Elevated Blood Pressure

By

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FADE IN:

INT. OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Useless overhead fluorescent lights filled with dead insects flicker and buzz.

A battery-operated torchlight flashes off blood and grime covered white walls.

SEAMUS (O.S.)
Is that blood?

SEAMUS (23), all mouth no brains, scans his torch over brown stains on the walls.

LYNDSAY (25), butch in dress and manner, points a DSLR at the stain.

LYNDSAY
Looks more like excreta.

DARNEL (24), camp as Christmas, clutching his own DSLR, moves in for a close up on the stain.

DARNEL
Surely you mean, shit, darling.

Darnel chuckles at Lyndsay’s prudish face.

DARNEL
But it is blood.

Darnel touches it and snatches back his finger.

DARNEL
Still wet too. Ew.

MINA (22), waif-like, takes snapshots of the stain before stroking it and checking out her red fingertips.

LYNDSAY
What do you expect from a slaughterhouse?

SEAMUS
That’s been abandoned for twenty years? I’m telling you dudes, this is the one. Just get your fucking cameras ready that’s all I’m saying.

Excited, Seamus heads off.
SEAMUS
(shouts)
I’m going to find it!

DARNEL
Seamus!

LYNDSAY
Let him go. He’s like a child.

DARNEL
(sarcastic)
So, Mina, is he right? Any spectral activity?

Mina checks out an EMF meter strapped to her hip.

MINA
Nothing. The camera is clear too.

SEAMUS (O.S.)
Dudes! Quick!

Their faces change to panic and they run down the corridor.

INT. OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE - CORRIDOR TWO - NIGHT

Seamus beams at them as they round the corner.

SEAMUS
There she is.

Seamus points at a filthy, old elevator. A tiny, shattered, wire-framed window covered in blood offers no view inside.

MINA
You scared us.

SEAMUS
(winks)
Glad you care.

Darnel walks toward the elevator.

SEAMUS
Wait.

Darnel stops and makes a "Whut?" face. Seamus points at Mina’s EMF meter.

Mina sighs and checks the meter.
Seamus can barely contain his excitement as Darnel and Lyndsay check out the readings.

**SEAMUS**  
(biting a knuckle)  
Give it to me, dudes, give it to me hard.

**MINA**  
Seems we got our first ghost.

**SEAMUS**  
I knew this would be the one. The shit that went on in there is just incredible.

**DARNEL**  
(looking worried)  
Wait. Everybody just whoa a second.

**SEAMUS**  
Fuck that Darnel, I’m pumped. I was about to walk out on this shit.

**DARNEL**  
Is this really real, or are we just doing it for the sake of the show? I’m starting to get a little confused.

**SEAMUS**  
Damn fucking right it’s real dude, what the fuck?

**MINA**  
Seamus, calm down. Darnel. Come on. We’re ghost hunters.

**SEAMUS**  
Ghost busters that’s what we are, dude, fucking-a. This is what we’ve been waiting for.

**DARNEL**  
(chuckles)  
Fine, I get it. I’ll keep playing along.
MINA
You saw the reading. It’s real. If you want to back out, you should do it now.

SEAMUS
Hey, nobody is backing out.

DARNEL
I’ll back out of whatever the fuck I want to.

Darnel storms off.

MINA
Darnel!

SEAMUS
Fuck him. Fucking faggot.

LYNDSAY
Hey!

SEAMUS
Female gays are fine by me.

Seamus lolls out his tongue and pretends to slurp.

LYNDSAY
Nice.

SEAMUS
That’s what you do though, right.

MINA
Whatever. Let’s check out the elevator.

SEAMUS
Ladies first.

Seamus allows Mina past then steps in front of Lyndsay.

LYNDSAY
Always had you pinned as a little bitch anyway.

SEAMUS
I’ll be your bitch any day.

Seamus does the tongue thing and Lyndsay slaps him around the head.

Mina gets to the elevator first and scans the door.
MINA
Getting readings.

SEAMUS
Stronger?

Mina nods and stares at the blood stained window.

SEAMUS
He’d lock four people in here at a time and not let them out until only one was left.

LYNDSAY
Now is not the time for your bullshit, Seamus.

SEAMUS
Didn’t you check it out?

LYNDSAY
I assumed you were full of shit.

MINA
He’s telling the truth.

SEAMUS
The survivor would be locked in a fridge and forced to fight again next time around.

The elevator door creaks open revealing a bloody interior.

Shocked into silence, all three stare at each other.

SEAMUS
Whoaaaaa. Fucking cool.

Seamus steps toward the elevator.

LYNDSAY
Don’t go in there.

Lyndsay and Mina shiver as the temperature plummets.

Seamus steps inside the elevator.

SEAMUS
Dudes? This is what we came for, right? This is what we do.

Mina locks eyes with Lyndsay.
MINA
You with us?

LYNDSAY
No. But I don’t much like the idea of being left on my own either.

MINA
Darnel will be outside.

LYNDSAY
He’ll be long gone by now.

Mina places a friendly hand on Lyndsay’s shoulder.

MINA
No pressure.

Mina heads into the elevator.

SEAMUS
Fuck yeah. This is what we came for. You going to wuss out Lyndsay?

INT. OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Lyndsay switches her camera to record and heads into the elevator.

SEAMUS
(into Lyndsay’s camera)
So this is where all those people died, fighting to the death.

MINA
(reading EMF meter)
The numbers are rising fast.

SEAMUS
Legend has it that one victim became his favourite, a champion. After seventeen hard fought battles the champion became so enamored with it they went out in search of fresh victims. And, I’m that champion, muahahahaha.

Seamus reaches out his hands and acts like a ghost.

MINA
Very funny.
SEAMUS
Ah, you got nothing to worry about, it takes four people before I’m possessed and have to kill you all.
(does ghost thing)
Muahahahaha

The door slams shut.
The lights go out.
Mina screams.
Lyndsay bangs on the door.
Seamus drags Lyndsay away.

SEAMUS
Calm down.

The "2" on the number panel lights up.
The elevator jolts and rises.
Frantic, Mina pants as the light flickers on and off.
Seamus licks his lips and stares at the door.
Lyndsay looks from one to the other.
The lift stops.
Ping.
The door creaks open to reveal Darnel.

SEAMUS
(relieved)
Darnel you gay fuck. You scared the shit out of me.

DARNEL
(panicked)
There’s somebody else here.

The elevator door creaks as it closes.

MINA
Shit.

Mina tries to get out as Darnel runs in, crashing into her, pushing her back inside.
The door closes fully, trapping them.
MINA
You idiot.

DARNEL
You don’t want to be out there
girl, trust me.

LYNDSAY
And then there were four.

SEAMUS
What the fuck?

LYNDSAY
We have to give him a good show.

Lyndsay pushes Seamus against the door. Off balance, he
falls into a sitting position.

Darnel tries to grab her but she hits him in the jaw with
the camera, knocking him out cold.

MINA
Lyndsay?

Lyndsay stares at her, not Lyndsay anymore.

Mina shrinks against the wall.

Lyndsay beats Seamus’ face in with the camera.

Mina cries as lights flicker and the elevator continues to
rise.

With Seamus’ face a mush of flesh, blood and bone, Lyndsay
turns her attention to Mina.

MINA
Please, don’t.

LYNDSAY
Only one can leave.

Lyndsay raises the camera, ready to strike, then her face
changes to one of pain as Darnel bites into her calf.

Seeing her chance, Mina jumps onto Lyndsay and repeatedly
pounds her head with the EMF meter before reaching for a pen
from her pocket and stabbing it into Lyndsay’s jugular.

Blood squirts everywhere and then...

The elevator stops.
Ping.

Mina and Darnel stare at the door but it stays closed.

Darnel looks at Mina questioningly.

MINA
Only one of us can leave.

Darnel frowns.

INT. OLD SLAUGHTERHOUSE - CORRIDOR TWO - NIGHT

The elevator shakes and rattles.

Eventually the door slides open and Darnel stands there with the pen sticking out of his right eye socket. He falls dead to the floor.

Behind him, breathing hard and covered in blood, Mina staggers out of the elevator.

FADE OUT.