GET A CLUE

Ву

Jim Onji

FADE IN:

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

An average suburban house painted white. The full moon is blood-red. A wolf howls in the distance.

EUGENE (O.S.)

Anyone up for a board game?

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

EUGENE BOWIE -- Forty, average, dressed like a 1950s sitcom dad -- stands up in the middle of the living room.

KYLE -- Fifteen, long hair, slacker, ripped jeans -- is stretched across the couch.

MADDIE -- Thirteen -- sits on the arm of the couch on the right side. She and Kyle look bored.

KATE -- Forty, pretty, dressed in a David Bowie T-shirt and jeans -- sits in a chair with a smile on her face.

EUGENE

Anybody?

KATE

What about... Monopoly?

KYLE

I'd rather have my teeth pulled.

KATE

What about Chutes and Ladders?

KYLE

Dammit, Mom, I'm fifteen!

KATE

Watch your mouth, young man!

Eugene goes into the closet.

EUGENE

How about...

Kyle rolls his eyes.

Halo? Guitar Hero? Pong?

Eugene comes out of the closet with the classic Parker Brothers board game, Clue(do).

He leaves the closet door open.

Maddie's face lights up.

MADDIE

I love Clue!

KYLE

Clue sucks.

EUGENE

Better than Monopoly; I always go to jail.

Kate gives Eugene a mock-sympathy hug.

Kyle huffs and rolls his eyes.

KYLE

Whatever.

EUGENE

Come on, Kyle, you used to love Clue.

KYLE

Clinton was still President.

EUGENE

You sure loved it last year at Jamal's birthday party.

KYLE

That's because his birthday party sucked. He told me Jay-Z and Snoop would be there. Instead, he had a clown. A clown! Clue was the only way to keep me from barfing.

Eugene takes the game out of the box and starts to set it up on the coffee table. An ominous crimson light flashes across the board.

EUGENE

And you actually believed him?

A man can dream.

EUGENE

If he told you Abraham Lincoln would be there, would you believe him?

Eugene takes the character tokens out.

KYLE

The butler did it. I win. Can I play Xbox now?

MADDIE

That's not how the game works.

KYLE

Shut up, Maddie.

KATE

Cool it, you two!

Eugene sets the last token on the coffee table -- the Miss Scarlet character.

EUGENE

Who does everybody wanna be?

KYLE

The only character I remember is Colonel Mustard.

He shrugs his shoulders and takes the Colonel Mustard token and sets it on the board. The token illuminates.

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Two ominous footsteps approach the house.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Eugene turns to Maddie.

EUGENE

Maddie?

Maddie ponders, and then chooses Miss Scarlet. She puts the token on the board; it lights up.

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Two more footsteps approach.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Eugene hugs Kate's shoulders.

EUGENE

Kate?

She takes Mrs. White and sets the token on the board; the token glows.

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Two more footsteps. A wolf howls in the distance.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

An ominous thunderclap. The wolf continues howling.

Eugene looks at the remaining tokens and ponders.

EUGENE

Since I'm your sugarplum...

Kyle rolls his eyes. Maddie giggles.

EUGENE

I'll be...

He picks up...

EUGENE

...Professor Plum.

Eugene sets the final token on the board; it illuminates a reddish-purple.

EUGENE

Anyone remember the rules?

CLOCK

The time reads seven-thirty. Five minutes elapse.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Eugene sets the rule sheet down.

EUGENE

Everybody got that?

Everybody nods and hums.

Eugene grabs the pair of dice.

EUGENE

Each of us will roll the dice. Whoever rolls the highest number plays first.

KATE

I thought Miss Scarlet played first?

EUGENE

I used to think Han shot first. Things change, honey.

Eugene rolls.

"Three" on one die, "one" on the other. "Four."

He moves Professor Plum six places.

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Six footsteps approach the house.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Eugene appears to be in discomfort. He grips his stomach.

EUGENE

Hold on, guys. Just a quick trip to the John.

He chuckles and runs upstairs.

EUGENE

Don't play without me!

KATE

We won't!

Kyle jumps up.

I'm gonna go play Halo.

KATE

He's not gonna be that long.

CLOCK

Twenty-three minutes pass. Eight o'clock.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Kyle sits on the couch, visibly bored. He yawns.

KYLE

What the hell's taking him so long?

KATE

Language! He's probably just constipated, honey.

Eugene limps down the stairs.

KATE

What took you so long?

Eugene moans.

KATE

Honey?

Eugene takes another step and moans.

KATE

Eugene?

Eugene enters the living room. He makes his way to the coffee table.

KATE

Eugene?

Eugene collapses onto the board, dead. His back is bloody.

KATE

Eugene!

KYLE

It was Colonel Mustard in the bathroom with the plunger--

Maddie smacks him.

MADDIE

Have you no shame, Kyle?

KYLE

Dad, if you wanna learn how to make fake blood, look at Tom Savini.

Kyle laughs and he touches the blood. His laughter turns to horror. His eyes widen.

KYLE

Holy shit!

Kate and Maddie scream.

KATE

Who's in the house? Who are you! Where are you?

Maddie turns toward Kyle suspiciously.

KYLE

What?

MADDIE

You're the one who didn't want to play a board game.

KYLE

Yeah. So?

MADDIE

Therefore, you're my prime suspect.

KYLE

How could I have killed Dad when I was upstairs playing Halo?

Maddie stares at him with cold eyes.

MADDIE

How do we even know you were playing Halo?

Kyle takes the dice. He pushes Eugene's corpse aside and rolls eight.

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Eight footsteps approach.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Kyle picks up a card.

KYLE

Did anyone else notice something strange about the board? Or the tokens? Did anyone else see them light up and shit?

Kate and Maddie draw blank faces.

KATE

No...?

KYLE

We have six possible suspects.

MADDIE

But how is that possible?

KYLE

Don't you remember Jumanji?

MADDIE

I fell asleep.

KATE

Are you saying what I think you're saying?

Kyle counts the suspects on his hands.

KYLE

Colonel Mustard. Miss Scarlet. Professor Plum. Missus Peacock. Mister Green. And Missus White.

MADDIE

So now we're playing a real-life game of Clue?

Kyle nods and smiles smugly.

KYLE

Yep. We need to figure out whodunit. What we have here is an obvious stab wound.

KATE

To be fair, Kyle, it could also be a gunshot wound or a lead pipe.

KYLE

But we didn't hear a gunshot, did we?

A gunshot fires from a distance. Everybody jumps.

KYLE

What was that?

Silence. Kyle chuckles nervously.

KYLE

I guess that narrows it down. Maddie, your turn.

Maddie reluctantly takes the dice and rolls. Three.

Three footsteps descend the stairs.

MADDIE

Wait, did you hear that?

KYLE

Six suspects. We know they did it in the bathroom with the gun.

KATE

We don't know where--

KYLE

But we can assume they came in through the bathroom window.

MADDIE

That's a Beatles song.

KYLE

Care to take a guess?

MADDIE

Mister Green in the bathroom with the revolver.

KATE

But there's no bathroom in the game.

This isn't a game anymore.

Maddie moves Mr. Green and the revolver into the library.

KYLE

You're up next, Mom.

KATE

I thought you said this wasn't a game.

KYLE

It's not.

Kate rolls the dice. Snake eyes.

Two footsteps descend the stairs.

KATE

It was...

The floor creaks. Everybody turns toward the stairs.

KATE

Colonel Mustard!

COLONEL MUSTARD stands before them, revolver in hand, laughing wickedly. He has a large, bushy, yellow handlebar mustache, yellow 18th-century clothes, and a monocle.

Kate glides her hand over the envelope containing the correct murder information.

Mustard tugs the trigger.

Kate begins to sweat and weep.

Mustard grins.

Kate picks up the envelope.

Mustard squeezes the trigger tighter.

Kate opens the envelope.

The gun cocks.

She takes out the cards revealing the truth. Her weeping turns into sobbing.

KATE

It was Colonel Mustard! In the library! With the revolver!

A loud whirring sound drowns out any other sounds.

Colonel Mustard, MISS SCARLET, PROFESSOR PLUM, MR. GREEN, MRS. PEACOCK, and MRS. WHITE get sucked back into the game.

COLONEL MUSTARD

Nooooooooooo!

The game and tokens light up. The game sucks the characters back in, like a vacuum.

They're gone. The whirring sound dies down. The glow dissipates until it's completely gone.

Kate, Maddie, and Kyle uncover their ears.

Kyle picks up the Colonel Mustard token.

KYLE

Get a clue.

Eugene wakes up, no sign of blood.

Everybody jumps. Kate resumes sobbing. Kyle and Maddie begin to weep. They all hug Eugene.

Eugene yawns.

EUGENE

What did I miss?

FADE OUT.

THE END