

Scare Actors

Maddy "Gos" Goshorn

A1S1 INT. HAUNTED HOUSE LOBBY - NIGHT

A dark and dusty room exists in silence. The silence is interrupted by a couple of YOUNG GIRLS walking through the front door of a seemingly abandoned house.

YOUNG GIRL #1
The old Turner house. This place is
kinda famous around here.

As the girls pass through the doors they're unaware of a CREATURE waiting in the shadows.

YOUNG GIRL #1 CONT.
Have you never heard of this place?
This house has been abandoned for like
ever. There's tons of ghost stories.

As the girls take their first few steps into the house the Creature gets closer.

YOUNG GIRL #1 CONT.
(Spooky voice)
Spirits still roam the halls just
waiting for...

The Creature makes a low growl behind them. The girls turn around slowly.

YOUNG GIRLS
AHHHH!

The Young Girls run, holding on to each other.

A1S2 INT. FOREST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

YOUNG GIRL #1
(Off Screen)
C'mon this way.

The Young Girls enter into a room with small trees, bushes, and draping cobwebs. The door behind them slams shut. The Young Girls turn around to face the doors that they just entered.

YOUNG GIRL #2
Did it follow us?

While their backs are turned, two figures emerge from the small bushes. One is a man with tattered bloody clothes and a giant crow's head, and the other is a shimmering swamp

creature. The creature with a crow's head reaches out towards the girls.

The Young Girls slowly turn around, and scream.

YOUNG GIRLS
AHHHHH!... Hahaha

The young girls run pass the monsters laughing and exit the room. The crow creature's shoulders slump, and then he removes his head. DANIEL (23) sighs heavily and massages his neck.

DANIEL
Geesh this mask is killing my neck.

JORDAN (24) remove's her swamp monster mask with gusto.

JORDAN
Ugh, I don't want to hear it. You're gonna have to stop me from stripping down and traumatizing these children. This suit does not breathe and I am sweating out an ocean. Thank god I'm not wearing anything under it.

DANIEL
Anything?

JORDAN
Absolutely nothing.

DANIEL
What are you doing? ... they like, never wash those costumes.

JORDAN
Never?

DANIEL
...Yeah.

JORDAN
...like in years?

DANIEL
...Decades...

JORDAN
Oh... my god. Dan! I can't stay in this! I'm telling Harper.

DANIEL

No, Jordan! Please don't leave me!

JORDAN

No! This swamp monster is not sitting in this primordial soup for another second. This is probably how Tanya Roberts got a UTI.

Jordan walks out of the room.

DANIEL

I'm pretty sure it wasn't.

JORDAN

(Off Screen)

Oh just shut your dumb bird mouth!

After Jordan leaves the room, the lights flicker and the room's audio is interrupted with static and muffled pleas of help.

DANIEL

That's weird.

ALS3 INT. OFFICE - DAY

MS. KEYS (35), lackadaisically sits at her desk and reads from a resume.

MS. KEYS

Five years of secretary work with no gaps of unemployment. A Bachelors in Communications. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications... but no experience in performance.

Sitting across from Ms. Keys is LYNN (22) with a nervous smile sitting at the edge of her seat.

LYNN

Well Mrs. Keys.

MS. KEYS

MS. Keys, or you can call me Harper.

LYNN

Sorry, MS. Keys. I actually did some musical work back in the day.

MS. KEYS
Really that sounds impressive. What shows did you do?

LYNN
Well...It was less of show, and more of a... pageant.

MS. KEYS
...Like a beauty pageant?

LYNN
I played a... Tree. In the second grade.

MS. KEYS
Hmm.

LYNN
But I freaking nailed it.

Ms. Keys puts down the resume and crosses her hands.

MS. KEYS
I'm sure you did... So tell me a bit about yourself Lynn. How did you hear about this job?

Lynn thinks hard about her next words.

LYNN
My Dad told me about this place, he said the building had a lot of history, and an indescribable allure to it.

MS. KEYS
Really?
(Under her breath)
Well, that could have something to do with the black mold.

LYNN
What?

MS. KEYS
Don't worry about it, well I must say your resume is impressive.

LYNN
Oh, well thank you!

MS. KEYS

But... a little too nice for this job. We normally have college kids, and... eccentrics... Why would YOU want to work here? You certainly have experience to work a better paying job. Actually, I think the dentist down the street is looking for a receptionist, I'm sure they could better utilize your skills.

LYNN

Yes... well. I'm... a big fan of the spooky scary. I thought it sounded like fun.

Ms. Keys becomes energetic and scoots her chair closer to her desk.

MS. KEYS

Really? Me too! I love the classics like Halloween and Child's Play. Do you listen to supernatural mystery podcasts? They're all I listen to.

LYNN

... Yeah... like so many.

MS. KEYS

Oooh what's one of your favorites?

LYNN

Uhhhhh... The scary place... podcast.

Ms. Keys stares, furrows her brow. Lynn grins uncomfortably, trying not to get caught in a lie.

MS. KEYS

You know I haven't heard of that one. Let me write it down.

When Ms. Keys turns her head to grab a piece of paper, Lynn releases a sigh of relief. While Ms. Keys is turned away Lynn looks briefly at the papers on Ms. Keys' desk. She seemingly doesn't find anything of note and composes herself when Ms. Keys turns back around.

MS. KEYS CONT.

I totally understand you now. You my friend, are repressed.

LYNN
... Thank you?

MS. KEYS
Oh don't worry, we all are here. I believe everyone is trying to be someone else, someone closer to their true self. And from the look of your resume, you're looking for a change.

LYNN
I mean... Yeah. I guess you could say that.

MS. KEYS
You'll fit in just fine, can you start tonight?

Lynn smiles.

ALS4 INT. HAUNTED HOUSE BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Lynn holds a few documents in her hands. She waits in a messy backstage area, she begins looking around inquisitively, knocking on walls, and peaking behind curtains. A small VANESSA (10), with stern facial features uncommon for an average child, walks up to Lynn wearing an oversized long-sleeved jacket with "Security" printed on the back.

VANESSA
Hello.

LYNN
Awww. Hi sweetie, are you lost?

VANESSA
Excuse me? I'm your supervisor.

Vanessa offers her hand and gestures towards the paper.

LYNN
Oh! Umm yeah, here you go.

Lynn hands the papers to Vanessa. Vanessa flips through Lynn's paperwork.

LYNN CONT.
Sorry, you work here?

VANESSA
That's what happens when your mom runs

the place.

LYNN

Oh cool... So how do you like it here?
It's not too spooky for you?

VANESSA

Sweetheart I was quoting The Exorcist
at age four.

LYNN

Wow, that's really cool actually. I
bet that makes you super popular at
school.

Vanessa looks up from the paperwork, a hint of sadness in her
expression, then quickly composes herself.

VANESSA

Yeah... totally.

Lynn tilts her head.

VANESSA CONT.

Okay everything looks in order. Here's
how things work around here: Harper
may be the brains of the operation.
But I'm the muscle that holds it
together. You act up, act out, or
acting a fool, you'll have to answer
to me.

Lynn gives a smile.

VANESSA CONT.

I'm sorry. Did I say something funny?
Do I look like a funny widdle bunny to
you?

Lynn covers her mouth.

LYNN

Sorry. No, you don't look like a...
bunny.

Vanessa takes a step closer to Lynn and glares up at her.

VANESSA

Watch it punk.

Vanessa, grabs a costume and hands it to Lynn. Afterwards

Vanessa approaches Jordan sitting in front of a mirror, applying makeup, Lynn follows.

VANESSA CONT.

This is Jordan, they're in the Monster Forest with you, she'll be your guide. Don't worry, Jordan is the real deal. I'd take a bullet for her.

JORDAN

And you slay queen.

Vanessa and Jordan fist bump, afterwards Vanessa walks away, but not without giving the "I'm watching you" gesture to Lynn.

JORDAN CONT.

I love that little turd. Hi, nice to meet you, I'm Jordan.

LYNN

Lynn.

Lynn looks over Jordan's shoulder at Vanessa.

LYNN CONT.

So, she's a lot.

JORDAN

My god, I love her intensity. I lost my eye-liner the other day, and Vanessa played an excellent bad-cop trying to find the culprit. She was flipping chairs and throwing cups.

LYNN

Wow that sounds... adorable.

JORDAN

So freaking cute. Anyways, what are you dressing up as?

Lynn holds up the costume.

LYNN

I don't know? It kind of looks like a futuristic bondage suit?

JORDAN

Oh, you're the new swamp mermaid.

LYNN

Ahh of course. What is that?

JORDAN

Harper likes to create a few creatures of her own. I personally don't think they're very inspired, they feel like a cheap gimmick.

LYNN

What are you dressing up as?

JORDAN

This is my own creation. You've heard of a Mummy? I'm a *Daddy*.

LYNN

Mhmm.

JORDAN

You can put that judgement away. I'm a performing artist, and Harper is super nice to let me express myself here, from time to time. Sometimes she says my art is too much. But THAT'S how you know its art.

LYNN

Yeah... that makes sense. So, I'm gonna go change.

Lynn stands up and holds up her costume, a slim elastic body suit no bigger than a pair of pantyhose.

LYNN CONT.

I'm not sure I'll fit into this.

JORDAN

It'll fit. Just, ya know, make sure to wear your underwear.

LYNN

Yeah obviously.

JORDAN

Yeah... obviously.

Lynn walks away to change.

A1S5 INT. CHANGING BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Lynn enters a small square space with black curtains creating a nook of privacy. She hangs up her coat on a nail on the wall, and seemingly loosens something from the other-side of the wall. Something clunky falls. Lynn perks up, and investigates the wall. She crouches down and raises the curtain, revealing a small secret door.

Lynn looks over her shoulder and opens the small door. She peers in.

Lynn sees a long stretch of foundation girders in a two foot tall crawl space. Inside are old metal cans, and piles of aged paper and books.

She feels around and a book falls from just above the secret door. Lynn reaches in and takes the fallen book.

A strong wind blows from the crawl space, and past Lynn.

JORDAN

(Off Screen)

Hey! Are you almost finished in there?

Startled, Lynn closes the small door and puts back the curtain.

LYNN

Uh yeah, one second.

A1S6 INT. FOREST ROOM

Daniel sits and silently scrolls through social media on his phone. He sees friends and strangers traveling and living adventurous lives all around the world.

Afterwards he looks up to examine his surroundings. The room is much less impressive with the lights on. He reaches out to touch a vine decorating the room, and it falls off the wall.

DANIEL

Whelp. That seems about right.

JORDAN

(Off Screen)

Sorry we're late.

Daniel puts away his phone.

DANIEL

No biggie, you made it. What... are you wearing.

Jordan walks in wearing a risque Mummy outfit.

JORDAN

I'm your ancient Daddy, King Butt. You know like King Tutt.

DANIEL

Daddy?

JORDAN

You can be a lady Daddy.

Lynn trails in, pulling her skin-tight body suit at her joints.

JORDAN CONT.

And this is Lynn, doesn't she look great?

Daniel gives Jordan a disappointed look. He glances at Lynn and gives a double take, followed by a soft smile.

DANIEL

She does look great. Hi I'm Daniel.

LYNN

I'm Lynn. Also thank you? ...Nifty place here.

JORDAN

(Mouthing to Daniel)

Nifty.

DANIEL

So Lynn, it's nice to meet you. Have you ever done scare work before?

LYNN

No.. but I've scared people away, like from my life. So that has to count for something.

Jordan nods.

JORDAN

Nice.

The lights flicker and sound comes muffled through the speakers again.

LYNN

What is that?

JORDAN

We noticed that yesterday.

DANIEL

My theory: I think it's the thinning of the veil between realities, stretched between this world and an alternate timeline.

JORDAN

I think it's Ms. Keys trying to mess with us.

DANIEL

That's probably what's happening.

The lights stop flickering, and the sound softens and stops.

LYNN

Has Ms. Keys had the house for long?

DANIEL

We've been coming here for the past five years. So, at least that long.

LYNN

And what about before that? Who owned the house six years ago.

JORDAN

I don't know. Who cares?

LYNN

I'm just curious is all.

DANIEL

About building ownership?

JORDAN

Did Vanessa convince you to join her "task force?" Because that doesn't pay extra.

LYNN

Well...Okay, I admit I'm not... really

here to scare.

Jordan's stance shifts to a defensive stance.

JORDAN

You're not here... to do your job?

LYNN

It's a long story, but I just found this book, and actually I was thinking I might sneak away to do a little research.

DANIEL

Research? That sounds cool!

JORDAN

(Leaning in to Whisper)

No it doesn't. Shut it you simp.

Daniel waves off Jordan.

DANIEL

C'mon, I'd love to hear what you're researching.

Lynn looks uncertain and guarded, but continues.

LYNN

Okay, I'll admit I'm kind of in over my head... my dad used to do cold case research. He would travel all over the world and ghost write these novels about murder cases from decades ago. And, I'm working on a case my dad didn't finish.

Lynn pulls out a newspaper clipping.

LYNN CONT.

This house used to be a foster home. And in 1922, twenty foster kids and their foster guardians were all murdered here.

Jordan looks concerned. Daniel looks interested.

DANIEL

So what happened?

LYNN

Well the police think it was a break-in. But, that would probably make a lot of noise and some people should have been able to escape. My dad thinks it was someone who knew the family.

DANIEL

Wow. So what are you going to do?

LYNN

Solve the case... I guess. I found this journal under the house.

JORDAN

Under the house?

DANIEL

Not gonna lie, this is the coolest thing that's ever happened here.

JORDAN

Child murder?

DANIEL

No, I mean a mystery! How can I help?

LYNN

No offense guys, but I'd rather do it on my own. It's um... like a special activity to bond with my dad.

JORDAN

But your dad isn't here.

Lynn is taken aback.

DANIEL

Jordan, c'mon. Be nice.

JORDAN

I'm just saying, if you want to slack off at work, you can just be honest. You don't need to give this whole daddy/daughter speech.

Lynn becomes rigid and defensive.

LYNN

You don't get it. That's okay, I didn't need your help in the first place. So I'll just do my own thing.

Lynn takes the newspaper clipping, the old book from beneath the house and begins to walk out of the room.

DANIEL

Wait Lynn!

LYNN

Look I don't think I can work here right now, I'm gonna talk to Ms. Keys about scaring somewhere else tonight. So, bye.

Lynn leaves the room. Daniel tries to follow her, but as soon as he does the lights go out and the haunted house's ambience begins to play.

JORDAN

Dan, just leave her. She clearly needs some space.

Daniel turns back to Jordan.

DANIEL

Dude why were you being so mean?

JORDAN

I'm being mean? I'm not the one casually bringing up child murder. Who is this girl? Ted Bundy?

DANIEL

She's just a little odd. Some people would call US odd too you know.

JORDAN

I'm just saying, I like fashion design, she likes murder. They're not exactly the same.

Daniel and Jordan put on their face masks and take positions to scare.

ACT II

A2S1 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Vanessa lays on the floor drawing in a notebook. The festivities of the haunted house can be heard muffled through the walls. Vanessa draws anime characters holding swords and doing cool poses.

The lights flicker, and some wind blows through the room. Vanessa sits up and looks around.

VANESSA

Hello?

Vanessa sits upright. We hear the smallest whisper of FRIEND (??) from an undisclosed place, its voice is quiet and shifts between friendly and scared.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

Hello.

VANESSA

Where are you?

FRIEND

(Whispered)

Over here.

Vanessa looks at the west wall of the office.

VANESSA

I don't see you. Are you in the wall?

FRIEND

(Whispered)

Yeah, I'm in the walls... and floor...
and ceiling. What are you doing?

Vanessa stands up and walks along the office wall trying to find where the voice is coming from. But every time she thinks she's close, the voice seems to come from another wall.

VANESSA

I'm just drawing. But, you're not supposed to be here. You should get back to the house path.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

No, no, no, no, no. Don't tell me to leave. That makes me so sad.

VANESSA

I'm sorry I don't make the rules.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

What if... What if we hang out like friends? Then can I be here?

Vanessa stops walking.

VANESSA

A friend?

FRIEND

(Whispered)

Yes! A friend! I want to be your friend.

VANESSA

I... don't have many friends.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

See it's perfect!

VANESSA

... Okay. That sounds like fun. What's your name?

FRIEND

(Whispered)

You can just call me... Friend.

VANESSA

That's a dumb name.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

What's your name?

VANESSA

Vanessa.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

Well I think that's a dumb name.

Vanessa smiles.

VANESSA

Nuh-uh. Friend's a weird name.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

Yeah huh. You're the weird one. What were you drawing?

Vanessa and Friend continue to talk while Vanessa walks around room.

A2S2 INT. LYNN'S HOME - MORNING

Lynn sits at a coffee table, shifting through newspapers. Trying to cross examine the journal with a newer looking notebook, getting frustrated in the process. The house is messy with papers and photos pinned on the walls with red string connecting them.

LYNN

Your notes don't make any sense!

Lynn throws some papers to the ground. She pulls up the newer looking notebook, and sighs.

LYNN CONT.

I swear I read your notes, and I feel like you're talking about a drug trip. "I've never encountered anything like this. Lingering voices of the past still have much to disclose. Further communication may bring peace to the injustices of the forgotten." Why are you so pretentious!

Lynn looks up and around, focusing on a picture of her dad on the wall.

LYNN CONT.

Why did you even do this whole cold case thing... Heck, why am I doing this?

Lynn stares at the photo, and after a few seconds, takes a breathe and stands up. She looks around the room. She walks up to the photos and papers pinned to the wall.

LYNN CONT.

I guess, I need more resources.

A2S3 INT. HAUNTED HOUSE BACKSTAGE - DAY

Lynn sneaks through the empty backstage area. She peaks around the corner and slips into the changing booth.

A2S4 INT. CHANGING BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Lynn closes the curtain behind her, places a large bag on the ground, and lifts the curtain to reveal the secret door.

She puts a small flashlight in her mouth and opens the door. Lynn crawls inside to investigate. She collects a few books in one hand and continues to crawl. Once she thinks she has a hand full, she turns towards the secret door.

MS. KEYS

What are you doing?

Lynn is startled, and drops the books and flashlight. Ms. Keys peers through the secret door.

LYNN

Don't scare me!

MS. KEYS

Don't scare you? You're the one sneaking through MY house! You scared me! What are you doing here?

LYNN

I... had dropped my phone in here yesterday, so I came back to find it.

MS. KEYS

In this? What even is this, a crappy basement? You dropped your phone in here? Alright, c'mon get out, you're fired.

LYNN

Hold on.

Lynn looks around, desperate for an explanation.

LYNN CONT.

I can explain... I'm the haunted house critic "Bloody Betty," and I'm going to give this place a great review. Five Screams out of Four, you really sold the... floor aesthetics.

MS. KEYS

Get out!

LYNN

Okay, sorry. I'm not a critic. But I can explain why I'm currently under your house. If you'll hear me out.

Ms. Keys gives a small sigh.

MS. KEYS

It better be a really good reason.

A2S5 INT. OFFICE - DAY

Ms. Keys sits at her desk. Lynn paces around the room and occasionally points to the newspaper clipping and journal that are currently splayed out on the desk.

LYNN

So that's where I'm at right now. The girl who wrote this journal, Judy, talks about feeling unsafe while living in this house. But she jumps around to different parts of her life, and sometimes the entries sound more like a dream/nightmare. So it's unclear what happened first, or what happened at all.

Ms. Keys sits thoughtfully with her hands crossed clearly taking in all the information. Lynn picks up the journal and flips to a bookmarked page.

LYNN CONT.

Here listen to this, "I'm so scared all the time. I can't remember a time when I wasn't. Ever since I came here two months ago, I feel like someone is always watching me, even when I'm alone, or think I'm alone. Do you think the feeling is angels watching over me? When why do I feel so afraid? Judy."

Lynn puts down the book.

LYNN CONT.

I think Judy was one of the foster kids here. Unfortunately her details are pretty vague. But, that's why I was under the house, I was looking for more accounts of what happened. Records of when kids were here, pictures, really anything to help cross reference the accounts in the journal.

Ms. Keys uncrosses her hands and leans in.

MS. KEYS

So, you're telling me that people, children, were murdered here.

LYNN

Yes.

MS. KEYS

That's fantastic!

LYNN

...What?

MS. KEYS

We couldn't ask for better publicity! And no one knows about this story?

LYNN

Well, no. The police think it was a break-in gone wrong.

MS. KEYS

And you just found out about this within a day? That's amazing! Oh my gosh, we should do a seance! Vanessa!

Ms. Keys starts to gather supplies.

LYNN

Uh... no. I don't think that would do any good.

MS. KEYS

Why not? You're looking for more resources, why not ask the source itself? Vanessa?

LYNN

I don't think it'll do... anything.

MS. KEYS

Look I can't pass up the potential of actual ghosts in my haunted house. Now c'mon, grab those candles.

LYNN

I don't think... I need to be there.

MS. KEYS

I hear you, but I'm going to have to insist.

LYNN

Why?

MS. KEYS

Because you'll know what to ask the ghosts, and also you were like stealing. So I don't want to have to report you...

Lynn is shocked, but concedes.

LYNN

That's... fair.

MS. KEYS

Great! I'll go get things set up!

Ms. Keys steps outside the office.

MS. KEYS CONT.

(Off Screen)

Vanessa? Can you help me set up a seance? Mommy's going to talk to the dead.

Lynn gathers her papers and journals.

LYNN

Looks's like something's strange in the neighborhood.

Lynn stands up and walks out of the office.

LYNN CONT.

Who you gonna call?

A2S6 INT. FOREST ROOM - DAY

Ms. Keys sets up a circle with different odds and ends of candles. Lynn sits on the floor cross legged and uncomfortable. Ms. Keys is now dressed up in a red hood and black dress.

LYNN

This all looks really nice.

MS. KEYS

Thank you, I've been doing seances since I was sixteen. I'd like to think I've gotten pretty good at them.

Ms. Keys walks over to a camera on a tripod a few feet away from the circle. She presses record on the camera.

MS. KEYS CONT.

Now Vanessa was going to record this, but I couldn't find her. But no biggie, we'll just have to make sure not to move around too much.

LYNN

Do you know where Vanessa is?

MS. KEYS

Oh she's probably fine, she disappears sometimes.

Ms. Keys brings an Ouija board to the circle and sits down across from Lynn.

MS. KEYS

Alright, here we go. Go ahead and put your hands on the planchette.

Lynn, a little annoyed, touches the planchette. After Lynn does, Ms. Keys puts her hands on the planchette as well.

LYNN

Yeah, okay.

Ms. Keys gets very quiet and closes her eyes. Lynn begrudgingly follows suit. They're silent for a few moments.

MS. KEYS

Go head sweetie.

LYNN

Me?

MS. KEYS

Yes, when you talk to the spirits you'll form a bond with them. Just go ahead and ask your questions, from the heart please.

LYNN

Sure...Uh... Hi. It's great to meet you. I'm Lynn. This is...

MS. KEYS

The Grand Vampiress of Monterey.

Lynn opens her eyes, and gives Ms. Keys a disapproving look.

LYNN

Yes, and I'm here to ask you some questions.

MS. KEYS

Make sure to ask if that little girl is here.

LYNN

Sure... is Judy here? Judy Croyle. I read your diary. That makes me sound like an a-hole, but I wanted to ask you some questions...

Lynn and Ms. Keys sit in the circle silently for what feels like a long time.

LYNN

Whelp, I don't think it's working. Good try though.

MS. KEYS

Hold on, you said a lot of people died here. Why don't you ask if any of them are here?

LYNN

...Sure. Are there any dead kids, or dead adults here? We're not picky.

MS. KEYS

Maybe sound a little more polite when-

The speakers for the room turn on, playing spooky forest music. However, static occasionally interrupts and a voice comes through.

LYNN

How did you do that?

MS. KEYS

I'm not doing that.

GHOST

(Static Speaker)

Who...Don't...RUN...Look Out...Help

Lynn and Ms. Keys look at the speaker.

MS. KEYS

What the f-

The door to the dark forest slams shut.

ACT III

A3S1 INT. HAUNTED HOUSE BACKSTAGE - DAY

Vanessa is laying down on her tummy on the floor. She's flipping through her notebook and talking to Friend in the wall.

VANESSA

And Nezuko never takes off the muzzle, otherwise she'll probably eat her brother.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

And she helps her brother fight demons?

VANESSA

Sometimes, but she can't go out into to sunlight.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

Me too!

VANESSA

Maybe you're a demon.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

Oh no... I'm not a *demon*.

Off screen Vanessa hears the front doors open, and looks up from her drawing.

VANESSA

Hold on, it could be trespassers.

Vanessa stands up to hide inside the changing booth, she brandishes a rusty chain prop. Jordan and Daniel walk in.

DANIEL

So you're going to dress up like a gay alien?

JORDAN

I prefer homo-sextra terrestrial. It's two statements in one outfit.

DANIEL
I'll take your word for it.

Vanessa pops out from the changing booth.

VANESSA
Stop right there criminals.

JORDAN
Vanessa! I know you're young, but do not profile us sweetie.

VANESSA
You literally are trespassing right now.

DANIEL
C'mon boss, the door was open. And we work here.

JORDAN
We're trying on a new costume of mine.

VANESSA
Are you guys going to be in the costume together?

DANIEL
No.

JORDAN
Although now that you mention it, there are some ideas I could play around with.

The lights begin to flicker.

DANIEL
What's going on?

JORDAN
Maybe it's a brown out?

DANIEL
Maybe? Vanessa where's your mom?

LYNN
(Off Screen)
AHHH!

Daniel and Jordan turn towards the scream.

DANIEL

Oh my God.

Daniel instinctively runs out of the room.

JORDAN

Vanessa, hide here. Call 911. Don't
you dare, follow us.

Jordan runs after Daniel. Vanessa stays behind.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

They really don't want you around huh?

Vanessa looks down dejected, and goes to hide in the changing
room.

A3S2 INT. FOREST ROOM - DAY

Lynn is pulling at the slammed door. The lights in the room
continue to flicker.

LYNN

Okay I'll give you credit, these are
really good effects, I'm sorry for
sneaking around your house. You can
stop the show now.

MS. KEYS

Girl, I wish our effects were this
good. But I think you were rude to the
ghosts, and now they're mad at you.

LYNN

No they're not!

MS. KEYS

What makes you so sure?

LYNN

Because that's dumb!

MS. KEYS

Wow, Okay, you're upset. Just come
join me in the circle, let's try and
calm them down.

LYNN

Fine! I'll play the stupid game.

Lynn rejoins Ms. Keys in the circle.

MS. KEYS

Okay, let's ask the ghost what they want.

LYNN

What do you want?

MS. KEYS

Gentler please.

LYNN

Could you please, tell us what you want, please?

With both Ms. Keys and Lynn's hands on the planchette, the piece begins to move across the board.

LYNN

H... E... L... P.

MS. KEYS

It needs help, I think it's scared.

LYNN

Okay. So what? What do we do?

MS. KEYS

Well, personally when I'm scared, I like to be comforted.

LYNN

If you're the expert why aren't you talking to it?

MS. KEYS

Because I'm the boss and I'm asking you to do it.

LYNN

Seriously?

The door to the Dark Forest starts banging. The doorknob jiggles, but does not open.

DANIEL

(Off Screen)

Hello? Are you okay? We heard screaming?

JORDAN

(Off Screen)

Also, we didn't consider maybe you're fine and doing consenting adult things. So if that's happening... let us know.

LYNN

No! Please open the door! It's stuck or something.

MS. KEYS

Lynn upset the spirits and they trapped us inside.

LYNN

I didn't want to talk to them in the first place!

Daniel and Jordan are silent.

JORDAN

(Off Screen)

If that's code for something that's fine. Just let us know if we should go.

LYNN

Please open the door!

DANIEL

(Off Screen)

I can't!

The lights in the room go out. The sound in the speakers plays through muffled static.

GHOST

(Static Speakers)

So... alone... play... PLAY!

DANIEL

(Off Screen)

What's happening?

LYNN

I don't know! This is really freaking me out, and I don't know what to do. What do I do!

Lynn breathes heavily and quickly. Lynn closes her eyes as

her thoughts pushed to her Dad.

A3S3 INT. LYNN'S HOME - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Lynn thinks about her Dad, the mess he left behind, and the people he left behind. How alone she felt when he was gone.

Lynn walks into her disheveled Dad's home. She walks around the room, attempting to connect to something left behind. But ultimately sits on the floor, alone, and cries.

DANIEL

(Off Screen)

Hey it's going to be okay! I don't know what's going on. But we're here, okay! We're here for you.

A3S4 INT. FOREST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lynn opens her eyes, her thoughts coming back to the present.

JORDAN

(Off Screen)

I'm sorry I was rude yesterday. I didn't understand you, but we're here for you now.

Lynn looks around the room. Ms. Keys looks at Lynn with a soft smile.

MS. KEYS

You're doing great.

Lynn closes her eyes and concentrates.

LYNN

(Whispers to herself)

It's going to be okay. Sometimes we're alone. And that's okay. You have people that care about you.

The wind picks up with one last gust and settles, and the lights turn back on. The speakers fade. But not before one last voice passes by Lynn's ears.

JUDY

Thank You.

The door opens and Daniel and Jordan burst in.

DANIEL
Hey, you okay?

Lynn stands up and gives Daniel and Jordan a big hug.

LYNN
Thank you guys.

JORDAN
What the heck happened in here?

MS. KEYS
Lynn had her first spiritual
encounter! And we got it all on tape!

Ms. Keys stands up and goes to check on her camera.

JORDAN
...Mm-hmm.

MS. KEYS
Although we didn't get any answers
from them. Maybe we should try again?

LYNN
How about no thank you.

Ms. Keys shrugs.

MS. KEYS
Either way, we got some great footage
for the house! You take a break, we'll
talk more later. Bye!

Ms. Keys leaves the room.

JORDAN
Cold! You had a panic attack and she
just walked right out?

DANIEL
Hey, you are okay right?

LYNN
Yes. Thank you guys. I really...
appreciated your help back there.

JORDAN
Ms. Keys says you talked to the dead?

LYNN

I don't know what happened back there. The lights were flashing, and the nosies were coming through the speakers. And it wasn't Ms. Keys who was making them... It was nuts! But you guys really helped me get through it. And I'm sorry for pushing you away yesterday.

Lynn pulls out the journal.

LYNN CONT.

I could use some more help, if you guys still want to give me hand.

Daniel takes Lynn's hand.

DANIEL

Whatever you need.

JORDAN

Can I ask why you care so much about this thing?

DANIEL

You don't have to, if you don't want to.

JORDAN

Just don't say it's a fixation on the child murder.

Lynn takes a moment to compose her thoughts.

LYNN

My dad passed away not too long ago. I didn't know him growing up, he left the family when I was a kid. Now, I've spent time being hurt, and being mad, but I still don't understand why he left me and mom in the first place. Growing up, I'd read his books and it kind of felt like he was... still in my life. But now that he's dead. I guess I just want to know what was so great about chasing mysteries. And why was it so much more important to him than being my dad.

JORDAN

I feel like a total jerk. I had no idea that your dad had passed.

LYNN

It's okay, you had no idea. I wasn't exactly broadcasting it. I came to town because my mom asked me to take care of his unfinished affairs, cleaning his house, and stuff. That's when I found the small research he had done on this house and the murders that had happened here. At this point, I just want to solve this mystery, and put all the drama behind me.

DANIEL

Hey I get it, I know a thing or two about Daddy issues.

Daniel puts a hand on Jordan and Lynn's shoulders.

JORDAN

Did you hear yourself just now?

DANIEL

What?

JORDAN

Nevermind. We have your back.

DANIEL

When you're in the Turner House, you're family.

LYNN

Oof. That was bad.

JORDAN

Not gonna lie, a little Hallmarky.

DANIEL

I just mean- we're all here physically. And we got your back, metaphorically.

LYNN

Thanks Shakespeare. I appreciate it.

JORDAN

Well if you're feeling up to it, would you mind sewing me into a suit?

Lynn smiles.

LYNN

I might poke you a little.

JORDAN

I can take it. I'm a lot tougher than this guy.

DANIEL

Hey, I'm tough.

Jordan walks down the hallway.

DANIEL CONT.

I'm tough!

Daniel follows after Jordan. Lynn chuckles, and follows after.

A3S5 INT. OFFICE - DAY

Ms. Keys is looking down at her camera as she enters into the office. She looks up, and is startled to see words drawn on the wall.

"One Voice Does Not Speak For All."

MS. KEYS

Oh my God...

Ms. Keys' surprise is quickly replaced with excitement as she turns on her camera.

MS. KEYS CONT.

Oh my God, Oh my God!

Ms. Keys turns the camera towards her and composes herself before she records a message.

MS. KEYS

Welcome everyone, welcome to The Old Turner House. I am your mistress of ceremonies Harper Keys.

Ms. Keys turns her camera towards the bloody wall.

MS. KEYS CONT.

We have just discovered that spirits dwell HERE, and have much to say. To find out more, come stop by, we're dying to see you.

A3S6 INT. CHANGING BOOTH - DAY

Vanessa sits on the floor with her arms across her legs. Completely isolated.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

They left you behind. They forgot about you.

VANESSA

No, I think they were just busy. They think I'm independent.

FRIEND

(Whispered)

That's what I used to tell myself. Left behind by everyone. Parents, guardians, and friends. They thought they were better off without me.

Vanessa pulls out her notebook. And begins to draw herself with Friend on the other-side of the wall.

FRIEND CONT.

(Whispered)

But I showed them. I know a way that we can always be there for each other. Does that sound like fun to you?

The End