

GHOSTED
THE LEGEND OF THE GURDON LIGHT

Written by

Go-Devil

FADE IN:

EXT. SMALL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Five friends, SCOTT, CHASE, EMILY, DAVID AND KRISTI (all mid 20s) hug and high five each other in jubilation of the winning touchdown.

INT. "GO-DEVIL" BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

The place is packed with homecoming celebrants, purple and gold STREAMERS dangle from the rafters, lively JACK-O-LANTERNS flicker on every table.

SCOTT
(yelling above the din)
Wow! What a game! That's the first time we've beaten the Tigers since our Senior year.

DAVID
I know, man! I'm so glad we could all get back together tonight to see it.

A WAITRESS (30s) approaches the group with a tray of draft beer. They each take a beer in turn. Kristi declines.

KRISTI
No thanks. Nothing for me.

SCOTT
What? Come on Kristi, it's homecoming night - we're here to celebrate.

David puts his arm around Kristi and beams.

DAVID
We just found out - we're pregnant!

Emily squeals and hugs Kristi, the guys engage in fist bumps and back pats.

EMILY
You guys are still living the dream. High school sweethearts, married right out of college and now...Mom and Dad to be.

Kristi blushes and nods excitedly.

CHASE
Hey guys, how about a little
Homecoming and Halloween fun?

DAVID
What's up, Chase?

CHASE
I was thinking we could all go out
to old Punkin Pete's place to see
the Ghost Light. You know, just
like the good old days.

SCOTT
Come on, Chase. The last time we
went out there you got so scared
you cried and nearly peed your
pants.

David and Scott start fake crying, rubbing their eyes of fake
tears.

CHASE
Very funny. C'mon, let's go for
old times' sake. We'll get a
pumpkin and bring it back and prove
that the class of '16 is still the
best!

David sobers.

DAVID
Nah, man. We're too old for that
stuff. Besides, people have gotten
hurt out there messing around. I
don't think it's a good idea.

Emily darkens with concern.

EMILY
What's the Ghost Light and who's
the pumpkin guy?

CHASE
Punkin Pete. You didn't grow up
around here, so you don't know the
old legend.

EMILY
Legend? About what?

DAVID

It's silly, just a story that's floated around these parts for years. Seems there was this old farmer who had a prize pumpkin patch outside town by the railroad tracks. Kids used to go out and try to steal a pumpkin from his patch every year around Halloween. They say old Pete would chase them with a shotgun and yell after them that he'd put a curse on them if they didn't return the stolen pumpkin. One year, old Pete got so caught up in chasing the kids that he ran in front of an oncoming train and was killed. Severed his head, or so says the legend. After that, people started reporting a strange greenish orb of light floating around over the tracks where Pete was killed. Some say it's old Pete's ghost still keeping watch over the pumpkins and looking for his missing head. Rumors say that whoever takes a pumpkin from the patch and doesn't return it will bring a deadly curse not only on themselves, but even their children.

EMILY

Oh my god, that's horrible.

DAVID

Nah, it's just an old tale. Nobody really believes it. They say the light is probably swamp gas, or a reflection from car lights. They call it the Gurdon Light now. It's even been on TV.

EMILY

I'm not sure I want to go out there.

KRISTI

Oh come on, Emily. It'll be fun, we'll just grab a pumpkin from the patch and bring it back to our house. David and I don't have a Jack-o-lantern yet. This is the perfect idea to end our reunion night. It'll be fun!

Emily is still squeamish.

EMILY

Maybe good old times for all of
you, but not me. Remember, I was
the new kid.

They all indulge in good natured chiding and finally Emily smiles warily and nods her head in agreement.

EXT. PUMPKIN PATCH - NIGHT

The SOUND of a far-off FREIGHT TRAIN echoes in the darkness.

The friends, still buzzed with the night's beer drinking giggle and prod each other along.

SCOTT

Oh my God! There it is!

Everyone turns to look in the direction Scott points. And there, illuminating the darkness, a greenish, GLOWING ORB, an other wordly sight hovering above the railroad track. Emily SCREAMS!

DAVID

Holy crap! It's real.

Without looking away from the orb, he barks out orders to the still staring group.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hurry up, get that pumpkin and
let's get the hell out of here!

The guys grab up a large pumpkin and the entire group hightails it through the darkness to their waiting vehicle.

INT. DAVID AND KRISTI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The friends, beers in hand again, happily chattering, are busy carving the large pumpkin sitting on the table. As they finish up, Kristi brings a CANDLE to place inside and then proceeds to light it. The candle burns for only a moment and then goes out. Kristi gives it a quizzical look and then relights it. Again, a momentary flame, that is quickly extinguished, but this time a greenish glow is emitted lighting the Jack-O-Lantern with the same eerie presence from the railroad track.

SCOTT

What in the hell is that?

ANGLE on Kristi as her eyes grow wide.

KRISTI
Oh my god, look!

Now not only does the pumpkin continue to glow with an increasing intensity, a black viscous substance begins to ooze out of its triangular eyes and snagged mouth.

DAVID
Holy shit! Let's get this thing out of here!

CHASE
I'm not touching that thing! It's the devil!

David ignores him and already has it in hands as he runs out the door.

KRISTI
(panic stricken)
Where are you going, David?

DAVID
I'm taking this thing back where it belongs before something really bad happens!

EXT. DAVID AND KRISTI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

He quickly throws the pumpkin, still glowing and oozing, into the bed of his PICKUP TRUCK, fires the engine and races out of the driveway. The remainder of the group stares after him in confusion and fright, Emily and Kristi hug, still terrified.

EXT. DAVID AND KRISTI'S HOUSE - NIGHT - AWHILE LATER

The pickup truck pulls back into the driveway. David exits and heads toward the house, warily glancing over his shoulder. The Jack-O-Lantern and glowing essence are gone.

INT. DAVID AND KRISTI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The friends, calmer now, sit in the living room talking quietly. Emily still holds Kristi's hand. David enters. Kristi jumps up and runs to him with relief.

DAVID

It's ok, honey. It's gone. I put it back in the field. Funny, as soon as I did that, the glow went away. There was nothing. Just that old carved out pumpkin lying on the ground.

KRISTI

Well thank God you're okay. That has to be the stupidest thing we have EVER done.

All eyes turn toward the instigator Chase who can't meet their accusing gaze.

DAVID

It's over now and it's late. Why don't you guys all head home. We'll talk later.

Kristi turns and nods at the group, a relieved smile on her face. Suddenly, something catches her eye as she looks down. Her face registers immediate PANIC. From Kristi's POV we PAN DOWN to David's shoe. A piece of the carved pumpkin is stuck to the bottom. Slowly, the black ooze begins to flow again.

KRISTI

Oh my God! David! Your shoe! You must have stepped on the damned pumpkin!

As David looks down and sees the ooze, the same blackness begins to pour from his mouth, dripping to his shirt.

Kristi is horrified and SCREAMS as David falls to his knees.

KRISTI (CONT'D)

Somebody help him!

ANGLE on Emily's face. Her eyes now widen with horror as she looks at Kristi, her gaze pulled downward. She SCREAMS. Kristi follows Emily's gaze as she looks at her own abdomen. A seeping black ooze now covers her white shirt.

KRISTI (CONT'D)

NOOOOOO! NOOOOOO! MY BAAAAABY!

She grabs her abdomen and falls to her knees beside David. The pools of black ooze now puddling together. Outside the window a GREEN ORB GLOWS.

SMASH TO BLACK.