

MUMMERS

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - SOME TIME AGO

LINDA (9) scrawny, terrified. She quivers under a pile of neglected bed sheets. From downstairs...

... a door SLAMS.

Linda jumps, squeezes her stuffed unicorn. ARGUING rises from downstairs, a slurred MALE VOICE, a damn drunk.

Linda's face fills with an anticipated terror as her mother PLEADS, the drunk, closer now.

The drunk is at her bedroom door. Tears stream down her face, not again.

The door slowly CREAKS open. There he is, standing in the doorway.

Linda WHIMPERS softly, he lumbers over to her bedside.

The bed SHAKES as the drunk lays next to her.

The drunk spoons with his daughter. His face obscured.

DRUNK

Shhh, baby, quiet now.

He gently pulls the sheets off of her.

Linda gags at the stench of this monster.

Linda's SOBS are much LOUDER now, uncontrollable. He places his hand over her mouth.

A small family portrait on the nightstand. Mom, dad, Linda, and little sister. No one is smiling.

DRUNK (O.S.)

Higgery-diggery dock, sweetie.

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

EXT. FERRY - PRESENT DAY

LINDA (30's) healthier, bundled up in a thick sweater. She leans over the ferry's bannister admiring the waters of the Atlantic.

On her ring finger, a shiny rock.

She admires the ring, this is perfection.

LINDA  
 (to herself)  
 Mrs. Mercer, Mrs. Linda Mercer...

Behind Linda, ISAAC MERCER (30's) fit, full face of hair. He creeps behind her, so sure of himself. A smile paints Linda's face, he's such a joker.

Isaac wraps his arms around her, kisses her neck. Linda squeals with laughter, his facial hair tickles. He spins her around and kisses her hard on the lips.

They stare into each others eyes.

LINDA  
 So what's your home like?

ISAAC  
 It's pretty nice. South Dildo's a small town, only a couple hundred people. It's one of those places where everybody knows everybody, you know?

LINDA  
 So it's nothing like Toronto?

ISAAC  
 No, it's absolutely nothing like Toronto. My parents have the largest house in town... at the end of the main road. It's an old Victorian. They keep it fairly pristine, especially around mummering time...

LINDA  
 Mummering? Is that a...Newfie thing?

Isaac quickly looks around the ferry, no one in earshot.

ISAAC  
 Woah, don't say that around any of the locals. You'll piss 'em off.

Linda playfully raises her hands in surrender.

LINDA  
 Oh, no! I'm sorry. I had no idea.

ISAAC

I told you about the mummers  
didn't I?

LINDA

I'm sure I'd remember you saying  
something like that. What in God's  
name is a "mummer"?

Isaac again turns back toward the water.

ISAAC

It's an old tradition where people  
in town get all dressed up in  
disguise. They walk house-to-house  
trying to get invited inside. If  
they are, they do some type of  
performance for the residents.

LINDA

Performance?

ISAAC

They dance or sing, or do some  
little skit they rehearsed. If the  
homeowner can guess who they are,  
the 'mummers' reveal themselves  
and they have a few drinks  
together, socialize.

LINDA

But wouldn't something like that  
be pretty easy in a community that  
small?

ISAAC

They can get pretty creative with  
the costumes, even cross-dressing.  
They disguise their voices too.  
It's not as easy as you'd think...

LINDA

So what happens if they can't  
guess who it is?

ISAAC

Some just leave and claim victory  
the next day. Sometimes they give  
hints until the homeowner guesses  
right. Dad's always been creative,  
so I'm a little excited to see how  
he handles it tonight.

Linda is taken aback.

LINDA

Tonight?

ISAAC

That's why my parents invited us over before the honeymoon. So we wouldn't miss out? I thought you already knew all this?

She forces a smile.

LINDA

Nope, didn't have a clue... but it sounds delightful.

ISAAC

Gonna dock soon, we should probably go get packed up.

Isaac makes his way into the ferry, Linda turns to follow and sees a YOUNG BOY at her feet. His stare is incriminating. The boy runs away.

Linda's face fills with unease.

EXT. FERRY PORT - DAY

Several cars including Linda's Jeep drive off the ferry.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Beautiful Newfoundland. The Jeep traverses the magnificent landscape.

INT. JEEP - DAY

The wind wisps Linda's hair back, Isaac rests his head on the passenger side.

LINDA

I bet it's good to be back home, isn't it honey?

ISAAC

You have no idea...  
(jumps to attention)  
Oh, baby... there's a store just up ahead where we can gas up.

LINDA

We don't really need to stop.  
Aren't we almost there?

ISAAC

Yeah, but I really need to, if you  
know what I mean.

Isaac anxiously squirms in his seat.

ISAAC

Coffee... you know.

Linda smiles.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The Jeep turns into the classic retro-themed station,  
parks. The attendants match the theme, retro uniforms.

They exit the Jeep, Linda pulls a cell phone from her  
purse, dials her mother's number. A frantic rustle on the  
other side.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Linda? Honey, where the hell are  
you?

Linda smiles into the phone, It's nice to hear her voice.

LINDA

Hi mom. What are you so worried  
about?

MOTHER (O.S.)

We hadn't heard from you. We even  
alerted the police. They started a  
missing persons case.

LINDA

Mom? Are you serious? I thought I  
told you where we were headed?

MOTHER (O.S.)

No, baby, you didn't.

LINDA

I'm so sorry, I thought I had...  
Well don't worry mom, I'm up in  
Newfoundland, a town called Dildo,  
can you believe it?

MOTHER (O.S.)

South Dildo?

LINDA

Yes, South Dildo. Who knew such a place existed? It's intoxicating--

MOTHER (O.S.)

Linda, I don't understand. Why on Earth would you want to go to the place your father--

Distracted, Linda pulls the phone away. It's Isaac.

He exits the store with a paper bag, a slightly taller man follows behind him, both smiling ear-to-ear.

LINDA

I have to go. I'll call you tomorrow before we jet off for the honeymoon.

MOTHER (O.S.)

Isaac? Who...wait..jet off?

Linda ends the call, throws her phone back in her purse.

Linda walks back to the Jeep, Isaac and the taller man stand at attention, wide grins.

ISAAC

Linda honey, I want to introduce you to my big brother, Caleb

CALEB MERCER (50's) large, a big toothy grin. He extends his hand, a hardy shake.

CALEB

I'm sorry I couldn't make the wedding. Isaac will probably never let me live it down, but my parents told me all about it and well... they just love you.

LINDA

Oh please, I'm just happy I have the chance to meet Isaac's older brother. He talked about you quite a bit. You'll be at the house for the festivities later?

Caleb's face fills with excitement, it's been too long.

CALEB

Oh, absolutely, my dear. I understand dad has something special planned and I've been anxious to find out what's in store.

Isaac and Caleb embrace in a manly hug. Linda and Isaac get in the Jeep.

Isaac tosses the bag in the back seat, They wave at Caleb as they exit the lot.

Caleb returns the wave and a smile, a big toothy grin.

INT. JEEP - DAY

LINDA

I really like your brother. He seems very nice, very polite.

ISAAC

He certainly can be when he wants to be.

LINDA

What'd you get from the store?

ISAAC

That's a surprise for later...

Isaac gives Linda a warm smile, he's so considerate.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The Jeep turns onto a long dirt road. A weathered town sign reads: WELCOME TO SOUTH DILDO

ISAAC (O.S.)

Here we are, baby.

EXT. SOUTH DILDO - DAY

The Jeep comes upon an Inn with a sign nestled between a row of empty a buildings, on the sign: SOUTH DILDO INN

LINDA

It's smaller then I thought. Where are all the people?



ISAAC

They're around. You'll probably meet some of them tonight.

Isaac points up the road a ways, quite far.

ISAAC

There's the house.

Astonished, getting closer, Linda looks on in amazement.

The Jeep comes to a crawl, to the left...

A beautiful big house with blue shutters, the lawn, immaculate. Flowers in bloom hug the base of the home, perfection.

Linda pulls the Jeep into the driveway.

LINDA

Isaac, I...I don't know what to say. This is so much more beautiful than you described. Why you'd ever leave place like this?

Linda bounds out of the vehicle, it couldn't get any better. On the porch of the beautiful house...

ABIGAIL MERCER (70's) kind, wise. She exits the front door to greet them.

Linda's smile fades, who are these people?

She warmly embraces Linda. It's awkward.

ABIGAIL

Norman! They're here! I'm so glad you two could make it. That was the most beautiful wedding.

NORMAN MERCER(70's) wiry, he follows her down the porch stairs.

NORMAN

Now Abigail, my love, let the girl breathe.

Norman casually shakes Isaac's hand, it's proper.

NORMAN

Problems?

ISAAC

It was nice, dad... No problems at all.

NORMAN

Good to hear. Why don't you kids come in, your mom will fix us a nice lunch. You must be hungry.

ISAAC

Oh yeah, I could eat.

Isaac looks over to Linda, she doesn't look too good.

ISAAC

Honey, are you all right? You look a little pale.

Linda's hands tremble, she catches them, shakes it off best she can.

LINDA

A little tired maybe. Perhaps I should lie down for a bit.

Abigail grabs her arm in reassurance.

ABIGAIL

That's a good idea, dear. Let me show you to your room.

Abigail walks Linda into the house.

INT. MERCER HOME - DAY

Norman Rockwell appeal, everything in it's place. Abigail leads Linda up the staircase.

ABIGAIL

Be careful honey. We have a nurse over at the school, I could call her for you?

LINDA

Oh, no please. I'm fine. It's probably the salty island air, it's a lot different than Toronto.

They disappear into the...

## BEDROOM

Abigail helps Linda to a magnificent oak canopy bed, restored antique furniture line the walls.

ABIGAIL

All right dear, give a shout if you need anything. I'll have Norman bring up your bags.

LINDA

Thank you Abigail, you're very kind.

Abigail leaves the bedroom, closes the door behind her. Linda falls onto the bed, loses consciousness.

INT. BEDROOM - SOME TIME LATER

Linda is fast asleep, her eyelids flutter, from the hallway...

... a loud BANG, shuffling of feet.

Linda slowly opens her eyes, groggy.

The bedroom door CREAKS open, a figure stands in the doorway, It's eerily still, like a picture in a book.

LINDA

Isaac? Is that you?

She fights to sit up, looks to the clock.

LINDA

How long have I been sleeping?

VOICE

Shhh.

She knows that voice, she's paralyzed by fear.

It staggers it's way toward the bed, falls on top of her.

It's her father, the drunk. His stench is different this time, a long time dead.

FATHER

(shallow)  
Higgery-diggery dock, sweetie.

Linda opens her mouth to scream, but nothing comes out.

FATHER  
 (shallow)  
 Let's get those dirty jammies off.

His filthy fingers claw at her dress.

LINDA  
 N-no. No please, daddy, please.

FATHER (O.S.)  
 (shallow)  
 You don't wanna make mommy mad do  
 you?

Linda belts out a bloodcurdling SCREAM.

A commotion from downstairs, on the stairs, outside the door.

The door BUSTS open, It's Isaac.

ISAAC  
 Linda! Are you all right?

Linda lies alone on the bed, drenched in sweat. Her dress is almost torn completely off, her panties down at her ankles.

Isaac reaches out to touch her, she recoils in disgust.

At the doorway...

Norman and Abigail watch from outside the room, Abigail turns to Norman.

ABIGAIL  
 Just a bad dream...

Abigail closes the door, Linda looks to the door as it closes, catches a GRIN from Norman.

Unease fills Linda's face, where is she again?

LINDA  
 Isaac?

ISAAC  
 Yes, baby. I'm here.

Linda throws herself into his arms, Tears stream down her cheeks.

LINDA  
 Oh, thank God, it seemed so real.

ISAAC

I'm so sorry. Nothing is going to hurt you, not while I'm here. I promise.

Isaac stands up and heads for the door. She's panicked.

LINDA

Where are you going?

ISAAC

To get you some water, I'll be right back, I promise.

Isaac leaves the bedroom, Linda collects herself.

Isaac arrives as quickly as he left, a glass of water in hand, he places the glass on the nightstand, sits next to Linda, gently puts his arms around her, his wife.

ISAAC

Do you want to talk about it?

LINDA

Not really, it's just, my father...he wasn't a good man. He died when I was very young I thought I'd put it all behind me... Ok, I think I feel better now. But your parents, I'm so sorry.

ISAAC

Don't worry about them. They understand.

Isaac wipes a tear from Linda's face, she rests her head on his shoulder.

Her attention turns to the window and the falling light.

LINDA

Oh my God! How long was I asleep?

Linda stands up, hurriedly fixes her dress. Her efforts are futile.

Isaac smiles at his wife.

ISAAC

Most of the day, my love. I can let the folks know you're not feeling well so you don't have to deal with the mummering?

LINDA

I want to do it. It was just a dream, and besides, I'm well rested.

Linda flashes a gorgeous smile, looks around the bed for her bag.

LINDA

Where's my bag?

ISAAC

It's downstairs, I didn't want to disturb you but...my mother got you an outfit for the occasion, in case you wanted to participate. But don't worry about it, After what you've been through...I'll get your bag.

Isaac heads for the door, Linda steps in his way.

LINDA

No, Isaac please, let me participate. It's the least I can do after embarrassing you in front of your parents like that.

ISAAC

If you're sure...

LINDA

I'm sure.

They exchange a loving glance.

ISAAC

Okay, well, the dress is in the wardrobe by the dresser. Caleb is here, so I'm gonna go help him and dad with preparations downstairs. Just come down when you're ready.

LINDA

Thank you Isaac, I love you.

ISAAC

I love you too, baby.

Isaac plants a kiss on her forehead, walks out of the bedroom, closing the door behind him. Linda strolls over to the wardrobe, opens the fancy doors. A rack of vintage clothing, she grabs a plain grey woolen dress, Mennonite? It's strangely beautiful.

She takes off her torn cloths, slips into the woolen dress, it fits like a glove, turns to a standing mirror next to the wardrobe, admires her figure.

Linda slides on matching slippers from the foot of the wardrobe, she'd do anything for Isaac.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The whole family is gathered in similar clothes, holding drinks. Norman tends to the fireplace.

Isaac meets Linda at the stairs, takes her hand, presents her to the room.

ISAAC

Welcome to mummer's night.

Linda walks into the family room, greets each member with a wonderful smile.

ABIGAIL

Are you feeling better, sweetie?

LINDA

Oh yes, thank you. Much better. You've all been so very kind. I'm terribly sorry about earlier. I hope you can forgive me, I feel like such a fool.

ABIGAIL

Of course dear. There's nothing to be embarrassed about. Not in this house, certainly.

Caleb covers his face with his drink, disguising a smile. Abigail is not amused.

Isaac hands Linda a drink.

ISAAC

Try it, it's mummer's punch. Mom only makes it this time of year.

She grabs the glass, cautiously takes a sip, smiles.

LINDA

Oh my, this is delicious.

Linda catches a gag.

NORMAN

Really? It normally takes someone quite a while to get accustomed to the taste.

LINDA

It's very unique, it has a nice bite to it.

Caleb laughs. Norman and Abigail look to Caleb, enough.

DING DONG

Linda jumps, it's the front door. Norman looks to Linda, the same smile from earlier.

NORMAN

Looks like our mummings have arrived.

Norman heads for the front door.

Excited, the rest of the family take their seats. Linda follows Isaac, sits next to him.

Norman talks to a group at the front door.

Linda looks to the window, light has fallen, rain paddles the window sill, lightly at first then harder. Quite the downpour.

NORMAN

All right, I invite you into our home.

Norman walks back to his chair by the fireplace, TWO MUMMERS sheepishly follow Norman, stand in the middle of the room.

Norman leans back in his chair, grabs a pipe from the pocket of his woolen vest, lights it up.

NORMAN

Well, go ahead, mummings. Entertain my family.

The mummings timidly survey their audience, share a look, exchange a whisper, They nod in agreement.

MUMMERS

(singing)

*Hark, what's the noise out by the porch door? Dear Granny, there's mummings, there's twenty or more.*



*Her old weathered face lightens up  
with a grin, any mummings, nice  
mummings 'lowed in?*

Norman's eyes narrow.

NORMAN

Abigail?

The mummings cease singing.

ABIGAIL

Yes dear?

Norman looks to the mummings with disdain.

NORMAN

Did they just say you have a  
weathered face?

Abigail smiles, Linda takes notice, it's infectious.

ABIGAIL

I believe they did, dear.

CALEB

Give 'em the heat dad!

Norman looks to Caleb, that smile. He reaches behind his  
sofa chair and grabs a double-barrel sawed off shotgun,  
lays it on his lap.

Concerned, Linda's eyes widen. She looks to Isaac...

a large grin ear-to-ear, he leans over to her.

ISAAC

This is the best part, baby.  
You're gonna love it.

Norman leans back, taps his fingers on the shotgun.

NORMAN

You may continue.

The mummings look at each other, shrug.

MUMMERS

(singing)  
*Ah, there's big ones small ones,  
tall and thin.*

Norman reaches into his vest pocket, pulls out two  
shotgun shells.

Linda's face fills with panic, she looks to Isaac...  
 An even larger grin, he shoots Linda a knowing wink.

MUMMERS

(singing)  
*There's boys dressed as women and  
 girls dressed as men,*

Linda looks to Norman...

He loads more shells.

Linda looks to Isaac...

The same ear-to-ear grin.

Caleb rises to his feet.

CALEB

Give 'em the heat! Let 'em have  
 it, dad!

MUMMERS

(singing)  
*With humps on their backs and  
 mitts on their feet,*

Isaac pats Linda's hand, she squeezes his tightly.

Norman aims the shotgun at the mummies.

MUMMERS

(singing)  
*My blessed we'll die with--*

A sweet smile paints Abigail's face.

ABIGAIL

This is the good part, dear.

The mummies both give Norman the finger.

MUMMERS

The Heat!

Norman squeezes the trigger.

BANG

The shot explodes into the chest of the first mummy, He  
 flies backward and hits the wall.

BANG

The second mummer gets it in the face, takes his head clean off, a massive explosion of blood and brains.

Blood splatters across Linda's face.

Disoriented, she falls to the floor, covers her ringing ears.

Isaac looks over to her, that same ear-to-ear smile, face drenched in blood. Isaac calmly places his bloody hand on her shoulder

Satisfied with himself, Norman sits back in his chair.

Smoke rises from the barrel.

Caleb jumps up and down screaming with excitement.

Abigail stands to her feet, bravo, applause all around.

Propped up against the blood drenched sofa, Linda stares into space, broken. Isaac kneels down to meet her, it's hard to hear him.

ISAAC

Wasn't that amazing baby? I told  
you, dad always has some fun  
tricks up his sleeve.

Isaac excitedly turns towards his father.

ISAAC

Best one yet pops!

Linda fights to stand, the pool of blood is at her feet now. Blood covers the ceiling, the walls, slumped in the middle of the room...

A headless mummer.

Linda falls back to the floor, Isaac leans in behind her, he's such a joker. Places his hand on her shoulder.

She lurches forward, violently sprays a stream of vomit across the floor and up a part of the wall.

Linda scrambles for the front door. Isaac grabs her arm, she pushes it away, slips on the blood soaked floor, falls hard, completely covered in blood.

Isaac tumbles behind her, he crawls to her, reaches out and grabs her foot, it's too slippery, she makes her escape.

EXT. MERCER HOME - NIGHT

Rain hammers everything, Linda trips out of the front door, Linda turns back towards the house.

A blood-soaked Isaac stands in the doorway, a large grin, ear-to-ear.

Linda stumbles backward, the wood cracks under her feet, it gives way. She drops and catches her leg on a piece of broken wood, it tears into her flesh.

She tumbles down the porch steps, Linda pulls herself up and limps at full speed toward the Inn at the end of the road.

INT. INN - NIGHT

Linda BURSTS through the front doors, they swing open hitting the walls. Linda falls to her knees.

MARY (60's) distinguished, jumps out of her chair.

MARY

Jack! Get out here!

Mary runs from behind the desk, tends to Linda, helps her up to a sofa against the wall.

JACK (70's) Proprietor, rushes out to meet them from a back room.

JACK

Mary? Are you--

Mary settles Linda, she's covered in mud, the gash on her leg oozes.

Jack rushes to their side.

JACK

Good Lord!

MARY

Jack, get me a blanket and some water.

Jack makes haste, returns in a flash, hands Mary a blanket, some towels and a couple bottles of water.

Mary drapes the blanket around Linda. Jack grabs her hand to stop it from shaking, hands Linda a bottle of water, Linda drops it on the floor. Her whole body shakes.

MARY

She's in shock, the poor dear.  
Jack, I think you better go wake  
up Ed.

Jack nods, leaves in a hurry.

INT. INN - SOME TIME LATER

Linda lies on a sofa covered in blankets, her wounds have  
been tended to. Mary sits in a chair at her side.

BILLY (20's) eager deputy, finishes up the last of her  
dressing.

Across the room...

ED (50's) South Dildo Police Chief, well groomed. He  
stands with Jack at the reception desk.

ED

She say anything?

JACK

Not a word. She just burst in here  
like this, car accident maybe?

ED

I don't see any head trauma. She's  
been through something.

Ed turns to face Linda on the other side of the room.

ED

That dress, it's... what's with  
the dress?

JACK

It's all torn up and moth eaten.  
Homeless, you think?

ED

No woman with manicured nails  
would wear a dress like that.  
Looks like an old burlap sack  
or... something.

On the other side of the room...

Linda stands and limps over to a picture on the wall.  
Mary supports her. She gently touches the picture. It  
looks familiar. Terrified, She starts to collapse, but  
Mary catches her. Leads her back to the sofa.

JACK

So, what you wanna do?

ED

I'll go make some calls. See if Mary can clean her up a little. You got a room she can stay in for the night?

JACK

You know Mary. I don't think she'd let you take her in this state anyway.

Ed pats Jack on the back, heads for the door.

Mary looks to Ed with concern.

Ed loiters in the doorway, turns to Billy.

ED

I'm headin' back over to the office. Meet me there when you're done okay?

BILLY

You got it, chief.

Linda sleeps, peaceful.

INT. ED'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Billy walks in the room, hangs up his coat, Billy takes a seat across from Ed, several folders spread across the desk.

BILLY

What you make of it?

Ed grabs one of the folders, opens it up and hands Billy a print out, a missing persons report.

A smiling Linda.

BILLY

Yeah, that's her all right.

Billy looks over the print out.

ED

Linda Sullivan... don't that name ring a bell?

BILLY

Not really. Pretty common name,  
though. Missing since June, huh?

ED

I guess. But what do you suppose a  
pretty Toronto girl like that is  
doing all the way up here in  
Newfoundland?

BILLY

Seems like an abduction, don't it?  
She must've escaped.

ED

That's what I was thinking too  
but, it means we got a kidnapper  
runnin' loose in our town.

BILLY

What you wanna do, boss?

ED

Bringin' in the RCMP on this.  
She's from Toronto, so we don't  
have a choice. They'll be here in  
the morning so best clean the  
place up a bit, it's a mess.

BILLY

Mess ain't dirty, I'll *tidy* up  
boss.

ED

That then.

INT. INN, ROOM - MORNING

Linda opens her eyes, sits up in bed, brings her knees to  
her chest, holds herself.

Mary puts down the knitting needles she's been working,  
sits up in the chair she set up, a night watchman.

LINDA

Where am I?

MARY

You're in a room at my Inn. The  
names Mary what's yours?

LINDA

Linda...

MARY

Can you tell me what happened  
Linda?

LINDA

Something got my leg?

MARY

You came in here last night with  
that. Billy fixed it up for you.

LINDA

Billy?

MARY

The deputy... oh, never mind that  
right now, honey. Let me go get  
you a bite to eat, It's just down  
the hall, be back in a jiffy.

Mary heads to the door, leaves Linda alone in her room.  
She forces herself out of bed, she's completely naked.

She wraps herself in a blanket, takes in the room, walks  
over to the window.

A muddy road and marsh land as far as she can see. How  
did she get here?

MARY (O.S.)

Here you go dear.

Startled, Linda jumps, almost out of her blanket. Mary  
places the danish and coffee on an end table.

MARY

Some fresh coffee and a nice  
danish.

Linda grabs the mug of coffee.

LINDA

Mary is it?

MARY

Yes dear...Before I forget, Billy  
found your Jeep and brought your  
things over, I put them in the  
closet there.

She looks to the closet, her suitcase.

LINDA

That's very kind of him.



MARY

I was surprised when he said he found it at the old Mercer place.

Linda enjoys her coffee, one last sip

LINDA

It's a beautiful house. I just love all the flowers.

MARY

You must be mistaken, the house at the far end of the road here?

LINDA

My husband Isaac and I were visiting his parents.

Mary stands, starts to back away from Linda.

LINDA

Um, Norman and...Abigail. That Abigail is such a sweet lady, you remind me of her.

Mary circles Linda, lifts up a part of her hair, looking for something.

LINDA

What's wrong?

MARY

Making sure it's not just your leg.

LINDA

We met their other son too, Caleb, at a cute little gas station just outside town. We were going to celebrate mummering night.

Mary stops in her tracks, adjusts Linda's sheets.

MARY

I'll let you finish your danish. Get dressed, we'll have a talk when you're ready?

Mary looks to Linda with concern as she leaves the room.

Linda's face fills with unease. She heads for the closet, opens her suitcase.

INT. INN - MORNING

Mary sits at the reception desk, looks over a paper. Jack appears from a side room.

MARY

Was about to go get Ed, get lost?

Jack shakes his head, puts his arms up in defeat, it's no use.

JACK

How's our little mystery girl,  
find out anything?

Linda appears from around the corner, keeps her distance.

MARY

I think our girl's batty.

With a rising panic, Linda walks closer.

JACK

Oh Mary come on, You think  
everyone is a little batty.

MARY

No Jack, she was talking about  
'mumming' night, in July.

JACK

Good Lord, she has been through  
something hasn't she?

Jack grabbed the paper away from Mary, looks over the headlines. Mary pushes his page away, this is important.

MARY

Told me she was with her husband  
Isaac, met his brother Caleb?  
Visiting his parents Norman and  
Abigail? Ringing any bells, Jack?

Jack looks out, the wheels are turning.

He drops the paper.

JACK

The Mercers? They're all dead,  
murdered, what... thirty years ago  
now?

Linda stumbles to the ground, the news hits her like a train.

MARY

Batty, Jack... I'm tellin' ya.

JACK

Any rate, Ed will get that poor girl the help she needs. Such a sweet little thing.

She limps for the door, passes Jack and Mary in a flash.

MARY

Honey, wait!

EXT. DUPLEX - MORNING

Ed casually leans against the side of a modest house holding a hot mug of coffee. Billy bursts out the door, he's rushing.

ED

You fall in the toilet? You're making me late, deputy. You know I take these rare RCMP visits seriously.

BILLY

Jesus chief, I'm sorry.

ED

You're lucky they're running late. Come on, Billy. Let's get over there.

They make haste up the road.

EXT. INN - MORNING

Jack runs out of the Inn, Mary starts to follow, Jack turns back.

JACK

Mind the Inn now.

Mary stops.

MARY

Be careful!

EXT. MERCER HOUSE - MORNING.

Linda runs full sprint towards the house, she stops and look up at the old Victorian house. It's not beautiful, it's old, broken down and abandoned.

Tears stream down Linda's face.

LINDA

Isaac!... Isaac!

Linda runs up the stairs, avoiding the hole she made last night, ran through the door, It almost comes off the hinges.

INT. MERCER HOUSE - MORNING

She runs up a rickety stairway and to the...

BEDROOM

Empty, Where the bed should be a paper bag rests. It's the bag Isaac had at the gas station, Linda picks up the bag, reaches inside...

A stuffed unicorn, just like she had as a little girl. She squeezes it tightly. Linda sits, closes her eyes, brings her knees up to her chest.

Linda opens her eyes, she's back in the room. The furniture has reappeared, the fancy bed and all.

A door SLAMS...

A commotion from downstairs, on the stairs, outside the bedroom door.

The door CREAKS open, standing in the doorway, one of the mummies, still masked. A bloody shotgun wound to the chest. Dead, rotten, it quickly limps towards her.

MUMMER

(raspy)

Higgery, Diggery Dock, you little cunt!

Linda SCREAMS.

EXT. MERCER HOUSE - MORNING

Confused, Jack stares up at the abandoned house. In the distance, Mary runs toward him.

MARY  
What in heaven's!

JACK  
Where'd she go?

MARY  
Who?

JACK  
The girl...

Mary lovingly grabs Jack's hands, not again.

MARY  
You jumped out of bed, you're in  
your boxers for the luva pete.

Jack looks down to his feet, bare feet and underwear.

JACK  
Yeah, I... I think I just had a  
weird dream.

MARY  
Come Jack...

Mary and Jack head back to the Inn.

INT. ED'S OFFICE - MORNING

Ed and Billy calmly enter, coffees in hand, they take their time, put their things in the right spot. Ed stops in his tracks.

ED  
Notice something?

BILLY  
Should I?

ED  
You cleaned up.

BILLY  
It's always been this way, don't  
need no cleaning.

ED  
Something special happenin' today?

BILLY  
Not that I know of, you all right  
Ed?

Ed shrugs, sits in his chair, grabs his paper, flips through the first few pages.

ED  
Country's goin' to hell.

Billy glances out the window.

BILLY  
Might want to check this out.

EXT. ED'S OFFICE - MORNING

An RCMP vehicle pulls next to the building, Ed and Billy stand at the entry way. An OFFICER exits the squad car, approaches Ed.

RCMP OFFICER  
You Ed Simmons?

ED  
I am indeed. What brings you out  
my way?

RCMP OFFICER  
Missing persons report, a young  
woman, people are worried sick  
about this one.

ED  
Missing person? Wasn't me.

Ed turns to Billy who looks equally confused.

ED  
You know anything about a missing  
girl in the area?

RCMP OFFICER  
She's from Toronto.

Lost for words, Billy looks to Ed.

BILLY  
Missing girl? Nah, nothing like  
that around here.

Just a couple drunks on the weekends is all the excitement we can expect.

RCMP OFFICER

God damn it, another prank call.

Ed looks to the Officer, then to Billy.

ED

Why don't you come by the Inn for some coffee? Mary makes some delicious danishes.

The officer looks to Billy, who's nodding.

BILLY

They're really good.

RCMP OFFICER

Thanks Ed. That's mighty kind of you. Appreciate the hospitality.

INT. INN - MORNING

Ed, Billy, and the officer walk into the Inn, passing the reception area...The portrait on the wall that Linda touched. It's her family portrait.

Her father's face now wears a creepy smile.

EXT. SOUTH DILDO - MORNING

Far in the distance, at the end of the road the Mercer house rests, abandoned.

EXT. SOUTH DILDO - SOME YEARS LATER

A silver sedan drives up the road at the end of the road the Mercer house, abandoned. The car pulls into the driveway.

A young woman bounds out of the car, alone. She twirls in excitement, it couldn't get any better.

WOMAN

Isaac, this is amazing. This is so much more beautiful than you described...

FADE OUT.