

WHAT WAS THAT

by

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FADE IN:

EXT/INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Covered wall-to-wall with Halloween decorations: A HAPPY HALLOWEEN banner, skeletons, witches, ghosts, vampires, bats, spider webs, Michael Myers, Jason.

The last two guests, BILL and LYDIA, head out the open door. They're costumed as a vampire and a witch, respectively.

ASH and SID greet them.

The ripped shoulders on Ash's Bride of Frankenstein costume reveal the 25-year-old's rainbow tattoo.

Like Ash, Sid is also 25. She is dressed up as a sexy Frankenstein's Monster if he were given a Twilight makeover.

LYDIA

Thanks for inviting us, Ash.

BILL

Yeah, it was fun.

ASH

Are you guys okay to drive?

BILL

We'll be fine.

LYDIA

I only had half a glass.

BILL

Leaves my body within fifteen minutes.

SID

Okay, as long as we don't see you on the news.

ASH

Bye, guys.

Ash blows them a kiss and waves. Sid closes the door.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ash sighs and yawns. She removes her Bride wig, revealing her cute pixie cut.

ASH

I don't know how, but we did it. Our first Halloween since my grandmother died.

SID

I told you it'd be a breeze. For the first time, we were actually happy.

ASH

I don't think I've ever been this happy in my life.

Sid goes into the coat closet and pulls out a ladder. She takes down the HAPPY HALLOWEEN banner.

SID

I didn't believe you when you said she was that bad. My God, she was a monster!

ASH

Me, an Aquarius and she, a Scorpio. What was God thinking?

SID

Scorpios are the worst.

Sid takes down a ghost and a bat. She puts the bat in her right hand and points to a vampire with her left.

Sid and Ash share a laugh.

ASH

Exactly.

SID

Hey, what did we do with the box for the decorations?

ASH

I can't remember.

Ash thinks for a beat.

ASH

The bedroom. Oh, um, I might be a while.

SID

I don't blame you.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

FLUSH. Ash sighs in relief.

She goes to the sink to wash her hands. She waits for the water to warm up. She tests by touching it. Just right.

She applies hand soap and scrubs away. She hums Charles Gounod's "Funeral March for a Marionette."

Suddenly, after the fourth bar, a BLOOD-CURDLING, CACKLING, FEMALE SCREAM.

Ash jumps out of her skin. She clutches her heart and catches her breath.

ASH  
What was that?

Trembling, Ash waits a beat before speaking again.

ASH  
Sid, was that you?

No reply.

ASH  
Sid?

Ash dries her hands.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Ash investigates the scream. She scans the area.

ASH  
Sid?

She heads into the bedroom, just long enough to grab the decoration box, then returns.

ASH  
Sid, honey, are you alright?

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ash returns.

Sid throws the ghost and bat into the box, along with her Frankenstein Monster flattop wig, revealing her beautiful, long, red locks.

SID  
Thanks, Ash. The makeup was getting hot.

ASH  
Are you alright? I thought I heard a scream.

SID  
What scream?

ASH  
You didn't hear it? The scream. The one that sounded like--

Another BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM.

ASH  
Exactly like that!

SID  
Like what?

ASH  
Are you deaf, Sid?

Ash tries to imitate the scream.

SID  
Is this some kind of Halloween  
prank, 'cause I'll kick your ass if  
it is.

ASH  
No, Sid, listen to me. I heard  
something when I was in the  
bathroom. I thought you were hurt.  
Are you sure that was all the  
guests?

SID  
Bill and Lydia were the first to  
arrive and the last to leave.

ASH  
You sure?

SID  
I checked off everyone on the list.

ASH  
And it wasn't you?

Sid shakes her head.

ASH  
Sure as hell wasn't me.

A loud noise that resembles FLATULENCE.

ASH  
That wasn't me, either.

SID  
What wasn't?

Ash awkwardly smiles and laughs.

ASH  
Sid, did you just f... f...

SID  
What, Ash?

ASH  
I know I didn't far--

The front door SWINGS OPEN and SLAMS SHUT. Ash jumps.

ASH  
What was that?

SID  
I didn't hear anything?

ASH  
Can you hear this?

Ash snaps her fingers, claps, sings, anything to make noise. She starts to panic.

SID  
Clear as a bell.

Ash tries to compose herself.

ASH  
Probably just crappy acoustics. I told you we needed foam panels.

White light flashes from the window.

Ash rushes towards it.

ASH  
Come here. Quick!

Sid climbs down as quickly as possible.

INT/EXT. DIJON RESIDENCE - WINDOW - NIGHT

Ash sees bright, flashing white strobe lights. And an ugly WITCH HAG. The creature cackles.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ash can't believe her eyes. Sid seems completely unfazed.

ASH  
Look outside! What is that?

INT/EXT. DIJON RESIDENCE - WINDOW - NIGHT

The Witch Hag and the flashing lights are gone. Only a white sedan remains.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sid raises one eyebrow and shrugs.

SID  
Our car? In the driveway? With  
nothing out of the ordinary  
happening?

ASH  
Sid!

SID  
You're losing it, Ash. We've been  
bobbing for apples and drinking too  
much. I think you need some rest,  
sweetie.

Ash trembles. Her voice shakes.

ASH  
I know what I heard. I know what I  
saw. Or at least I think I do.

SID  
You know what it could be? P-T-S-D  
flashbacks. Past trauma. I'm  
worried about you, Ash.

She and Ash share a hug. And then a kiss.

ASH  
Thanks, baby. Maybe you're right.  
The party lasted till almost  
midnight.

Ash yawns.

ASH  
What about you?

SID  
I can go maybe another hour. And  
besides, just in case you're  
right... I'll be here to protect  
you.

A RUMBLING THUNDERCLAP, the kind you hear in horror movies.  
Ash and Sid both jump.

SID  
What the that?

Ash is incredulous.

ASH  
That's the one you heard?!

She yawns. Her eyelids droop and blink rapidly.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ash lies in bed, now dressed in white pajamas, all of her makeup removed.

Sid kisses Ash on the forehead.

SID  
Sweet dreams.

Sid exits, turning off the light behind her. Pitch black.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sid puts away the last decoration, Michael Myers. The only thing left that evokes Halloween is her Frankenstein Monster costume and makeup.

She takes a long look at the room to savor the moment.

Her eyes point toward the ceiling. She sighs with worry.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sid washes off her makeup, the sink filling with a gray shade of green.

Her natural face is beautiful beyond words.

She dries off with a towel.

She pauses. She has an idea.

She kicks off her shoes. Takes off her socks.

Removes her costume, one piece at a time.

Her bra. Her underwear. Her buttocks resemble a nice, soft Georgia peach. Just above her posterior is a rainbow tattoo that matches Ash's.

She runs the SHOWER WATER.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ash, bathed in blue light, sleeps peacefully. After a beat, the light fades out.

The room is pitch black.

Suddenly, a flash of white light. The Witch Hag appears behind her, watching over her and cackling.

The light again fades to pitch black.



Another flash. This time, the light sustains for several beats. The witch SCREAMS, her mouth not moving. A wicked grin fixed upon her hideous, warty face.

The witch transforms into an angry, OBESE WOMAN.

OBESE WOMAN

I've got a bone to pick with you!  
Ashley Michelle Dijon! That's it,  
no TV! Don't ask me why! Don't  
answer a question with a question!  
You've lost your room! Because I  
said so! That's why!

The woman's words repeat several times. They echo around the room, gradually distorting into a gravelly cackle as the woman transforms back into the witch.

The scene is a Technicolor nightmare. Red bleeds into purple into blue.

The witch pulls out a bloody ax from behind and raises it above Ash's head.

Another SCREAM. Ash jolts awake.

ASH

Sid!

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Sid, now wearing a robe, wraps a towel around her head.

ASH (O.S.)

Sidney! She's here!

Sid's eyes widen.

SID

Ashley?

She races out of the room.

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Sid barely has time to catch her breath.

SID

Coming, Ash!

Sid's eyes widen in horror as...

INT. DIJON RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The cackling Witch Hag swings her ax downwards toward Ash.

SID

Nooo!

She sprints toward the witch and swipes her ax.

Sid swings the ax tauntingly.

SID

Come on, Ash. Let's show this  
prehistoric bitch how we do things  
in the suburbs.

ASH

You can see her now?

SID

Every ugly inch of her.

Sid swings the ax.

SPLOOSH! The Witch Hag is instantly beheaded, gushing blood like she's Old Faithful. The entity disappears into dry ice that forms from under and behind the bed.

Ash and Sid are both in tears, once horrified, now relieved that their nightmare appears to be over.

They share a long hug and kiss.

The Suspiria colors fade away in favor of natural tungsten.

Sid's voice breaks and quivers.

SID

I'm sorry, Ashley.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

BOY (V.O.)

Trick or treat!

ASH

At two o'clock?

Sid opens the window.

SID

Hey, kid! It's a school night!

She and Sid share one last grin and laugh.

FADE OUT.

THE END