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THE SHADOW PEOPLE

WRITTEN BY LUKE MEPHAM

BASED ON THE SHORT STORY BY

PAUL CROOKS

JUKE PICTURES LOGO

WE MOVE UP A STAIRCASE TO SEE A YOUNG WOMAN WALK OUT OF A BATHROOM THEN ACROSS A HALLWAY

SHE’S WEARING A DRESSING GOWN WALKS INTO A BEDROOM AND CLOSE THE DOOR

THE BEDROOM INT – NIGHT

THE YOUNG WOMAN WALKS ACROSS THE ROOM AND LOOKS IN THE MIRROR

SHE BRUSHES HER HAIR THEN LAYS ON THE BED. SHE LOOKS UP AT THE CEILING THEN PROPS HERSELF UPON HER ELBOWS THEN PICKS UP HER PHONE AND BEGINS TEXTING (PRESUMABLY)

WE HEAR A MALE VOICE CALL OUT FROM OUTSIDE

MALE VOICE

ANNA! ANNA!

THE GIRL ROLLS HER EYES AND WALKS TO THE WINDOW

SHE LOOKS OUT

MALE VOICE

Anna thank God you’re in

ANNA

What do you want?

MALE VOICE

Please listen to me and turn off your light there’s not much time

ANNA

Oh for fucks sake just get off of my lawn, go home to your mothers, lock yourself in your room and masturbate to your hearts consent

MALE VOICE

You don’t understand

ANNA

No you don’t understand, my finger is on my dial pad and it’s next to nine. I will have you arrested again now move!

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SHE CLOSES THE WINDOW, SHUTS THE CURTAINS AND GETS BACK TO THE BED AND BACK TO HER PHONE

SHE LIES THERE TEXTING AND THEN STOPS AND LOOKS TOWARDS THE WINDOW

WE HEAR A DOOR CLOSE AND SHE SMILES KNOWING HE’S GONE AWAY

SHE GETS UP AND TURNS THE BEDROOM LIGHT OFF

BACK ON THE BED SHE LETS OUT A SIGH

SHE GETS A TEXT MESSAGE AND SHE PICKS HER PHONE UP TO READ IT

WE SEE THE TEXT MESSAGE (WE CAN’T SEE WHAT IT SAYS)

SOMETHING MOVES IN THE SHADOWS AND GIVES ANNA A FRIGHT

SHE SITS UP AND THEN GOES TO PUT ON THE LIGHT

NOTHING IS IN THE ROOM

WE SEE THE WIND SLIGHTLY BLOWING THE CURTAINS

ANNA

I thought I shut it

SHE GOES TO SHUT IT

THE LIGHT TURNS OFF

ANNA

Stupid fuse box

SHE TURNS AROUND

THEY TURN BACK ON

A MASSIVE ROAR IS HEARD. AN OUT OF THIS WORLD ROAR – DEMONIC MOANING. SHE IS FROZEN SCARED

A BLACK CLOUD SURROUNDS HER

WE MOVE ACROSS TO THE BED AS WE HEAR GROANING, SCREAMING AND NOISE

WE THEN HEAR SKIN RIPPING AND ROARING AS WE CUT TO BLACK

* TWO YEARS LATER –

WE CUT TO A HOUSE – EXT – DAYTIME

A CAR PULLS UP OUTSIDE AND STOPS

A MAN GETS OUT OF THE CAR. HE’S JOHN BRENNECK. AN AUTHOR WHO HAS CHOSEN TO MOVE TO A MORE SECLUDED AREA TO ESCAPE THE CITY SOUNDS THAT PUT HIM OFF HIS WRITING

HIS WIFE ALICE HAS BEEN RELOCATED BY HER COMPANY TO A DIFFERENT AREA. SHE STILL WORKS IN AN OFFICE

HE LOOKS AT THE HOUSE AND SMILES

JOHN

Well what do you think?

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ALICE IS STILL IN THE PASSENGER SEAT. SHE UNBUCKLES HER SEATBELT, GETS OUT AND LOOKS AT THE HOUSE

ALICE

Nice. It looks very modern

JOHN

Yes I suppose it does. It’s amazing that a house like this came so cheap

HE WALKS AROUND TO HER SIDE OF THE CAR AND PUTS HIS ARM AROUND HER. THEY LOOK AT THE HOUSE AS:

WE SLIDE ACROSS TO THE NEXT SCENE

THEIR HOUSE INT – DAYLIGHT

THEY BOTH HAVE BOXES STACKED AND CLOSE THE DOOR OUT OF BREATH

JOHN GETS A HANDKERCHIEF OUT OF HIS BREAST POCKET AND WIPES HIS BROW.

JOHN

It was nice to have the movers help with everything.

ALICE NODS AS SHE TAKES A DRINK FROM HER BOTTLE OF WATER.

JOHN

A new house, new life

ALICE

We’d best make the most of it then. What do you want for dinner?

JOHN

Take away?

SHE SMILES

ALICE

You read my mind

‘KNOCK KNOCK’

ALICE OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL A MAN AND WOMAN APPROXIMATLY ALICE AND JOHNS AGE

THE MAN IS STUART KRAMER AND THE WOMAN IS HIS WIFE ELLEN

STUART EXTENDS HIS HAND

STUART

Hi there I’m Stuart and this is my wife Ellen

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ELLEN GREETS THEM

STUART

We live next door and thought we’d welcome you to the neighbourhood

JOHN SHAKES HIS HAND AND INTRODUCES HIMSELF AND ALICE

JOHN

Lived here for five minutes and already know the neighbours are friendly. This is our kind of town

STUART LOOKS UNEASY WHEN JOHN SAID THAT

STUART

Yes……it’s a fine town just a real fine town. Across the road from you is Richard and Greg and the other side of your house is Chris. They’re all nice people

JOHN AND ALICE SMILE

ELLEN

If there’s anything you need, please let us know

ALICE

We will thank you very much

THEY SAY THEIR GOODBYES AND CLOSE THE DOOR

JOHN

That’s nice. I’m not used to friendly people

ALICE

That Stuart looked almost pained when you said it was our kind of town

JOHN

Yeah I noticed that too. Strange eh?

WE FADE TO THE HOUSE AT NIGHT

INSIDE JOHN AND ALICE ARE LAYING ON THE SOFA WITH THE T.V ON. THEY’RE ALMOST DRIFTING OFF AS:

‘BANG BANG BANG’

THE POUNDING ON THE DOOR BROUGHT THEM BOTH TO THEIR FEET

WE SLOWLY APPROACH THE DOOR

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THE BANGING CONTINUES AS JOHN OPENS THE DOOR TO A MAN AGAIN ROUGHLY THEIR AGE

HE’S LEANING ON THE DOORFRAME EAGER TO TELL THEM NEWS

IT’S CHRIS FROM NEXT DOOR

CHRIS

You the new people right?

JOHN

That’s right what’s the problem?

CHRIS

I live the other side of you

JOHN STARTS TO INTRODUCE HIM AND ALICE BUT IS CUT OFF BY CHRIS

CHRIS

You people should pack up and leave

THEY SEEM TAKEN BACK BY THIS

ALICE

What do you mean?

CHRIS

You don’t belong here you’re good people. Look please just put your stuff back in your car and drive off to wherever it is you came from

JOHN

I think you’re mistaken my wife’s job relocated us here and –

CHRIS

You have no idea what you’ve gotten yourself into here mister

JOHN

Please call me John and this is my wife Alice

CHRIS

Have you guys been married long?

ALICE

Nearly two years

CHRIS

See? You’re still young, they smell youth

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JOHN

Who do?

CHRIS

The Shadow People

JOHN SMIRKS

JOHN

And who are The Shadow People?

CHRIS LOOKS AROUND THE STREET

CHRIS

You, me anyone, they’re us. They’re human well except for that night

JOHN

I’m sorry I’m not quite following you

CHRIS

The Shadow People are normal everyday people possessed by a spirit that cursed this town twenty five years ago. They go around the town, gliding, floating, like lost souls. They search for food

JOHN SEEMS INTERESTED IN THIS. ALMOST HUMOURING HIM

JOHN

And what do they eat?

CHRIS

People

A CHILL RUNS DOWN ALICE AND JOHNS SPINE

JOHN

Did you say people?

CHRIS NODS

ALICE

Cannibals?

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CHRIS

Not quite. It’s hard to explain. It’s not the people doing it, it’s the spirit. The people don’t know they’re it. The shadows are the puppet masters.

ALICE ROLLS HER EYES

CHRIS

They move at lightning speed and they make you feel pain; they make sure you’re still alive when they start on you. When they’re finished with you, they leave their mark.

ALICE

What is their mark?

CHRIS

Your skull. Covered in black

ALICE COVERS HER MOUTH

JOHN

I don’t understand why hasn’t anybody notified the police?

CHRIS

Aw hell man two or three of them probably ARE the police sometimes. The police don’t own this town. The curse does

JOHN SEEMS A BIT AGITATED NOW

JOHN

Do you drink?

CHRIS REALIZES THAT JOHN WAS HUMOURING HIM AND STARTS TO WALK AWAY BACKWARDS

CHRIS

You don’t believe me. None of them do. Why’d you think that house is so cheap? People have died in your house. Many people have died in this town. Not exactly a tourist spot now is it

ALICE

How do we stop them from coming to us?

CHRIS

Make sure you’re both in after seven and you stay in your house

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ALICE

Lock our doors too?

CHRIS

No that doesn’t matter

HE WALKS BACK TO THEM

 CHRIS

You see it’s like Vampires, they can’t enter your house unless invited in by the rightful owner right?

JOHN NODS

CHRIS

Well if The Shadow People come you can have your front door wide open and stay in the doorway much like what you’re doing now. But there is a very important thing you must do.

JOHN

Which is?

CHRIS

You keep your lights off. Even the light to your T.V when it’s on standby or the light from your alarm clock

JOHN CLEARS HIS THROAT

JOHN

When is all of this planning on happening?

CHRIS

It begins in two night’s time and will last until the second night is over

JOHN

Well thanks for letting us know and I guess we’ll see you tomorrow?

CHRIS

I hope to see you next week too. All the new people never listen. Please prove me wrong.

CHRIS WALKS AWAY AND LEAVES JOHN AND ALICE LOOKING AT EACH OTHER TRYING NOT TO CRACK A SMILE. JOHN CLOSES THE DOOR

THE HOUSE INT – NIGHT

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THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER THEN ALICE GOES UPSTAIRS WHILE JOHN GOES AND TURNS OFF THE T.V

CUT TO: THE BEDROOM

EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE THANKS TO THE MOVERS

ALICE IS ON THE BED AND JOHN WALKS IN

SHE IS DOING HER HAIR IN THE MIRROR

ALICE

So what do you think of the neighbours?

JOHN

Some of them are all there whilst others aren’t

ALICE SMILES AND LAYS DOWN

JOHN TURNS THE T.V ON IN THE BEDROOM BUT IT IS ONLY A BLUE SCREEN

JOHN

Ah shit I forgot about the cable up here.

ALICE

Sort it tomorrow. Let’s just go to sleep

JOHN AGREES THEN GETS INTO BED NEXT TO HER

WE FADE TO BLACK

WE CUT TO A BLUE SKY

THE HOUSE – EXT – DAYLIGHT

JOHN AND ALICE LEAVE THE HOUSE AND SEE THAT STUART AND ELLEN ARE OUT AS WELL.

THEY WAVE TO THEM AND WALK UP TO GREET THEM

ELLEN

It’s usually the first night when you don’t get a good sleep

JOHN

Ah not for us. I went to sleep like a baby

ALICE

It took me a while to get to sleep

JOHN SEEMS SURPRISED

JOHN

It did?

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ALICE NODS SHAMEFULLY

STUART

Something on your mind?

ALICE

Well last night John and I met our other neighbour Chris

STUART SMILES

STUART

Ah he’s quite a character isn’t he?

JOHN

You can say that again. Does he write science fiction novels or something?

STUART

You’ve been warned of something haven’t you?

JOHN THEN SEES STUART AND ELLENS FACIAL EXPRESSION

JOHN

I’m guessing he’s told you too

ELLEN

It was good of him to tell you. It really was. I would’ve bet good money on him giving up years ago

STUART

You want my advice? Go to your fuse box and turn it all off. You can reset all the clocks in the morning. It’s really no bother

JOHN

Wait a minute he’s got you into buying this story?

STUART

John if I may be so blunt, you don’t know what you’re talking about

JOHN

I think I do

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ELLEN

No you really don’t. We live here we’ve followed all the rules for twenty five years. You moved here yesterday and you have no idea

JOHN

Chris said we got our house cheap?

STUART

Yeah mighty cheap. Two years ago the shadow people claimed the life of a young woman in that house

ALICE

How did it happen?

ELLEN

She was in your house for maybe three weeks. Never spoke to us. She had Chris arrested cause she thought he was a pervert

JOHN

Trying to warn her was he?

STUART

He’d yell on her front lawn and get her to turn her electricity off but she’d just threaten him with the police again

STUART

Poor Chris he gave up. He still can’t forgive himself

ELLEN

He knocked on her door in the morning to find her skull coloured black on the bed

ALICE

I’m sure we’ll be fine

ELLEN

You seem like really nice people and we’d hate for something nasty to happen to you

STUART

We’re being serious. Please listen to us

JOHN PUTS HIS HANDS UP

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JOHN

Okay let’s put all this shadow people business behind us. What do you say to coming over ours for dinner tonight?

STUART

That’s extremely generous John

ALICE

I’m working until five so shall we say seven?

ELLEN

Seven sounds great

JOHN

Great we’ll see you then

THEY SAY THEIR GOODBYES

STUART AND ELLEN WALK OFF AND JOHN TALKS TO ALICE

JOHN

Well, have a great day at work

ALICE

Thanks what are you going to be doing?

JOHN

I’ll make the place a bit tidier and probably settle down in front of the telly

ALICE

Well you have fun too

THEY SMILE AND SAY GOODBYE

ALICE WALKS OFF LEAVING JOHN

HE TURNS AND GOES BACK IN THE HOUSE

WE FADE TO JOHN COMING INTO THE LIVING ROOM

THERE’S A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND HE GETS UP TO IT

IT’S CHRIS

HE INVITES HIM IN AND THEY SIT IN THE LIVING ROOM

CHRIS

I was a bit out of order last night and for that I apologize

JOHN

That’s quite alright people have different approaches to welcoming people

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CHRIS CHUCKLES

CHRIS

Yeah and you met the town loony

JOHN

So Chris what can I do for you?

CHRIS TAKES OUT A BIG BROWN ENVELOPE AND HANDS IT TO JOHN

JOHN TAKES IT AND OPENS IT

THEY’RE PHOTOGRAPHS

JOHN

Who’s this?

CHRIS

Look closer

JOHN DOES SO

JOHN

No I can’t make this out

CHRIS

What does it look like?

JOHN

It looks like four or five grim reapers

OFF CHRIS’ FACE

JOHN

These are the shadow people?

CHRIS NODS

JOHN

How did you get them?

CHRIS

I found a camera in the house of one of the victims. I went and got the film developed. I guess they forgot to take the flash off

JOHN STUDIES THEM CLOSELY

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CHRIS

I knew you wouldn’t believe me so here’s the proof

JOHN

I would’ve thought it was a group of kids dressing up but their height. Their feet aren’t even touching the ground

CHRIS

What do you think now?

JOHN

Oh Chris I don’t know

HE HANDS THEM BACK TO CHRIS

JOHN

Alice and I are both realists and I’m still not convinced

CHRIS

Hey you think I love doing this don’t you

HE STANDS UP

JOHN

Doing what?

CHRIS

Warning people and shit like that, do you know how it feels when you’re doing your best to save a life and it never seems to work?

JOHN

No I can’t say I do

CHRIS

Well I’ll tell you now John it feels like shit

JOHN

I can only imagine

CHRIS

It’s all because people just don’t listen

HE HEADS FOR THE LIVING ROOM DOOR

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JOHN

Why do you tell the people?

HE STOPS

CHRIS

I’m told I’m more believable than others in the town. To everyone else it’s not their place

JOHN LOOKS AT CHRIS

CHRIS

I’m sorry I guess I just let it get to me sometimes

JOHN

Its fine Alice and I will be fine

CHRIS

Okay I’ve got to go now

HE PASSES THE ENVELOPE TO JOHN AGAIN

CHRIS

Show these to Alice

JOHN NODS AS CHRIS LEAVES

HE GETS UP AND SEES CHRIS OUT THEN WALKS TO THE DINING ROOM

HE LOOKS AT THE ENVELOPES AND TAKES THE PHOTOS OUT AGAIN

HE STUDIES THEM AS WE:

FADE TO

THE LIVING ROOM

IT’S EMPTY

A DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

IT’S ALICE

ALICE

John?

NO REPLY

SHE ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM AND TURNS THE LIGHT ON

IT’S NOT THAT DARK BUT DARK ENOUGH TO HAVE A LIGHT ON

SHE WALKS OUT OF THE LIVING ROOM AND INTO THE DINING ROOM

AGAIN SHE TURNS ON THE LIGHT

SHE NOTICES THE BROWN ENVELOPE ON THE TABLE AND SITS DOWN TO OPEN IT

SHE TAKES THE PHOTOS OUT AND LOOKS AT THEM CLOSELY

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WE SLOW ZOOM ON HER REACTION TO THE PHOTOS

SHE CAN’T QUITE MAKE OUT WHAT THEY ARE

P.O.V OF SOMEBODY IN THE HALLWAY

WE’RE WALKING TOWARDS THE DINING ROOM DOOR

WE OPEN IT AND SEE ALICE SITTING AT THE TABLE LOOKING AT THE PHOTOS

JOHN

They’re Shadow People

ALICE IS STARTLED AND LOOKS TO THE DOOR

IT’S JOHN

WE SEE HIM STANDING AT THE DOOR WITH A BAG OF FOOD SHOPPING

ALICE

How do you know?

JOHN

Chris came by with them earlier

HE PUTS THE SHOPPING ON THE TABLE

ALICE PUTS THE PHOTOS AWAY

ALICE

I don’t want to talk about it tonight with Stuart and Ellen

JOHN NODS

JOHN

I see

ALICE LOOKS AT JOHN

ALICE

Something tells me that you do though

JOHN

I want to find out how it originated

ALICE

Why does it matter? You don’t really believe in that do you?

JOHN

Well no but behind everything there’s a reason

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ALICE

Okay well if they don’t know how it started I don’t want you to push

JOHN ACCEPTS THAT

JOHN

I’m going to put dinner on

HE GETS THE BAGS AND WALKS OUT

ALICE

If it all turns out to be false you have a great idea for a book

JOHN PEEKS HIS HEAD AROUND THE CORNER

JOHN

Now that’s a good idea

ALICE LAUGHS AND GOES WITH HIM INTO THE KITCHEN

AS WE FADE TO LATER THAT EVENING IN THE DINING ROOM

STUART AND ELLEN ARE THERE

EVERYONE’S PLATES IS EMPTY

THEY’RE LAUGHING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE WE CUT

STUART POURS WINE IN JOHN AND ALICES GLASSES

THEN SITS BACK DOWN

STUART

I can’t think of a funnier time then that

THEIR LAUGHS CALM DOWN

JOHN

Alice and I need to talk to you

STUART

Sure go for it

JOHN

About the shadow people

STUART STOPS POURING WINE AND SETTLES DOWN

HE JUST DOESN’T FEEL LIKE LAUGHING ANYMORE

ALICE

What started it all off?

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STUART

Okay, this is the first and last time that you hear this

HE LOOKS AT ELLEN AND SHE NODS HIM ON

STUART

About twenty five years ago there was a politician by the name of Henry Matheson. He was a rich and very powerful man. Whatever he wanted he got with the click of his fingers. One night he was being driven around in his limo and felt like he wanted to get up to no good. He saw a young woman walking along the side of the road she must’ve been about sixteen going on eighteen. He asked her if she wanted a ride, she said no now to him that meant yes. So he got her in the back of the limo and began groping her. She wanted no part of it. He had the doors locked and just wouldn’t take no for an answer. Now the driver tried getting her out, he was shouted at by Henry and fired but he didn’t care he just wanted the girl to get away. Henry had his bodyguard escort the driver away and gave him the beating of a lifetime around the corner. Anyway he had his way with the girl but what he didn’t know was that this girl was dabbling in black magic, voodoo, witchcraft all things like that. She cursed him with the shadow people to feast on him and everything he cared for. Unfortunately for us Henry Matheson was elected governor of the town which led to him caring for us. Who would’ve thought that bastard had the knack for caring? The girl died shortly afterwards in the arms of the driver. The last words she said to him was something like “The lights on the street failed to save me and now the lights will fail you for many years”

ALICE

Wow

JOHN

How do you know it in great detail?

STUART

The limo driver, the one who tried to save the woman, he was my father

JOHN

So why every –

STUART

Why every two years? That wasn’t explained. It happened a year later and took half the town with it along with Matheson. My Dad

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remembered the date and took it upon himself to rid the house of light in remembrance or something like that. Then another year passed and nothing happened, then the next it did, then we just clocked that it’s going to happen every two years on the same dates.

JOHN

Unbelievable

ELLEN

Are you glad we told you?

ALICE

We had no idea how it began

STUART

So now you know

JOHN

Why haven’t you moved away?

STUART

I don’t know. Fear of being caught out I suppose

JOHN

By the curse?

STUART NODS

JOHN

What about the girls’ parents? Are they still alive? Have you gone to them for questions?

STUART STOPS HIM

STUART

Everyone in this town has done that. They’re local celebrities. They wouldn’t mention anything. They wanted to be left alone and they moved away

ALICE

Are they still alive?

STUART SLOWLY SHAKES HIS HEAD

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STUART

A lot of people seem to think that if you move here then the curse becomes a part of you for life

ELLEN

That means you’re cursed too

JOHN

How come Chris is the one having to spread the word about it?

STUART

It’s his job to do that. He does it well

STUART LEANS CLOSER

STUART

Now it’s going to happen tomorrow night. I suggest you are cautious

WE LEAVE THEM ALL SITTING AT THE DINING ROOM TABLE AS WE SLOWLY FADE TO THE BEDROOM

ALICE AND JOHN ARE WATCHING THE TELLY

ALICE TURNS TO JOHN

ALICE

Are you okay?

JOHN

Hm? Yeah I’m fine

ALICE

You don’t seem it

JOHN

I’m just thinking lets go out of town tomorrow away from this curse talk. Go to a restaurant and maybe a hotel? When was the last time we did that?

ALICE TURNS TO HIM

ALICE

That wouldn’t make a difference they said the curse follows us

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JOHN

No he said a lot of people seem to think that it follows them. Besides we haven’t been here long enough surely it wouldn’t affect us

ALICE NODS

ALICE

I guess you’re right

JOHN

I’m thinking this is all just a sick joke too. Witchcraft? Come on

ALICE LAUGHS AS THEY GET BACK TO LOOKING AT THE TELLY

AS WE CUT TO THE NEXT AFTERNOON

JOHN AND ALICE WALK OUT OF THE HOUSE AND INTO THEIR CAR

STUART SEES THIS

STUART

Hey thanks for last night guys we enjoyed ourselves

JOHN

No problem anytime

STUART APPROACHES THEM

STUART

You’re welcome round ours anytime

JOHN

Thanks. It won’t be anytime soon, I’ve got a meeting with my editor so I won’t be back until sunrise

STUART

You’re going out tonight? After everything we’ve told you?

JOHN

Look Stuart I’m a realist. If we’re back tomorrow then the coast is clear for you to move away

HE SAYS GOODBYE AND GETS IN THE CAR LEAVING ALICE WITH STUART

STUART

Alice you know you’re welcome to stay with us tonight

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ALICE

Oh no I’ll be fine. I’ll be following rules. I’m not doing anything today except my evening jog

STUART

Be sure to be back for dusk

ALICE

Don’t worry about little old me

SHE LAUGHS AND WALKS OFF

WE FADE TO A CHURCH TOP

WE PAN DOWN TO SEE A YOUNG MAN WALKING DOWN THE ROAD

IT’S STARTING TO GET DARK

THE YOUNG MAN’S WATCH BLEEPS AND HE LOOKS AT IT AND STARTS RUNNING

WE SEE HIS LEGS SPRINTING

HE LOOKS BEHIND HIM AS HE RUNS

HE FINDS AN ALLEYWAY AND SLOWS DOWN

HE’S OUT OF BREATH

LOOKING AROUND

HE WALKS WITH HIS BACK AGAINST A WALL AND LOOKS TO SEE IF THE COAST IS CLEAR

WE SEE A HOUSE – EVIDENTLY HIS

SUDDENLY A BLACK SHAPE WALKS PAST THE CAMERA WHICH SCARES THE YOUNG MAN BACK INTO HIS POSITION

HE BEGINS TO WALK SLOWLY

ALICE IS SEEN JOGGING

A SECURITY LIGHT FLASHES ON AND THE YOUNG MAN PAUSES IN FRIGHT

HE’S BEEN CAUGHT

ALICE WITNESSES THIS AND IS TERRIFIED

BLACK SHEETS SURROUND HIM AS HE TRIES TO SHOUT FOR HELP, THEY BECOME MUFFLED

SHE HIDES HER SCREAM AND RUNS

THE DARK SHADOWS ARE ON HER TAIL

SHE RUNS WITH ALL HER MIGHT

SHE MAKES IT TO HER HOUSE AND RUNS INSIDE AND SLAMS THE DOOR

SHE LOOKS OUT OF THE WINDOW AND IS MET FACE TO FACE WITH A SHADOW PERSON

SHE COVERS HER MOUTH AND SCREAMS

THE SHADOW PERSON BACKS OFF

ALICE SLIDES DOWN THE DOOR IN FRIGHT

WE FADE TO BLACK

WE FADE BACK TO THE DOOR IN DAYLIGHT

ALICE ISN’T THERE

JOHN COMES IN THROUGH THE DOOR

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HE HANGS HIS COAT UP AND WALKS THROUGH TO THE LIVING ROOM

ALICE WALKS SLOWLY BEHIND HIM. SHE’S WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES AS THE NIGHT BEFORE

ALICE

Oh thank God you’re home

HE TURNS AROUND AND HUGS HER

JOHN

Hey what happened?

ALICE

I saw them. The shadow people were out and they attacked somebody

JOHN

Calm down you have no energy

ALICE

I’ve been waiting all through the night without the electricity on

JOHN

This is going far enough

HE TAKES HER OUTSIDE

HE GOES TO STUARTS HOUSE WITH HER AND BANGS ON THE DOOR

STUART OPENS IT

JOHN

Stuart thank you for filling my wife’s head with crap

STUART

I owe you an apology

JOHN

Excuse me?

STUART

When Alice went out for a run last night I came over to yours and pried the window open a smidge then I turned the houses’ power off

JOHN

You broke in?

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STUART

I did what was best. If I hadn’t then Alice would’ve been killed

JOHN

I thought I saw you as a friend but now I’m finding it hard to trust you

STUART

Look think what you like, the bottom line is that they’re real and if you turn your power off and stay inside then you’ll be fine

JOHN

I’m not going back in time and live in the dark ages for all this bull shit

ALICE

John I saw them, I saw one face to face

JOHN TRIES TO HUSH HER

ALICE

I saw them kill a guy and I almost screamed they just covered over him and he couldn’t scream and I just ran

STUART

You outran them?

ALICE

I just ran as fast as I could

STUART

Alice you really are lucky to be here what if you were to trip?

ALICE

I know

JOHN REALLY HAS HAD ENOUGH

JOHN

Look for all I know this could all be a huge act or a prank on my behalf so I’m not buying it. If you set foot on my property again without my permission I’ll have you arrested

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STUART

Just like Anna did with Chris, Alice you’re better off staying somewhere else tonight. He’s not going to look out for you

STUART CLOSES THE DOOR AND ALICE WALKS OFF

JOHN GOES AFTER HER

ALICE

John that was immature

JOHN

Oh please this whole fiasco is immature

ALICE

I’m your wife! You don’t even believe me!

JOHN

I do believe you it’s just-

ALICE

Just what? It just sounds like something from The Twilight Zone?

JOHN

I said it sounded like something from Doctor Who and no it’s just why are they doing this? They’re going through an awful lot just to scare us off

ALICE

Scare us off? John I’m terrified. You saw the pictures

JOHN LOOKS UNDERSTANDING

JOHN

I know I did

ALICE

And you still don’t believe

JOHN RAISES HIS HEAD

JOHN

I’ll believe them when I see them in the meantime now that I’m here you can get some sleep

THEY ENTER THE HOUSE

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WE CUT TO A KITCHEN

JOHN IS MAKING A CUP OF COFFEE AND HE POURS A SMALL AMOUNT OF WHITE POWDER FROM A PACKET AND STIRRS IT IN

HE TAKES THE CUP OUT OF THE KITCHEN AND INTO THE LIVING ROOM

ALICE IS SITTING ON THE COUCH IN A DRESSING GOWN NOW

HE HANDS HER THE DRINK AND SITS DOWN

JOHN

Do you feel better after your bath?

ALICE NODS

JOHN SMILES AND LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW

SHE DRINKS FROM THE CUP

JOHN CARRIES ON LOOKING OUT OF THE WINDOW

WE FADE TO SEE ALICE NOW PASSED OUT ON THE COUCH

THE MUG IS EMPTY AND IS NOW ON THE FLOOR NEXT TO HER HAND

JOHN IS NOW ON THE PHONE TO HIS MUM

JOHN

She’s acting delusional and really not being herself

-

I’ve never seen her like this it’s completely out of the norm

-

No I’ve given her a strong sleeping pill that should see her through the night

-

I’m not taking her to a doctor they’ll have her committed, well her and the thousand other people that believes this crap

-

Okay I’ll talk to you tomorrow Mum

-

Love you bye

HE HANGS UP AND SITS BACK IN THE CHAIR

THERES A KNOCK AT THE DOOR

HE GETS UP TO IT

IT’S CHRIS

CHRIS

You should be shutting your power off now neighbour

JOHN

Honestly Chris I don’t have the time to

CHRIS

Please John

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HE GIVES HIM A DEVICE WITH AN AERIAL

JOHN LOOKS AT IT AND LOOKS AT HIM

JOHN

What’s this for?

CHRIS

It’s a Walkie-Talkie. It’s to keep in contact through the night

JOHN

I don’t need this

CHRIS

Please have it. Just think you’ll be alive after tonight

JOHN HUMOURS HIM AND TAKES THE WALKIE-TALKIE

CHRIS

I’ll contact you when the time’s right

JOHN SALUTES HIM WITH THE AERIAL AND CLOSES THE DOOR

HE WALKS BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM

ALICE HAS NOW TURNED OVER

JOHN PUTS THE WALKIE-TALKIE ON THE COUCH AND SITS DOWN

WE FADE TO A LATER TIME

HE’S FALLEN ASLEEP

ALICE WAKES UP

THE PHONE RINGS AND ALICE REACHES FOR IS

ALICE

Hello?

JOHN WAKES UP AND IS CONFUSED

THE VOICE ON THE OTHER END IS NOT CHRIS FROM NEXT DOOR

BUT SOMEONE ELSE

ALICE’S MOTHER

ALICE’S MOTHER

Alice you’ve got to put the news on, it’s your sister! She’s died on that plane crash!

ALICE GOES WIDE EYED AND RUNS TO THE TELEVISION

JOHN RUBS HIS EYES AND SEES ALICE TURN ON THE T.V

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JOHN

Alice no it’s a trick!

SHE DOESN’T LISTEN

* STROBE LIGHTING

SUDDENLEY ALICE IS ENGULFED IN BLACK HOODED FIGURES

WE HEAR VARIOUS CHEWING/ RIPPING SOUNDS AND SCREAMS A BLACK SKULL IS EXPOSED

JOHN SUDDENLEY FLINCHES AND WAKES UP

NOTHING HAS HAPPENED

IT’S STILL NIGHT OUTSIDE

ALICE IS STILL FAST ASLEEP

THERE’S A CRACKLING NOISE

IT’S THE WALKIE-TALKIE

JOHN ANSWERS IT

CHRIS

Oh thank God you’re still alive I’ve been trying you for ages, over

JOHN

Yeah we’re still here I just dosed off, over

CHRIS

Go to your window, over

JOHN DOES AND OPENS HIS EYES WIDER

WE DON’T SEE THEM BUT WE KNOW HE’S SEEN THE SHADOW PEOPLE

CHRIS

What’s your belief system like now? Over

JOHN

Yeah I guess I believe it now. Look at their feet. They’re gliding. I thought you said they were human, over

CHRIS

They are until they’re possessed I said. They’re human alright but their souls are shadows. The night controls them

JOHN

And when they see light, they take it

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CHRIS

Precisly

AS THEY’RE TALKING ALICE IS COMING TO

SHE SITS UP

ALICE

Is that them?

JOHN TURNS TO HER AND NODS

JOHN

I have Chris on the other end of this. I’m sorry I didn’t believe you

SHE GETS UP AND STANDS NEXT TO HIM

ALMOST HIDING FROM THEM BEHIND HIS SHOULDER

SHE FANS HERSELF

SHE’S STILL VERY SLEEPY

ALICE

I’m cooking

SHE TAKES HER RINGS OFF

JOHN LOOKS AT HER

JOHN

You okay?

ALICE

You know last summer when I got hot and my fingers swelled up well they’re doing it again

JOHN NODS AND LOOKS BACK OUT THE WINDOW

ALICE LOOKS AT JOHN AND ACCIDENTALLY DROPS HER WEDDING RING

WE HEAR IT LAND AND ROLL OFF

ALICE

Oh shit my wedding ring

ALICE THEN SPIES A TINY TORCH NEXT TO THE DOORWAR

JOHN CONTINUES LOOKING OUT OF HIS WINDOW

WE SEE THE SHADOW PEOPLE

SUDDENLEY THEY ALL LOOK DIRECTLY AT JOHN AND HEAD TOWARDS HIM

30

CHRIS

Hey wait what’s that?

JOHN LOOKS DOWN AT ALICE AND SEES SHE’S JUST TURNED OFF A TORCH

CHRIS

Oh shit turn your light off!

HE GRABS HER INTO THE HALLWAY

ALL THE DOORS SLAM SHUT

THEY’RE TRAPPED

THEIR FRONT DOOR OPENS AND

WE MOVE TOWARDS THEM FAST AS THEY SCREAM

WE CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN FROM BLACK TO LOOK AT THEIR FRONT DOOR FROM THE INSIDE

A FIGURE EMERGES TO THE DOOR

IT OPENS AND WE SEE ITS CHRIS

WE HEAR FLIES

CHRIS LOOKS INFRONT OF HIM ON THE FLOOR AND HOLDS IN HIS PUKE

HE SLAMS HIS FIST INTO THE DOORFRAME AND TURNS TO HIS LEFT

CHRIS

Stuart, Ellen! They didn’t listen to us God dammit!

ELLEN

*OFFSCREEN*

Oh they were such nice people

HE WALKS AWAY

WE CUT TO BLACK

END CREDITS