

Haunted Wedding at Crescent Park

Written by

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NARRATOR

(Over-the-top, *Haunted House* style voice over)

People get afraid. People get scared. Then they rationalize it by saying it's not real or it will pass. What if I told you that's not true. What if I told you not only are ghosts real and as tangible as the air you breathe but they're alive and well. In fact, I have a story for just that occasion. Strap yourselves in. It's going to be a little scary.

(Maniacal laugh)

FADE IN:

CAMERA ZOOMS PAST CLOUDS AND SKY UNTIL IT FALLS UPON

EXT. THE ROOF OF CRESCENT PARK HOTEL - DAY

SUPER: 1886

MICHAEL (17, Irish stonemason, hands as worn and callused as his face) starts out as a blip on the roof of what is to be the Crescent Park Hotel. As we move closer we see Michael perfecting his craft. This is going to be his masterpiece. His crowning achievement. Despite being unwanted in this country, even forty years after his people started coming over, he was determined to make a name for himself. And a good name.

Michael STUMBLES over a block that's in his way. A look of terror impales his face. As he regains his balance, he looks down at the brick and his face returns to normal. He lets out a sigh. Michael moves his tools to the edge of the roof, to the facade. He stands and puts his hands on his hips. It's an overcast day, perfect for working on a roof.

Michael turns to grab his satchel and moves back to his working area on the edge and TRIPS over the same block and TUMBLES headfirst over the wall.

Michael HANGS ON for dear life by the strap of his satchel. He opens his arm and looks about. He then clutches with both hands and pulls himself up and grabs hold of the edge of a block. The same face of pure terror masked on as before. As Michael pulls on the block, it CRUMBLES and he falls to his death ala *Die Hard*.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPER: HAUNTED WEDDING AT CRESCENT PARK

We hear screams welling up from the darkness as the title card fades to black.

FADE IN:

INT. JOEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

We fade up from the agape mouth of JOEL (30, fit, neurotic, controlled, uses humor as a defense mechanism).

JOEL
Two-hundred dollars per plate? In
what world do I care about my
friends and family that much?

Joel SLAMS his laptop lid shut and rubs his face.

JOEL (CONT'D)
We should just elope. This is
ridiculous.

Joel gets up and goes about his morning as "Girls Own Love" by Andrew W.K. plays.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- 1) Coffee maker brewing.
- 2) Joel making a breakfast shake.
- 3) Throwing a sandwich, pre-made from the night before, into his lunch box.
- 4) Texting his fiancée, Virginia "Good Morning" with a kissy emoji.
- 5) Pouring his coffee into a container that leaks from the bottom.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Oh fuck off.

He transfers to another travel container. It drips all over on the transfer.

6) Pouring out his frozen breakfast shake that doesn't move because it's frozen solid. He has to add more water to it before pouring it out. Also a mess.

5) Getting in his car, a Nissan Ultima. His check engine light flickers on and off.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Feeling good today, bud?

6) Steering wheel in one hand, a different travel coffee mug in the other.

7) Pulls into a tight parking space.

8) Has to slink out his door without opening it all the way.

9) Finally arrives in his office at work. He's a regional manager of a chain hotel. We find out as he leaves the car, the time reads 6:55 PM. Joel is working night shift this time.

INT. JOEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Joel plops down in his chair. His desk is exactly the way he left it from the day before. He logs into his computer and his e-mail starts populating. Seventy-six messages since he left this very desk twelve hours ago. How is that possible? Joel just stares, immobile, hoping the work will do itself and the e-mails will go away.

Joel's phone RINGS.

JOEL
Go for Joel.

NATALIE
Go for Joel?

JOEL
Sorry, I just wanted to make that my thing, I don't know. What's up, Natalie?

NATALIE
There's a customer down here asking to see the manager. Would you mind?

Joel sighs and looks at the clock. 6:57 PM.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
Joel?

JOEL
Sorry, yeah, I'll be right over.

INT. FRONT LOBBY - SAME TIME

Joel struts over to the front desk. NATALIE (seventeen, working her first real job, high school bores her) is dealing with an irate customer. KAREN (43, husband pulls in six figures, rendering Karen able to be a housewife, when she's not fucking her boy-toy that is.)

KAREN

Is this the manager?

Joel puts on his customer service face.

JOEL

Yes, ma'am, I'm the manager, what seems to be the issue this fine evening?

KAREN

The issue is I specifically made several requests when I booked this room that were not filled!

JOEL

Oh, well that's unacceptable! Let's look up what went wrong.

Joel starts typing at an adjacent computer.

JOEL (CONT'D)

You are in room three-forty-three, yes?

KAREN

You know what room I'm in.

JOEL

I see that you booked the room, well, two hours ago. And requested silk linens with a thread count of at least six-hundred, Starbucks fresh-brewed coffee and HBO.

KAREN

And Showtime. Don't fuck with my Ray Donovan.

JOEL

And Showtime. And Ray Donovan.

Joel rubs under his nose.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Ma'am the problem is, well, everything you listed is a problem. We don't have silk anything, only cotton and polyester. Starbucks, quite frankly, is out of our company's price range to provide to every customer, so you're looking at Seattle's Finest at best, and we don't have premium channels for free. You can always log in with your home info on an app here, we do offer complimentary wifi. And you made this request two hours ago, after the room had already been prepared. So we did the best with the time frame and materials we are given to work with.

KAREN

So you can't help me?

JOEL

What? No, no I can't help you with these problems, ma'am. If you want we can offer you a free breakfast voucher, redeemable at our in-house-

Karen STORMS away.

KAREN

Let's go, Raul! We're leaving!

RAUL (24, doesn't speak English) looks up from his seat on the edge of the fountain.

RAUL

Entonces, ¿vamos a follar o qué?

JOEL

Great way to start a shift.

NATALIE

Great way to end a shift.

JOEL

END a shift?

NATALIE

Yeah, I can't work overnights. You know that. Seventeen, remember?

JOEL

Shit. Did I make the schedule?

NATALIE

Who else?

JOEL

Fucking A. When will you be
eighteen?

NATALIE

Soon enough, daddy.

Natalie winks and pops her butt out.

JOEL

Stop it. Go home and do whatever it
is seventeen year old girls do in
this day and age.

NATALIE

We like to go home and think about
the older men we want to-

JOEL

STOP IT. I'm too old for this!
Just, just go. Go home. I'm getting
married, I can't deal with your
flirting right now.

NATALIE

You're never getting married! You
won't ever pick a place! Cheapo!

Natalie waves, grabs her coat and purse and leaves the hotel.
She does the "call me" sign as she walks out.

Joel shakes his head.

JOEL

(Singing to himself)
'She's only seventeen! Seventeen!
Daddy says she's too young, but
she's old enough for me!"

Joel shivers.

JOEL (CONT'D)

I don't think I ever realized how
creepy those lyrics were.

Joel thinks for a moment.

JOEL (CONT'D)

I wonder what it's like for that to
be your biggest hit in a day and
age like this.

INT. FRONT LOBBY - NIGHT

Joel stands like a zombie. What a way to work the night shift. Instead of sitting in the comfort of his own office, he now has to man the front desk and do his front office work.

On one computer screen, Joel's seventy-six untouched e-mails. On the other computer screen, typed into Google, " Best Wedding Venues for your buck".

Joel's head is in his arms on the front desk.

FRANK (50, night custodian, Janitor from Scrubs is his hero) sneaks up on Joel.

FRANK

Sleeping on the job are we?

Joel JOLTS awake.

JOEL

Goddamnit, Frank. Always with the sneaking and the creeping.

FRANK

My middle names.

Joel walks over to the Mini Mart to get coffee.

FRANK (CONT'D)

How'd you get stuck with arranging this wedding anyhow? Doesn't seem like the man department.

JOEL

Oh no? How would you know?

FRANK

I've been married four times.

JOEL

Aren't you single?

FRANK

Divorced four times too.

JOEL

Jesus, Frank.

Joel grabs a cup and pulls the lever. Old coffee leaks out. It doesn't just smell old. It looks old.

FRANK

You always want to be in control.

JOEL

Thank you for that shocking revelation. And no, I need to be in control, I don't want it. It's not even my choice! It's my mind! I don't have any say in the matter.

Frank shrugs.

FRANK

All I can say is, get a pre-nup. Bitches be going after your money.

JOEL

To protect what? I can't even afford the fucking wedding! And after that she wants to buy a house. Yeah right. And I'm sure a few years after that she'll want kids! I'm fucked! Fucking love, man.

FRANK

What about the in-laws?

Frank and Joel start their walk back to the front desk.

JOEL

Absolutely not. They already think I'm a fuck-up and a failure. Not reaching my potential, can't afford anything, can't care for and protect their daughter. You know. And while they're right, I will not give them the satisfaction.

Joel sips the coffee and his face morphs into a sour look at seems like he just took a shot of bottom-shelf, Montezuma's Tequila.

FRANK

When you're right you're right.

Frank mimes sweeping the lobby floor.

JOEL

Thanks for the pick-me-up, Frank.

Joel watches him.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Can't you just actually sweep?
You're already doing the motion.

FRANK

It's the principle of the thing.
You gotta relax, man. Enjoy the
process! If you do it right, you
only do it once. You have to learn
to enjoy it. Why do you think
ghosts stick around? Life is good,
brother!

JOEL

Right. What ghosts enjoy sticking
around?

FRANK

I don't know, man. You see the
shows and movies and books. There's
too many stories for that shit to
not be true.

JOEL

Just because we're on night shift
doesn't mean you need to talk this
shit right now.

Frank holsters his fake broom into his fake cart.

FRANK

Oh, hey man, why don't you just
have it here?

JOEL

You think that wasn't my first
idea? That's why I fucking
proposed! I thought I had it in the
bag. Even with an employee discount
it costs an arm and a leg! Fucking
corporate America!

CREEPY MAN

Excuse me.

Joel and Frank both jump.

JOEL

Sorry, sir, I didn't see you there.

Joel changes into Customer Joel Mode. He speed walks around
the counter. CREEPY MAN (Witch from Snow White if she was in
real life and a Warlock, [man]) shuffles up to the front
desk.

CREEPY MAN

I couldn't help but overhear your conversation. It seems like you've really stepped in it.

JOEL

You can say that again. How can I help you, sir? We have rooms available!

Creepy Man leans in closer.

CREEPY MAN

What if I said, I had a solution for you.

Joel types away at his computer and patronizes the Creepy Man.

JOEL

I'm listening, sir.

CREEPY MAN

Ever hear of
(Beat)
Crescent Park?

THUNDER and LIGHTNING CLAPS outside.

JOEL

Funny. I didn't think it would storm. No, I haven't, sir, why?

Creepy Man smiles. His teeth look like they've seen better days, about one-hundred years ago.

CREEPY MAN

What if I told you, I could get you a wedding there.

JOEL

I'm listening.

CREEPY MAN

For free.

Joel snaps out of Customer Mode and looks at the Creepy man.

JOEL

What's that now?

CREEPY MAN

Well. I work in the Crescent Park Hotel and we're trying to break into the wedding business.

Joel looks at Frank, who shrugs and nods.

JOEL

Very lucrative, what's the catch?

CREEPY MAN

No catch, just allow us to take pictures and promote the event is all. And tell everyone what a great time you had.

Joel looks over at Frank. Frank isn't paying attention. He's miming cleaning the counters.

JOEL

Can I take some time to think about it?

CREEPY MAN

But of course! I'll send you some information and you take as much time as you need to decide.

Creepy Man and Joel SHAKE HANDS. Joel looks back at Frank who's mime emptying the garbage cans. When Joel turns back around, the doors outside are closing and the Creepy man is gone.

THUNDER and LIGHTING RING OUT.

JOEL

That just happened, right?

Frank shrugs.

FRANK

Did what just happen?

JOEL

That, that guy that was just here.

FRANK

What guy?

JOEL

About yay-high, old, creepy. Kind of like a Weinstein-Spacey vibe.

Frank shrugs.

FRANK

Look, I should probably let you know I've been *super* high on bath salts and no sleep for like two weeks straight now. Or two months. Two days? I don't fucking know. So Jesus himself could walk in here and I wouldn't know. Just saying.

JOEL

That's not when you say, "just saying".

FRANK

YOU WON'T TAKE ME ALIVE GREEN
GOBLIN WILLAM DEFOE!

JOEL

What?

Frank looks at Joel, he's dressed like William Dafoe as the Green Goblin.

FRANK

I WON'T LET YOU TURN ME INTO JAMES
FRANCO GREEN GOBLIN!

Frank runs away, zigzagging.

JOEL

I should really start doing more
background checks.

An e-mail POPS up on Joel's work e-mail. His total sits at seventy-seven and the new one says Crescent Park Hotel Wedding Information.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Wow, old guy must have a
smartphone. Imagine that.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Joel is driving home from his night shift. The Ghostbusters theme song is playing in the background.

Joel is dancing in his seat. Life is good. Potneial wedding venue prospect and that's a load off his mind. He's flying home on the highway, going against all the traffic. Joel is dancing and waving and singing along to the theme song. Fuck all those nay-sayers who didn't think Joel could do it.

INT. JOEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Joel BOOMS in from work. He's too excited to sleep. The first thing he does is pop on his computer, still feeling great. He looks up Crescent Park Hotel.

JOEL
Fucking A! It's only forty minutes
away. Done and done.

The happiness that lived in Joel's face starts to melt away. All that keeps popping up in his research are 'haunted'.

JOEL (CONT'D)
This. No. This is silly. This is
ridiculous.

Joel's phone rings. It's Virginia.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Oh what the fuck?!

Joel answers.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Hey, babes.

VIRGINIA O.S.
Hey, babe! What's the good news?
You sounded so excited on the voice
mail!

Joel cringes and wiggles in his computer chair.

JOEL
I. I may have found us a venue.

VIRGINIA O.S.
Babe! That's amazing!

JOEL
Yeah. I'm not totally sure yet.

VIRGINIA O.S.
What's the hold up?

JOEL
Well, it was offered to us for
free.

VIRGINIA O.S.
What's the catch?

JOEL

That's what I asked, he said no catch. They're just trying to break into the wedding venue business. So they just want to use us to promote, etc.

VIRGINIA O.S.

Oh, that's a perfectly reasonable explanation that should suspend our disbelief just fine. What's the name of the place?

Joel mumbles something incoherent.

VIRGINIA O.S. (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I didn't catch that.

Joel mumbles louder.

VIRGINIA O.S. (CONT'D)

Are you saying anything in English?

JOEL

Crescent Park Hotel.

Small thunder and lightning clap outside.

JOEL (CONT'D)

What the-

VIRGINIA O.S.

Sounds beautiful.

JOEL

From the pictures online, it is. But. There's something else.

VIRGINIA O.S.

What? Are you pregnant?

JOEL

Yes. With a Taco Bell Drive-Thru Baby.

VIRGINIA O.S.

What is it?

JOEL

People are saying the place is haunted.

VIRGINIA O.S.

Haunted?!

JOEL
I'm sure it's nothing.

VIRGINIA O.S.
You better be sure, Joel.

JOEL
I will be!

VIRGINIA O.S.
Okay. As long as it's you and me
and our family and friends it'll be
fine! We're going to have the best
wedding no matter what!

Joel nods.

JOEL
You said it.

VIRGINIA O.S.
Are you still coming to my parent's
house for dinner tonight?

Joel rubs his face.

JOEL
Yes. Yes, tonight. The dinner I
definitely did not forget.

VIRGINIA O.S.
That's the one.

Joel stares at his computer screen. It's just a fan forum of
Crescent Park Hotel being haunted.

VIRGINIA O.S. (CONT'D)
I love you.

JOEL
I love you too.

EXT. THE MILLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joel walks up to the front door of a very big, very nice
house. He's wearing a sweater vest over his work attire, for
his work stuff are the nicest clothes he owns. He has a
bottle of wine in his hand, middle shelf stuff from his local
mom and pop liquor store.

Joel takes a deep breath. He knocks on the door and takes a
half a step back and puts on his Customer Service smile.

MRS. MILLER (63, could pass for late 50s, think Jane Seymour in Wedding Crashers) opens the door.

MRS. MILLER
Joel, come on in.

INT. THE MILLER'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

JOEL
Good evening, Mrs. Miller, you look great tonight.

MRS. MILLER
Save it, Joel. I'm a happily married woman.

Mrs. Miller walks away, disgusted.

JOEL
I was just. Okay.

Virginia runs in and KISSES Joel.

VIRGINIA
Hey babe!

Joel smiles for the first time in a while.

JOEL
Hey!

VIRGINIA
Did you just hit on my mother?

JOEL
What? No! How the fuck did you even-

Virginia pulls Joel's hand towards the dining room. A tiny Chihuahua bounces up towards Joel yipping its fool head off.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Hey, Lil Devil.

Joel leans down to pet Lil Devil, who yips and then growls.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Yeah, fuck you too.

MR. MILLER (66, could pass for 56, done up right, stern) is standing there as Joel comes back up from petting Lil Devil.

MR. MILLER
Did you just curse at my dog?

Joel is startled.

VIRGINIA
Oh, lay off, Dad.

Mr. Miller's face doesn't change from stoic. He offers his hand. Joel shakes his hand. Mr. Miller practically CRUSHES Joel's hand.

JOEL
Strong grip as always!

Joel forces a laugh and when Mr. Miller lets go and leaves towards the dining room, Joel winces.

JOEL (CONT'D)
(Under his breath)
Hulking Hermon Monster, Batman.

VIRGINIA
What?

Joel straightens up and puts his hands up.

JOEL
Sorry. Sorry, just a little sleep-deprived is all.

Virginia adjusts Joel's sweater vest.

VIRGINIA
Babe, you have to get off the night shift. It's not good for you.

JOEL
I know, but the pay is good for Joel's wallet.

VIRGINIA
Joel's wallet isn't who I'm marrying.

INT. MILLER HOUSE DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

Joel and Virginia are sitting next to each other, Mrs. Miller is across from Joel and Mr. Miller is across from his daughter. Everyone is eating at a normal pace, except for Joel. He's stuffing a bit faster.

MR. MILLER
So. Joel, I hear you hit on my wife.

Joel almost chokes on his food.

JOEL

What?! No, no, no, I was just trying to be nice and complimentary.

MRS. MILLER

So I'm not looking good?

JOEL

I didn't say that.

MR. MILLER

What are you saying, Joel? Because it sounds like you're either calling my wife ugly or trying to fuck her, so which is it?

Joel is utterly speechless. Mr. Miller cracks up.

MR. MILLER (CONT'D)

Ah, I couldn't keep the charade up! Just yanking your chain, Joel! Isn't that how guys today bond? Busting balls I think they call it.

All the stress leaves Joel's body.

JOEL

Oh, God. Whew.

VIRGINIA

Stop it, Daddy. Joel's been under a lot of pressure lately.

Mrs. Miller looks at Joel.

MRS. MILLER

Oh no, really? What have you been doing to de-stress?

Mrs. Miller, under the table, pops off her shoe and extends her leg to the other side and starts rubbing Joel's private area.

Joel's face morphs to look like he had sat on a thumb tac. He keeps trying to swat her away.

MR. MILLER

Ah, right. Trying to find that wedding venue.

Joel clears his throat and squirms uncomfortably.

VIRGINIA
Don't start, please.

Mrs. Miller twiddles her tongue around her wine glass. Joel looks like he has brain freeze.

MR. MILLER
Have something to say, Joel?

Joel cranes his neck and back upright.

JOEL
No, no sir.

MR. MILLER
You know, I'd be happy to pay for the wedding, Joel. We would just like to see you on a different life path is all.

VIRGINIA
Dad!

MRS. MILLER
Taking advantage of your opportunities.

MR. MILLER
Yes, exactly.

MRS. MILLER
Furthering your experiences.

Mrs. Miller continues her foot flirtation.

VIRGINIA
You guys promised you wouldn't do this right now.

Virginia puts her hand on Joel's leg.

Joel squirms to keep Mrs. Miller foot and Virginia's hand from touching.

JOEL
I-I am a grown ass man who's doing just fine for himself. I'm happy with Virginia and I found a wedding venue that I am booking, without your help and attached strings! Thank you very much.

Joel twitches in his seat again. Virginia rubs his leg, proud of him standing up to her parents.

MRS. MILLER

No strings attached, dear.

Mrs. Miller is now eating her food, slowly. She's licking the spoon.

MR. MILLER

Precisely, no strings attached, Joel. All I'm saying is, I could pull some of my own strings to get you in to Berkley and then we could find some wiggle room to get this wedding finance off your mind.

MRS. MILLER

Alleviate your mind.

Joel is getting close to blowing, both physically and mentally.

JOEL

I do not need your help, I do not need to de-stress, I do not need Berkley and I do not need your money or wedding venue since I am happy with Virginia and I am happy at my job, where I'm moving up in the ranks by the way and I have already-

Mrs. Miller ramps up her footwork. Joel CUMS in his pants as he finishes his thought.

JOEL (CONT'D)

BOOKED A WEDDING VENUE! GAHHHHH!

Joel sits forward in his chair trying not to convulse too bad. His face is red and he's out of breath.

Virginia is turned on by Joel standing up like this. Joel keeps slapping her hand away. Mrs. Miller retracts her foot, smug look on her face from her handiwork. Mr. Miller is furious.

MR. MILLER

Fine! Then get out of my house! You don't need me, my money?! Then you don't need my steak or wine either!

Joel, not so accidentally, spills his glass of wine on his pants to cover things up.

JOEL

Ah, shit. Sorry about that.

MR. MILLER

GET OUT!

Lil Devil runs in and starts jumping and nipping at Joel's crotch.

JOEL

Okay, okay then. Well, thanks for dinner it was something else!

Mrs. Miller winks.

MRS. MILLER

Oh, you're very welcome, Joel. Come on by anytime. Just come.

Joel twitches and runs out, but grabs his wine on his way out.

EXT. MILLER HOUSE DRIVEWAY - SAME TIME

Virginia runs out of the house to find Joel chugging cheap wine.

VIRGINIA

You mind explaining just what the fuck that was in there?

Joel finishes his swig and wipes his mouth off.

JOEL

You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

VIRGINIA

You're right. I probably wouldn't.

Virginia crosses her arms.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Joel, I love you, but that was unacceptable. All you had to do-

JOEL

Was what? Accept your dad's proposition? No way, Virginia! I told you I found a wedding venue, I got it covered! I don't need to be blackmailed into marrying you! I love you! But I'm not dealing with this forever. You're either on my side or theirs.

VIRGINIA

I know you're not giving me an ultimatum against my own parents.

Joel realizes he may have crossed the line.

JOEL

All I meant to say is I've got things covered. I'm thirty-one and I'm tired of being treated like I'm thirteen. I'm not a little boy. I'm a man and I'm taking life in stride. I've got this. I just need you to have my back.

VIRGINIA

I do, babe, I do.

Virginia rubs Joel's back.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

I just want what's best for you, and so do they.

JOEL

Your father is bribing me!

Virginia stops rubbing Joel's back.

VIRGINIA

I know. I'll talk to him. Maybe we can work something out.

JOEL

There's nothing to work out! I've got it covered. I'm handling this! I'M A MAN AND I WILL HANDLE MY OWN SHIT!

Joel stumbles backward as he finishes the bottle of wine, basically pouring half of it all over himself. Joel drops his keys. He stands, swaying back and forth.

JOEL (CONT'D)

I will Uber home. But I am fine. And I've got it covered! We're getting married at the fucking Crescent Park Hotel on my fucking dime because I'm a fucking man!

Joel falls over backward.

INT. JOEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Joel groans awake on his couch. His head feels like a water balloon and his body like he's got cement running through his veins.

He attempts to get up, but that's not happening. So he simply tries to open his eyes. The first thing he sees are his three Groomsman staring at him.

BILLY (35, a player, thinks he never needs to settle down), HENRY (31, Joel's best friend, a veterinarian) and KNUCK (32, looks like Steve Buscemi, self-proclaimed paranormal expert, Olaf from Frozen in real life) are all staring at Joel like he's in an exhibit.

BILLY

That, ladies and gentlemen, is a lightweight.

Joel GROANS.

HENRY

It's all that sugar in the wine, man.

Knuck pokes Joel.

KNUCK

Virginia said you had an entire bottle of wine. In like three minutes.

Joel sits up and burps.

JOEL

After fighting her parents and getting jerked off under the table by her mother.

The guys laugh.

HENRY

Okay.

KNUCK

Yeah, touched by a girl.

BILLY

I believe him. It happened to me once.

HENRY

Fuck off, no it didn't. You're not a player, Billy. Leave it alone.

BILLY

I fucked more girls than you've jerked off to! Including your patients!

KNUCK

Ha! That's funny because he's a veterinarian!

BILLY

Stop explaining my jokes dude, it takes the impact out of them.

KNUCK

But then it gives me a joke, see? And I basically just use the same format and steal other material. I call it Amy Schumering. Or Carlos Menciaing. I haven't decided yet.

Joel gets up and runs to the bathroom. Faint puking can be heard.

BILLY

Go hold his hair, Knuck.

KNUCK

You hold his hair.

BILLY

Good one.

HENRY

Can you girls knock it off?

Joel comes back out of the bathroom and plops down on the couch. Knuck gets up to brew him some coffee.

HENRY (CONT'D)

What about the wedding, man? I heard you had a breakthrough?

Joel's eyes go from dead to having a gleam of hope.

JOEL

Yeah! I got a venue! For free!

HENRY

For free?! Where?

JOEL
Crescent Park.

HENRY
Sounds nice.

BILLY
Sounds boogie as fuck.

Knuck comes running in from the kitchen with a cup of coffee spilling everywhere. He throws it at Joel. Joel SCREAMS.

JOEL
AH!

KNUCK
Did you say Crystal Lake?!

Joel throws the coffee mug back at him.

JOEL
No, you hillbilly. Crescent Park.

KNUCK
Oh. Okay. I thought you said-
CRESCENT PARK?! That's the most
haunted hotel in the country!

JOEL
No it's not, none of that shit is
real.

KNUCK
IS TOO!

BILLY
C'mon, Knuck. Did Ghost Hunters go
there or something?

KNUCK
YEAH THEY DID! THEY CAUGHT A FULL
BODY APPARITION!

BILLY
Jesus.

Henry gets up.

HENRY
Stop it. I'm sure Joel has enough
on his mind, he doesn't need.

Knuck pops up the Ghost Hunters episode at Crescent Park on his phone.

KNUCK
Plus there's all kinds of stories!

 JOEL
Fuck me.

Joel gets up and starts pacing around his apartment.

 JOEL (CONT'D)
What am I going to do? You guys
don't understand, after last night,
I have no choice but to go here or
call the whole wedding off!

 BILLY
Would that be so bad?

Henry hits Billy in the arm.

 HENRY
Not now.

 KNUCK
Wait. You guys. I have an idea. We
owe Joel a bachelor party, right?

 HENRY
We still have to plan it, plus
doesn't it need to be closer to the
wedding date?

 BILLY
It can be. It can basically be
whenever. But it will BE.

Knuck nods and claps.

 KNUCK
I've got it. Boys, let's get to it.

EXT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL - NIGHT

Billy, Henry, Knuck and Joel are all standing outside of
their car and staring at Crescent Park Hotel.

 KNUCK
(ala Jurassic Park)
Welcome to your Bachelor Party!

The gates of Crescent Park SWING OPEN and LIGHTNING STRIKES
and THUNDER ROLLS.

Music cuts, all the 'brave' men jump.

JOEL
I didn't know it would storm.

KNUCK
That was pretty close, wasn't it?

HENRY
Is it safe up in there?

BILLY
I ain't dying for you.

No more lighting or thunder happens.

HENRY
I'm sure it's fine.

BILLY
Totally fine, just warm air and
cold air meeting.

KNUCK
A little weather discharge.

JOEL
Just a rumble and a toot.

KNUCK
Shall we go inside?

EXT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL - SAME TIME

The guys walk up to the door of the hotel. Carrying all kinds of bags. Knuck has a few more than everyone else.

Joel steps forward and reaches for the door knocker. It's a Lion's Face. It BITES Joel's finger.

JOEL
AH!

Joel yanks his finger back and looks at it. Nothing. It's not bleeding or anything. Joel jerks his head around. The guys are all on their phones.

BILLY
Quit yelling, just knock on the
door.

Clicking, swooshing, beeping noises and gum chewing is all that is heard. Joel turns back towards the door. This time he KNOCKS with his fist.

The door CREAKS OPEN on its own.

JOEL
Hi, my name is-

Joel stops and peers in. There's nobody there.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Hello?

The door FLIES OPEN. Joel SHRIEKS like a little girl. THE CARETAKER (60ish, very tall, slow, lumbering but deliberate in all his movements, Frankenstein if he could speak English) FLINGS OPEN the door.

CARETAKER
Yes?

JOEL
Uh, hi, sir. My name is Joel Russell and I'm here with-

CARETAKER
JOEL RUSSELL. Welcome, we've been expecting you.

The Caretaker takes a step backward.

CARETAKER (CONT'D)
Please come in.

Billy, Henry, Joel and Knuck enter. There's an automated piano in the corner playing something eerily similar to the Halloween theme song.

CARETAKER (CONT'D)
Please, leave your bags and they will be brought to your rooms.

BILLY
I don't think so, pal. I'm not giving you twenty bucks to do what I can do right now.

Henry elbows Billy.

HENRY
Dude.
(Whispers)
This is how this guy makes money. Look around, you see anyone else here?

KNUCK

Okay, no one else is going to say
anything about that piano?
(yelling at the piano)
CAN YOU PLAY ANYTHING ELSE?!
ANYTHING AT ALL?

The Piano starts playing "This is Halloween" from A Nightmare Before Christmas.

KNUCK (CONT'D)

That's not better!

BILLY

That thing just responded!

The Caretaker BOOMS his voice.

CARETAKER

There are some things here that
might surprise you.

The Creepy Man from the hotel earlier comes around the staircase.

CREEPY MAN

My friends! Welcome! To Crescent
Park!

Thunder and lighting BOOMS.

CREEPY MAN (CONT'D)

Joel, we've met, but for the rest
of you gentlemen, you can call me
Mr. Hain, or Sam. I'm quite fine
with either. I trust you all found
the premises okay?

JOEL

Yes, sir we did. Thank you so much
for doing this.

MR. SAM HAIN

Oh, our pleasure! Like I said, we
want to get into the wedding
business, very lucrative, but I'm
aware of our reputation, so
anything to alleviate that and get
your ceremony here and hopefully
more to follow.

Henry and Billy look at each other. Knuck is still battling his arch enemy, The Piano.

KNUCK

How about Dark Horse by Katy Perry?
You take suggestions you son of a
bitch?

The Piano starts playing Dark Horse by Katy Perry. Knuck doesn't know whether to be scared or impressed.

KNUCK (CONT'D)

Nice. Uh. Good piano.

Knuck drops all his bags, stuffs a twenty in The Caretakers pocket and sprints off.

KNUCK (CONT'D)

Maybe we should go.

The Caretakers smiles.

CARETAKER

How about the grand tour?

The rest of the guys drop their suitcases and belongings and all scramble to stuff money in the Caretakers pocket.

CARETAKER (CONT'D)

There ain't no going back.

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL DINING HALL - SAME TIME

Sam walks with the guys through the dining hall.

MR. SAM HAIN

You may come to the Dining Hall
whenever you like. The kitchen
staff works around the clock,
always have meals ready to go!

HENRY

Alright!

BILLY

That's what I'm talking about. What
about a drink around the clock?

Knuck notice a giant wolf head on the wall above the Dining Hall fireplace. The eyes seem to be FOLLOWING them. Knuck does a little dance back and forth. The eyes follow.

KNUCK

Eww.

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL LOUNGE HALL - SAME TIME

Mr. Sam Hain, Knuck, Billy, Henry and Joel walk through the Lounge.

MR. SAM HAIN

I, myself, am a fan of cigars and a night cap. Here's where you would come.

BILLY

This is more my speed!

HENRY

This place is enormous, Joel!

JOEL

Yeah, it's definitely big enough, huh?

Knuck is walking through, still has his wits about him.

MR. SAM HAIN

Again, all hours of the night you can come on down! Gordon here is the best bartender in the whole state!

GORDON (70, has life figured out, his only passion is being a bartender) waves back at the group. He's polishing a glass.

BILLY

Do all bartenders polish glasses, always?

MR. SAM HAIN

Haha! That's a good joke! Oh my, so you're the joker in the group.

JOEL

I mean, I'm pretty funny.

KNUCK

Yeah, I'm pretty hilarious sometimes.

HENRY

No, we all fill a category, Billy is the funny, single, ladies man.

Billy does a little dance and swoons.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I'm the upper class, hard-working
nine-to-five man who would only
commit a white collar crime. Joel
is the nerdy, lovable good boy.

JOEL

I've got some bad-ass in me!

HENRY

No you don't. And Knuck is the,
well, he's the, um-

Henry trails off.

KNUCK

WHAT?! WHAT AM I?!

MR. SAM HAIN

Oh, well, anyway, moving on!

INT. UPPER HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Mr. Sam Hain walks with the guys down a long hallway, all
dressed in old, 1800s decor.

MR. SAM HAIN

This is where you'll be staying the
weekend. Each room can be fitted
for more than one guest and we've
got a modern building as well on
campus. This is for those who want
the rustic, old mansion experience.
Mr. Zoller, this is your room.
You'll find your belongings in
there waiting for you.

Knuck looks at the open door in the dark room.

KNUCK

Me? As in, just me?

MR. SAM HAIN

Yes, sir.

Knuck turns to face the room.

KNUCK

What if we bunked up?

MR. SAM HAIN

Pardon?

KNUCK

Like, you know, a sleep over?

BILLY

Jesus Christ, Knuck.

Billy walked into the room.

BILLY O.S.

C'mon, Knuck, we'll bunk together.

Mr. Sam hain gestures to the next room.

MR. SAM HAIN

I'll have The Caretaker move the bags into the appropriate rooms. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Russell, either room works. The beds are in fact king so bunking together isn't that big of a deal.

HENRY

Thank you, Mr. Hain. Sorry about Mr. Zoller, he's a bit of a paranormal nutcase. He loves that stuff, but it overwhelms him sometimes.

MR. SAM HAIN

Oh, no problem at all! Enjoy your slumber! Enjoy breakfast in the morning! I'll catch up with you tomorrow evening, I've got business to attend to during the daylight.

Mr. Sam Hain walks off.

INT. HENRY AND JOEL'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Henry and Joel walk into the room. It's an old mansion room, exposed concrete and brick everywhere. They flick a light switch and some lights come on.

HENRY

This must have been retrofitted for electricity at some point.

JOEL

Sam mentioned they were doing upgrades. This whole place is in disrepair. They must want like the rustic wedding population in here to get some cash flow.

HENRY

Rustic? Dude this is Transylvania rustic. Not really a wedding fetish.

Joel shrugs and looks around the room. Henry plops down on the bed.

HENRY (CONT'D)

At least the bed is comfy.

Joel pulls out his iPhone to call Virginia.

JOEL

Ah, shit. I don't have any service. What's the wifi?

HENRY

You think they have wifi? Here? C'mon man.

Joel throws his phone on the night stand.

JOEL

Shit.

HENRY

Hey, man. It's all good! This is a crazy cool place to have a wedding.

JOEL

It's a haunted fucking mansion, dude.

HENRY

It's not haunted, c'mon man. A little creepy, maybe. But people don't have to stay over! During the daylight I bet this place is gorgeous. Mr. and Mrs. Miller won't believe their eyes that you pulled this off.

Joel lays back in the bed next to Henry.

JOEL

Yeah, you're right.

HENRY

What's up, man?

JOEL

Just. I don't know. This is a big step, you know?

(MORE)

JOEL (CONT'D)

I grew up with my family, who's much different from hers, and I've slept on my own for thirty-one years-

HENRY

Sometimes despite your best efforts.

Joel smiles.

JOEL

Yeah. But, I don't know, man. How am I going to just change how I live?

HENRY

Everybody does it sooner or later. Remember how scared you were to move out to go to college? Or after college to move into your apartment for good?

JOEL

Yeah. I cried myself to sleep two nights in a row. Every time.

HENRY

So, there you go. Cry yourself to sleep for a couple nights and you're golden. Just make sure it's after sex so it looks normal.

Joel punches Henry.

JOEL

Fuck off! It's just, I guess it's crazy to think this is one of those big life moments, you know? Birth, birthdays, graduations, marriages and funerals. I'll be done with most of those on the checklist.

HENRY

If you do a good job, you will be.

JOEL

Touche.

A SCREAM FROM THE OTHER ROOM CAN BE HEARD.

HENRY

What the fuck was that?

JOEL
Sounded like Knuck!

INT. KNUCK AND BILLY'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Henry and Joel rush in to their room.

JOEL
What's going on?!

Billy has Knuck in a headlock.

BILLY
GO AHEAD! TELL 'EM!

Billy lets Knuck go.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Go ahead!

Billy turns and walks off his anger.

KNUCK
I-uh, well, I farted on Billy's
pillow.

HENRY
What? That's it?

KNUCK
Well, if you're asking why the
scream, then, yeah.

Billy turns back towards them.

BILLY
And?

Knuck does his best bashful impression.

KNUCK
I may or may not have brought my
ghost hunting equipment.

JOEL
What?!

Joel walks over and looks at Knuck's bags and suitcases, it's
entirely ghost-hunting gear.

BILLY

We agreed to not let the fact that this place may or may not be haunted even enter Joel's mind this weekend!

HENRY

Fuck, Knuck.

KNUCK

I thought a paranormal hunting bachelor party would be fun.

JOEL

We can't just go around and creepy around the place with gear like this! We'll get thrown out!

Knuck plops down on the bed.

KNUCK

I just thought-

BILLY

What? What were you thinking? You never think!

KNUCK

Your face never thinks.

Henry stands up.

HENRY

Okay. Okay, let's figure this out. Why are we acting like such adults? Yes, this is your bachelor party weekend. Welcome to it! Why don't we start acting like some immature groomsmen then! Let's go out on the town and come back here and keep the party going by getting grub here, doing some paranormal investigating, WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT! And then night cap in the lounge before the sun comes up! Get some sleep and boom, big ass breakfast in the Dining Hall!

Joel, Billy and Knuck all look at each other and nod.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Well, alrighty then!

INT. FOYER - SAME TIME

Henry, Knuck, Billy and Joel walk into the Foyer, where Mr. Sam Hain is waiting for them with the Caretaker.

HENRY

Mr. Hain, we're going to go out on the town. Anywhere you recommend?

MR. SAM HAIN

Oh, sirs, it's been a long time since I was a young man, quote, going out on the town!

Mr. Sam Hain laughs. Caretaker joins in with a booming, off-beat laugh.

MR. SAM HAIN (CONT'D)

However, we do have some, ahem, friends at the Titillating Tit if you want to pay them a visit.

The Caretaker nods.

JOEL

What now?

KNUCK

Sounds a little redundant if you ask me.

BILLY

Ain't nobody asking you a goddamn thing!

MR. SAM HAIN

Just say my name and you'll be set up real nice.

HENRY

Will do, thanks Mr. Hain!

MR. SAM HAIN

Anytime, boys, anytime. I'll let the kitchen staff know you'll need a hell of a breakfast on the 'morrow!

Mr. Sam Hain and The Caretaker wander off.

HENRY

Well, boys. Let's get to it.

INT. HENRY'S CAR - NIGHT

Henry, Joel, Knuck and Billy are all jamming out in Henry's car to Andrew W.K.

HENRY

I will never understand your love
for Andrew W-K.

JOEL

What's not to understand? He's rock
and roll.

BILLY

Easy big fella.

KNUCK

Even I know that's a ridiculous
statement.

BILLY

You're fucking helpless.

HENRY

Alright! Where we going?

BILLY

Well, we're not using my GPS.

KNUCK

I'm all out of data and my overages
are insane.

HENRY

Well, it's my car and it's Joel's
bachelor party. One of you two
idiots figure it out.

Mr. Sam Hain KNOCKS on the window. The guys all JUMP. Henry rolls down the window.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Sorry, you just scared us, sir.

MR. SAM HAIN

What's the trouble, boys? You've
been idling here for five minutes.

HENRY

Oh, nothing, just figuring out
directions.

MR. SAM HAIN

Just do to the end of the driveway,
make a left and then a right a half
a mile down and you can't miss it.

JOEL

Thanks! We're a little too new
school, I guess.

MR. SAM HAIN

Not for long.

JOEL

What's that?

MR. SAM HAIN

Don't be too long! Have fun now!

Mr. Sam Hain leaves.

KNUCK

That guy creeps me out.

BILLY

Are we actually following
directions from a creepy old man?

KNUCK

Bucket list item!

HENRY

C'mon, he's just trying to help
out! He just wants to see titties
in our faces! Wait.

The guys all cheer as the car starts to drive. Then silence
as the car drives away.

KNUCK O.S.

Why would he want to see us in his
fantasy?

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL - SAME TIME

Mr. Sam Hain watches the car pull off. He's got an eerie grin
on his face.

INT. TITTILATING TIT - NIGHT

Knuck, Billy, Henry and Joel walk into the strip club like
they own the place.

And they may as well, everyone else in there is a Hillbilly. And by everyone else, I mean one lone Redneck in the corner, hogging one big-titted Russian woman.

BILLY
This is, uh, it?

KNUCK
What a dump.

Joel makes eye contact with the bartender who is staring him down.

HENRY
Guys, c'mon now! We've got the place to ourselves! What better than that?!

BARTENDER
Man's got a point.

The guys turn around.

HENRY
Oh, hey, we're supposed to mention that Mr. Hain from Crescent Park sent us here.

LIGHTNING outside.

BARTENDER
Did he now?

Bartender spits in what we can only hope is a spittoon behind the bar.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
Well 'den. First dance for all yees is on the house. And dat dere guy gets all night for free.

Joel BLUSHES.

JOEL
Oh, no thanks. None for me, but you guys indulge!

BILLY
BULLSHIT!

Billy grabs Joel.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I want these strippers to pound
your dick so hard it's more black
and blue than a plum, excuse me
miss!

Billy motions over a stripper.

BILLY (CONT'D)

What's your name, baby?

VERONICA (23, curves in all the right places, dark hair,
thick Transylvanian accent) struts over.

VERONICA

Veronica.

BILLY

Veronica, I want you to take this
man right here,

Billy grabs Joel by the shoulders.

BILLY (CONT'D)

And I want you to bounce that booty
on his dick until he's seeing
stars, and I ain't talking about
pasties, savy?

KNUCK

Savy?

HENRY

Savy?

JOEL

Savy?

VERONICA

I savy yes. Come dis way, boy.

Veronica grabs Joel by the belt and walks him off. The guys
cheer.

BILLY

My turn. Who's next!

NIKKI (24, sexy black girl, another Transylvanian accent)
walks up.

NIKKI

Hey there.

BILLY
Hello yourself.

Billy looks at Henry and Knuck.

BILLY (CONT'D)
Yeah. She's getting all my money.

Billy leaves with Nikki.

HENRY
Who you got eyes on, Knuck?

KNUCK
Oh. I don't know. All of them.

Knuck forces a laugh, Henry takes notice.

HENRY
What's up, dude?

KNUCK
Nothing, I just. I feel like I ruined the weekend by bringing my stuff. Now we have to leave the building instead of getting a taste for it like Joel wanted.

HENRY
Knucky, Knuck c'mon now. This was always a part of the plan. We're going back there later tonight. Nobody's even thinking about it anymore. Just you.

KNUCK
Thanks, Henry.

Henry nods and orders a couple drinks.

HENRY
Is that all?

KNUCK
Yeah, I'm fine. Go get a dance.

HENRY
If you say so. Come find me if you need anything.

KNUCK
You got it.

Knucky sits and mopes as Henry leaves. MONIQUE (48, Latino, Mexican but yet still Transylvanian accent, washed up) struts over to Knuck.

MONIQUE
What's Mr. Mopey doing?

KNUCK
Well, moping I guess.

MONIQUE
Why's that, Mr. Mopey boy?

Knuck looks at Monique.

KNUCK
I came close to ruining my best friend's bachelor party weekend.

MONIQUE
But, did you?

KNUCK
No, I suppose not.

MONIQUE
Then nothing to worry about. Come wit me now.

Monique grabs Knuck by the belt. He giggles the whole way to the backroom.

INT. BACKROOM AT THE TITILATING TIT - SAME TIME

Joel is sitting on a leather couch watching Veronica dance and strip.

JOEL
This is nice.

Joel nods and takes a sip of his drink. He coughs.

JOEL (CONT'D)
That's not whiskey. Or ginger ale.

VERONICA
We don't have either of 'dose 'tings.

JOEL
How? Those are worldwide, mass production products.

VERONICA
Not here dere not.

Joel nods.

JOEL
Right. Because we're in hell. What
a bad fucking idea this was.

Joel stands up, but Veronica knocks him down with her butt.

VERONICA
I don't tink so boy. You're staying
here all night. Drink your drink
now.

Joel looks at his drink.

JOEL
But. What is it?

VERONICA
Apple juice and moonshine.

JOEL
Standard combination.

Joel pushes his drink further away. Veronica moves onto
Joel's lap.

VERONICA
Do I turn you on?

JOEL
Yes. Hold on one moment.

Joel leans forward and grabs his drink and downs it. He makes
a horrible face and then leans back out.

VERONICA
Am I that ugly?

JOEL
No! Not at all. I have, um, just,
it's my first time with a stripper,
honestly. In a back room, you know.
Cocaine and blowjob room!

Joel laughs at his own joke.

VERONICA
We do that out on the floor here.

JOEL
Ah. I see. Classy establishment.

VERONICA
I have other stuff back here.

Veronica pulls out an ecstasy tablet.

JOEL
Oh, that's okay. I don't think I'll
be-

Veronica hops on Joel and forces the pill down his throat like a dog before Joel can even react. Joel coughs.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Did you just fucking pill me?

Veronica plays innocent and shrugs her bra off.

VERONICA
Oops.

Joel STARES.

JOEL
Oh my God.

Veronica feels Joel's affection.

VERONICA
Oops from you too, boy.

Veronica pets Joel's hair.

VERONICA (CONT'D)
No judgements here, boy.

JOEL
That feels nice.

Joel's eyes glaze over.

JOEL (CONT'D)
I'm getting married.

VERONICA
Yes you are. Lucky lady?

JOEL
Yeah, yeah it's a lady.

VERONICA
No, who's the lucky lady?

JOEL
Oh, oh Virginia.

VERONICA
Close to Veronica!

Veronica gets closer and gyrates.

JOEL
Yeah. HA OH.

VERONICA
Oh. Hello, Little Joel. I am
Veronica. It is pleasure to make
your acquaintance.

Joel squirms.

JOEL
Goddamn. Holy fuck.

Veronica goes harder.

VERONICA
Naughty, naughty boy. Does this
mean man keep you caged up all day?

Joel, while fucked up, doesn't feel like this is appropriate
or hot.

JOEL
Are just going to talk to my-

VERONICA
Shut up! I'm having a conversation.

Veronica stops gyrating and gets down whispers into Joel's
crotch and starts laughing.

Joel is too fucked up to really realize what's happening.

JOEL
I'm up here.

VERONICA
I said shut up.

JOEL
Why are you focusing on him the
whole night? It's my bachelor
party, goddamnit!

VERONICA
I like him better.

JOEL
Yeah you would, you WHORE!

Veronica pops up.

VERONICA
What did you call me?

JOEL
W-WHORE!

Veronica sits on Joel's lap.

VERONICA
Nobody's ever talked to me like
that before.

JOEL
I'm sorry, I just-

VERONICA
That's so sweet of you. I hate
being called a dancer. My talents
are clearly better and more
diverse.

Veronica starts gyrating and dancing like never before.

VERONICA (CONT'D)
How's dis, boy?

Joel leans his head back.

JOEL
That'll do whore. That'll do.

Veronica goes to town.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Yeah. I'm a naughty boy.

Veronica hops around to reverse cowgirl and starts twerking on Joel. The curtains open and the guys sneak in and start popping off pictures.

Joel doesn't even notice. He's in his own little world. Joel starts to feel that goofy feeling.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm good, thank you!

Joel opens his eyes and sees the guys.

JOEL (CONT'D)

No-no-no-no-no!

In slow motion you see Joel's scared face and all the guys faces cheering him on, Veronica's hard at work face and then Joel's face changes from scared to his O-face. He convulses in slow motion.

Knuck turns around and pukes.

Billy covers his eyes.

Henry shakes his head and screams.

Frank (who is now there for some reason) is eating popcorn and cheering.

Veronica is the last to notice, she stands up and slaps Joel.

Back to real time.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Oh Jesus.

BILLY

Fucking A, Joel!

BILLY (CONT'D)

Where's your fucking respect.

KNUCK

All over her back.

Joel finishes convulsing.

JOEL

I'm so sorry! I-I have never done that before.

Veronica spits on Joel and leaves.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Somehow that turned me on more. I'm also pretty fucked up though.

Joel passes out and falls out of the chair. Frank walks over and kicks him. But not a nudge, a real kick.

FRANK

Yeah, he's out.

HENRY

Hey, who are you?

FRANK

Oh, I'm Frank. I work with Joel.

HENRY

That's great, but no like, why are you here?

Frank puts down his popcorn and licks his fingers clean and extends his hand.

FRANK

Oh, just a getaway from the daily grind you know? This place has the best moonshine and apple juice mixer you'll ever get your hands on.

Billy and Knuck look at each other.

BILLY

I thought what we just saw was the weird part of the night, but I think that's now changed.

KNUCK

I feel triggered.

Frank shrugs and picks his popcorn back up and starts munching.

FRANK

So, what's next boys?

EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT

Henry, Billy, Frank and Knuck are driving back to Crescent Park. Joel is passed out sitting up in the backseat. Frank gets out of the car and goes to piss on the side of the road.

HENRY

Hurry up, guy! It's creepy as fuck out here.

Billy looks around.

BILLY

We're legit in the middle of nowhere.

The guys hear a wolf HOWL off in the distance.

KNUCK

Oh God!

Knuck farts a nervous reaction.

BILLY
Goddamn, Knuck.

KNUCK
Sorry.

Frank is peeing and pausing in streams.

BILLY
DUDE! Come on!

Frank turns back.

FRANK
I think I gotta number two out here.

Frank zips up his pants and starts walking.

BILLY
Whoa, in there?

FRANK
Yeah. Why, you want me to out here?

BILLY
Well. No.

Frank shrugs.

FRANK
Okay if you say so.

Frank drops his pants and deuces right there.

HENRY
Jesus!

Knuck leans out the car and pukes again. Billy covers his mouth and nose. Frank stands up.

FRANK
Alright! Miracle dump!

Frank takes one step towards the car and gets SUCKED into the woods by a mysterious force.

The guys SCREAM.

HENRY
FUCK THAT!

Henry throws the car into gear and starts to drive.

BILLY
We can't just leave him, man!

Henry stops the car.

HENRY
Fuck you, Billy. Fuck you.

BILLY
Because I'm right, right?

Henry glares at Billy.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Knuck, Henry and Billy are walking through the woods. They're all not more than a foot apart from each other. They're using their phones as flashlights.

HENRY
Creepy Frank! Where are you, man?!

BILLY
(Voices cracks)
Frank!

Knuck farts again.

KNUCK
Sorry.

A creature silhouette appears.

BILLY
What the fuck is that?

The figure starts to come towards them.

KNUCK
Oh God.

Knuck farts and starts to run back to the car.

BILLY
Knucky!

Henry raises his flashlight.

HENRY
Who are you?!

Frank appears. He's munching on some wild mushrooms.

FRANK

I really don't know who I am.
That's a really trippy question
man.

HENRY

Are you high?

FRANK

Oh, most definitely.

Frank's eyebrows pucker.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Or am I so high I'm sober. Where's
the line? Is there a line? Or does
it just loop back around into one
unending stream of consciousness?

BILLY

Alright. Fuck off, let's go.

The guys see another silhouette.

BILLY (CONT'D)

W-who is that?

HENRY

Hello?

Frank points to Henry, Billy and himself.

FRANK

If I'm here, you're there, you're
there and Knucky is running that
way. Then. That's-

Frank screams like a little girl.

FRANK (CONT'D)

RUN!

The guys all start running back to the car, stumbling all
along the way. Frank is eating mushrooms faster and faster so
as to lighten his load and free his hands.

BILLY

Turn off your flashlights! They
can't see us then.

They all stop to turn off their phone flashlights. But it becomes more than that. You can see all their faces meld away as they just start swiping.

Henry raises his head.

HENRY

What was going on again?

Wolf HOWL.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. OH FUCK YEAH!

Henry turns off his flashlight, the others follow. All you hear is stumbling and falling and grunting and groaning. The flashlights come back on. They're all on the ground, bleeding.

HENRY (CONT'D)

That didn't work.

EXT. ROADSIDE - SAME TIME

Frank, Henry and Billy come BURSTING through the woods to the car. Knuck is in the drivers seat.

KNUCK

LET'S GO!

The guys jump in the car. Frank dives headfirst into the rear seat and doesn't get all the way in before the car takes off.

KNUCK (CONT'D)

That was just our imaginations, right?

HENRY

Yeah. Probably.

BILLY

Just this place playing with our minds. I miss the city.

FRANK

All world's a stage, but you are the only player. Randy Blythe.

KNUCK

Right.

The car screeches off towards the hotel.

INT. HENRY AND JOEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Joel slowly comes to in his bed. He's laying on top of the covers. He's in his pajamas. He remembers what happened.

JOEL

Oh God.

Joel rubs his eyes. The bedroom is dark, except for some candles around the room. It's an eerie, yet rustically-satisfying sight.

CREEPY VOICE

(whisper)

Joel.

Joel's head snaps around to where the voice is coming from. It's the hallway. Joel gets up, there's a candle on a tray with a holder, he grabs it and ventures out into the hallway.

It's the same look, the hallway is dark except for candles lighting the way. Just bigger candles, cast more of a glow but more shadows.

A FIGURE MOVES at the back of the hallway. Joel jumps, he steps back into his room.

JOEL

What the actual fuck?!

Joel checks his pulse and does some quick timed breathing exercise.

Joel PEERS back out into the hallway.

THE FIGURE is back. Again, it MOVES into the room at the end of the hallway.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Oh fuck this. This is how it always goes.

Joel marches with the candle to the end of the hallway.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Come on, fuckers. I know it's you guys just fucking with me!

Joel KICKS open the door at the end of the hallway.

It's a LEDGE. Joel FALLS backward into the hallway.

JOEL (CONT'D)

WHAT THE HELL?!

Joel peers out over the ledge. All of a sudden it's a cloudy, windy day outside.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Um?

Joel looks down. All the way at the bottom, there's a body. Blood beneath the body like a blanket that won't stop growing.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Oh no! Hey! Hey! There's a guy down there!

Joel shouts into the hallway, but no one is there.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Where is everybody?!

Joel looks back at the ground. The body is gone.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Okay. There was definitely a body down there.

Joel rubs his eyes. He looks back down. Still no body.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Okay, I swear there was a body down there. On the ground. On the edge of this doorway cliff. I doubt this is up to code.

A FIGURE RISES behind Joel. The hairs on Joel's neck stand up. He turns around like his neck is on a crank.

The Figure steps into the light. It's GHOST MICHAEL (looks the same as the man in the first scene, with the exception of his face weathered and bloody and well, obviously pretty pale).

JOEL (CONT'D)

Um. Hi?

Ghost Michael PICKS Joel up.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Oh. That's nice. I appreciate that.

Ghost Michael leans close to Joel. Somehow his nonexistent breath stinks.

GHOST MICHAEL

Leave. Don't. Come. Back.

Joel nods.

JOEL
Will do. Wasn't planning on it.

Ghost Michael starts to lift Joel up again. This time, he's also pushing Joel back.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Oh God, oh God no no no no no!

Ghost Michael smiles.

GHOST MICHAEL
Nice day out.

Ghost Michael gives Joel a tiny PUSH.

Joel leans back and back and back until there's no coming back.

Joel FALLS to the ground. As Joel hits the ground he WAKES UP.

INT. HENRY AND JOEL'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Joel JOLTS awake.

JOEL
AH!

Because he was falling, Joel outstretches his arms and SMACKS Henry in the face.

HENRY
FUCK!

Joel swivels around.

JOEL
Oh God. Henry.

Henry sits up.

HENRY
What the fuck, man?

Henry BALL-TAPS Joel.

JOEL
Oh fuck you!

Joel cringes and falls off the bed.

HENRY
Yeah, fuck you too.

Henry's alarm goes off.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Nice timing, I'll give you that.

Joel moans from the ground.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Come on, sweetie. Time for
breakfast.

Joel moans again.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Come on. Throw some food in your
stomach, it only helps.

Joel enjoys lying on the stone floor. It's cool. It's soothing. Joel opens his eyes. He sees YELLOW EYES looking back at him from under the bed.

Joel JUMPS up.

JOEL
AH!

Henry jumps a little.

HENRY
What the FUCK, Joel?

Joel points under the bed. The fear in his eyes is real.

Henry gets down on all fours and looks under the bed. All he sees are Joel's ugly feet.

Henry gets back up.

HENRY (CONT'D)
You know I have bad knees. Fuck off, man. Go get cleaned up for breakfast. I'm going down. I'm grabbing Knuck and Billy too, so if you don't hurry, we're going to be fucking done in a heartbeat.

Joel nods.

JOEL
Yeah. Yeah, I just need a shower is all.

Joel walks into the bathroom and closes the door.

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Joel throws his toiletry bag down on the counter. He stares himself in the mirror.

JOEL

You're just freaking out, man.

Joel unzips his bag. His hands are shaking. He holds his hands.

JOEL (CONT'D)

How can you get married and be scared of fucking ghosts at the same time? Grow up. This is ridiculous. There's a rational explanation for everything.

Joel takes out his toothbrush, razor, toothpaste and shaving cream.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Stress plays some extreme games on the mind. That accounts for basically all of this. Plus, dude, who the fuck knows how many drinks you had last night, you had dinner AT the strip club, that was stupid. All kinds of shit flying through your system right now. Stress and anxiety on top of that? Psh. Bitch please.

Joel turns on the faucet, waits for the hot water. Starts brushing his teeth, while getting the shaving cream ready.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Little pussy ass Joel. Little baby boy. Man up. MAN UP!

Joel hits himself in the chest a few times. He nods. Turns on Andrew WK on his phone. Gets himself amped up. He starts shaving.

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL DINING HALL - SAME TIME

Billy, Knuck and Henry are eating breakfast.

BILLY
(Mouth full)
This spread is insane.

HENRY
(Mouth full)
Yeah man, this is great.

Knuck is pushing around food on his plate. He looks pale, forgive the pun, as a ghost.

BILLY
Eat something, Knuck.

HENRY
Get your strength up, kid.

BILLY
He had a few too many cocktails
last night, didn't we, Knuck?

Knuck nods.

HENRY
Oh that's too bad. The poor little
fellow.

BILLY
He got a hand-job though.

HENRY
No fucking shit! You dirty dog you!

Knuck musters up a smile.

KNUCK
Yeah. I'm in love.

Billy and Henry laugh.

HENRY
Knuck. Let me explain something to
you. Strippers are like waitresses.
Your affection benefits them
monetarily.

KNUCK
Like I don't know that. We had a
real connection, man.

BILLY
Yeah, your wallet and her pockets!

Henry and Billy laugh as they eat and drink coffee, Knuck pushes eggs around on his plate.

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Joel is flying along. Just being himself. He starts shaving with the hot water.

He NICKS himself.

JOEL

Ah shit.

Joel washes the razor off and starts shaving again. His entire cheek is COVERED in BLOOD.

Joel looks down. The sink is full of blood. Joel jumps back.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Oh. My. God.

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL DINING HALL - SAME TIME

The guys hear Joel scream from upstairs. They all look at each other, frozen.

Knuck sneezes. Billy takes a bite of bacon. Henry sips his coffee. Then all of them ho back to full on eating. Joel comes running down the stairs, in his boxers. Half his face shaven.

JOEL

THE SINK IS FULL OF BLOOD!

BILLY

Running and shaving will do that to you.

HENRY

Maybe try birth control. I hear that makes a woman's period easier.

BILLY

No shit?

HENRY

No shit.

BILLY

No shit!

Knuck leans over and yacks on the floor.

HENRY

Fucking hell, Knuck. We're trying to eat here!

JOEL

DOES NOBODY CARE?

BILLY

Does nobody don't care.

Billy pauses for a second and thinks about what he said and then nods.

HENRY

Joel, nobody cares because you've been having these experiences all night. Not one of us have. Not even Knuck!

Knuck waves as he wipes his face with a napkin.

BILLY

You need to relax, bud.

HENRY

Look, we're leaving soon and back to reality. That might be good for you, might not be. Either way, you're getting married in six months, my friend. You have to process these feelings you're obviously bottling up.

Joel nods.

JOEL

You're right, I know you're right.

HENRY

No shit!

BILLY

No fucking shit!

JOEL

I don't know.

BILLY

Relax man. We're here for you. We're just busting balls and you're getting fucking fresh.

JOEL

I'm not getting fresh, I'm just-

BILLY
Dude, it's Goodfellas. What the fuck, are you serious?

JOEL
Oh, sorry, I didn't get that reference.

HENRY
He didn't get that reference. That's no excuse.

Knuck stands up. He wobbles, but he stands up.

KNUCK
We got your back, Joel. This place is awesome and we're all going to love it and so is Virginia.

JOEL
Thank you, Knuck.

Knuck nods. Then he collapses down in the chair. Mr. Sam Hain walks into the Dining Hall.

MR. SAM HAIN
Gentlemen! How was your night?

Knuck tries to eat an egg and gags.

MR. SAM HAIN (CONT'D)
A good one, I see. And how's breakfast?

Billy and Henry cheer.

MR. SAM HAIN (CONT'D)
Very good!

Mr. Sam Hain walks over to Joel.

MR. SAM HAIN (CONT'D)
Usually, we encourage our guests to dress themselves, but in your case, I will make an exception.

Joel looks down and immediately regrets his look.

JOEL
Sorry, I just. I had a bad night.

MR. SAM HAIN
Oh, sorry to hear that. Anything wrong with your accommodations?

JOEL

Just some mind games I'm playing on myself, you know. A lot of wedding stress and watched too many horror movies.

MR. SAM HAIN

Ah, yes, of course. Well, have you come to a decision?

JOEL

Yes. Yes I have.

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL MASTER SUITE - DAY

Joel is putting the finishing touches on his tuxedo.

SUPER: Six Months Later

Henry PEEKS his head in.

HENRY

Hey, champ. Looking good, my friend. It's time to head down.

Joel looks back and smiles.

JOEL

I'll be right down.

Joel pulls the finishing touches on his tuxedo. He looks damn fine.

As Joel goes to turn away, in the mirror, his face starts grow old ala Raiders of the Lost Arc.

JOEL (CONT'D)

What? No! It's been six months since any of this bullshit happened!

Joel pops a clonazepam pill. Joel panics and starts to rubs his face, which leads to his face falling off until he's nothing but a skeleton. Joel PANICS and runs out of the room.

He sees Ghost Michael GLARING back at him.

GHOST MICHAEL

I thought you weren't coming back?

JOEL

Well. Plans changed you see. You wouldn't get it, but wedding's today are a big deal and-

GHOST MICHAEL

I DIDN'T ASK FOR AN EXPLANATION! YOU DISOBEYED ME. NOW WATCH WHAT HAPPENS.

Ghost Michael floats over to Virginia's door.

JOEL

No! NONONONO!

Ghost Michael WOOSHES through the door. Joel stands. Frozen.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Oh God. Oh God.

Joel runs over to Virginia's room.

JOEL (CONT'D)

BABE! BABE ARE YOU OKAY?!

Virginia SCREAMS.

JOEL (CONT'D)

OH GOD! NO NO NO!

Henry, Knuck and Billy all run out of their rooms.

HENRY

Dude, what are you doing?! You can't see her!

Billy and Knuck grab Joel and start to usher him downstairs.

BILLY

We gotta get going anyway man. Unless you're having second thoughts.

KNUCK

Dude.

BILLY

Right. Sorry.

Billy and Knuck usher Joel away.

JOEL

No! You don't get it!

BILLY
Henry's got it man, relax!

Henry knocks on Virginia's door.

HENRY
Hey, is everything alright in
there? Joel seems to think he heard
a scream.

A BRIDESMAID (30, all done up, Valley Girl) opens the door.

BRIDESMAID
It's fine. She must have stubbed
her toe because she's totally cool
now. Not even nervous. K?

HENRY
K. What's your name?

BRIDESMAID
It's fuck off you pig.

HENRY
Weird name.

BRIDESMAID
Fuck you.

HENRY
Fuck you.

BRIDESMAID
No, FUCK YOU!

HENRY
Dance later?

BRIDESMAID
You know it.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

We see Knuck, Billy and Henry all smiling standing up at the alter. Then we see Joel. He's nervous as if he's seen a ghost. And, well, he did.

The wedding procession begins. All the bridesmaids walk in. Classic wedding music plays. Joel's eyes dart around the church. Looking for anything and everything that could go wrong.

As Virginia starts walking down the isle, all the fear Joel is feeling melts away. As she says goodbye to her father and stands across from Joel, they mouth "I love you" to each other.

THE PRIEST (70, white male) opens his mouth and pauses before he speaks. Then there's strange creaking all around and whispers flying through the air.

The Groomsmen look around, expecting the ground to swell up and swallow them whole.

Nothing happens. Instead The Priest begins the ceremony and everything goes off without a hitch. It almost feels like a dream. Before he knows it, Joel is walking down the isle and the ceremony is over.

INT. COCKTAIL HOUR - NIGHT

Virginia is calling Joel's name. Repeatedly.

VIRGINIA

Joel!

Joel snaps out of it. He's at the cocktail hour. Everyone is buzzing around. He's got a beer in his hand.

JOEL

Ye-Yes?

Virginia purses her lips.

VIRGINIA

Yes?

JOEL

What?

VIRGINIA

I said I love you. Are you okay?

JOEL

Oh yeah. I love you too. I'm fine. Just, you know. Anxious.

VIRGINIA

I know. It's okay, the worst is over now. It's just a party from here on out. Okay?

Joel nods.

JOEL

Yeah. Okay.

The guests are called to the reception hall. As everyone in the bridal party gets ready to enter the reception along a big staircase, Joel and his Groomsmen all meet eyes. Everything, for the first time since the day began, felt right. Everything went off without a hitch.

As everyone enters to their own songs, Joel actually smiles. This is a very cool moment.

WEDDING DJ

And now, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you for the first time, MR. And MRS. JOEL and VIRGINIA RUSSELL!

Joel and Virginia strut down the stairs. Feeling indestructible. As Joel hits the bottom step, Virginia makes a sound like she's been punched in the gut. Joel turns around.

JOEL

You okay?

Virginia makes a growling noise.

JOEL (CONT'D)

What?!

Virginia shakes it off.

VIRGINIA

I'm good.

Virginia looks vibrant. Even more so than before.

BEGIN MONTAGE

- 1) Joel and Virginia carrying on through the wedding ceremony.
- 2) Joel and Virginia do their first dance.
- 3) Virginia dances with her Father.
- 3) Joel dances with his mother.
- 4) Everyone breaks to the tables for the salads and speeches.

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - SAME TIME

Henry pops up. A glass of champagne in hand. He takes the microphone from the DJ.

HENRY

I guess it's about that time, huh?
Time to embarrass the groom!

Joel puts his head in his hands.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Don't worry, buddy. It won't be
that bad.

JOEL

I don't believe you!

HENRY

I've known Joel here my entire
life. Basically my entire life.
He's a great man. I know everyone
says that about the groom or bride
they're talking about, but I really
mean it. Virginia, Joel is the best
guy you could ever hope to meet.
Keep him happy and I guarantee he
will work his fingers to the bone
trying to make you happy.

Virginia nods and rubs Joel's hand.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Joel, whether this weekend went as
planned or not, I'm happy to call
myself your best friend. I hope you
had fun and I wish you guys nothing
but the absolute best going
forward! Here's to the happy
couple!

Henry raises his glass and everyone cheers.

Joel gets up and hugs Henry.

JOEL

Thank you, man. I love you.

WEDDING DJ

Alright let's get this party
bumping again while we wait for our
first course!

Wedding DJ starts playing upbeat dance music and people start flooding the dance floor.

VIRGINIA
We should go say hi to everybody.

JOEL
Ugh. Do we have to?

VIRGINIA
Yes. We have to.

JOEL
Whyyyyyyyyyyyyy?

Virginia GLARES at Joel.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Okay, okay. Let's go.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller come up to Joel and Virginia as they're starting to walk.

MR. MILLER
I have to admit, Joel, hell of a wedding you guys put on.

JOEL
The planning was all Virginia.

VIRGINIA
Stop being so humble! Joel did a fantastic job picking this place out.

MRS. MILLER
Nice work, sweetie.

Joel starts blushing.

JOEL
Thank you.

MRS. MILLER
I'm going to borrow him for a dance!

VIRGINIA
Mom! We have to say hello to everybody!

MRS. MILLER
Oh you have plenty of time for that sweetie.

MR. MILLER

Do you want to dance, sweetheart?

Virginia nods.

VIRGINIA

Sure, dad.

Mrs. Miller grabs Joel's wrist.

MRS. MILLER

Let's go boy.

Mrs. Miller and Joel are dancing. Joel is pursing his lips. This is a bad idea.

Mrs. Miller gets closer and closer and starts grinding on Joel.

MRS. MILLER (CONT'D)

How's that, hun? How's my little friend?

JOEL

Is that a common thing that women call men's dicks? Jesus.

MRS. MILLER

What? Who touched my little friend?

Joel shakes his head.

JOEL

You're a little close for my taste.

MRS. MILLER

Oh relax. We're family now. Not like anything can happen.

Mrs. Miller turns around, very close to Joel, and grabs his crotch.

MRS. MILLER (CONT'D)

Or can it?

All of a sudden, Virginia FLOATS above the dance floor.

JOEL

That's pretty elevated.

MRS. MILLER

I knew it! You dirty boy!

JOEL

Not me you dumb old whore, that!

Joel points at Virginia. Mrs. Miller turns around and SHRIEKS.

Virginia looks directly at Joel. Her eyes are a different color. They're a piercing green now.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

You're going to hell! You're all going to hell!

Possessed Virginia laughs.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

You're all going to die!

Possessed Virginia flies off up the spiral staircase.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Come find me, Joel! If you dare!

Joel stands speechless. He looks across the room at Henry with fear unlike anything he's ever known.

HENRY

My God! What a show! You guys really went all out! Wire tricks and voice dubbing and all! Wow!

Henry claps and cheers. The wedding reception half follows along.

BILLY

That's amazing how they used the haunted motif to their advantage to put on such a great show for us!

Billy claps wildly.

KNUCK

All the money that must have cost!
I guess that why we didn't have shrimp at the cocktail hour! HA!
HA! HA!

Knuck laughs like an insane person at his own joke and adds to the crazy clapping. Most the guests are now clapping and seem to think nothing of it.

Joel signals to the DJ to turn the music and beat up.

WEDDING DJ

Let's take a note from Virginia and
get this party really going!

Wedding DJ starts blaring some upbeat music. Joel runs across
the dance floor to the guys.

JOEL

We have to go find her.

Henry nods and runs off up the stairs with Billy and Knuck in
tow.

FRANK

Hey man, Virginia didn't look so
good. You should try some of these.

Frank hands Joel some ecstasy.

FRANK (CONT'D)

It'll just make everything okay.

Joel nods and pats Frank on the shoulder.

JOEL

I don't think I'll ever take these
again, but thanks.

Joel walks through the dance floor like a zombie. How could
it have come to this? He's never felt so lost and suffocated
in his life.

INT. HENRY AND JOEL'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Henry, Knuck and Billy are all standing around. Joel is
sitting on the bed.

BILLY

This is fucked. Are you kidding me?
Is this place actually fucking
haunted?!

HENRY

Will you calm the fuck down? This
isn't about us. This is about Joel.

JOEL

This is about Virginia.

Joel looks up at the guys.

JOEL (CONT'D)

I-I didn't-

Joel trails off.

KNUCK

Joel, buddy, it's-

JOEL

-I was just trying to save a buck. How the fuck is anything actually haunted? I didn't know that was a fucking thing! How could this happen? It's not enough I'm a fuck-up in real life? Now in the fucking afterlife I need to get fucked with and hurt people I love?! Goddamnit. God fucking damnit.

Knuck takes a step back.

KNUCK

But. You always supported me, how could you-

JOEL

We always supported you following something you love, how could we not?

Knuck marches out.

HENRY

Knuck, come on now!

BILLY

Let him go. What's the plan, Henry? Joel? How do we get Virginia back?

HENRY

Well. We'd typically need a priest right? An exorcism?

JOEL

My God.

Joel collapses on the bed.

BILLY

We don't know any priests! When was the last time you went to church?

Henry shrugs.

HENRY

When was the last time I didn't have hair on my balls?

Knuck kicks the door open and struts back in. He's got all his equipment.

BILLY

Knuck-

KNUCK

No! No! You shut the fuck up, Billy!

Billy does, in fact, shut the fuck up.

KNUCK (CONT'D)

I've always been the little bitch of this group. The runt. The one who gets kicked around. Not now. Not today. This is my area of expertise, damnit! And I'm going to save the fucking day!

Joel sits up in bed.

JOEL

W-where do we even start?

KNUCK

Well. First we contact the dead and find out where to start, you silly goose.

INT. CRESCENT PARK HOTEL BASEMENT - NIGHT

Billy, Joel, Henry and Knuck are all sitting around a table with a Ouija board on it. A candle is lit. Knuck has his eyes closed.

HENRY

(Whispering)

Is he okay?

Knuck throws his eyes open.

KNUCK

I'm centering my soul. I suggest you all do the same.

Henry and Billy grasp each other's hands harder. Joel looks defeated.

KNUCK (CONT'D)

Joelly. We need you, buddy.

Joel nods like there's an anchor on his forehead.

KNUCK (CONT'D)
I call forth-

 BILLY
Whoa whoa whoa, what are you doing?

 KNUCK
I'm going to ask for information
from the ghosts living here. Didn't
any of you read up on this place
beforehand?

 JOEL
Obviously NOT!

Joel tries to rip his hand away.

 KNUCK
NO!

Knuck grips it harder.

 JOEL
You will let me go, right fucking
now.

 KNUCK
We cannot break this circle at
anytime during this, got it?

Billy, Henry and Joel nod.

 KNUCK (CONT'D)
That would be a very, very bad
thing. Got it? This ain't a shitty
horror movie! This isn't even a
shitty crossover horror-comedy.
This cannot happen, got it? Here
goes nothing.

Knuck closes his eyes.

 KNUCK (CONT'D)
I suggest you all close you eyes,
clear you heads and just follow my
lead. Do. Not. Break. This. Circle.

Knuck clears his throat.

 KNUCK (CONT'D)
Fellow spirits living amongst the
living. I plead to you now. Help
us.

(MORE)

KNUCK (CONT'D)

One of the living has been possessed by something and we need to know where to find her.

Billy shivers.

BILLY

Had to be the fucking basement.

The candle FLICKERS.

KNUCK

I feel something.

A wind picks up.

HENRY

Somebody left the window open. Underground.

Henry shivers.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Goddamnit.

The Ouija board levitates and flies across the room. Henry opens his eyes.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Guess we won't be needing that.

Henry looks around. He starts to be able to make out eyes. Glowing green eyes.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Um. Knuck. I think that may have worked.

KNUCK

I understand it's been a long time since anyone's talked to you or even acknowledged you. We want to help. Tell us how we can help each other.

BILLY

Help me, help you! Right?!

Billy opens his eyes to see if his clever line of dialogue from Jerry McGuire landed, only to see the same green eyes Henry sees.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Oh God.

Ghosts start to materialize and come forward.

The first is DR. JOHN FREEMONT ELLIS (original staff doctor from the hotel in the late 1800s) and following behind him are a YOUNG WOMAN GHOST and a YOUNG GIRL GHOST along with BRECKIE (young son of Mary Breckinridge, he died of appendicitis), THEODORA (Dr. Baker's head nurse), SHANE (a bearded gentleman wearing Victorian clothing).

DR. JOHN FREEMONT ELLIS
What do you want?

Knucky opens his eyes. He's the only one of the group that's not afraid.

KNUCK
We want to help. We want to mostly free our friend, and this man's wife, from the clutches of a possession. Then, in return for your help, we would like to help you all move on.

DR. JOHN FREEMONT ELLIS
Move on. To what?

KNUCK
To the afterlife.

DR. JOHN FREEMONT ELLIS
I'm not sure we are ready for that. Many died here. We are the ones who remain to watch after this place.

KNUCK
I understand. We are only here to help. We do not wish to impose.

Dr. John turns to the rest of the ghosts and back to Knuck.

DR. JOHN FREEMONT ELLIS
Wish upon Mr. Baker. He's the owner. He will tell you what's going on here.

KNUCK
We shall. We thank you.

DR. JOHN FREEMONT ELLIS
Good day young, pudgy one.

Knuck frowns.

KNUCK
 Damn. Cold as ice.

Dr. John's face changes to FEAR and they all disappear.

 NORMAN G. BAKER
 WHO CALLS MY NAME?!

Knuck shivers and the rest of the guys jump. They almost let go of each other's hands.

 KNUCK
 Easy. Easy. We are not here to
 cause any chaos. We want to free-

 NORMAN G. BAKER
 I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE. WHAT MAKES
 YOU THINK I WILL HELP YOU?!

 KNUCK
 We don't. We just hope.

NORMAN G. BAKER (original owner of the Crescent Park Hotel)
 floats into the foreground.

 NORMAN G. BAKER
 I do not like the living. I do not
 want you here. I do not want you to
 intrude on our existence here.

 KNUCK
 Fair enough. We won't. We want to
 leave. We really do. But, we can't.
 We're missing one of us.

 NORMAN G. BAKER
 I feel that. A woman.

Norman G. Baker turns.

 NORMAN G. BAKER (CONT'D)
 I'm afraid, she is lost.

 JOEL
 What do you mean lost?

Norman G. Baker turns back in a rage.

 NORMAN G. BAKER
 WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO ME LIKE
 THAT?!

 JOEL
 I'M HER HUSBAND YOU GHASTLY FUCK!

NORMAN G. BAKER
YOU WILL PERISH WITH HER!

JOEL
NOT UNTIL I'M READY TO!

Norman G. Baker gets right up in Joel's face. He is unwavering. His expression changes.

NORMAN G. BAKER
I like you. Most living meat bodies don't have the balls.

Norman G. Baker cleans his ghost glasses.

NORMAN G. BAKER (CONT'D)
I'd love to help. Really, I would. But, you see. There is one amongst us who lingers with a hatred that is, quite frankly, demonic. It's not him. Not who he used to be, anyway.

JOEL
What are you talking about?

KNUCK
Who do you mean, Mr. Baker?

NORMAN G. BAKER
His name is, well, was, Michael.

KNUCK
The stonemason?

NORMAN G. BAKER
One in the same. You see, Michael died many years ago when this place was first being built. His death was so sudden and appalling and accidental, Michael couldn't let go. You see, the ghosts left here have chosen to be here. To be caretakers for lack of a better term. Michael chose to stay here because he could not accept he had died. Then. Once that was apparent, he chose to stay because of hate. Because of revenge. Because of ire. He exists only to destroy and decay the living.

Norman G. Baker puts his glasses back on.

NORMAN G. BAKER (CONT'D)

You see. Your wife, she's as good as dead. He devours souls, he-he doesn't belong here. He gives the rest of us a bad name. Sure, we like to do silly little hang outs, it gets boring around here for the last hundred plus years. But what Michael does. Well. I don't need to tell you.

JOEL

Why her? Why not me? Why not anyone else?

NORMAN G. BAKER

Because she's pure. Michael is so filled with hate, he looks to cripple and destroy humanity. What's more crippling than rotting what was once flourishing and pure?

Joel bows his head.

JOEL

How do we stop him?

NORMAN G. BAKER

We don't. I suggest your friend close off your circle and you leave and never return. Let your wife pass on as she would in a few mortal decades.

JOEL

Absolutely not.

Joel looks at Knuck, Billy and Joel.

JOEL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

KNUCK

JOEL NO!

Joel rips his hands apart from the others. A green explosion echoes forth from the center of the circle. Norman G. Baker disappears.

NORMAN G. BAKER O.S.

I cannot help you now! You will regret what you've done!

BILLY
Did you just fuck us?

HENRY
I'm going to call my mom.

KNUCK
We need to get out of here.

JOEL
Go then. I'm staying.

KNUCK
Joel-

JOEL
-I'm not leaving here without
Virginia!

Joel POUNDS the table.

JOEL (CONT'D)
She's only in this awful place
because of me. Do you, do any of
you, have any fucking clue what
that feels like? To drag someone
else so far down into your bullshit
and then they're the ones who pay?
It's the lowest thing I've ever
felt.

Joel tears up.

JOEL (CONT'D)
I cannot, I will not leave here
without Virginia. She deserves
better than this and better than
me.

Joel stands up.

JOEL (CONT'D)
I'm going to go fuck up Michael and
take my woman back. Whatever it
takes.

Knuck stands up.

JOEL (CONT'D)
This isn't up for debate. You're
not coming. None of you are.

Billy and Henry stand up.

HENRY

Yeah right.

BILLY

Fuck you. I won't do what you tell me.

HENRY

Rage Against the Machine?

BILLY

Yes! Thank you! Did you hear my one earl-

HENRY

Yes. Stop.

Evil laughter fills the room and leaves as quick as it came.

JOEL

Knuck, where did this stonemason die?

KNUCK

Well. He was working on the roof when he fell.

JOEL

Okay, to the roof.

KNUCK

Well. He died when he hit the ground.

JOEL

Thank you, Einstein.

KNUCK

So where do we go?

Billy looks at Henry.

HENRY

The roof?

BILLY

But, what about the ground? That's where it happened.

HENRY

Yeah, but the tragic accident happened on the roof.

BILLY

But he didn't die 'till he hit the ground.

JOEL

God damnit, Knuck, which is it?

KNUCK

That's a good question.

JOEL

Didn't you say this was your area of expertise?

KNUCK

I did, and it is, but I guess I've never dealt with this when levels were involved.

JOEL

Okay, well then-

BILLY

Do not say split up. Do not say let's split up. I ain't doing that. Nope.

KNUCK

The tragedy happened on the roof but he didn't die until he hit the ground.

BILLY

That's like hitting a home run. But you didn't hit the home run until it's actually over the fence.

HENRY

But you can flip your bat and start your trot before it goes over the fence.

Billy, Henry, Joel and Knuck all look at each other.

JOEL

TO THE ROOF!

EXT. THE ROOF OF CRESCENT PARK HOTEL - SAME TIME

Joel, Henry, Knuck and Billy burst through the door to the roof. They're all winded.

BILLY

F-For a building that was built
like four-hundred fucking years
ago, they really had the foresight
to make it so goddamn fucking tall.

Joel turns and looks at the guys.

JOEL

Last chance. You guys don't have to
be here.

BILLY

We know.

HENRY

But we want to.

KNUCK

-but we want to. Hey. I was going
to-

The skies cloud over to a green hue. Evil laughter fills the
air.

JOEL

MICHAEL! Give me back my bride!

Virginia FLOATS up to the roof.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

Hello, Joel.

Joel takes a deep breath. He turns around.

JOEL

I imagine this is what the divorce
proceedings would be like.

HENRY

Does anybody know a priest. Like
for real. I feel like this could be
like a really good time to have one
here. A team member that's in any
way part of the clergy.

Knuck steps up. He's got a priest collar on.

BILLY

Okay, what now?

Knuck turns around.

KNUCK

Thanks to the Universal Life Church, I'm an ordained minister. It's pretty close to a priest. I think.

Billy and Henry shrug.

BILLY

Go get 'em tiger.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

Isn't that cute?! A little, pudgy priest boy.

KNUCK

It's me, Virginia, it's Knuck.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

I don't know a Knuck. I do know you're a little bitch though.

Joel turns at Knuck.

JOEL

If I'm being honest, I don't know if that's Michael or Virginia talking.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

And you. String bean.

JOEL

Me?

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

Yeah, you. How about you go fuck yourself? Michael doesn't have any problem finding the G-spot.

HENRY

OH!

BILLY

OH SHIT!

Joel looks at Knuck.

JOEL

What the fuck?

KNUCK

It's okay, just ignore it. This is what they do to get under our skin and throw us off our game. We just have to be steady and get him to admit his name and we're golden.

JOEL

We know his name! It's Michael!

KNUCK

No, Michael was the man, the soul, the original spirit. Whoever this is, is much, much worse.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

You said it fatty!

Knuck fights back tears.

KNUCK

It's a condition. I have an overactive-

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

Fork! HAHAHA!

Possessed Virginia tumbles around in the air.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

This is too easy! I was hoping for some resemblance of the Ghostbusters! Instead I just get four nitwits jerking each other off! We got cunt hair mustache over there-

Billy grabs his face.

BILLY

HEY!

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

Baby dick next to him.

Henry tries to act like it's not him she's talking about.

HENRY

Clearly she's not very good at this.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

And little lonely man priest who never found his niche.

(MORE)

POSSESSED VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

And then of course there's dead-end
job, no dreams string bean.

Possessed Virginia floats over.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

I'll make you a deal, string bean.

Possessed Virginia starts to lift up her wedding dress.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Come lick my pussy right now and
I'll let your friends go!
HAHAHAHAHA!

JOEL

Knuck, can't you do something?

KNUCK

Oh yeah! I have to read this
scripture-

Knuck pats his pockets.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

This scripture?

Possessed Virginia holds up a little book. It says
"Exorcism's Handbook. Never go to one without it. Seriously.
Don't."

KNUCK

Oh shit.

Possessed Virginia takes it and shoves it up her wedding
dress. Everyone groans.

JOEL

Honey!

BILLY

Jesus, she took that like a champ,
man.

JOEL

You shut the fuck up.

HENRY

Is it weird I'm a little turned on
by her clear lack of standards? Is
that my thing? Do I have standards?
What's going on right now?

POSSESSED VIRGINIA

That's it! I'm done fucking around. First, I'm going to devour her soul, then each and every one of yours, except you, pudgy, I'm going to butt-fuck you everyday for the rest of eternity. This was fun. I had fun. But now, the fun is over.

Joel steps up on a loose mortar brick that's sitting there.

JOEL

Is this it?

Possessed Virginia cocks her head.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Is this the little block you couldn't see?

Possessed Virginia twitches.

JOEL (CONT'D)

So let me get this straight. You're such a genius right? But you didn't see this giant brick so you stumbled like an IDIOT over the edge of the roof? What a fucking moron!

Possessed Virginia starts to growl and drool. Joel hops down and starts walking toward the edge.

JOEL (CONT'D)

(Under his breath)

Sorry honey.

(Yelling at Possessed Virginia)

You stupid, little bitch. Go ahead and get possessed by this ignorant moron. That's all women love anyway. They just want the big meathead who fucks like a bull. But then expect him to stick around and he doesn't and it's all woe-is-me! Fuck off! Go ahead, stay with this fucking IDIOT for eternity! Maybe he'll stumble and fall into your cooch because how could anyone that clumsy actually be successful at anything?

Henry, Knuck and Billy all look at each other.

HENRY
What's he doing?

BILLY
Venting?

KNUCK
(In awe)
He's provoking Michael and Virginia. He's getting them on the same page.

HENRY
I don't understand.

KNUCK
I think the plan is to get Virginia to wake up and fight back and Michael will want to attack Joel so he'll dump Virginia because she's getting hard to control and Michael will be just as happy to leave her and kill Joel.

BILLY
And do what after?

Henry looks at Billy. Then Knuck. Knuck tears up.

KNUCK
He's going to sacrifice himself.

JOEL
Hey, honey, guess what? In the past six months I've cum in my pants twice with women that weren't you!

Possessed Virginia fights to get out of her own skin.

JOEL (CONT'D)
That's right! One was a fucking WHORE, a total stranger! And one was your mother!

Possessed Virginia looks confused.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA
What?

Knuck, Billy and Henry are speechless.

HENRY
What?

BILLY
What?

KNUCK
What?

JOEL
What? Nothing. Um.

Knuck, Billy and Henry motion for Joel to keep going.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Hey MICKEY! I bet you couldn't satisfy a goat if you had the chance, you poor, hillbilly fuck! You'd probably never even been with a human woman before! Just a different kind of female. BAHHHHHH!

Possessed Virginia snarls.

POSSESSED VIRGINIA
I'm going to kill you.

JOEL
Please, do me a fucking favor! Like I wanted to be married?! To YOU! HA! If I wanted a mediocre lay, I would have just fucked your sister!

POSSESSED VIRGINIA
Hey. Whoa. What's happening right now.

Possessed Virginia twitches uncontrollably.

JOEL
Yeah! You heard me! You know how many times I've jerked my average little prick to your sister! I mean wow! Your parents sure didn't know how to split the gene pool because your sister got all the booty and tits a guy could ever want! And you?! What are you? You're the same as this fucking block that IDIOT tripped over! Fucking flat chested, flat-assed, boring, stupid nothing that's in my way!

The guys look at each other with raised eyebrows. Joel turns around, out of breath and panting. He's smiling. He knows he did it.

Possessed Virginia LURCHES forward. As if it all happened in slow motion, Virginia falls to the roof and the spirit of Michael flies forward. Joel runs and catches Virginia and lays her down. Joel then LEAPS up as Ghost Michael flies into his chest cavity.

In mid-air Joel smiles. He turns, while falling, he sees Virginia, she's healthy and back to herself. Knuck, Henry and Billy are running over to her. Joel smiles as he makes eye contact with Virginia for the last time. Her eyes are equal parts grateful, sad and confused.

Joel leans his head back and his eyes close. He continues his mid-air fall over the ledge. We follow Joel's closed eyes until he hits the ground and then we immediately-

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

POV FROM JOEL'S PERSPECTIVE.

Joel opens his eyes like they're shades that keep getting stuck. The first fuzzy image that starts to come clear is the beautiful image of an auburn haired woman. It's Virginia. She looks amazing. Her cheeks are once again flush with color and her eyes have a twinge of sadness in them, but it's overshadowed by happiness and hope.

VIRGINIA

Hey baby.

Virginia places her hand on Joel's cheek. Joel tries to look around.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Try not to move too much. The doctor says you're the luckiest man on Earth.

JOEL

W-wha-

VIRGINIA

Shhh. Shhhh. You've got to rest. We've got a long road ahead of us, but. I think we've got what it takes. I know you do.

Henry, Knuck and Billy enter the room.

HENRY

Hey, he's awake! There he is!

BILLY

Mother of Dragons, The Unburnt
ain't got nothing on you! Should
call you the Indestructible!

KNUCK

Fucking coolest shit I ever saw!
And guess what, dude?! Remember Mr.
Hain? The Caretaker? The guy has a
fucking iPhone X. Go figure. He
recorded the whole fucking thing.
As soon as you're better, we're
going on a press tour. People have
been calling off the hook! Agents,
managers, everybody! They want book
deals, movies, TV, you name it,
they want you for it!

BILLY

Fucking Bieber even wants to do a
song with you!

HENRY

And James Wan is already buying the
rights to our story to make it into
a Conjuring spin-off!

Joel's eyes close a little bit and then reopen.

VIRGINIA

Okay, guys, that's enough. That's
too much right now! Let him rest.

HENRY

See you man, I love you. And you
need anything I'm right outside
drinking the shittiest coffee in
all the land.

BILLY

Me too, buddy. You'd think in a
hospital where people drink coffee
all the time they'd have perfected
the art of dripping hot water over
ground beans.

KNUCK

Thank you for everything, Joel. You
showed me I can stand up to whoever
and whatever gets in my way.

(MORE)

KNUCK (CONT'D)

I signed up for online dating and
I'm actually getting some swipes
come my way! I'll be right outside.

Knuck, Henry and Billy all leave the room. Virginia leans in
close to Joel.

VIRGINIA

I'll let you get some sleep. But,
first, I have to know. All that
stuff you said about my sister, mom
and random whore, you didn't mean
it, right?

Joel swallows. It's a big deal for him to do anything right
now.

JOEL

Of-

Joel takes a deep, painful breath.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Of course-

One more, deep painful breath.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Of course I did.

Joel smiles. Virginia smiles.

VIRGINIA

There he is. There's that offensive
sense of humor I hate.

JOEL

That's right. All of that was
definitely false.

Virginia kisses Joel gingerly on the lips.

VIRGINIA

I'll be right here when you wake
up.

Virginia leaves the room.

Joel looks at his body and hands. He's all banged up,
bandaged and broken. He grabs the morphine button and presses
it a few times. His head falls back. He's staring at the
ceiling light.

REVERSE POV TO JOEL'S FACE.

The camera zooms in to Joel's eyes. They are now green.

CUT TO BLACK.

NARRATOR

(Over-the-top, *Haunted*
House style voice over)

I told you it would be scary. I
told you that ghosts exist and they
are tangible. No one has seen Joel
since that day. Well. No one that's
alive anyway. Until next time, my
friends, be sure to stay alive

(Beat)

If you can!

(Maniacal laugh)

THE END.