

THE HALLOWEEN SQUAD

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EXT. STEPHANIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

This is an older two story home in an old suburban development. It's decorated for Halloween. We can hear Halloween activity on the street.

TOM (17, hoodie and cheap Batman mask) walks up to the house and RINGS THE DOORBELL.

STEPHANIE (16, vintage cheerleading outfit) opens the door and smiles at him.

STEPHANIE

Hey.

TOM

Hey.

STEPHANIE

I'm feeling overdressed now.

TOM

You look great.

STEPHANIE

You were right that my grandma still had some of my mom's old stuff. I'm surprised it fits.

TOM

Vintage cheerleader is hot.

Stephanie shuts the door and they walk off the porch onto the street.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

They walk together. Things are little awkward between them. Like they're just friends but both want to be more yet neither is brave enough to make the first move.

TOM

So. Your first Halloween in your ancestral homeland?

STEPHANIE

My what?

TOM

Ancestral homeland. Because your grandparents live here and your mom grew up--

STEPHANIE  
I get it. But this still isn't my  
home. I'm from Florida.

TOM  
I'm sorry.

STEPHANIE  
Don't be, Tom. Let's just find a  
party and have a good time.

TOM'S CELL PHONE RINGS. He looks at the caller ID.

TOM  
Shit. It's my Mom.

STEPHANIE  
Go ahead and answer.

TOM  
I'll be right back.

He answers the phone and walks off.

STEPHANIE  
(under breath)  
I wish my mom could call me.

TINA (O.S.)  
Cool costume.

Stephanie turns and sees TINA, MALLORY, and LAURA (17, white,  
also in vintage cheerleading costumes). Stephanie gives them  
an awkward smile.

STEPHANIE  
Thanks. I like yours too.

TINA  
You look familiar. Do we know each  
other?

STEPHANIE  
I'm Stephanie. I just moved here  
from Florida two weeks ago.

LAURA  
I think she's in my biology class.

STEPHANIE  
I'm not taking biology.

TINA

It doesn't matter. You look like you're one of us and that's all that counts. I'm Tina and that's Mallory and Laura.

MALLORY

Where are you going tonight?

STEPHANIE

My friend Tom is taking me to a party.

TINA

Where is he?

STEPHANIE

He's right there.

Stephanie turns but Tom is gone.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Well he was right there.

LAURA

Looks like he ditched you.

MALLORY

That's cold.

TINA

You can come with us if you want.

STEPHANIE

Where are you going?

TINA

We're also going to a party. You can catch a ride with us since you look like you're part of the squad.

Stephanie checks out the surroundings.

STEPHANIE

I don't see a car.

TINA

It's around the block. We're just out right now to do a little trick or treating and pregame.

Laura pulls out a shiny flask.

TINA (CONT'D)  
You down?

STEPHANIE  
Maybe later.

She looks for Tom.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)  
I should really find my friend.

TINA  
You'll find him at the party.  
There's only one in town.

MALLORY  
The Lilco woods.

STEPHANIE  
Lilco woods?

Tina grabs Stephanie's hand.

TINA  
You can catch a ride with us. Come  
on.

Stephanie is pulled along. She looks over her shoulder one last time for Tom but he is no where.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The Four Girls march together with Stephanie at the end, next to Tina. Laura and Mallory pass the flask between each other.

TINA  
Girls! Don't be rude.

Mallory offers the flask to Stephanie.

STEPHANIE  
I'm okay for now.

Tina grabs the flask and takes a swing.

TINA  
You don't drink?

STEPHANIE  
Not really.

TINA  
Your loss.

She takes another swing and passes the bottle to Laura.

STEPHANIE  
What's in that?

TINA  
Whiskey.

STEPHANIE  
You guys don't look too well.

Stephanie is right. Tina, Mallory, and Laura all appear pale.

TINA  
We're fine.

MALLORY  
Let's try this house. I know they  
have those bite size snickers.

LAURA  
Just because they had them last  
year doesn't mean they'll have them  
again.

TINA  
Only one way to find out.

Tina leads the group to an Older House that looks less  
updated than the rest on the block. Stephanie follows them.

EXT. OLDER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tina drops back to Stephanie as they walk to the house. She  
seems to look even paler than before.

She offers the flask to Stephanie again.

TINA  
I'm so happy that you're able to  
join us this year.

Stephanie does a double take at the flask. It's scratched and  
dented.

STEPHANIE  
If you're all drinking then who is  
going to drive?

TINA  
Don't worry. I'm a really good  
drunk driver.

Stephanie pushes the flask back to Tina.

STEPHANIE  
I'm okay for now.

They all reach the porch. Tina rings the DOOR BELL.

The door opens. An OLDER LADY (60s, white) smiles as she greets the Trick or Treaters. That smile quickly turns to shock.

TINA  
Trick or Treat?

Tina, Mallory, and Laura all have cut up faces and arms with blood oozing out. Only Stephanie is normal.

The Older Lady's mood turns from shock to anger as she registers the girls.

OLDER LADY  
You think this is funny?

Stephanie notices the sudden change too. She goes white with fear.

TINA  
It's Halloween.

MALLORY  
Trick or Treat, lady.

OLDER LADY  
You girls are sick and should be  
ashamed of yourselves.

She slams the door on them.

MALLORY  
I guess she's getting a trick then.

TINA  
We can come back later. Let's go.

Stephanie remains frozen in place.

TINA (CONT'D)  
Come on.

STEPHANIE  
How did you guys do that to your  
faces?

MALLORY

Do what?

LAURA

Yeah? What are you talking about?

TINA

Someone's getting confused that  
it's Halloween. Let's go Jenny.

She touches Stephanie. Stephanie pulls away.

TINA (CONT'D)

My car is right here.

There's a Volkswagon Bug parked on the street that was not  
there before.

STEPHANIE

I'm not Jenny.

TINA

Of course you are. You look just  
like her.

MALLORY

We've been waiting a long time for  
you to come, Jenny.

The three girls surround and herd Stephanie towards the car.

STEPHANIE

I think I'm going to go home.

TINA

It's time, Jenny. You are home.

TOM (O.S.)

Hey!

Stephanie breaks away and runs to Tom. She grabs him.

TOM (CONT'D)

What happened to you?

STEPHANIE

You disappeared and then I ran into  
these girls.

She points back to Tina, Mallory, and Laura.

TOM

What girls?



Stephanie looks back. They're gone.

STEPHANIE

There were three girls in  
cheerleading outfits that were just  
here right now in a Volkswagon Bug.

TOM

I didn't see anyone.

STEPHANIE

I swear.

TOM

You were by yourself yelling at  
thin air.

The Older Lady steps out of her house.

OLDER LADY

Where did they go?

TOM

You also saw them?

OLDER LADY

There were three other girls with  
her and then they just disappeared.  
They were all dressed up as those  
girls that died in a car accident  
on Halloween back in 1996.

STEPHANIE

What?

OLDER LADY

You see that tree? Four high school  
cheerleaders were drinking and  
driving, lost control, and slammed  
into that tree. Three of them died.

STEPHANIE

I'm sorry. I didn't know.

OLDER LADY

But you dressed up just like them.

STEPHANIE

This was my mom's old outfit. I  
didn't have a costume so I figured.

The Older Lady studies Stephanie.

OLDER LADY  
Are you Jenny McArdle's daughter?

STEPHANIE  
Yes.

OLDER LADY  
You look just like her.

A chill runs down the Older Lady's spine.

STEPHANIE  
She passed away last months. Did you know her?

OLDER LADY  
I know of her. Your mother was the forth cheerleader in that car.

TOM  
Holy shit.

OLDER LADY  
If I were you, I would stay in for the night.

She walks back to her house and closes the door. We hear a DEAD BOLT lock.

TOM  
I swear I didn't see anyone.

STEPHANIE  
Just take me home.

She grabs his arm, afraid to let go. They walk into the night.

The camera pans down the street. Parked in the darkness is the Volkswagon Bug with it's engine running. The headlights turn on and it starts to drive.

FADE TO:

An old newspaper article about the car crash. Next to the photo of the wreck are high school senior portraits of Tina, Mallory, and Laura.

FADE TO BLACK.