

The Shadow Man

written by

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INT. SUBURBAN HOME - OLIVE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

OLIVE (Late Teens, White) is getting ready for the day. She's already done her hair. Her backpack is packed for school, her short, blonde hair is straight and shines in the morning sun, and her pearly whites glisten as she smiles.

She's smiling down at her phone. On her phone is a message from a boy named ADAM.

The message reads:

"I can't wait to see you tonight. It's been so long..."

A tear falls from her cheek and onto the phone. She wipes it off with the sleeve of her long sleeve shirt and swiftly types a response.

"I'm so excited to see you too, babe! I'm so proud of you for serving... I might have a surprise for you when you get home! ;)"

SUDDENLY!

There's a knock at her door.

OLIVE

One minute!

She quickly poses for a... less than modest photo of herself. She exposes her cleavage, winks, sticks her tongue out, and takes the shot.

ANOTHER knock at her door.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

Hold on!

She quickly sends the photo, adjusts her outfit to look more modest, and shoots up from her bed.

Olive walks over to the door just as it opens to reveal...

Her father AARON (Early 40s, White).

AARON

Olive, you're going to be late...

He looks around the room and at her. He notices that her bags are packed, and she's dressed and ready for school.

AARON (CONT'D)

Oh... you're ready.

Olive exits her room.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MORNING

OLIVE

I've been ready for the past hour and a half, Dad. What about you?

AARON

Young lady, I was in bed by nine o'clock last night, and I've been up since five o'clock this morning. Do you have any idea what time it is?

OLIVE

Yeah, I do. It's six o'clock, and you're still not ready.

AARON

What do you mean?

OLIVE

Where's Evan?

AARON

Crap!

A woman appears behind Aaron and scares him. He jumps and lets out a less-than-manly scream.

It's his wife and Olive's mother, TABITHA (Late 30s, White).

AARON (CONT'D)

Jesus! Tabitha, why?!

Olive and Tabitha bust out laughing as Aaron tries to recompose himself.

OLIVE

She gets you every time.

TABITHA

That never gets old. Also, to answer your question Olive, I already got Evan out of his crib. He's downstairs eating breakfast like you two should be!

AARON

Your mom's right! Enough dilly-dallying! To the kitchen!

They all playfully hurry downstairs to the kitchen to eat breakfast.

MOMENTS LATER

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Tabitha and Aaron have prepared a beautiful, gourmet spread of bacon, scrambled eggs, and pancakes.

Aaron is drinking his coffee and doing a crossword puzzle at the kitchen table.

Tabitha is finishing up Olive's lunch by the refrigerator.

Olive finishes a homework assignment on her laptop and sits next to her dad.

EVAN (9 Months, White) is sitting in his highchair attempting to eat scrambled eggs with his hands, and it's not working out well...

OLIVE

Hey, Dad?

AARON

Yeppers?

TABITHA

What have I told you about saying, "yeppers"?

Aaron lets out a dramatic sigh.

AARON

Yes, dear daughter of mine?

He laughs at himself.

OLIVE

Can you help me out with this last homework question? It's for U.S. Government...

AARON

Olive, you know it's unethical for me to help you with your homework. It's unfair to the other kids in your class who are working hard for their education.

OLIVE

Dad, please? I just need to know who serves as the jury during an impeachment trial.

TABITHA

It's The Senate, baby.

Olive quickly types out the answer and submits her assignment.

OLIVE

Thanks, Mom!

Olive checks the time, closes her laptop and gathers her things.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

The bus will be here soon! Love you guys!

TABITHA

Be safe, Olive! Don't forget your lunch.

AARON

Text or call us if you need anything, please! What time is Adam coming over tonight?

OLIVE

I'll text you guys the details later, but it should be around five!

Olive rushes around and gives her family hugs before she bolts out the door and heads down the street to the bus stop.

AARON

She's really excited to see Adam.

TABITHA

Of course, she was! She reminds me of another girl her age who had a boyfriend in the military.

AARON

That was years ago, hon.

Tabitha walks over and lovingly hugs Aaron and kisses his cheek.

TABITHA

And look where we are now...

AARON  
Happy with a family and careers we  
love. I love it so much.

Tabitha sniffs and looks over at Evan.

TABITHA  
There's one thing that would make  
me happier...

AARON  
And what would that be?... Oh God,  
what's that smell?

Aaron looks over at Evan.

AARON (CONT'D)  
Oh no... no! I got the last one!

Tabitha is already walking towards her downstairs office.

TABITHA  
Thank you! I owe you one!

She smiles and blows him a kiss.

AARON  
Damn, right you do!

Aaron sets down his pencil and takes a sip of his coffee.

He looks over at Evan.

AARON (CONT'D)  
You think this is hilarious, don't  
you?

Evan giggles and accidentally knocks over his plate of  
scrambled eggs. They land on the floor with a goopy thud.

Aaron sighs and facepalms.

EVAN  
Uh oh...

INT. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MORNING

Olive is walking to her first class of the day. She's bopping  
to the song "Straightjacket" by Quinn XCII. The music swells  
to the chorus as she coasts through the hallways of her  
school.

Students are stopped by their lockers and are all gathered around. Some are staring at their phones, some are staring at her, but all are laughing.

Olive is approached by her friends, PATRICIA (Late Teens, White) and SARIEYAH (Late Teens, Black).

SARIEYAH  
Olive... OLIVE... OLIVE!

Olive stops dead in her tracks and takes out her headphones.

OLIVE  
Hey, girlies! What's up?

PATRICIA  
You need to come with us. Let's get you to class. Quick.

The girls quickly get to class and sit down at their respective desks, which all happen to be by each other.

INT. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - MORNING

There's one empty desk behind Olive, where Adam typically sits.

OLIVE  
What's going on?

Patricia and Sarieyah look at each other and then look at Olive. They both look worried.

OLIVE (CONT'D)  
Spill it!

PATRICIA  
Show her...

Sarieyah takes out her phone and hands it to Olive.

Olive's smiling, radiant face suddenly goes pale. Her smile is gone.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)  
I'm so sorry. We don't know how it got out.

OLIVE  
But... I don't even remember doing that... I was drunk!

SARIEYAH

We know. Unfortunately, they don't.

They look around the classroom, now filled with students, and see that everyone is either looking at their phones or looking at Olive.

OLIVE

If Adam sees this, then we're done... he can't see this!

PATRICIA

You'll have to tell him the truth, Olive. He deserves to know, at least.

Olive begins to quietly cry.

SARIEYAH

You're not a bad person. It was a mistake, and you weren't even yourself. It was just a kiss anyway, right?

OLIVE

Yeah... just one stupid kiss, and it didn't even mean anything. She kissed me, and then I pulled away.

PATRICIA

See? I'm sure he'll understand! Hell, maybe he'll be into it!

SARIEYAH

PATRICIA!

Sarieyah smacks Patricia on the shoulder.

PATRICIA

I'm just saying!

Olive laughs through the tears.

OLIVE

You're both right. Adam needs to know the truth. I'll tell him tonight when I see him.

SARIEYAH

What are you two doing tonight? He got home yesterday, right?



OLIVE

Yeah, but he spent the whole day with his family so we couldn't see each other, but he'll be home for two weeks, so we're going to try and hang out as much as possible before he leaves again!

PATRICIA

So... what are you doing tonight?!

Olive motions for the girls to lean in closer.

OLIVE

Well... we might finally... you know...

Patricia squeals LOUDLY.

Sarieyah SMACKS her on the shoulder again.

SARIEYAH

PATRICIA!

PATRICIA

I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'm just so excited for you!

OLIVE

Don't get too excited because we both have a lot to catch up on. And now... I have to tell him about my fuck up.

SARIEYAH

Just be 100% open and honest with him. You two have been together for two years, so I doubt that one drunken kiss will end all of that.

OLIVE

Hopefully not...

SUDDENLY!

The bell rings, and Mrs. Vasquez (40s Hispanic) enters the room.

MRS. VASQUEZ

How was everyone's Friday morning?

Some of the class groans, and the rest answer her question with various answers ranging from "good" to "shitty."

MRS. VASQUEZ

Whoever said shitty needs to see me after class, please. As for the rest of you, you're in for a treat. Today we are watching a movie!

The class erupts into gleeful cheers of happiness and applause.

MRS. VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

It's one of my personal favorites and one that I think you will all adore! It is a documentary about the United States Supreme Court!

The class groans once again, and the same voice from earlier can be heard saying, "shitty," but much louder than before.

MRS. VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

Now, just be glad that I'm not unloading a whole heap of homework on you to complete over the weekend. Watch the film quietly, and then I will let you all out early today. Deal?

CLASS

Deal, Mrs. Vasquez.

Mrs. Vasquez turns on the projector and gets everything set up. She hits play, and the documentary begins.

MOMENTS LATER

Mrs. Vasquez is asleep at her desk. The class is spread out, talking amongst themselves.

SUDDENLY!

A loud screech erupts from the screen, and a figure appears. The only visible of the strange, haunting figure is the black suit and tie it wears.

The students begin to panic.

OLIVE

Mrs. Vasquez! Turn it off!

The figure begins to slowly move towards the screen as Sarieyah, and a few of the students hurry to reach the projector on the ceiling to try and turn it off.

Patricia and a few others go over to wake up Mrs. Vasquez to no avail.

Some are trying to turn on the lights, but they won't work either.

Just as the strange figure is seemingly almost coming through the screen, one of the students rips out the plug from the projector, and it shuts off.

The lights come on, and Mrs. Vasquez finally wakes up.

MRS. VASQUEZ  
What is going on?!

The class is speechless.

MRS. VASQUEZ (CONT'D)  
Who turned off the projector? Who was it?

Ironically, it was the same kid who had been saying, "shitty" all class.

It's ERIC (Late Teens, Black).

ERIC  
It was me. There was some weird fuckin dude on the screen, and everyone was freaking out. You were OUT, Mrs. Vasquez... have a bit too much to drink last night?

Some kids in the class laugh, and some just gasp in complete and utter shock.

MRS. VASQUEZ  
ERIC! Go to the principal's office right now!

ERIC  
Psh, class is basically over anyway. I'll see you tomorrow in detention, Mrs. Vasquez.

Eric grabs his backpack and walks out of the room.

Mrs. Vasquez recomposes herself.

MRS. VASQUEZ  
Sorry about all of the craziness. You all may go. Thank you to those of you who submitted the homework assignment!

(MORE)

MRS. VASQUEZ (CONT'D)  
 For those who haven't, you need to  
 turn it in ASAP, please!

The class collectively gathers their things and head out of  
 the classroom.

Mrs. Vasquez sits down and looks at her computer screen, but  
 the figure is gone, and the documentary is back on.

INT. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MORNING

Olive and the rest of her classmates are hanging out just  
 outside the classroom. They are all still shaken from what  
 had just happened.

PATRICIA  
 Okay, whoever did that is an  
 ASSHOLE! Thanks for getting us out  
 of there, though. That documentary  
 sucked.

OLIVE  
 Seriously, does anyone know what  
 that was?

STEPHANIE (Late Teens, White) steps forward and shoves her  
 phone in Olive's face.

STEPHANIE  
 No, but we all know what this is,  
 WHORE.

Sarieyah rushes up and slaps Stephanie's phone out of Olive's  
 face.

SARIEYAH  
 Back off, Steph!

STEPHANIE  
 You're lucky my brother hasn't seen  
 this yet. How DARE you!

OLIVE  
 It was a mistake!

Other kids begin to come out of various classrooms throughout  
 the hallway.

Some teachers step out too.

STEPHANIE

He's going to find out before you see each other tonight, and you better have a DAMN good excuse!

OLIVE

It's none of your business! Leave me alone!

Olive rushes away from the crowd and runs into the women's bathroom down the hallway. Sarieyah and Patricia follow close behind.

Olive passes Eric on the way to the bathroom, and he notices her balling her eyes out as she rushes in.

ERIC

Hey, you okay?

She blows past him and into the bathroom.

INT. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL - WOMEN'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Olive runs into the last stall and locks the door behind her. She collapses on the toilet seat and just unleashes a series of loud whimpers and groans as tears stream down her face.

OLIVE

How could I be so fucking stupid?  
What's wrong with me?!

SUDDENLY...

The bathroom door opens, and a pair of male dress shoes slowly begin to move towards the stall she's sitting in.

OLIVE

What the hell... Hey! This is the girl's room creep!

The figure stops directly in front of the stall door.

Olive pulls out her phone, and she notices that she's received a text from an unknown number.

She opens the message to reveal the image of the same strange entity that she and the rest of her class had seen interrupt their documentary.

The image is in a meme format.

The text reads: "ONLY DEATH'S SWEET RELEASE WILL GRANT YOU SALVATION."

Olive's face becomes pale once again, and fear washes over her face.

The stall door in front of her begins to SHAKE and RATTLE as the lights to the bathroom figure.

OLIVE (CONT'D)  
SOMEONE HELP ME!

She puts her head between her legs and starts sobbing uncontrollably and screaming.

The lights stop flickering, and the door stops shaking and rattling. Olive looks up slowly, and everything is just as it was when she first ran into the bathroom.

Except...

Two pairs of shoes can be seen lingering in front of the door.

Olive recognizes them as the shoes of Patricia and Sarieyah.

Olive wipes the tears from her face as they slowly stop.

SARIEYAH  
Olive... are you okay? We tried to run in here, but Eric wouldn't let us in.

PATRICIA  
We pushed past him when we heard you screaming for help... What's going on?

Olive stumbles over her words as she tries to speak.

OLIVE  
I... I don't know. I just want to go home.

PATRICIA  
I'll stick with you today. The teachers here know who I am, so they won't fuck with me.

SARIEYAH  
Perks of being the principal's daughter.

Patricia playfully hits Sarieyah's shoulder.

Olive chuckles a little bit under her breath.

PATRICIA

Open the door and come out. Let's get this day over with and get you home. Okay?

OLIVE

Okay.

Olive stands up and unlocks the door. They all hug and walk out of the bathroom together.

The entity lurks behind in one of the stalls. Its dress shoes can be seen.

INT. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

OLIVE

Did you guys get a weird text too?

PATRICIA

Yeah, I think Jack and his stupid friends made a meme out of that creepy thing we saw in Mrs. Vasquez's class.

SARIEYAH

They're always making stupid jokes and putting them up on iFunny or TikTok or whatever they use. I don't use social media.

Patricia mocks what Sarieyah says, and Olive laughs.

INT. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

The girls are eating lunch in the cafeteria together when Eric approaches them.

Somewhere amongst the lunch crowd, the mysterious entity is lurking. Watching and observing Olive.

ERIC

Hey, Olive. Are you doing okay?

OLIVE

Yeah. Thanks for trying to check on me earlier. I'm sorry if I bumped into you or anything.

ERIC

It's cool. My sister used to have breakdowns just like that when shit went down. I just wanted to make sure no one bothered you.

He stares directly at Sarieyah and Patricia.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I know sometimes it's best to give a person some space.

OLIVE

Thanks, Eric. I appreciate it.

Eric nods his head and walks away.

PATRICIA

Can one of y'all remind me of what exactly happened to his sister?

SARIEYAH

She went missing when he was young. Poor guy. The parents never stopped looking for her. I still see signs posted up around town sometimes.

OLIVE

That's so terrible. I can't imagine what that must be like.

SARIEYAH

Yeah... me either.

BEAT.

PATRICIA

Anyways, did either one of you do the homework for Mr. Bigley's class?

OLIVE

I had a feeling that if we scheduled all of our classes together, you'd do something like this.

PATRICIA

Like what?

SARIEYAH

Like, use us for homework and test answers.



Patricia whips out her backpack and sets it on the lunch table. She unzips it and pulls out a RED binder.

PATRICIA

Well yeah, what else are friends for? Now help me!

Patricia and Sarieyah begin to go over her assignment for Mr. Bigley's math class. They catch Olive staring into the distance.

SARIEYAH

Ummmm, Olive?

OLIVE

What's going on over there?

The whole cafeteria begins to erupt into a chaotic conversation. Everyone is staring at a lunch table towards the front of the cafeteria by the windows.

PATRICIA

What the hell is going on now?!

The three girls approach the crowd to see what's happening and see a girl having a seizure on the front lawn. Teachers and teens who appear to be her friends are frantically trying to help her.

Medics arrive and quickly get her stabilized and take her away. One of the medics picks up her phone that she dropped and moves her into the ambulance.

He tries to examine what's on it, but just as it opens, it immediately dies.

He hands it to a girl who appears to be her sister, and they both board the back of the ambulance and drive away.

As the ambulance leaves, the entity in the black suit can be seen again standing amongst the trees on the far side of the school's parking lot.

OLIVE

Jesus Christ. What was that?

SARIEYAH

I don't know, but today needs to just stop.

PATRICIA

I'm definitely smoking a joint when I get home.

A teacher's voice pierces through the commotion.

It's M.R. BIGLEY (50s, Black).

M.R. BIGLEY

Okay, everyone! Pack up your lunches and head to class! Let's go! NOW!

The whole cafeteria gathers their belongings and heads various directions to their next class.

OLIVE

What the hell is going on today?

PATRICIA

I have no idea, but did I mention that I'm 100% getting blasted tonight?

SARIEYAH

Yes, Olive. You have numerous times.

They all head out of the cafeteria and down the hall to their next class.

The entity in the black suit can again be seen hiding amongst the crowd observing Olive. It's waiting patiently for the time to strike.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL - BUS LOT - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

The school day is over, and the buses are pulling into the bus lot to pick up the horde of students that wait for them. Olive rides bus 219.

PATRICIA

Olive! Call me if you need anything! I'll probably be too high to answer texts!

Olive laughs.

OLIVE

You got it, girlie! Love you!

Patricia blows Olive a kiss as she boards her bus.

Sarieyah approaches Olive and gives her a BIG hug.

SARIEYAH

Please hit me up if you need me at all. Unlike that psycho, I'll be sober tonight and doing homework, okay?

Olive nods, and they hug again.

Sarieyah rushes over to her bus and boards it.

Olive boards her bus.

INT./EXT. SCHOOL BUS - MOMENTS LATER

"Dark Red" by Steve Lacy begins to play.

Olive walks to the back of the bus and takes a seat. She notices that a boy in a hoodie occupies the seat across the aisle. He has his hood up and headphones in.

Based on the backpack, she can tell that it's Eric.

The bus begins to drive away with the rest of the school buses.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - LATER

"Dark Red" by Steve Lacy stops.

The bus drops off Olive just down the street from her house. She rushes over to her home, opens the door, and bolts straight to her home to get ready to see Adam.

Eric also gets off at this stop. He carefully watches Olive as she rushes into her home. He then goes towards his home, which is just on the opposite side of the street.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - OLIVE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olive rushes into her own private bathroom to take a shower.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The front door can be heard opening and closing. Aaron enters the kitchen and sets down his work binder.

He walks over to the refrigerator, opens it, and grabs a hard cider.

Tabitha walks out of her office and into the kitchen.

TABITHA  
Hey, hon! How was work?

She approaches him, and they exchange a kiss.

AARON  
It was okay. It kind of sucks that I can't really tell you about anything we do.

TABITHA  
It might be better that way, honey. Otherwise, I'd be worried all the time.

Aaron is taken aback by her comment.

AARON  
Do you mean you're not already worried sick?

TABITHA  
No, not really. I just pretend that you're always here at home, but just sleeping all day or playing video games like you sometimes do.

AARON  
You know me so well.

They kiss again.

Olive comes downstairs in a hurry. She looks absolutely stunning. Her hair is flawless, her makeup is on point, and her outfit is to DIE for.

OLIVE  
Oh, God! Ew guys!

AARON  
Olive! You look amazing!

TABITHA  
My little Olive... You look so beautiful! Adam will love it.

OLIVE  
Thanks, Mom. I appreciate it.

AARON

I'm going to get dinner started.  
I'm sure that Adam will be STARVING  
when he gets here.

Aaron gets out the supplies and ingredients for dinner and starts cooking.

TABITHA

I'm going to finish up this email  
to my customer, and I'll be right  
out! Olive, come with me real  
quick.

Olive follows her mom to the front of the office adjacent to the kitchen.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

The school called me today and told  
me about what happened. Are you  
okay?

OLIVE

I'm fine, Mom. I'm a big girl.

TABITHA

I won't push then, but just know  
that no matter what, if Adam truly  
loves you, then he'll listen to  
what you have to say. Okay? It took  
your dad and me YEARS of hard work  
to get our relationship to where it  
is now, okay? Rome wasn't built in  
a day.

AARON (O.S.)

I heard that History reference!

Tabitha smiles.

TABITHA

We're human. We make mistakes. It's  
all about how we choose to bounce  
back from those mistakes that  
define who we are. You got this,  
baby. Now, go sit down and relax!  
Okay?

OLIVE

Easier said than done, Mom. I've  
never been so nervous...

TABITHA

He's going to be so happy to see you. Go watch a nature documentary or something. Those always help your dad and me relax after a long day.

OLIVE

I think I'm done with documentaries for the day. I'm going to go lay down and listen to music. Thanks, Mom. You're the best.

TABITHA

I love you so much. Now, go!

Olive rushes up to her bedroom as Tabitha goes into her office to finish some work.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - OLIVE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Olive grabs her phone, and a pair of wireless earbuds jumps into bed and puts on some music.

"Dissolve" by Absufacto plays as we fade to Black.

STOP MUSIC.

SUDDENLY!

SMASH CUT TO:

We cut back to Olive as she lays on her bed, face up with her hands behind her head. Her eyes are closed, and she looks so peaceful.

There is a knock at the door.

TABITHA (O.S.)

Olive... baby... Adam isn't coming tonight... He said that his flight was delayed due to the weather and be in tomorrow.

Silence...

TABITHA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry, baby. Come downstairs, and we can have a family night? We can keep our nice outfits out and ironically eat a cheap-ass dinner?

Olive giggles as tears slowly descend her face.

She quickly sits up and walks over to the door.

She opens the door just enough to make eye contact with Tabitha.

OLIVE

That sounds amazing, Mom. I'll be out in just a minute. I just need some space.

Tabitha gives Olive a reassured and comforting smile.

TABITHA

Of course, we're here for you if you need anything. Okay?

OLIVE

Thanks, Mom.

TABITHA

Okay, I'll leave you be. Love you, baby.

OLIVE

I love you too, Mom.

Olive slowly closes the door and retreats to her bed.

She sits down and opens the texting app on her phone.

She scrolls through her phone until she finds Patricia's number. She opens the chat and starts typing:

MESSAGE: Hey Patricia... Adam didn't come tonight. Are you free? I know it's a school night, but I could use a friend. I'm really struggling.

Patricia opens the message and starts typing:

MESSAGE: FUCK SCHOOL!!! Be there soon, bb!! *heart emoji*

Olive laughs.

Patricia starts typing again.

MESSAGE: Me and Sarieyah r OTW!!

Olive replies with a thumbs-up emoji and puts her phone down on the table.

She goes towards her makeup desk and begins to change into pajamas and take off her makeup.

After she's clean and dressed, she takes a moment to just look at herself in the mirror.

OLIVE (CONT'D)  
Wait a minute... this is probably  
the surprise!

She then walks over to her backpack, opens it up, and takes out her planner. She opens it and flips to the day's date.'

She reads a note that's in her handwriting.

**Note:** Today is when your parents said they would surprise you!

OLIVE (CONT'D)  
Fuck, what am I supposed to do with  
my life until then?

She throws her planner down onto the ground and sits on her bed.

TABITHA (O.S.)  
Olive! Dinner will be ready in  
thirty minutes!

OLIVE  
Okay, Mom! I just need some space,  
please!

Olive rushes over to her laptop.

She takes a seat at her writing desk and opens her laptop.

She opens a web browser and types "Quick Stress Relief Meditation."

The browser pops up with a black video.

She presses play.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Aaron, Tabitha, and two girls play card games at a kitchen table. We can't see who the girls are, but it'll be revealed soon.

They appear to be playing "Headbands."

Aaron has a card on his head, and everyone is trying to get him to guess what it is. It's a ghost.



TABITHA

It's white, makes everything it touches sticky and gooey, and everyone is scared of these!

Patricia and Sarieyah BUST out laughing.

Tabitha shushes them.

TABITHA (CONT'D)

Whoever wakes up, Evan is putting him back to sleep!

They quiet down.

AARON

Honey... I don't think I really want to know what is on my head.

Tabitha gasps and blushes.

TABITHA

Oh my God!!! No! I wasn't even thinking! I couldn't turn my brain off!

AARON

I wish I could turn my brains off.

They all laugh.

PATRICIA

So, what time is Adam going to be here?

TABITHA

Well, I already told Olive that he wouldn't be here until tomorrow, but he's actually on his way now!

SARIEYAH

I guarantee y'all that she forgot that she told us to make this a surprise last year.

AARON

She'll remember when she's surprised.

TABITHA

I hope she didn't take it too personally.

She just seemed so sure that she wanted it to be a total surprise.

AARON

Honey, I'm sure that she left a note somewhere about today. She's okay.

Patricia stands up.

SARIEYAH

I'm gonna get something to drink. Y'all want anything?

PATRICIA

Which cabinet in the bathroom does Mrs. Evans keep the tequila?

AARON

Wait a minute... what tequila?

SARIEYAH

PATRICIA!!!!

Patricia quickly shushes Sarieyah. But it's too late. They can all hear her door slowly creak open. Then they hear slow and soft footsteps.

Aaron motions for the girls to hide.

They each panic and run in random directions. Patricia rushes off to the left side, which leads to the dining room. Sarieyah goes to the right side and enters the living room.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Patricia hides under the dining room table.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sarieyah hides behind a couch in the corner of the living room.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Olive slowly makes her way downstairs.

OLIVE POV:

She peaks her head down to see what's going on.

Just as she slowly peaks down into the downstairs kitchen...

The kitchen is more and more exposed as we slowly see more and more of it.

UNTIL SUDDENLY!

The lights turn off and back on.

The lights turn back on, but they're darker and more dreary.

The new lights barely illuminate throughout the entire house.

There's no one there, and it's completely quiet.

Olive is absolutely terrified. Her hands begin to tremble as she slowly walks back up the stairs.

MOMENTS LATER!

She bumps into a strange figure behind her. The mysterious figure slowly and gently places its gangly, long, gray hand on her shoulder.

She FREAKS OUT and goes running, screaming downstairs.

She makes a left and runs into the dining room.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - DINING ROOM (DARK)- CONTINUOUS

Hurriedly, she dives underneath the dining room table to avoid being seen.

The strange figure slowly enters the room's entryway and hastily walks to just within inches of where Olive is hiding.

She notices that the creature is wearing black male dress shoes.

She quickly realizes...

She had seen those shoes before.

It was the same being that had been following her all day. She and her class witnessed almost come bursting through a projector screen.

Olive is whimpering, and tears stream down her face as the creature methodically makes its way around the room. It's almost as if the monster knows that she's there and is simply torturing her.

It makes its way around the room and exits from the way it came.

Olive waits a moment to hear its footsteps retreat further and further.

And then...

She carefully crawls out from underneath the table and stays in a crouched position.

She sneakily makes her way to the opposite doorway, which leads to the foyer.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - FOYER (DARK) - CONTINUOUS

She stands up and quietly rushes to the front door, but the creature is lurking and standing mere feet away from her in the background.

She opens the front door but stops when she hears...

EVAN  
WAAAAGGGGHHH!

Evan begins crying from his upstairs bedroom.

OLIVE  
EVAN!

Olive immediately panics and, accidentally, she loudly closes the door.

The figure is gone and no longer stands there.

Olive carefully makes her way up the stairs on the left side of the foyer towards the living room.

As she slowly makes her way upstairs we...

CUT TO:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tabitha and Aaron are still standing in the same spots as they were before, but the footsteps have stopped, and an expression of pure confusion and concern has washed over their faces.

TABITHA  
Olive?...

Aaron slowly makes his way up the stairs as Patricia and Tabitha make their way back into the kitchen from their respective hiding places.

Tabitha shushes them and motions for them to stop moving.

They stop.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Aaron slowly makes his way to the upstairs hallway and cautiously walks towards Olive's room.

He approaches her bedroom door and puts his ear up against it.

He hears a LOUD THUD and tries to open the door, but it's locked.

AARON  
Olive!... OLIVE!

Aaron tries to push the door open with his pure, brute strength, but it doesn't budge.

AARON (CONT'D)  
Girls! Patricia! Get up here! NOW!

Patricia rushes up the stairs to help him open the door.

AARON (CONT'D)  
You're a wrestler, right?

Patricia nods and grabs hold of the door nob.

AARON (CONT'D)  
I need your help here. Use your whole body weight. Keep your shoulder down and head up. Okay?

Patricia nods again.

They get into pushes and charge again, but we...

CUT TO:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY (DARK) - CONTINUOUS

Olive makes her way up the stairs and turns right. As she makes her way to Evan's bedroom, Evan's crying starts to quiet and become more and more distorted.

It sounds almost... monstrous.

She cautiously makes her way towards Evan's room.

OLIVE

Evan?...

She finally approaches the door and goes to open it. As we see her slowly reach for the doorknob, we see the strange figure lingering behind her. It's still clouded in shadow as it always has been when we see it.

Her hand slowly wraps around the doorknob, and she twists. The door slowly begins to open until we...

CUT TO:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Patricia and Aaron are exhausted. They are about to make one more push into Olive's room when Evan starts crying from across the hallway.

AARON

Evan! Patricia, keep at it!

Sarieyah and Tabitha rush up the stairs. Sarieyah goes towards Olive's room to help Patricia while Tabitha runs to Evan's room to help Aaron.

TABITHA

What's going on? Evan!

Aaron opens the door to Evan's bedroom and rushes in to help his baby boy. Tabitha follows closely behind.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - EVAN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Evan is resting peacefully in his crib. Tabitha rushes in to grab him. She lifts him from the crib and carries him out of the room, but as she and Aaron leave the room, we catch a glimpse of the creature standing in the far corner of the room.

It is shrouded in shadow once again, but we can make out the faint outline of a suit.

It lingers almost as if it is patiently waiting for the right time to strike.

Aaron closes the door, and the ambient light from the hallway begins to slowly dissipate until it's pitch black in the room.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - EVAN'S BEDROOM (DARK) - CONTINUOUS

Evan's bedroom door slowly opens as Olive enters the room. She looks around the room to ensure that the creature isn't anywhere in sight.

She steps in and walks towards the crib.

Evan is resting peacefully in bed, but something feels off about him.

He's lying perfectly still, and his body is almost gray.

Olive reaches a hand into the crib to ensure that he's still alive. Her fingers almost touch Evan's head until...

SUDDENLY!

A hand from the opposite side of the crib GRABS her.

The camera slowly travels up the arm of the creature, grabbing her. We can see more of it than we can before, but it is still somewhat hidden by the shadows.

It slowly moves towards her and reveals its hideous face or lack thereof.

Its face is gray and blank. It's a familiar and terrifying sight to those who know who/what it is and a mysterious and scary sight to those who don't

It is... THE SHADOW MAN. A deviously, hideous smile permeates it's face.

Olive lets out a blood-curdling scream! She slips around from the creature's grasp and runs out of Evan's room.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY (DARK) - CONTINUOUS

She quickly makes her way downstairs.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - FOYER (DARK) - CONTINUOUS

Olive is going so fast that she nearly runs through the front door.

She stops herself just in time and tries to open it, but no avail. She keeps trying to unlock the door, but no matter which way she turns the locks, it won't open.

As Olive hopelessly tries to open the door, we can see The Shadow Man slowly, almost tauntingly, make his way across the hallway and down the staircase.

As he gets closer and closer, Olive takes off towards the living room.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - LIVING ROOM (DARK) - CONTINUOUS

She rushes to a cabinet on the far left side of the room and opens the bottom drawer. Inside is a flashlight and a small pocket knife.

She grabs both.

She opens up the pocket knife and swiftly turns around.

Heavy footsteps can be heard emanating from the wooden floor of the foyer.

Olive shines the flashlight towards the foyer entryway and holds the knife out as if she's going to plunge the blade into the next thing that comes through that doorway.

It's completely quiet.

SUDDENLY!

The Shadow Man CHARGES in from the opposite side of the room, where the kitchen, is and ambushes her.

Olive dodges out of the way JUST in time and sprints around the creature and into the kitchen. She runs the whole way around the house again.

She runs through the kitchen, the dining room, and into the foyer.

OLIVE'S POV:

As she sprints up the stairs we...

EXIT OLIVE'S POV:

CUT TO:



INT. SUBURBAN HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sarieyah and Patricia are sweaty and panting. Tabitha and Aaron rush over.

AARON

Tabitha, take Evan downstairs.  
Patricia, go with her.

Tabitha and Patricia run down the stairs and into the living room.

AARON (CONT'D)

Sarieyah, I need you to call 911  
right now.

SARIEYAH

Do you think she relapsed?

AARON

I hope not...

Sarieyah whips out her phone and dials 911 as Aaron makes one final lunge at the door.

Aaron winds up with his whole body and bull-rushes towards Olive's bedroom door.

He finally breaks through, and we see...

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - OLIVE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

OLIVE'S POV:

The room is pitch black and empty.

EXIT OLIVE'S POV:

Olive shines the flashlight all around the room and holds her knife out as if she's ready to strike at any moment.

She quickly but quietly makes her way to her closet and rushes inside.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - OLIVE'S CLOSET (DARK)- CONTINUOUS

She quickly squats down and turns off her flashlight.

We can hear her breath trembling, but nothing can be seen.

MOMENTS LATER!

Olive hears a low growl. It sounds like it's coming from right in front of her.

From the darkness, we can hear Olive panic to turn on her flashlight.

As soon as she turns it on.

The Shadow Man sits directly in front of her. A hideous, demonic smile permeates the creature's face once again.

Olive lets out a blood-curdling scream as we...

CUT TO:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - OLIVE'S CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

We see Aaron breakthrough Olive's bedroom door and rush over to the closet.

Olive's screaming can be heard, but it's very faint.

Aaron rushes over to the closet, opens the door, and...

AARON'S POV:

He can see nothing. No Olive and no Shadow Man.

AARON  
OLIVE?!... OLIVE?!

Aaron begins to frantically search her room as...

"Empire Ants" by Gorillaz plays.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Several police cars line the street outside of Olive's house. A black Audi pulls up, and a man in full U.S. Army gear hurries out of the vehicle.

It's ADAM (20s, Black).

Adam rushes over, but he is stopped by a police officer.

ADAM  
Let me go! You have to let me  
through!

Adam notices Tabitha lying in her husband's lap. She's sobbing uncontrollably as he tries to comfort her through his own tears.

Patricia and Sarieyah are mere feet away, giving their statement to the police.

A tear falls down Adam's face, and as he glances at the house, he notices a figure standing in the window of Olive's bedroom looking down on the scene.

A police officer rushes past him and bumps into him. He quickly looks back at Olive's bedroom window, but the figure is gone.

We slowly zoom out of the scene until we can see the full scope. The police cars, the gathering crowd, and Adam hopelessly looking on in horror.

CUT TO BLACK.