The Ghostly Cut

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EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

An isolated, dilapidated house stands in the middle of a field. The full moon provides the only light in the area.

Zack (17, with long hair) and Mike (17, with a crew cut) brush away the tall grass to peer at the house ahead of them.

Will (17, with beard) breathes heavily from behind.

WILL God, I really don't think this is a good idea.

ZACK Whatever, man. Go trick-or-treat if you want.

WILL I mean, there are other haunted-

ZACK Look, this is the real deal, not those fake crap they put out there.

Mike starts towards the house. Zack and Will follow.

They arrive at the doorstep. Broken windows flank the front door. Mike tries the door. It's locked.

Zack shines his flashlight through the windows and peeks into the house.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

White cloths cover up the furniture. Pictures line across the wall. Several small cardboard boxes lie on the floor.

The light scans across the room and then stops. It backtracks to the room entrance. Something, half-hidden, sits behind the wall.

Zack struggles to see what it is as he focuses the light closer to it. Closer. And closer.

SUDDENLY, the thing moves! Zack yelps. He stumbles backward and drops his flashlight.

WILL What is it?!

ZACK Ah....nothing. Nothing.

Mike picks up the flashlight and shines into the house. The light goes back and forth across the room, and rests on the same spot near the room entrance. Nothing sits there.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mike turns to Zack with a confused look.

MIKE You sure?

ZACK Ya. Ya, 'course. Ya.

WILL What? No. Let's just go back.

MIKE

Go back?

WILL Yes. Go back. Trust me, your brother's not in there. He's long gone. For what....three years?

MIKE

One.

WILL Ya, whatever. It's not your fault you lost your brother. We don't have to do this!

MIKE

Then don't.

Mike smashes the window with the flashlight.

MIKE (CON'T) Zack, you comin'?

Zack stares at Mike for a moment. He then eyes Will, who shakes his head no.

Without waiting for a response, Mike climbs through the window.

Zack rushes through the window. Dumbfounded, Will stands outside the house and looks around in the field. Not a single sign of life.

WILL

Jesus Christ!

Will climbs through the window into the

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mike looks at the pictures on the wall with his flashlight. Most of them show a smiling 40ish man with receding hairline and a sad child. But each of them shows a different child.

Zack and Will stay near the window.

WILL (CON'T) See? There's nothing here. Let's go.

MIKE

Shhh!

Nervous, Zack shines his flashlight around the room.

Mikes picks up a picture: the same man with a child. Mike touches the child's face in the picture. He shows the it to Zack and Will.

WILL

God, no.

Mike sets down the picture. He kneels beside one of the cardboard boxes and begins to open-

STOMP! STOMP! The ceiling shakes from what sounds like running footsteps. Children crying emerges from upstairs.

ZACK What the hell?

Mike gets to his feet and runs towards the stairs. Zack follows right behind.

WILL No way I'm going up there. Mike and Zack stand on top of the stairs. The running footsteps and crying come from the end of the hallway.

MIKE

Joel?

ZACK Man, that's not Joel. I'm pretty sure that's not Joel. Com'on, Mike. We should get outta here.

MIKE What's wrong with you? You're like Will now. Where's the Zack I know?

ZACK I gotta tell you, man. There's definitely something in this house. Think about it, he killed himself and the kids. They're haunting the house!

MIKE I thought you said it was a rumor.

A figure suddenly dashes across the hallway! Mike and Zack turn to that direction. Mike runs down the hallway.

ZACK

Mike! Stop!

Zack chases after Mike.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Will, at the bottom of the stairs, stares up.

WILL

Hey, what's going on?

With a worried look, Will climbs the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mike reaches the room where the figure enters into. The room is empty except for a bed and some small cardboard boxes.

Zack catches up to Mike. Just as they realize there is nothing in the room, BANG- The door behind them slams shut.

Will runs to the closed door and tries the doorknob. It fails to open. Will knocks on the door.

WILL Hey guys, what's going on in there? Let me in!

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS
Zack tries to the doorknob, but it doesn't turn.

ZACK Will, it's stuck!

WILL (O.S.) This is not funny! Open it up!

ZACK I told you. It's stuck!

Will's door pounding becomes louder and faster.

WILL (O.S.) Oh god! Open the door, please! Oh my god! No....no....nooooooo!

Mike and Zack both tries to turn and pull the doorknob. They turn. Pull. And turn again. But to no avail.

Will's agonizing scream pierces Mike and Zack's ears.

Suddenly, the pounding and screaming stops. Silence.

MIKE Will? You there?

Silence. Zack puts his ear close to the door and listens. Still nothing.

POUND! POUND! Zack jumps back from the door. With eyes wide open, he stares at Mike.

Mike slowly reaches the doorknob. And turns. The door opens a small crack.

Mike peeks through the crack. He sees the hallway but no sign of Will. He opens the door just a little more-

A figure passes by!

Mike quickly closes the door and breathes heavily.

Is Will out there?

Mike shakes his head and motions Zack to go under the bed.

ZACK (CON'T)

What?

Mike puts his finger on his lips: Shh....

Zack and Mike duck under the bed and wait.

From their POV, the door creaks open and a pair of feet appears. The figure walks across the room and passes the bed. It stops and backtracks.

The figure stands only a few feet away from Mike and Zack. They cover their mouth and try not to scream.

Suddenly, a pair of scissor drops onto the floor and slides under the bed! The scissor sits between Mike and Zack.

A hand reaches under the bed, in search for the scissor. The hand feels around and almost touches Mike. Mike shuffles backward. Finally, the hand senses the scissor and retracts.

The figure disappears to a corner of the room. Children crying gradually emerges.

From the shadow on the wall, the figure grabs a child. The child struggles but he can't break free. The figure cuts the child's hair off. The figure does this for several more children.

Zack and Mike still cover their mouth. They begin to tear up.

As the shadow begins to fade away, Mike and Zack climbs out from under the bed. The room is again empty, but with the door opens ajar.

> ZACK I told you! This is creeping me out! Let's get outta here, man.

MIKE Where's Will?

ZACK He's fine. Let's just go home. We'll wait till morning and get more people here.

Mike ignores Zack and walks out of the room.

INT. HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

ZACK Hey, don't you remember you got me into this crap! I'm not looking for Will.

MIKE You want to do this in the first place.

Mike imitates Zack's expression.

MIKE (CON'T) Oh, those haunted houses are so fake. We need to go to a real one this year.

ZACK Screw you! We wouldn't have been here if not for Joel. It's your brother, not mine.

MIKE Ya, I lost my brother on purpose just so we can get here and scare the crap out of us.

Mike sighs.

ZACK Hey, I didn't mean to-

MIKE No, you didn't. It's just me. I just- You know how it feels when bad things happen to someone because of you? (a beat) I just want to do the right thing.

Scissor-cutting sound comes from the master bedroom at the end of the hallway.

Zack and Mike shine their flashlight into the master bedroom. They creep down the hallway.

INT. HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room fills with small cardboard boxes along the wall.

Zack and Mike focus their flashlight on a figure with his back away from them. The figure sits in the middle of the room. His head has patches of missing hair.

The figure suddenly grabs and pins down something, raises his scissor, and begins to cut. Short hair falls out in front of the figure.

As Zack and Mike get nearer, they realize the clothing of the figure. It's Will!

MIKE

Will?

ZACK Hey, Will!

Will doesn't hear them. He continues with his cutting.

Mike and Zack call Will's name again with no response. Zack gets close to Will and spins him around.

To his horror, Will's hairline recedes and his eyelashes and beard are almost gone! Nothing is in front of Will. Will continues to cut his own eyelashes. Zack slaps Will's shoulders.

> ZACK (CON'T) Will! Can you here me? Wake up, buddy! Wake up!

Will's suddenly eyes turn white. He grabs onto Zack's long hair and cuts off a strip. Zack struggles away from Will and falls over the small cardboard boxes.

Hair of different types: blond, dark, brown, long, short, curly, straight spill onto the floor from the boxes.

Will quickly kneels to the ground and shovel the hair back into the boxes.

Mike leaps onto Will's back. Will wobbles forward.

MIKE Go Zack! Go get help!

Zack gets back onto his feet and runs away.

Will struggles, pushes Mike on the floor, and chases after Zack.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Zack tries to get out from the broken window. But an invisible wall blocks him.

Zack turns around and sees Will at the bottom of the stairs.

Zack grabs his flashlight and throws it to the window. The flashlight goes straight through. Zack tries to stick his hand out of the window but again something blocks him.

Will, scissor in hand, walks into the living room with a sneer.

ZACK

Will! Wake up! It's me, Zack!

Will closes on Zack into a corner. Will raises his scissor-

Mike kicks the cardboard boxes and more hair falls out. Will turns around and shovels hair back into the boxes.

Mike runs pass Zack and climbs out of the window.

MIKE Zack, let's go! ZACK

I can't!

Zack sticks his hand out and shows Mike the invisible wall that blocks the window. Mike, confused, sticks his hand out and it goes through the window.

Mike peers behind Zack. Will kneels on the ground and picks up hair. Realization washes over Mike's face.

> MIKE Your hair! He cut your hair and you can't get out!

ZACK What the hell is this?!

Mike climbs back into the house.

Will falls to the ground, face down, unconscious.

Mike and Zack kneel beside Will and pat him. No response.

Zack suddenly grabs Will scissor and cut Mike's hair. Zack sneers and begins to cut his own hair.

MIKE Zack! No! No!

Will grunts as he tries to get up.

WILL What the hell happened?

MIKE We'll be here forever.

WILL

What?

MIKE We'll be here forever.

Mike and Will sit across from Zack as he continues to cut his long hair out. Zack puts his hair into one of the cardboard boxes on the floor.

FADE OUT.

THE END