE

No, it came from the hallway. There's more; much, much more. There's been a lot of activity over the past several years that I've never told you about because you always seem to blame David. After what happened this afternoon, I'm going to tell you pretty much everything.

Anna Marie still refuses to tell Fred about the day that David fell out of his bed and something caught him.

Anna Marie scared and upset, Fred hugs her trying to console her. Fred is loving to Anna Marie, but; he is furious with David and blames him for everything.

CUT TO:

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - EVENING

Later that evening, David is upstairs in his bedroom alone. Fred walks into David's bedroom with his belt in his hand.

FRED  
 (very angry)  
 How many times have I told you to  
 keep your mouth shut? How many  
 times have I told you about lying?  
 How many times have I told you to  
 quit talking all this nonsense? HOW  
 MANY TIMES?!

Fred does not give David a chance to respond.

FRED (CONT'D)  
 (now irate)  
 NO MORE LIES!! You have told your  
 mother so much nonsense that now  
 because of you; she is scared to be  
 in her own house! I won't have it!  
 Do you hear me: I won't have it!

Fred grabs David by his wrist and begins hitting David with  
 his belt anywhere he can hit him.

INT. TV ROOM - EVENING

David's siblings can hear David screaming and crying as they  
 run to get Anna Marie who is just getting out of the bathtub.  
 Just as they reach the bathroom door.

DAVID  
 (BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM)

Fred has raised his belt over his shoulder. Just as he begins  
 to strike him, an apparition of an old lady with her hair in  
 a bun; appears behind David. As she looks sternly at Fred  
 with pursed lips and staring into his eyes; with a look of  
 fear on his face, Fred turns and leaves David's bedroom.

ANNA MARIE  
 What in the world is going on?

All of Anna Marie's kids now crying.

SIBLINGS  
 (all talking at once)  
 Dad is beating David and he won't  
 stop!

DEB  
 (hysterical)  
 I THINK HE'S TRYING TO KILL DAVID  
 HURRY!!

Anna Marie throws her bathrobe on and opens the bathroom door.

ANNA MARIE  
MOVE! GET OUT OF MY WAY!!

Anna Marie runs through the house and up the steps to David's bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

As Anna Marie enters David's bedroom, David is crouched in the corner of his room crying between labored breaths. As she tries to wrap her arms around David, he fights her not wanting to be touched. Anna Marie now sobbing, tries to console him. David is having a hard time catching his breath.

ANNA MARIE  
Honey, what happened? Why did your  
dad whip you?

David still trying to catch his breath and having difficulty trying to talk.

DAVID  
He said I scared you! He thinks I  
lied!

ANNA MARIE  
No honey, this is not your fault. I  
do get scared sometimes, but it has  
nothing to do with you. I am so  
sorry your dad whipped you. I will  
talk to him; okay? Honey, I am  
sorry; I'm sure he didn't mean to  
hurt you. Can I have a hug?

With tears still streaming down his face, David hugs his mother. Anna Marie kisses David on his forehead. As David stands up, Anna Marie sees his legs are bleeding. Looking closer; she sees multiple areas of David's arms, legs and back with broken skin that are also bleeding with welts all over his legs and arms. Anna Marie is livid.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
David, come downstairs with me so I  
can clean you up.

DAVID  
Where's Dad?

ANNA MARIE

I think he's over in our room. Come on, lets get you cleaned up.

Anna Marie and David walk out of his bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - LATER

Anna Marie opens her bedroom door and walks in. Fred is lying on their bed with his back to the door.

ANNA MARIE

(LIVID)

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU!!!  
WHY would you beat our eight year old son like that. Tell me! WHY??

Fred lays there in silence.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

ANSWER ME DAMN IT!

Fred continues to listen to what Anna Marie is saying, but does not respond.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

I want you to know that you really hurt your son! Do you know that you hit him so hard that you left him bleeding and welts all over his body? Do you even care?

Fred still silent.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

DID YOU HEAR WHAT I JUST SAID TO YOU? ANSWER ME!!

Anna Marie is so angry that she is now crying. Fred rolls over to face her.

FRED

I can't take any more of this crap, that's why! All he ever does is make up this crazy stuff and scares everybody half silly! I can't take anymore!

ANNA MARIE

What did I tell you earlier this evening?

(MORE)

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

I've seen things with my own two eyes; things I can't explain! We have both heard things! Diana has even heard things for God sake! BEFORE you do anything else; I expect you to tell David that you are sorry, and you need to mean it! He did not deserve what you did to him! These kids don't deserve half of the whippings you give them! And I can't take it anymore!

FRED

All this crazy stuff needs to stop! You play right into his little fantasy land.

ANNA MARIE

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING BUDDY! I have seen and heard enough things over the past SEVERAL years myself to know that David, and even Sheryl have been telling the truth this whole time! OPEN UP YOUR EYES!! My God, think about some of the things that you have heard and sensed that you can't explain!!

FRED

I can't believe you are telling me that you believe all of this garbage!

ANNA MARIE

So; are you calling me a liar too? You better think real hard before you answer that! You know I have forgiven you for a lot of things over the years; but enough is enough!

FRED

I am done talking for the night!

ANNA MARIE

FINE! I gonna say just one more thing and you better be listening! DON'T YOU EVER hurt one of our kids again! EVER!!

Anna Marie storms out of her bedroom slamming the door.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. TV ROOM - EARLY EVENING

November 1969. Fred and Anna Marie sitting in the TV room watching the evening news on TV when David walks in from delivering his newspaper route.

ANNA MARIE

You're supper is in the oven. It should still be warm.

DAVID

Okay Mom, thanks.

David has a strange expression on his face.

FRED

What's wrong? Did something happen while you were delivering your newspapers?

DAVID

No, not really.

FRED

No; not really? I know you better than that. You might as well tell us.

DAVID

I decided to deliver the papers backwards from the way Freddie always did them. I just wanted to see if it took any longer.

FRED

And??

DAVID

I felt like someone was following me.

ANNA MARIE

Did you see anyone?

DAVID

No.

FRED

If you didn't see anyone, I wouldn't worry too much about it.

DAVID

I guess.

David walks over to the kitchen.

FADE OUT.

INT. KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

The family is around the kitchen table eating supper when David gets home from delivering his newspapers.

ANNA MARIE

David, get yourself a plate and eat supper while it's hot.

DAVID

I will, Mom. I just gotta wash my hands.

David walks over to the bathroom, washes his hands and returns to the kitchen. He makes his supper plate and sits down at the table.

ANNA MARIE

It's really cold outside today; were you warm enough?

DAVID

Yeah, I was kinda getting hot.

FRED

Hot? It's freezing outside.

DAVID

I was trying to hurry so I ran from house to house.

FREDDIE

You probably ran because you were scared you little freak!

ANNA MARIE

That's enough, Freddie! Don't let me hear that out of your mouth again!

FRED

So, David. Why were you running?

DAVID

I don't know... just because.

FRED

Because why?

DAVID

No reason, I just wanted to hurry  
and get home.

The rest of the family are finished eating supper and exits  
the kitchen. David is still eating when Fred walks back in.

FRED

Is everything okay?

DAVID

I guess so.

FRED

Why don't you tell me what's really  
going on?

DAVID

(sighs)

If I tell you, are you going to get  
mad?

FRED

I won't get mad. Just tell me.

DAVID

I keep feeling like I am being  
watched even though I haven't seen  
anybody. Every day it feels  
stronger. I'm getting a little  
scared.

FRED

I have felt like that before too  
and I didn't like it. I'll tell you  
what.

DAVID

What?

FRED

I'll have Freddie go with you on  
your route the next couple of days.  
You helped him all the time, now he  
can help you. Okay?

DAVID

Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. TV ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

David and Freddie's parents are watching the TV News when they get home from delivering newspapers.

FRED  
How did it go today?

FREDDIE  
I don't know. I kinda felt like we were being watched yesterday, but not today.

FRED  
How about you, David?

DAVID  
Same here.

ANNA MARIE  
I'm glad. I don't want to have and worry everyday while you are out delivering your papers.

FRED  
So tomorrow, David; you can deliver your papers by yourself?

DAVID  
I think so.

ANNA MARIE  
You boys go and eat your supper.

FADE TO:

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Later that night after everyone is in bed.

FREDDIE  
STOP IT, DAVID!

DAVID  
I'm not doing anything!

David and Freddie feels their beds vibrating.

FREDDIE  
Well I'm not doing it!

DAVID  
Neither am I!

Fred walks over to the boys bedroom.

FRED  
You boys get to sleep. I have to  
work in the morning.

The beds continue to vibrate and the boys eventually fall to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. TV ROOM - EVENING

David and his family are watching The Lucy Show on tv. Suddenly, David jumps up and off of the couch.

DAVID  
(gasping for air)

David suddenly cannot breathe. His head thrashing from side to side.

FRED  
DAVID!

ANNA MARIE  
OH MY GOD! HE CAN'T BREATHE! DO  
SOMETHING!

The family surrounding David, yelling at him to breathe.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
Go get help! Diana, run next door  
and get Aunt FRAN.

FRED  
I'll call the squad!

Diana and Aunt Fran run through the front door. Aunt Fran immediately sees a translucent gray swirling mass directly in front of David. Fran grabs the Holy Bible that is setting on the end table and shouts out.

AUNT FRAN  
(shouting)  
BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS; RELEASE HIM  
NOW!!!

Immediately, everything stops.

ANNA MARIE  
David. David, try to relax. Take  
slow breaths.

David begins to rally.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - EVENING

David picks up a comic book from his desk and plops down on his bed and begins thumbing through it. Only seconds later, David lays down on his stomach on the bed. Suddenly the feeling of being watched comes over him and looks around his room when the bed begins to jerk. David jumps up off the bed when the closet door opens.

David is walking over to his bedroom door to leave when his Jack in the Box begins to play; just as he lunges towards the door; the clown pops up. David freaks.

Just as David grabs the door handle something grabs him by the throat. Trying to scream out for help, David begins being choked. He kicks the door, walls and floor trying to get someone's attention. David now being dragged backwards.

Fred runs up the stairs to David's bedroom when everything stops.

FRED  
(yelling out)  
What's going on? Why all the racket?

Fred opens David's door.

FRED (CONT'D)  
What's all the commotion about?

Fred sees David gasping for air as tears are streaming down his cheeks.

FRED (CONT'D)  
What happened to your neck?

David trying to tell him what happened. Fred grabs David by the arm and walks him to the top of the stairs.

FRED (CONT'D)  
HONEY!! HONEY!!

Anna Marie appears at the foot of the staircase.

ANNA MARIE  
Is everything ok up there?

FRED

I need you to come up here.

Fred, Anna Marie and David walk over to David's bedroom. David's siblings start to come up stairs when Fred yells out to them.

FRED (CONT'D)

You kids stay down there! I don't want you coming up here right now.

Fred begins telling Anna Marie what little bit that David was able to tell him. Anna Marie cuts Fred off.

ANNA MARIE

What in the world did you do to your neck?

FRED

Take a closer look.

ANNA MARIE

(gasps)

The marks on David's neck are large finger and thumb marks indicating that David was choked while facing his attacker.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Who did this to you?

FRED

He didn't see anyone...

ANNA MARIE

OH DEAR GOD!

FRED

David, Go downstairs and get a drink of water and wash your face. Don't tell your brothers and sister anything! OK?

David nods to his dad and walks down the stairs.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - EVENING

David walks back upstairs where he can hear his parents talking in their bedroom with the door closed.

FRED

David, come in here for a minute  
and close the door.

David opens their door and closes it behind him.

ANNA MARIE

Honey; are you ok?

DAVID

Yeah; I think so. Why are these  
things happening to me?

ANNA MARIE

I don't know, David. We are trying  
to figure out what's going on here.

FRED

I asked you not to say anything to  
anybody because I don't want a  
house full of scared kids. Do you  
know what I mean?

DAVID

I guess. I won't tell.

FRED

Okay son. You go back downstairs  
and get washed up and get ready for  
bed.

Both parents hug David, and his mother kisses him on the  
cheek as he exits their bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Everyone is in bed for the night.

FREDDIE

What's going on?

DAVID

Nothing.

FREDDIE

Well, it must be something big. Mom  
and Dad are checking on us like a  
bunch of hawks!

FADE OUT.

## INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Week of Christmas, 1969. Nine year old David is bored watching tv with his family. He walks over to the living room to look at their Christmas Tree lights. He stands there for just a moment watching the colored lights and the tinsel gleaming. David unplugs the Christmas Tree lights and exits the living room.

## INT. STAIRCASE - EVENING

David turns the upstairs hall light on and begins walking up the steps.

DAVID  
(talking aloud)  
Man, it's cold up here.

David approaches the doorway of his bedroom when his Jack in the Box pops up. David turns around and runs down the steps.

FADE TO BLACK.

## INT. BOYS BEDROOM - EARLY EVENING

Christmas Eve - 1969. David walks into his bedroom where Freddie is already there. After a few minutes, Freddie leaves their room and goes downstairs. David picks up a comic book and sits down at the desk in their bedroom.

Minutes later, David walks over to his bed and sits on the edge of it. Bored with the comic book, he lays down on the bed. Immediately the bed begins to shake. David jumps up, the shaking of his bed stops. He stands in the bedroom doorway for a few moments. With nothing else happening, he lies across his bed.

Cold, David walks over to his closet and reaches in to grab a long sleeved flannel shirt. As he is pulling the shirt off of the clothes hanger, something grabs his wrist. David freaks! Screaming; whatever has grabbed his wrist lets go. David is not scared; he's mad!

David runs down the stairs and into the tv room where his parents are watching tv with Sheryl and Brian. David says nothing with his siblings sitting there. David walks over to the kitchen.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

FRED  
Something happen again?

David does not respond to Fred's question.

FRED (CONT'D)  
Both your Mom and I seen the look  
on your face when you came  
downstairs.

DAVID  
I way laying on my bed and it  
started shaking; but than it  
stopped. I was cold so I went to  
get a flannel shirt out of the  
closet when something grabbed my  
wrist!

FRED  
David, this whole thing has your  
mother scared to death, and it's  
not doing much for me either. Since  
you weren't hurt, I'm just going to  
tell her everything is fine. Ok?

DAVID  
Ok, Dad.

FADE OUT.

EXT. DRIVEWAY HOME - NOON

Spring 1970. Fred is up by the garage working on a car when David gets home from collecting for his paper route. David walks up the driveway to where Fred is.

DAVID  
Hi Dad, I'm home.

FRED  
Okay. Your mother ran in to town to  
get a few groceries. Go ahead and  
put your collection bag in our  
closet. She'll count it when she  
gets home.

DAVID  
I will, but I'm gonna count it  
first.

FRED  
Suit yourself.

CUT TO:

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Immediately entering his bedroom, David is thrust against the wall. His Jack in the Box plays a few notes when the clown pops ups and David is slapped across his face. David screams; but nothing comes out. David kicking and stomping his feet on the floor, his bedroom door slams shut. David runs to the bedroom door when he is picked up and slammed to the floor on his stomach knocking the air out of him. Just as David gets enough air to scream; activity stops. David jumps to his feet and as he reaches the bedroom door, he hears his mothers voice and runs down the stairs.

David rounds the corner of the downstairs parlor and into the tv room. Anna Marie is in the middle of the room holding a brown paper grocery sack full of groceries. She sees the blood all over David's face and shirt.

DAVID  
MOM!!

Anna Marie puts her groceries on the couch and runs upstairs. David is halfway up the staircase when he hears his mother screaming.

ANNA MARIE  
HE'S JUST A LITTLE BOY!! LEAVE HIM  
ALONE!!

Sheryl and Brian are now coming up the stairs. Both are crying and afraid. David turns to look at them.

DAVID  
(yelling)  
HURRY!!, GO GET DAD!!

Anna Marie is in the middle of David's bedroom and is hysterical. Fred hears Anna Marie's screams from out by the detached garage and he is running down the driveway and into the house. Running through the house and up the stairs to David's bedroom; as he reaches the top of the stairs, he sees David's face and shirt covered in blood. David's nose is bleeding and his lip is split.

Fred is trying to get Anna Marie out of the bedroom, but she won't budge.

FRED  
 (looking all around the  
 room)  
 WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON ME!! I'M NOT  
 A CHILD YOU COWARD!! LEAVE US  
 ALONE!! GET OUT!!

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. CHURCH - SUNDAY MORNING

Anna Marie and her six children attend their Baptist Church in Thurston, Ohio; Fred does not attend. They arrive early so Anna Marie and the Preacher can talk in private before the church service.

PASTOR  
 Hello, Anna Marie. You were quite upset on the phone last evening. How are you and the family doing today?

ANNA MARIE  
 I don't know pastor! I don't know anything any more!

PASTOR  
 Lets go talk in my office. I think we need to keep all of this private.

Anna Marie and her pastor walk into his office where the door closes.

CUT TO:

INT. TV ROOM - AFTERNOON

(2 PM Phone ringing.)

ANNA MARIE  
 Hello? Hi Pastor. Yes, we are done eating. Ok, we'll see you in a few minutes. Good-bye.

MOMENTS LATER.

Pastor knocking on the front door.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
 Hello Pastor. Won't you please come in?

PASTOR  
Hello, Anna Marie.

ANNA MARIE  
Thank you for coming. I am at my  
wits end and don't know what to do  
or who else I can turn too.

PASTOR  
It's my pleasure. I am only too  
happy to help.

ANNA MARIE  
I told you on the phone last  
evening most everything that has  
been going on around here for years  
now. I pray that you can help us. I  
am so tired of living in fear. Not  
all of my kids know exactly what  
has been happening. All they really  
know is that it almost always  
somehow involves David. They know  
just enough that they are scared.

PASTOR  
I understand. What I will do is to  
just walk through your entire house  
and see if I can sense anything.  
The Lord has promised to protect me  
throughout the walkthrough. I  
believe that he will guide me to  
the source of what is causing these  
disturbances. Let us pray.

CUT TO:

INT. PARLOR - AFTERNOON

The pastor walks from the tv room and into the parlor where he stops at the base of the staircase. He turns to face the staircase and begins staring up to the second floor where he sees the L shaped hallway. He freezes. Several minutes later, he returns to the tv room where Anna Marie is waiting.

ANNA MARIE  
Are you ok? Pastor; what's wrong?

The pastor is clearly frightened.

PASTOR  
I'm sorry. There is nothing that I  
can do to help you and your family.

ANNA MARIE

I don't understand; you haven't even walked through the house yet.

PASTOR

Anna Marie, when I was standing at the foot of the staircase, all I could feel was evil; real, pure evil! There is no need for me to walk through your house, I am not trained in matters such as these. I'm sorry.

ANNA MARIE

Well; what do I do? I'm afraid that one of us will be killed if something isn't done; and done fast!

PASTOR

Let me ask you this. Do you or Fred remember when all these things began happening?

ANNA MARIE

Oh my. It's been years or so it seems.

PASTOR

Can you remember anything that happened just before this all began?

ANNA MARIE

I'm trying to think. This has been going on for so long now that I'm not sure.

PASTOR

Anything at all? Did anyone die tragically that you know of, or was anyone around you close to death at anytime?

ANNA MARIE

OH DEAR GOD! DAVID!!

PASTOR

What about, David?

ANNA MARIE

We went to spend the weekend at Fred's parents house when David was about 2 1/2 years old.

(MORE)

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Fred's sister-n-law wanted to carry David down a flight of steps at their house; but David wanted to walk down himself.

PASTOR

What happened exactly?

ANNA MARIE

All I know is that David would have been fine going down the steps by himself. My sister-n-law was determined that she was going to carry him so she walked up behind him and grabbed him. As she picked him up, she lost her grip and he fell from the top step and landed at the bottom of the stairs.

PASTOR

Oh my. Was he hurt seriously?

Anna Marie crying.

ANNA MARIE

WE thought he was dead! He screamed as he was falling, but when he hit the base of the stairs, he... he...

PASTOR

Listen to me very carefully to what I am going to ask you. Okay?

ANNA MARIE

Yes.

PASTOR

Did David die at any point throughout all of this?

ANNA MARIE

DIE? NO! They would have told us. He was unconscious when the paramedics rushed him to the hospital; they wouldn't even let me ride in the ambulance with him. We were following them in our car and we could see the paramedics doing something.

PASTOR

What happened once they got him to the hospital.

ANNA MARIE

They rushed him into the emergency room and they wouldn't let us go back right away to see him. I was almost hysterical at the time.

PASTOR

David seems to be okay. Was there any permanent damage of any kind?

ANNA MARIE

Some of the veins or arteries broke around his left eye. We had to keep a patch over his eye for months when we got him home. The girls would have to take him for walks and hold his arms down because he hated his eye patch and would constantly try to pull it off.

PASTOR

Well, Anna. I can't be sure, but I suspect that when this happened to David; he was extremely close to death at some point. In fact, I think that he probably died if only for a few seconds.

ANNA MARIE

Wouldn't they have told us?

PASTOR

I don't know. Back in those days they might not have. Things were a lot different then.

Fred walks into the tv room.

FRED

Honey, they lost him for just a few seconds in the ambulance. I am so sorry, I know now that I should have told you. You were so upset already that I just couldn't put you through anything else.

ANNA MARIE

I don't believe this! I never knew that my baby...

Anna Marie now sobbing.

PASTOR

I can understand where Fred is coming from in a situation like that. Don't be too hard on him.

FRED

So if you can't help us, what do we do?

PASTOR

I have heard of things like this happening. I don't want to alarm the two of you, but I believe these disturbances are spiritual by nature.

ANNA MARIE

Spiritual?

PASTOR

I can't be sure; but I think I know what is happening.

FRED

Well... Tell us.

PASTOR

Remember; this is just my opinion. Sometimes when a life lies in between a state of life and death, forces will battle for that soul; especially a young, pure soul. I suspect that this is what's happened.

ANNA MARIE

I guess I don't understand what you are trying to say.

PASTOR

It's actually quite simple. There truly is a balance between good and evil. I think that these forces have been battling for David's soul since his accident. Didn't you tell me that when all of this began, you heard females singing and humming to David? You also told me that you actually seen someone or something you could not see catch David as he fell over his side rail?

FRED

What are you talking about? Being caught?

ANNA MARIE

I never told Fred that part. I felt it was better left unsaid. What about whatever was getting in bed with him? That happened, I actually witnessed it.

Anna Marie looking at Fred.

PASTOR

Those things were good. The attacks were evil. The growling was evil. As far as something climbing in bed with David, I suspect that it was a spiritual being trying to protect David while he slept. And actually, all and all; they have protected him all these years to a degree.

FRED

I'm not proud of this, but a little over a year ago I took a belt to David. It turns out that he really did not deserve what I did to him. For that; I'll always be ashamed. Just as I was ready to hit him with my belt again, an old woman appeared directly behind David. She glared at me in a way that my blood ran cold. Had she not appeared when she did... I can't even think about it.

PASTOR

This darkness may have been working through you, Fred. They thrive on hurting others, creating conflict and inflicting tragedy. I have read many cases similar to yours. Be aware of what you are doing at all times.

ANNA MARIE

This is just too much!

PASTOR

I suggest that you contact the news office and the County Library to see if you can find any similar cases locally that you can read about. You might be able to find someone who's experienced this and can give you an idea of what all you can do, or maybe they could refer you to someone knowledgeable. I'm sorry; but I really have got to go.

ANNA MARIE

I'm sorry too. Thank you for your time.

PASTOR

I will be praying for you and your family.

FADE OUT.

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY AFTERNOON

Anna Marie is in the kitchen making a pie and spills pie filling on her blouse. As she passes through the tv room, Brian is watching tv.

ANNA MARIE

Brian, I'll be right back. I'm just going to run upstairs to change my blouse.

Anna Marie is climbing the stairs and as she reaches the second to the last step before the landing, she hears a loud growling noise. As she looks to her right, David's Jack in the Box begins to play; this time she hears the cranking of the handle.

Anna Marie turns around and runs back down the stairs. She grabs Brian by his hand and grabs her keys. They walk out of the front door where Anna Marie locks it behind them.

Anna Marie and Brian walk next door where Aunt Fran lives.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. AUNTS HOUSE - EARLY AFTERNOON

AUNT FRAN  
Annie, what's wrong? You look like  
you've seen a ghost!

ANNA MARIE  
IF ONLY!

AUNT FRAN  
Come on in so we can talk.

Anna Marie and Brian walk inside.

ANNA MARIE  
Things are getting increasingly  
worse over at my house. I just  
can't take this anymore!

AUNT FRAN  
What happened? Is everyone ok?

ANNA MARIE  
Not even five minutes ago I went  
upstairs to change my blouse when  
something began growling. I don't  
know what to do anymore!

Anna Marie confides everything to her Aunt from the  
beginning.

AUNT FRAN  
Annie, would you object if I called  
the minister of my church to see if  
maybe she can be of help? We will  
have to tell her everything from  
the beginning.

ANNA MARIE  
Would you? At this point I don't  
care who all knows what's been  
happening.

AUNT FRAN  
Okay, honey. I'll call her right  
now, I'm sure she'll want to talk  
to you.

Anna Marie shaking her head yes.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT PORCH - LATE AFTERNOON

Anna Marie is standing on the porch when Fred drives in from work.

FRED  
Hello Beautiful!

ANNA MARIE  
Hi, Honey.

They kiss.

FRED  
Why are you standing out here?

ANNA MARIE  
I wanted to talk to you without the kids hearing me.

FRED  
OK...

ANNA MARIE  
It happened again today!

FRED  
What are we going to do? Something has got to be done!

ANNA MARIE  
Aunt Fran's minister is coming here around noon tomorrow. The three of us are going to do some sort of house blessing that this minister thinks will work. I've already made arrangements for Brian to be up at Timmy's house for a couple of hours.

Fred walks upstairs to David's bedroom and grabs David's Jack in the Box. He carries it outside behind the garage and places it in the gravel alley. He walks back to his garage and picks up his sledge hammer. Carrying the sledge hammer and a can of gasoline; he walks back over to the alley. Fred smashes the Jack in the Box and pours gasoline over it and sets it on fire.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT PORCH - NOON

The minister, Aunt Fran meet on the porch at Anna Marie's house. The minister is a full figured lady with auburn hair sporting a bun on top of her head and is wearing a knee length white dress with a wide blue belt. They open the door and enter the house.

INT. TV ROOM - NOON

MINISTER

We need to join hands and form a circle. Now I will pray for Our Lord Jesus Christ to protect us from anything dark and menacing.

The three join hands and bow their heads to pray.

MINISTER (CONT'D)

Dear Lord, I ask that you be with us as we try to rid this house of any dark forces that are present. I ask that you protect us as we bless this house with your guidance. Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY." AMEN!

MINISTER (CONT'D)

We each need to carry our own Holy Bible as we attempt to remove any evil forces from this dwelling. Keep your Bible with you at all times; NEVER let go of the Bible no matter what happens!

The minister anoints the doorway, window frame and sill, walls and corners of the tv room with oils as she recites the Twenty-Third Psalm.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. PARLOR - NOON

The minister, Aunt Fran and Anna Marie walk into the parlor when immediately the minister is thrust forward falling on the staircase.

MINISTER

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, VANISH FROM THIS SITE!

An ENTITY grabbing the minister by her hair, her head begins being slammed on the edge of the stair steps.

AUNT FRAN  
OUR HEAVENLY FATHER; PLEASE PROTECT  
US NOW!

The minister now able to stand up, turns around with blood dripping down her face from a cut on her forehead.

ANNA MARIE  
OH DEAR GOD! ARE YOU OK?

MINISTER  
I'm ok. We must complete what we've started! Lets cleanse David's room next. Stay very alert and keep hold of the railing!

The three of them begin walking up the staircase.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

October 1970. Anna Marie is packing school lunches. Anna Marie hears glass breaking in the basement below her.

MOMENTS LATER.

Anna Marie runs out of the kitchen and through the tv room and up the stairs to David's bedroom where he is getting ready for school.

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

ANNA MARIE  
DAVID! Somebody is in the basement. I've already called your Dad at work and left a message for him to turn around and come home as soon as he gets there.

DAVID  
You thinks someone's in the basement? What do we do until Dad gets here?

ANNA MARIE

I'm gonna go get Sheryl and have her come downstairs with us. Let Brian sleep for now.

MOMENTS LATER.

Anna Marie, David and Sheryl quietly creeps down the staircase and into the parlor.

INT. PARLOR - EARLY MORNING

ANNA MARIE

David, go back upstairs to my bedroom and get your dads gun. It is in my chest of drawers on the left hand side; it's hidden under your dads socks. Hurry! Be very careful; it's already loaded!

David runs upstairs and retrieves the gun. David coming back down the steps with the gun in his hand.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

BE CAREFUL!! AIM IT TO THE SIDE!

David is three steps from the parlor floor when an antique mirror on the parlor wall shatters spewing mirror glass everywhere. David hands Anna Marie the loaded gun.

Anna Marie rounding the corner of the parlor and into the tv room, both David and Sheryl are just behind her. They enter the tv room when a toy fire truck resting on top of the Secretary Desk across the room, flies at Anna Marie and lands at her feet.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

The three cautiously enter the kitchen.

ANNA MARIE

David, I want you and Sheryl to go down into the basement with me.

DAVID

Can't we wait for Dad? Call the Police!

ANNA MARIE

We can't wait that long. Your dad should be here any minute.

Trembling, Anna Marie opens the pantry door. She sees that the basement door is still locked. She unlocks the basement door and opens it swiftly.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. BASEMENT - EARLY MORNING

ANNA MARIE

You two stay right behind me!

David stays to the right of his mother, as Sheryl stays just behind her. They reach halfway down the basement stairs.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

(yelling out)

I'VE GOT A GUN!! I'VE GOT A GUN!!

Another loud crash of glass breaking. They move down another step. Anna Marie aims her gun to the middle of the basement and pulls the trigger. The gun does not discharge.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

(whispering)

David, come with me the rest of the way down. Sheryl, you go back up to the pantry and wait.

David and Anna Marie walk down the rest of the steps and are now in the middle of the floor in the one room basement.

DAVID

I don't see anybody.

ANNA MARIE

Look in the crawl space, maybe an animal somehow got in. Watch out for the glass; don't get cut.

Anna Marie and David look over every inch of the basement and crawl space. There is ground in glass all over the concrete floor, and many broken glass jars of canned goods.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Come on, lets go back upstairs and wait for your dad.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

As they reach the kitchen, Fred walks through the back door.

FRED  
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

Fred sees Anna Marie shaking profusely. He sees the loaded gun in her hand and takes it from her.

FRED (CONT'D)  
Why do you have my gun? You know  
it's loaded...; right? What  
happened?

Anna Marie, David and Sheryl answering Fred's question.

FRED (CONT'D)  
ONE AT A TIME! I can't listen to  
all of you at once.

ANNA MARIE  
I was scared to death! And... your  
gun didn't fire!

FRED  
Honey, it's a good thing that it  
didn't. If the gun would have  
fired, there's a good chance one of  
you could be dead right now.

ANNA MARIE  
What do you mean?

FRED  
You know how small the basement is.  
A bullet could have ricocheted and  
hit one of you.

ANNA MARIE  
I didn't even think of that. But  
why didn't the gun fire?

FRED  
There are two safeties on that gun;  
I forgot to tell you about the  
second one. I'll take you out this  
weekend so you can practice  
shooting and learning how to work  
the safeties. I'm gonna look around  
now.

ANNA MARIE  
Ok, Honey.

Fred checks the house completely and finds nothing that would have caused the mess in the basement. Fred leaves for work.

MOMENTS LATER.

DAVID

Mom, can I stay home from school today? I'll help you clean up the basement.

ANNA MARIE

You sure can! I was gonna tell you to stay home from school today. David?

DAVID

What, Mom?

ANNA MARIE

You know it's back don't you?

DAVID

Yeah, I knew when the mirror exploded.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Late Spring - 1972. Deb, Freddie, David, Sheryl and Brian are eating breakfast at the kitchen table. Anna Marie walks in.

ANNA MARIE

When you kids are done eating, I want you to go with me to the cemetery. I want to get my flowers planted on Mom and Dad's grave.

FREDDIE

Do I have to go?

ANNA MARIE

I want all of you to go.

DEB

Why do we all have to go?

ANNA MARIE

Because I want you too.

DAVID

Are you putting flowers on Aunt Ethel's grave too?

ANNA MARIE

Yes; and also Uncle Ray's. This will be the first time that we've been to the cemetery since Aunt Ethel was murdered. I just don't want to go there alone. You kids hurry and finish eating; it's supposed to rain.

They finish eating breakfast and pile into the car; a small red Pontiac. The sky is grey and looks like it is about to pour.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST ROSE CEMETERY - MID MORNING

Anna Marie drives up to the highest point of the cemetery. She parks her car two rows from her parents grave.

ANNA MARIE

You guys stay in the car. I'll hurry and get the flowers planted before it rains.

She closes her car door and walks around the car to the trunk and unlocks it and opens the trunk lid. She grabs her hand trowel, rake and watering can and walks about fifteen feet to her parents grave and places them behind their Head Stone. She walks back over to the trunk where she picks up a flat of flowers and her knee pad. She leaves the trunk lid open and carries her flowers and pad to where she is planting. She kneels down and begins planting.

DEB

There's a guy walking up the road.

FREDDIE

Where?

DEB

On the right from where Mom is.

All of the kids turn to look. As the man walks closer, the kids can see the man and the clothes that he is wearing. They scream.

ANNA MARIE

Will you kids behave, I'm trying to hurry!

The kids are screaming and pointing at the man.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Stop carrying on! I'm going as fast  
as I can!

Deb, Freddie, David and Sheryl are now screaming at their mother and pointing to the man. Brian starts crying. Anna Marie looks to her left. Anna Marie sees the man.

Anna Marie jumps up and grabs her flat of flowers and runs over to her car throwing them in the trunk. She jumps inside of her car and locks the door. With her hands trembling, she tries to put her key in the ignition, but instead drops them. She grabs her keys off of the floor mat and puts her key into the ignition, the engine grinds; but won't start. As the man is walking up behind the car, the engine starts. Peeling out and throwing gravel, they all turn to see where the man is; but he's disappeared.

DEB

Mom, did you see who that was? How  
is that even possible?

ANNA MARIE

I don't know. I was never afraid of  
Uncle Ray when he was alive... I  
just don't understand!

FADE OUT.

INT. TV ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone is in bed when David has to pee. He quietly walks down the stairs.

David rounds the corner from the staircase and into the tv room where he sees a his murdered Aunt sitting in her rocking chair. A see-through flour like appearance, she looks as if she is confused. She does not seem to notice that David has come into the room. Scared, he runs through the house and locks himself in the bathroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

It's a sunny afternoon without a cloud in the sky. Anna Marie is hanging out her laundry on the clotheslines when David and Freddie approach her.

DAVID

Hey, Mama! Can me and Freddie get into the swimming pool for a little while?

ANNA MARIE

By all means. We were hoping that you kids would spend less time in the house on your summer vacation. I guess the pool was a good idea.

FREDDIE

Yeah, yeah Mom.

Anna Marie chuckles.

ANNA MARIE

I don't want you boys staying in the pool for too long. It's really hot and you'll get sun burned. No more than an hour.

DAVID

Okay. Thanks, Mom!

With her back to the boys, Anna Marie continues hanging up her clothes. David and Freddie get into the pool.

David is torpedoing himself from one side of the pool to the other, and Freddie is floating on his back. David reaches up to grab the wall of the pool to stand up when suddenly his head is forced under water. After several attempts to raise his head out of the water, he succeeds.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(yelling and out of  
breath)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

FREDDIE

What are you talking about?

DAVID

YOU COULD'VE DROWN ME!

Anna Marie turns around to see what going on.

FREDDIE

I didn't touch you! It was probably one of your little imaginary friends!

ANNA MARIE  
That's enough, Freddie! That's not  
even funny.

FREDDIE  
I didn't do anything to him!

DAVID  
So who held my head under the  
water?!

FREDDIE  
I told you who it probably was...

ANNA MARIE  
That's it! Both of you dry off and  
get into the house!

FADE OUT.

INT. TV ROOM - LATE MORNING

Anna Marie is talking on the phone with her Aunt ELIZA when  
David walks in.

DAVID  
(whispering)  
Mom, can I get into the pool?

Anna Marie covers the phone with her hand and nods yes.

ANNA MARIE  
(also whispering)  
Don't stay in long.

David nods yes and goes outside to the pool.

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

Anna Marie is still on the phone when she walks past the  
window overlooking the backyard. She sees David face down in  
the pool with his arms and legs thrashing. She throws the  
phone and runs outside to the pool.

ANNA MARIE  
DAVID! DAVID!!

Anna Marie reaches over the wall of the pool trying to pull  
him out of the water. The harder she pulls, the more  
resistance she feels.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
 (screaming)  
 HELP! SOMEBODY HELP ME!!

The neighbor Harriet is outside in her backyard and hears Anna Marie screams. Harriet runs over to Anna Marie at the swimming pool. Anna Marie sees Harriet coming.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)  
 (hysterically crying)  
 HELP ME PULL HIM OUT! OH MY GOD I  
 THINK HE'S DEAD!!!

Anna Marie and Harriet free David from the pool.

HARRIET  
 DEAR GOD! WHAT WAS HOLDING HIM  
 DOWN?

Anna Marie so distraught she can't talk. David begins choking and spitting up water.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - AFTERNOON

David has just gotten his Driver's License. Driving a blue Pontiac LeMans, he is driving to his part-time job. Driving down a country road, he feels tugging on the steering wheel. Once at work, he checks for a low tire but there isn't one.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. WORK - AFTERNOON

David walks down the basement steps to clock in for work. As he is standing there waiting to clock in, someone grabs his right shoulder. Turning around to see who it is; there is no one there.

FADE TO:

David walks down to the basement to clock out after his shift. Looking around to see if anyone else is down there, he sees no one. David feels the sensation of being watched. He hurries to clock out and leaves.

EXT. CAR - EARLY EVENING

David is driving down the road just before the country road that he usually drives to and from work.

Without warning, a swarm of blackbirds begin flying at his windshield cracking it.

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY HOME - MOMENTS LATER

David pulls into the driveway and honks his horn. Fred comes outside and sees the cracked windshield. As he walks down the porch steps, he sees several blackbirds stuck in his grille.

FRED

What the?

DAVID

I was kinds mobbed!

FRED

Yes, I can see that.

DAVID

Dad, there's something wrong with my steering, it felt like somebody was tugging on it. I've never felt it before.

Fred and David check the tires and lug nuts. Fred pops the hood and checks the power steering fluid and belts and all of the fluid levels.

FRED

Son, I can't find anything wrong. I'll drive your car around Thurston and see if I can feel anything. I'll be back in a little bit. Go eat supper.

MOMENTS LATER.

EXT. DRIVEWAY HOME - EARLY EVENING

Fred drives back into the driveway. David comes out of the house and meets him in the driveway.

DAVID

Well, did you feel anything?

FRED

It steered fine for me. All I can tell you is to keep an eye on it for now. This beast runs pretty good don't it?

(MORE)

FRED (CONT'D)  
(trying to lighten the  
mood)

DAVID  
Yep it does; if I can just keep it  
on the road.

FADE OUT.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

David walks into the kitchen. His parents are sitting at the kitchen table talking to Diana, and her husband, JERRY.

ANNA MARIE  
Morning, sleepyhead.

David rubbing the back of his right shoulder.

DAVID  
Morning, Mama. And hello everybody  
else.

FRED  
There's a pot of coffee if you want  
some.

David gets a coffee cup out of the cupboard and walks over to the coffee maker. He pours himself a cup of coffee and joins them at the table.

ANNA MARIE  
Why do you keep rubbing your  
shoulder?

Looking at David.

DAVID  
Man! I must of slept wrong last  
night or something. My shoulder  
feels like it's on fire! I can't  
believe how bad it hurts!

ANNA MARIE  
Take your shirt off so I can see  
your shoulder. Maybe you got bit by  
a spider or something.

DIANA  
Oooh, or something.

Diana snickering. Diana opening her eyes wide acting silly.

David walking over to Anna Marie while slipping his shirt off.

DAVID

I don't know. All I know is that it really hurts.

ANNA MARIE

What in the world?

Fred stands up to look.

On the back of David's right shoulder; is a welt that looks to be branded in. The skin is red and raised and forms a perfect circle. Within the circle, are three distinct marks.

Jerry walks around the table to see.

JERRY

THAT'S A CHICKEN CLAW!!

DAVID

Ha ha, Jerry! A chicken claw? Where would I get something like that!

JERRY

I know a chicken claw when I see one. The only thing missing is the toe on the back.

David sarcastically laughs.

DAVID

Funny! I'm sure I've got a chicken claw on my shoulder! Maybe I have a porcupine in my shorts too!

Fred, Anna Marie and Diana laughing. David not amused.

ANNA MARIE

Go back up to your room and check your bed. Maybe Brian was playing with something and left it there; maybe you slept on it all night.

DAVID

I tore my bed completely apart before I came downstairs. There is nothing in my bed or on the floor that could have done this.

Fred walks out of the kitchen and up the stairs to the boys bedroom. Within just a few minutes; Fred returns to the kitchen.

FRED

I just looked in and around your bed. I even looked under your bed. There is nothing up there that could have caused that. It really does look like a claw. I'll be darn!

DIANA

Let me get a closer look at that.

Diana walking up behind David sitting at the kitchen table.

DIANA (CONT'D)

WOW! It looks like a talon of some sort! That's kinda creepy!

CUT TO:

EXT. CAR - EARLY AFTERNOON

Dry and sunny day, Spring 1977. David is driving home from school. He is approaching a paved bridge just before the Village Corporation sign. Something grabs the steering wheel as the car heads directly at the guardrail. David slams on his breaks as he drives off the side of the road and goes airborne missing the bridge. David is heading right at a block building that sits fifty feet from the road. David closes his eyes. David's car stops short of slamming into the side of the building and comes to rest just before the creek.

Panicking, he gets out of his car forgetting to shut the engine off. He walks to the front of the car checking for damage when his engine revs. David walks to the passenger side of the car to reach in and shut the engine off; but the passenger door is locked.

David bends to look under his car for damage, but can only see grass and dirt adhered to his exhaust system and tire rims. He walks up the incline and onto the road and briskly walks behind his car and walks back down to the drivers side. Shook up, David drives the last two minutes home.

FADE TO:

EXT. POST OFFICE - MID MORNING

Fred walks across the street to the Post Office. As he is about to walk in, a neighbor comes out and talks to Fred.

RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER

Good Morning, Fred.

FRED  
 (nods)  
 Good Morning to you.

RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER  
 How's David doing?

FRED  
 He's fine. Why do you ask?

RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER  
 I was driving behind David the other day, and I seen his accident. I have been really concerned about him. David was very lucky that he wasn't killed. When I saw him go airborne, I thought for sure his car was going to roll.

Fred plays along.

FRED  
 David is fine. We talked about the incident. I thank you for your concern, I appreciate that. You have a good day, sir.

RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER  
 You too, Fred.

MOMENTS LATER.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - LATER

David parks his car in front of their house, Fred walks down the porch steps. Fred meets David at the sidewalk.

DAVID  
 What's up?

FRED  
 What happened just outside of town?

DAVID  
 I see someone's been talking. All I can say is that something grabbed my steering wheel at 60 miles per hour! I thought I was a goner!

FRED

I'm glad that you're ok; I know that you're a safe driver. We need to figure out what is going on.

David and Fred walk up on to the porch and than go inside of the house.

INT. TV ROOM - NOON

Anna Marie is standing in the tv room when they walk in.

DAVID

Mom, I had something happen the other day that I need to tell you about.

FRED

He had an accident.

ANNA MARIE

What kind of accident?

DAVID

I was on my way home from school when something grabbed my steering wheel. I just barely missed the guardrail just outside of town.

FRED

I guess you need to take your car to a mechanic; I couldn't find a thing wrong with it.

DAVID

That's actually where I just came from. I took it over to Herb's Garage.

FRED

And?

DAVID

He said the car is in mint running condition. In fact, he asked me if I would consider selling it.

FRED

What did you say?

DAVID

I told him no.

ANNA MARIE  
 Maybe you should get rid of that  
 car.

DAVID  
 Mama, I think all three of us know  
 it's not the car.

ANNA MARIE  
 That's what I'm afraid of. It's  
 happening again isn't it?

DAVID  
 I would say so.

ANNA MARIE  
 DEAR GOD! IS IT EVER GOING TO END?

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. RENTAL HOUSE - AFTERNOON

After High School Graduation, David rents a small four room house. That first evening, David is sitting on the couch watching tv when his hair is pulled. Suddenly, he hears breathing in his right ear.

ENTITY  
 (low raspy voice)  
 DAVID!

David jumps up off the couch looking all around.

DAVID  
 WHAT THE HELL?

FADE TO:

INT. FRONT ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Telephone Ringing.

DAVID  
 Hello?

FREDDIE  
 Hello.

DAVID  
 Hey, Freddie. What's up?

FREDDIE

Hey! Would you care if I came down and spent the weekend at your place? I just want to get out of Mom and Dad's house for a couple of days.

DAVID

Yeah; that's fine. Come on down. It's my weekend off, so I'll be here. See ya when you get here. Bye.

FADE TO:

INT. TV ROOM/RENTAL - NIGHT

David and Freddie are sitting on the couch watching tv. It's 1:30 AM.

DAVID

Hey, I'm going to bed. I'm tired.

FREDDIE

Yeah, me too.

DAVID

I'll get some stuff so you can make up the couch.

David walks into the adjoining bedroom and returns with a sheet, bed pillow and a blanket. He places them on the couch.

FREDDIE

Cool. Good night.

DAVID

Good night. See ya in the morning.

Freddie turns the tv off as David walks into his bedroom.

FADE OUT.

INT. BEDROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

3:50 AM.

DAVID

SCREAMING!

David jumps out of bed knocking his alarm clock off the bedside table and onto the floor.  
(loud crashing sound.)

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. TV ROOM/RENTAL

David walks out of his bedroom where Freddie is already awake and on the couch.

FREDDIE  
WHAT HAPPENED?

DAVID  
What do you mean? Never mind; I knocked my alarm clock off onto the floor. MAN!! My back is killing me!

FREDDIE  
I heard you scream! That's what woke me up!

DAVID  
What are you talking about? I didn't scream.

David walks over to the kitchen and switches the ceiling light on.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

DAVID  
Come here a minute. Do you see anything on my back? Man, it hurts!

Freddie walks over to the kitchen as David pulls his shirt off.

FREDDIE  
WHAT THE HELL!! WHAT DID THAT?

DAVID  
Is there something on my back? GET IT OFF WHATEVER IT IS!

David getting excited.

FREDDIE  
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!! NOW!

DAVID  
 WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S  
 THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FOR GODS  
 SAKE!

FREDDIE  
 GO LOOK AT YOUR BACK IN THE MIRROR!  
 THERE'S A DEMON HERE OR SOMETHING!

DAVID  
 GET REAL!

David walking over to the bathroom and turning on the light.  
 He looks over his shoulder trying to see his back in the  
 medicine cabinet mirror.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 NO WAY!!

Fred walks over and begins counting the lashes on David's  
 back. David reaching for a hand mirror so he can see what  
 Freddie is seeing.

FREDDIE  
 I'M SERIOUS, WE NEED TO GET OUT OF  
 HERE RIGHT NOW!

DAVID  
 OH GOD!! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

FREDDIE  
 KIDDING? YOU HAVE FIVE CLAW MARKS  
 FROM YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER DOWN TO  
 THE LEFT SIDE OF YOUR WAIST AND  
 YOU'RE BLEEDING!!

DAVID  
 OH GOD; IT HURTS!

Fred counts another four slashes across David's back which  
 are not bleeding.

FREDDIE  
 YOU'VE GOT FOUR MORE ACROSS YOUR  
 BACK THAT'S NOT BLEEDING! COME ON!!  
 WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE! NOW;  
 COME ON!!

DAVID  
 HANG ON! I GOT TO GRAB A SHIRT!

FREDDIE  
 FUCK THE SHIRT!! COME ON BEFORE  
 SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS!! JUST WEAR  
 THE ONE IN YOUR HAND!

DAVID  
 OKAY, OKAY!

FREDDIE  
 DAVID, COME ON! LETS GO!! I'M NOT  
 STAYING IN THIS HOUSE ANOTHER  
 SECOND!

Freddie runs out the front door as David follows.

CUT TO:

INT. AUNT ELIZA'S HOUSE - MORNING

8:00 A.M. David and Freddie walk next door to AUNT ELIZA'S House. They knock on her back door that opens up to her kitchen.

AUNT ELIZA  
 Hi there. Come on in. What brings  
 you over so early?

DAVID  
 Hi, Aunt. Sorry it's so early. We  
 didn't know where else to go. I  
 knew you would already be up and  
 getting ready for church.

AUNT ELIZA  
 You boys want a cup of coffee?

DAVID  
 Yes, please..

FREDDIE  
 Yes, thank you Aunt.

AUNT ELIZA  
 Take your jackets off and stay  
 awhile. What do ya know?

David and Freddie taking off their jackets and hanging them on the back of their chairs.

AUNT ELIZA (CONT'D)  
 WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BACK? YOU'RE  
 BLEEDING!

DAVID

I'm not really sure what happened.  
I woke up and my back was killing  
me.

AUNT ELIZA

Are you okay?

DAVID

I am. My back is burning like  
crazy.

AUNT ELIZA

Take your shirt off, I've got some  
peroxide.

David removes his shirt.

AUNT ELIZA (CONT'D)

WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

DAVID

No one. I woke up like this.

FREDDIE

Look at all the claw marks!! Only  
me and David were over there and we  
were both asleep when this  
happened!

AUNT ELIZA

I think before we do anything else;  
we need to pray!

FADE TO:

INT. TV ROOM - MORNING

Aunt Eliza walks over to the adjoining room and picks up the  
telephone and dials.

( Phone ringing.)

ANNA MARIE

Hello?

AUNT ELIZA

Hello, Anna Marie?

ANNA MARIE

Yes; oh hi. Is something wrong? You  
never call me on Sunday mornings.

AUNT ELIZA

I need you to come down to my house right away. David and Freddie are here.

ANNA MARIE

Did something happen? Are they ok?

AUNT ELIZA

They are pretty shaken up. I can't make a whole lot of sense of what they are trying to tell me.

ANNA MARIE

Are they ok?

AUNT ELIZA

They're pretty upset. I'm not going to church this morning so I will see you as soon as you can get here.

ANNA MARIE

I'll get there as soon as I can. See you in a little bit. Bye.

The conversation ends as Aunt Eliza hangs up the phone. She walks back out to her kitchen.

MOMENTS LATER.

INT. KITCHEN

AUNT ELIZA

David, I'm gonna grab a bottle of peroxide. I'll be right back.

FADE TO:

INT. AUNTS/FRONT ROOM - MID MORNING

Doorbell rings. Aunt Eliza answers her front door where Anna Marie and Diana are standing. She invites them in.

AUNT ELIZA

Come on in. I'm sorry that I called you so early; but this couldn't wait.

ANNA MARIE

What happened?

AUNT ELIZA

David's back is all torn up. He has blood all over his shirt and jacket. I tried to clean the scratches with peroxide. I don't want to scare you Anna Marie, but David's injuries look more like claw marks than scratches!

ANNA MARIE

WHAT HAPPENED?

David and Freddie hear Anna Marie talking to their aunt. They walk from the kitchen and over to the living room. David turns his back towards his mother.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

(gasps)

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOU? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

DIANA

WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

Both Anna Marie and Diana are upset by what they see.

ANNA MARIE

TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED!

FREDDIE

You won't believe us when we tell you! There is something in that house! You can feel it!

ANNA MARIE

Freddie, calm down. What are you talking about?

FREDDIE

That house that David lives in! There's something there! It's haunted; maybe even worse!

AUNT ELIZA

Something happened overnight over there. I just don't understand the rest of what they were telling me. The boys were scared of something when they came over.

ANNA MARIE

David, I want you to tell me exactly what happened. Take your time; we're not going anywhere.

DAVID

Honestly; I don't know what happened. We went to bed around 1:30 this morning and everything was fine.

ANNA MARIE

You are starting to scare me.

DAVID

Sorry. I woke up a couple of hours later and my back was killing me.

ANNA MARIE

And?

FREDDIE

He woke me up screaming! He claims he didn't scream, but I heard him! It was bone chilling!!

DIANA

One thing for sure; something or someone got a hold of you! You couldn't have done that yourself even if you wanted too!

Diana walks over behind David to get a closer look.

DIANA (CONT'D)

(gasps)

It almost looks like a wild animal attacked you. You didn't see anything?

DAVID

I was asleep!

DIANA

David! I want you to stop and think about something, ok?

DAVID

Yeah, whatever!

DIANA

Do you remember what happened at Jerry's and my apartment when we first got married?

DAVID

Yes, I do remember.

DIANA

What happened to you last night is along the same lines; just much, much worse!

DAVID

I'm almost positive it's the same thing that attacked me years ago up in my bedroom at home.

DIANA

Why do you say that?

DAVID

From the day I moved in to my rental next door, strange and even scary things have happened non-stop.

DIANA

Like?

DAVID

Something calling my name in my ear, my hair being pulled and things like that. What happen last night is the worst thing by far!

David getting emotional.

ANNA MARIE

David, I want you to come up for lunch; we can talk more then. In fact, I want you to follow us home right now.

DAVID

I have to go over to my house first. I have to get dressed.

DIANA

ARE YOU CRAZY!! I WOULDN'T STEP FOOT IN THAT HOUSE!

DAVID

I have blood all over my shirt and pajama bottoms. I'm not going anywhere like this.

FREDDIE

I gotta go, dude! I'll walk over with you if you want; but I'm not going in!

DAVID

That's ok, Freddie. I'm just going over just long enough to throw on some clothes. Trust me; it'll be FAST!

FREDDIE

Goodbye everyone. See you all later.

Freddie walks out the door.

ANNA MARIE

Diana and I will walk over with you. We'll stand just outside the door while you change.

DAVID

Thanks, Mama.

FADE OUT.

INT. PARENTS HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATE MORNING

Fred, Anna Marie, Diana, Freddie and David are standing in the living room.

ANNA MARIE

Show your Dad your back.

David slips his shirt off and turns his back to Fred.

ANNA MARIE (CONT'D)

Honey, what do you think could've done this to him?

FRED

I have no idea. One thing is for sure; he couldn't have done this to himself! Did you notice that some of these look more like slashes than scratches?

DIANA

Look at the welts!

FRED

Son; that looks painful!

DAVID

It burns like crazy!

ANNA MARIE

David, I want to ask you something;  
but I don't want you to get mad.

DAVID

(loud sigh)

HERE IT COMES!! AND THE ANSWER IS  
NO!

David has an angry expression on his face.

ANNA MARIE

I'm serious! Have you been messing  
around with witchcraft again; or  
anything else that you shouldn't  
be? I had hoped that you learned  
your lesson. That stuff is so  
dangerous!

DAVID

I have told you guys before, I  
haven't messed around with anything  
since I was twelve or thirteen  
years old! I am now nineteen!

FRED

What about those Voodoo Dolls that  
you brought into my house?

DAVID

Yeah, I admit that I bought those  
stupid dolls, but I never tried to  
use them in any way. I just thought  
that they were different; that's  
all!

DIANA

Those things were creepy!!

DAVID

SO NO, I haven't done anything to  
cause this!

ANNA MARIE

Aunt Eliza said that she was going  
to talk to God about all of this,  
and said that she would be praying  
for you. You know it seems like she  
has a direct line to God.

DAVID

Yes, I do know that. She always  
has.

ANNA MARIE

I need to get lunch started.  
Freddie, why don't you go upstairs  
and nap until I get lunch ready?  
David, you nap on the couch. I'll  
call you when it's ready.

FADE OUT.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

All five adults sitting down.

FREDDIE

Friday night after David went to  
bed, I kept seeing shadows walking  
back and forth across the front  
windows. What ever it was, it  
started walking back and forth  
behind me on the couch!

DIANA

What did it look like?

FREDDIE

It was wearing some sort of robe or  
something! It had a hood!

DAVID

OH COME ON, FREDDIE! You never said  
anything to me about that!

FREDDIE

I thought that it was a dream... at  
first! But than I heard someone  
talking. Well, not really talking;  
more of a murmur.

DAVID

I admit that I have seen a lot of  
shadows there, but none really took  
on any shape or form.

FADE OUT.

INT. TV ROOM/RENTAL - EVENING

David is sitting on the couch watching tv when he hears a  
growling noise. The lid from his blue glass shaped Corvette  
aftershave decanter flies out of his bedroom and hits him  
just below his left eye scratching him.

David jumps up and turns the tv off. He grabs a change of clothes from his bedroom, then walks out the front door and locking it behind him. He gets in his car where he drives up to his parents house.

CUT TO:

INT. TV ROOM/PARENTS HOUSE - MORNING

Dialing the telephone on the wall.  
(phone ringing)

LANDLORD

Hello?

DAVID

Hello, this is David over here on S. George St. I'm giving you my two week notice; I'm moving out.

LANDLORD

May I ask why?

DAVID

At the risk of sounding crazy, I think this house is haunted. In fact; I know it is.

Conversation silent for a moment.

LANDLORD

Well, I can't say I blame you.

DAVID

What do you mean?

LANDLORD

I've had other tenants tell me the same thing. To be honest, when my son and I converted that house from being a garage, we had a few eerie experiences ourselves. I'm sorry, I guess I should have mentioned it before I rented it to you.

DAVID

Well, thanks for your understanding. My rent is paid til the end of the month; I'll be out by then. Bye.

David hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. RENTAL HOUSE - EARLY AFTERNOON

Fred, Freddie and David pack up the remaining odds and ends out of the rental house. David walks back into the rental one final time. He stands just inside the doorway as he looks all around.

DAVID  
(speaking loudly)  
WHOEVER OR WHATEVER YOU ARE, I HOPE  
YOU GO STRAIGHT TO HELL AND BURN  
THERE FOR AN ETERNITY!

David turns and closes the door and locks it. He sees Aunt Eliza over on her patio.

MOMENTS LATER.

EXT. AUNT ELIZA'S HOUSE - EARLY AFTERNOON

David walks over to his Aunts house. He hands her the key to the rental.

DAVID  
Hi Aunt. The landlord asked me to  
leave my key with you.

AUNT ELIZA  
I'll see to it that he gets it.  
David, I sure hate to see you go,  
but I don't blame you. I talked to  
God about all of this, and he said  
that things had to happen this way.  
God has assured me that you are  
safe now, and that you are never to  
look back at what happened.

DAVID  
Thank you. I'll miss living next  
door to you, but I'll stop by just  
like I did before. You take care,  
now.

David hugs his Aunt, turns and walks over to the rental house to get his car.

CUT TO:

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - NIGHT

David remembers a prayer he said as a child and recites it.

DAVID

(praying aloud)

Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray  
the Lord my soul to keep. If I  
should die before I wake; I pray  
the Lord my soul to take. Amen.

FADE IN:

INT. BOYS BEDROOM - MORNING

As David awakens, the sensation of the lady sits down on the bed next to him. David slowly opens his eyes looking up towards the ceiling when he sees two images materializing before him. Two images of shimmering rope-like figures, one silver and the other gold; intertwine with one another as if dancing. David smiles.

DAVID

I know this is a sign from you,  
God.

(mouthing the words)

Thank you!

FADE OUT.

THE END.

