

THE PHANTOMS

Written by

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*How do you survive against something **you can't see?***

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The lot is dead. A stern private military contractor dressed as a DELIVERY MAN (35) watches vehicles speed by on the road.

Something in the delivery van shakes the rear doors violently, trying to break out. The man stares at traffic, unfazed by the noise.

A phone in his pocket gets a text: "Now"

He unlocks the rear doors, snatches them open.

A Phantom (a naked bioengineered zombie with blue skin) glares at him and foams at the mouth like a rabid dog.

The man signals for the Phantom to get out the van. It hops out and looks around the lot for people.

The man points at traffic. The Phantom turns invisible and sprints to the road, feet clashing against the ground.

The man puts on "normal" glasses. He sees the Phantom.

The man sighs and lowers his head, grieved by what he's done. He quickly wipes away his emotions and slams the rear doors.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

No one's out. Wind kicks trash through the quiet lot.

The front door of an apartment is closed... The door swings open. A small, untrusting teenager, CHARLOTTE WRIGHT (17), rushes out with a pink cellphone and keys.

She drops her phone on top a car. Text messages show.

MOM: *"Your dad should be there soon."*

CHARLOTTE: *"I DONT want 2 c him!"*

MOM: *"Come on, Charlotte. Give him another chance."*

Charlotte unlocks the driver door, grabs her phone --

BRIAN (O.S.)

Hey.

She spins around. Her muscular, estranged dad, BRIAN WRIGHT (35), stands with a gift. They stare in awkward silence.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Um... Good to see you again.

She glares at him. He remembers the gift, holds it up.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
I bought you something.

She hops in the driver seat. He steps towards her.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Hey, I just got here --

A horrifying scream rings out in the distance. They look towards the scream, rattled.

A confused NEIGHBOR (30s, male) peeks out a window.

Brian and Charlotte hear another scream. She clutches her keys.

Screams flood the complex from every direction.

The neighbor slowly exits his apartment, spooked. He rushes to Brian.

NEIGHBOR
What's going on?

BRIAN
I don't know.

A screaming WOMAN (20s) sprints around the corner, heads right for Brian and the neighbor. The neighbor bolts into his apartment, locks the door.

The woman slams into Brian, knocking the gift out his hand.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Hey. Calm down, calm down. What's wrong?

The woman's freaking out too much to speak. Charlotte's in her car and Brian's blocking the woman, so Charlotte can barely see what's going on.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Just calm down and tell me what happened. Why is everyone screaming?

The woman calms down, opens her mouth to speak -- a Phantom chomps down on her neck.

The woman's blood shoots out on Brian. Charlotte doesn't see the attack.

The woman thrashes around and howls in pain as the Phantom bites her.

Brian backs up in shock, almost tripping on his foot.

CHARLOTTE
What's going on?

The woman drops to the ground dead, falling in view of Charlotte. Charlotte gasps, covers her mouth.

Brian watches blood drip from the Phantom's mouth.

PHANTOM POV: The Phantom cuts its eyes at Brian. The Phantom leans to the side, spots Charlotte.

Charlotte sees the blood dripping from the Phantom's mouth, screams out.

The Phantom stomps towards the car. Its foot kicks the gift.

Brian snatches open the passenger door, jumps in the car.

BRIAN
Drive!

Charlotte cranks on the car. Her hood flies open.

PHANTOM POV: The Phantom rips her engine to pieces.

Charlotte and Brian hear the engine being ripped apart. She tries to drive off, but her car dies.

The woman on the ground disappears slowly, turning into a Phantom. Brian sees her disappearing.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
What the --

The first Phantom bangs on Charlotte's window. She jumps, screams.

Brian eyes his truck that's across the lot. Too far. He looks to the apartment door.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Come on, we're going inside.

CHARLOTTE

What!?! I'm not going out there!

PHANTOM POV: The first Phantom watches Charlotte. It bangs on her window repeatedly.

BRIAN

We'll be safer inside.

Charlotte stares at her window as the first Phantom bangs. She shakes her head at Brian, looks back at her window.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Trust me.

Charlotte whips her head to Brian, shocked. She frowns, glares at him.

CHARLOTTE

Trust you!?

Brian opens his mouth to speak, stops.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I'm calling the cops.

BRIAN

If whatever's going on is happening around the city, nine-one-one's gonna be backed up.

Charlotte ignores Brian, dials 911 hopeful. The hope drains from her face.

The first Phantom shatters the window, and Charlotte screams.

Brian grabs Charlotte, pulls her out the car through the passenger side.

Brian rushes Charlotte towards the apartment door -- the woman Phantom grabs Brian's arm.

Too strong for the woman Phantom, Brian pulls away, slinging the Phantom. It crashes into the car's passenger side.

Brian grabs Charlotte's hand -- the first Phantom grabs Charlotte's other hand. She freaks out.

Brian and the first Phantom pull on Charlotte, like a terrifying tug of war.

Unsure what to do, Brian swings his fist, striking the first Phantom. It stumbles back. They hear it drop to the ground.

Brian grabs Charlotte's hand.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian bursts into the apartment, holding Charlotte's hand.

He swings the front door to shut it -- the woman Phantom's arm stops the door.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

PHANTOM POV: The woman Phantom pushes against the front door.

PHANTOM POV: The first Phantom runs to the woman Phantom, and they push against the door.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian struggles to keep the Phantoms outside. They shove the door open, knocking Brian back.

The Phantoms rush in, feet clashing against the floor.

Brian grabs Charlotte, flees to --

CHARLOTTE'S ROOM

The room is full of pink, girly things and high school books.

Brian runs in, gripping Charlotte's hand. He locks the door. The Phantoms ram against it.

Charlotte paces, panicking. Brian watches the door.

CHARLOTTE

We're gonna die... We're gonna die.

Charlotte cries. Brian rushes over, hugs her.

BRIAN

We'll be ok. I won't let them get you.

Charlotte snatches away from Brian.

CHARLOTTE

Yeah, sure! Whatever you say!

BRIAN

This isn't the time.

CHARLOTTE
It is the time since we're gonna
die!

BRIAN
(infuriated)
You're not dying! I'm not letting
that happen!

Charlotte stares at Brian, hoping what he said is true.

HALLWAY

PHANTOMS POV: The Phantoms hammer the room door with their
fists and shoulders.

CHARLOTTE'S ROOM

Charlotte and Brian hear the door crack.

CHARLOTTE
Dad.

He looks around, thinking of a plan.

BRIAN
Hide in the closet.

CHARLOTTE
In the closet?

BRIAN
Yeah. You'll be safe in there while
I kill them.

She looks at the window.

CHARLOTTE
Let's just climb out the window and
run.

BRIAN
No. We won't get anywhere on foot.

Charlotte stares at the closet unsure. He grabs her arms,
looks her in the eyes.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
I promise you'll be safe.

She thinks a few seconds, nods. She rushes into the closet,
shuts the door.

He hears the room door crack again. He grabs a cricket bat.

Brian cautions to the door. He opens the door, backpedals. The Phantoms barge in.

Hearing their feet against the floor, Brian looks down.

Brian swings the bat wildly, striking both Phantoms with one swing.

Brian hears the Phantoms hit the floor. He thrashes them with the bat. Blood flies from the Phantoms, covering Brian, the walls, and things.

Brian stops striking the Phantoms. Their dead, naked bodies turn visible.

Brian kicks each Phantom a few times, making sure they're dead. They don't move.

Brian looks at the closet.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

It's safe.

Charlotte steps out the closet. She sees the bloody Phantoms and covers her mouth, disgusted.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Brian sticks his head out the front door, checks the lot. It's dead. He exits with Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE

What do we do now?

He ponders.

BRIAN

Find your mom, then get out of the city. My brother has an underground shelter. We'll be safe there.

She smiles. They get in his truck. As he drives off, they hear noise at the complex's main exit.

The noise grows louder, louder, and louder.

Brian and Charlotte watch the exit...

A swarm of Phantoms stampedes into the lot, trampling trash on the ground. The sound of their feet is deafening.

PHANTOMS POV: The Phantoms charge at Brian and Charlotte.

Brian slams on the gas, plows through the swarm. Phantoms bounce off the truck.

Brian speeds off into the night.

END