

TRUTH OR DARE

Written by

Me

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JAYDEN (12) sits on the floor. A game console in his hands. A horror role playing game plays on the large screen TV. SPOOKY sounds. Horrific images.

Jayden's face is expressionless. Eyes moody. Dark.

KITCHEN

BRYNN CARTER (35). Her looks are her number one thing, perfect hair, perfect make-up, lots of jewelry. She puts plates, silverware and a can of soda on a tray.

MIKE CARTER (38), handsome with a well practiced salesman's smile and trendy clothes, pours wine into two glasses.

Brynn pulls a pizza out of the oven.

MIKE

(whispers)

I just don't see why we have to watch him all weekend. I mean, you and Janelle aren't even friends. Just coworkers.

BRYNN

(whispers, annoyed)

Jeez, Mike. She had to go to a funeral and no one else could watch him. It's only two days. Show a little compassion, will you.

Mike makes a sour face, drains one of the wine glasses in one gulp. Refills.

LIVING ROOM

Brynn carries the pizza tray into the room.

BRYNN

Here comes the pizza.

Jayden stays focused on his game. Mike saunters in with the wine glasses and bottle in hand.

BZZZZZZ! POP!

The electricity goes out. The room is thrown into darkness.

Muffled sounds as Brynn and Mike bump into furniture.

BRYNN

Oh crap. The electricity. Don't worry, Jayden, we'll get some candles right away. Right, Mike?

MIKE

I'm on it. No need to panic.

BRYNN

Jayden, are you okay?

JAYDEN

I'm fine. I like the dark.

A distant thunderclap is heard.

LATER

Rain pours outside. Occasional lightning flashes.

The room is lit up by numerous candles. Cozy, romantic, spooky...

Mike and Jayden eat pizza. Brynn digs out a monopoly game from a cupboard.

BRYNN

Since there is no TV, I thought maybe we could play monopoly.

Mike checks his cell phone constantly. Brynn turns to Jayden who meets her gaze with an emotionless face...dark eyes.

JAYDEN

I don't like *bored* games.

Embarrassed, Brynn puts the game away.

BRYNN

Of course not. How silly of me.

She sits back down, eats a slice of pizza. Awkward silence.

Mike produces a sarcastic smirk, drinks some more.

MIKE

I guess we can tell each other camp fire stories.

Jayden continues to eat, shows no emotion.

JAYDEN
I like truth or dare.

Brynn and Mike both look to Jayden with a cocked brow. Brynn nods with approval, happy he offered up a suggestion.

BRYNN
Truth or dare! Very good, I like that!

MIKE
Okay. Not too bad.

Brynn's enthusiastic. She grabs three bread sticks, breaks them apart behind her back. She holds them out.

BRYNN
Whoever gets the long one gets to start.

Mike picks one of the sticks. Brynn looks at Jayden.

BRYNN
C'mon Jayden, pick one.

Jayden doesn't. He continues to eye her without emotion.

JAYDEN
I want to be the one who asks first.

Mike's annoyed, drops his stick on his plate. Brynn places the other sticks down on her plate.

BRYNN
Okay. That's fine. Go ahead, you start.

A tiny smirk appears on Jayden's lips. He turns to Mike.

JAYDEN
Truth or dare?

Mike weighs it, shrugs.

MIKE
Truth.

Jayden pins him with his dark eyes.

JAYDEN
Are you happily married?

Mike and Brynn are taken aback by the question. They share an uncomfortable glance.

MIKE

Yes. Of course I am.

Mike turns to Brynn.

MIKE

Truth or dare?

BRYNN

Dare.

Mike brainstorms.

MIKE

Okay, dance for one minute without music.

Brynn smiles, gets up, starts to dance.

Jayden watches with that same blank face. No smile in sight.

Brynn goes on. With no laughter or comments, her dancing gets awkward to watch. Painful even.

Embarrassed, Brynn stops. She sits down, drinks some wine, then turns to Jayden with forced enthusiasm.

BRYNN

I guess it's your turn, Jayden.
Truth or dare?

JAYDEN

Dare.

BRYNN

Great! I've got a good one. Without telling us who it is, reenact your favorite movie character from your favorite movie.

Jayden nails this impression.

JAYDEN

A census taker once tried to test me. I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice chianti.

Brynn stares horrified at Jayden. Mike is impressed.

MIKE

Hey kid, that was pretty good!

Jayden turns to Mike.

JAYDEN
Truth or dare?

MIKE
I guess I'm due for a dare.

JAYDEN
I don't like lame dares. I like truth.

Mike chuckles, annoyed.

MIKE
Okay, truth it is.

Jayden sits quiet for a moment, studies, Mike.

JAYDEN
How old is Lucy?

Mike does a double take. Brynn is confused.

MIKE
What was that?

JAYDEN
How old is Lucy? The girl you keep snapchatting with.

Mike scoffs. Brynn stares at Mike.

BRYNN
What is he talking about, Mike?

MIKE
I have no idea.

JAYDEN
She keeps sending pictures of herself...from the bath tub.

Mike's turn to be horrified.

JAYDEN
I'm guessing she's only a few years older than me.

Brynn glares at Mike.

BRYNN
Let me see your phone.

Mike jumps up, takes a step back.

MIKE

What the hell, Brynn! You're gonna take that creepy kid's word instead of mine?

Brynn's pissed, holds her hand out.

BRYNN

If you have nothing to hide, Mike, then give me your phone.

MIKE

This is ridiculous! Of course I have nothing to hide!

Jayden watches with sinister amusement.

JAYDEN

(to Brynn)

Are you hiding anything?

Brynn turns to Jayden. Cautious.

BRYNN

...No, I'm not.

JAYDEN

What did that pregnancy test you took this morning say?

Brynn gasps, stares at Jayden, then at Mike.

MIKE

Brynn?

BRYNN

What pregnancy test? I don't know what you're talking about.

JAYDEN

So, you're not going to tell him this time either?

Mike glares at Brynn.

MIKE

What the hell is he talking about?

Angry, Brynn gathers up the dinner stuff.

BRYNN

I think we've had enough of this game.

JAYDEN

You haven't answered my question.

BRYNN

Well, guess what kid, I don't have to answer your questions!

Brynn storms out of the room with the dinner tray. Mike turns to Jayden.

MIKE

What isn't she telling me? Is she pregnant? Is that it?

JAYDEN

She's already made an appointment for the abortion.

Mike is sickened.

MIKE

Brynn!

Brynn stomps back into the room. She pierces Jayden with a hate filled gaze.

BRYNN

You crazy little creep. Why couldn't you have stayed with your grandma or something?

Jayden smirks.

JAYDEN

Because, no one likes the truth.

MIKE

Brynn, is this true?

She stares hard at Mike.

BRYNN

Is it true that some girl is sending you nude pictures of herself?

They both turn to Jayden.

MIKE

Who told you this?

JAYDEN

No one. No one needs to. Everyone
leaves evidence behind. It's in
your eyes. In the way you interact.

Mike edges closer to Jayden. Dominant. Threatening.

MIKE

Truth or dare?

JAYDEN

We're not playing anymore.

Mike steps even closer.

MIKE

(angry)

Truth or dare?

Jayden swallows, but remains defiant.

JAYDEN

Truth!

Mike grins. Angry.

MIKE

Since you see so much, can you see
what I'm going to do to you?

Jayden takes a step back. Mike follows.

JAYDEN

You wouldn't...

MIKE

Wouldn't what?

Jayden backs up another step. Mike tightens his fists.

MIKE

I wouldn't what?

JAYDEN

You wouldn't --

Mike has Jayden up against the wall.

JAYDEN

-- dare.

FADE OUT: