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INT. KITCHEN - MANSION - DAY

DAVE (50s), a portly real estate broker, shows the classic stately dwelling to a well-dressed couple.

DAVE

So you can see that the house is really run down. Let's move on.

RUSS (40s), scowls, replies with a snappy, stern tone.

RUSS

No, let's not move on. It looks structurally well taken care of.

HEIKE (20s), long blonde pigtails, contributes her point.

HETKE

We can get a crew in here and clean it up. It's just dust and cob webs.

DAVE

You don't want this. Nobody does.

HEIKE

Hold on. Why has this house been on the market so long?

DAVE

It's haunted. Let's go.

The couple's eyes widen, turn to each other with huge smiles. After a gasp, they scream with excitement.

RUSS

That's a stupid reason. There's no such thing as ghosts. I can pay full price, cash. It's fully furnished so we can move in right away.

HEIKE

I hope it's really haunted. Ooh, Honey! I'm getting goosebumps.

INT. PARLOR - NIGHT

Classically decorated with paintings and sculptures. A suit of armor holds a battle ax and stands against a wall.

Russ sits in a chair, reads a book. Heike enters.

HEIKE

What do you want?

RUSS

I didn't call you.

HEIKE

I definitely heard you call me.

RUSS

Well I definitely didn't. Anyway, since you're here, I've been reading a little about this house. It was originally owned by a Mister Michael Jackson.

HEIKE

Michael Jackson!

RUSS

Not that one. Anyway, after he passed, the place stayed empty for some time before becoming a orphanage, run by a Doctor Braumann who apparently did some unknown exotic research. It was believed that the children were being abused. When the authorities came by to investigate, the children were all dead from poisoning. The doctor was never found.

HETKE

That's horrible. So maybe this place <u>is</u> haunted. I want to test out my Ouija board. Let's turn out all the lights, spread out candles everywhere and find out.

INT. PARLOR - LATER

Russ and Heike sit on the floor on either side of a coffee table. A Ouija board sits on the table between them. A pen and paper pad rest beside it. The room is lit by candles.

The couple have their fingers resting on a reticle. Heike has her eyes closed. Russ glares at her, annoyed.

DAVE

Look! There are no ghosts.

HEIKE

Let's try again. (MORE)

HEIKE (cont'd)

(to the board)

Are there any spirits here.

The reticle slowly moves. Heike opens her eyes. It moves to the letter 'T', then 'H'. It eventually spells out 'THERE'.

HEIKE

There! We have to write that down.

She grabs the pen, turns to the pad and gasps.

On the pad is written, THERE ARE SEVEN OF US READY TO PLAY.

HEIKE (cont'd)

Did you write that?

RUSS

No. I had my hands on this thingy just like you. Besides, it would be upside down if I wrote that.

Children GIGGLING is heard from inside the house.

HETKE

I think that came from the basement.

RUSS

I'm done. Let's turn the lights back on.

Russ rises, approaches a light switch. He flips the switch and it doesn't work.

Heike turns to a table lamp. She pulls the chain. Ditto.

The giggling is heard again.

RUSS (cont'd)

You need to go downstairs and check that out.

Heike gasps with surprise.

HEIKE

Me! That's stupid. You go. I'll see if I can get some lights on.

RUSS

Let's call the police, then.

He picks up his phone.

RUSS (cont'd)

Odd. My phone's dead. Let's use yours.

She leaves the room and reenters with her phone.

HETKE

Huh. Mine's dead as well. How does that happen? Anyway, we need to check out the giggles. It could be pranksters.

RUSS

Fine. If I come back dead, you'll have to deal with it.

She rolls her eyes, shakes her head.

INT. BASEMENT

Russ arrives at the bottom of the stairs, candle in hand. As he looks around the basement, he sees the walls lined with several cages full of cobwebs.

He spots a closed door and approaches it, opens it slightly, looks inside.

A giant wolf spider with a body about the size of a German Shepherd and legs two meters long, turns to face him.

Russ slams the door shut and runs for the stairs.

INT. PARLOR - SAME TIME

Heike checks the remaining lights around the room to no avail. As she passes the suit of armor, it moves with a slight squeak.

She steps back and gives the armor a long look. She returns to her search for a working light.

The armor pushes Heike flat against the wall. It swings the ax at her head.

She jumps aside and the ax barely misses her, lops off one of her long pigtails. The ax remains embedded in the wall.

The suit of armor rushes from the room out a different door.

Russ arrives panting, notices the missing armor.

RUSS

What happened to the armor?

HEIKE

It just left.

He looks at her like she has ten heads.

RUSS

Anyway, we gotta go. You won't believe what I saw downstairs.

The spider enters the room, knocks Russ to the floor. He rolls over, fights the spider as it crawls over him.

Heike pulls the ax out of the wall, swings it downward at the spider's head.

Mid-swing, the spider fades out. The blade hits the floor next to Russ's head. They both SCREAM.

Russ recovers, rises to his feet. She falls to her knees and continues to scream.

RUSS

I'm okay, honey. You missed me.

HEIKE

But look what I did to the beautiful floor! It's ruined!

He looks at her with a look of absolute disbelief, pulls her off the floor onto her feet.

RUSS

You almost killed me and I was attacked by a cow-sized spider!

HEIKE

I missed you and the spider wasn't that big. Just deal.

RUSS

Anyway, I want out of here. Let's go.

They turn to leave the room. They run when the suit of armor returns from where it left, chases them.

INT. HALLWAY

The two run down the candle-lit hallway with the armor in hot pursuit.

A foot stool slides from a doorway, trips the armor.

The armor lands with a crash. It rolls from side-to-side with a sickly moan, gasps for breath.

The couple remove the helmet from the armor, revealing Dave, the real estate broker.

HEIKE

What are you doing here?

DAVE

I'm trying to scare you away. I wanted to buy this property. I would have had the down payment in about a month but you took this away from me. My plan would have worked if it weren't for those pesky kids. By the way, I really have to pee.

RUSS

What is this, Scooby Doo? And who are these kids you're talking about?

The children's GIGGLING returns. Dave swirls his finger about the area.

DAVE

Those.

HEIKE

It sounds like it's coming from the parlor. Let's go.

The couple pick Dave up from the floor, help him to his feet, march him to the parlor.

RUSS

By the way, how did you do that spider trick?

DAVE

What spider trick?

INT. PARLOR

The three enter and move to the middle of the room. As the three look about the room, seven WHITE WISPS appear and float around the room. CHILDREN'S VOICES speak in unison.

CHILDREN'S VOICES

Tick-tock, the game's locked. Nobody else can play.

They hear children SCREAM and the wisps disappear.

The spider enters. The three scream and rush from the room.

INT. STAIRS

Russ and Heike run up a grand staircase. Dave follows but struggles with the weight of the armor.

At the top, the couple approach the nearest door.

INT. WORKOUT ROOM

Lit with candles. A heavy bag hangs from the ceiling. Shelves and racks hold various workout paraphernalia.

The couple enters the room, catch their breath.

Dave enters a long moment later. He sweats and drools profusely, gasps for air. After making a choking sound, he clenches his chest and collapses to the floor.

The two roll him onto his back.

RUSS

He's having a heart attack. You have to give him CPR.

HEIKE

Me! How? He's wearing a suit of armor!

RUSS

Let's get it off of him.

The giggling returns. A pair of boxing gloves rise from a shelf and float about the room. They pummel Russ and Heike. The couple wrap their arms around their heads in defense.

HEIKE

Make them stop!

RUSS

How?

The giggles turn to screams and the gloves hit the floor.

DOCTOR BRAUMANN (60s) appears in the doorway, steps into the room. He wears a blood-soaked lab coat.

HEIKE

Who are you?

DOCTOR BRAUMANN

(German accent)

I am Doctor Braumann. I heard you ask about my pet spider. I made her. I used to feed her farm animals but today, I will feed her you two. With your blood she will come back from the dead and be my devoted servant. I do hope you don't mind.

The spider appears in the hallway behind the doctor. With a wave of his hand, the spider enters behind the doctor.

It climbs upon the doctor and forces him to the floor.

He SCREAMS as fangs plunge into his back. The doctor bursts into flames. Burning body and soul disappear downward.

The spider points it's head upward, faces the ceiling. A golden glow appears above it and the spider disappears.

The white wisps reappear and take on the shape of CHILDREN. One CHILD (8) steps forward.

CHILD

Will you adopt us?

Russ shakes his head frantically. Heike drops to her knees before the child.

HEIKE

Why, of course we will.

RUSS

Wait! No! What are you doing? We can't --

A golden glow appears above the children and they disappear. Heike examines Dave, shrugs.

HEIKE

So much for the real estate dude. We need to call the police.

INT. PARLOR

The two enter. Heike gathers the Ouija board and the pad of paper. As she places it on a shelf, she fails to notice that the writing has changed.

It now reads: THIS IS NOW MY HOUSE. GET OUT. -DAVE

FADE OUT