

HAUNTED

Written by
James Michael Farley

James@JamesMichaelFarley.com

603-762-8652

THE INTRO FOR "HAUNTED" PLAYS, INTRODUCING OUR CHARACTERS IN STYLE:

Caleb (Master Detective), John (Apprentice), Becca (Empathic), Austin (Tech-tective), Sarah (Research), Kai (Intern). The "HAUNTED" logo appears with the episode location: MONSTARO MURDER ESTATE. A Victorian house spins onto screen.

CALEB (V.O.)

The Monstaro Murder Estate... 1929
was set to be the best year for the
Monstaro family. Until.. Disaster.

Stock video montage of the 1929 Stock Market crash

CALEB (V.O.)

On October 29th, 1929, two days
before Halloween, Robert Monstaro
returned to his family home in
Connecticut after a business trip
to New York City. Depressed and
unsure of what the future held for
him and his family, he entered his
home and was greeted by his wife,
Dorothy and their two children who
heard the news over the radio.

Montage of period photos: Robert, Dorothy, and children.

CALEB (V.O.)

While initially supportive, Dorothy
had grown quite accustomed to the
life of luxury that Robert
provided. Having grown up on a corn
farm in Nebraska, she thought she
hit the big time when a wealthy
stock-mogul swept her off her feet
after a family trip to New York
City just 8 years earlier and it
was not something she was going to
surrender willingly...

A family picture: camera zooms on Dorothy's face, flashes,
inverts color.

INT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - NIGHT

We see CALEB walking backwards through the house talking to
the camera. He's a modern, handsome man, wearing a button
down shirt and jeans, giving off a punchable preppy vibe.

CALEB

What follows is the Haunted team's best guesstimate of the timeline of events.

Caleb walks backwards into the dining room.

CALEB (CONT'D)

5PM...

CUT TO:

Flashback re-enactment of the dinner.

CALEB (V.O.)

The Monstaro family sits down for their normal Monday night dinner.. But things quickly become heated between Dorothy and Robert as Robert suggests moving the family to Nebraska to be closer to Dorothy's original homestead.

Flashback re-enactment of the family room.

CALEB (V.O.)

9PM, Robert is passed out on the family room's armchair after his evening scotch, with that day's newspaper as a blanket. Dorothy attempts to wake her husband but an advertisement for Life Insurance catches her attention..

CUT TO:

INT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - NIGHT

We are back following Caleb walking backwards through the home.

CALEB

After leaving her Husband to sleep off his drink in the chair, Dorothy rushes up the stairs and retires to the master bedroom..

Loud footsteps can be heard. Caleb over-reacts.

CALEB (CONT'D)

What was that?!? Guys hurry! It came from this way!

Caleb runs past the camera and rushes towards the staircase

CALEB (CONT'D)
You guys heard that right?!

Caleb looks at his team: JOHN (muscular himbo), AUSTIN (IT millennial, operating camera), BECCA (Cali-festival flower child), and SARAH (a grown-up half-goth).

JOHN
Man that was wild! I picked up a cold-spot right before it happened.

John gestures to his temperature device.

BECCA
When you mentioned the life insurance policy I was overwhelmed with emotions of fear and rage.. something.. or someone.. doesn't want us here..

AUSTIN (O.S.)
I totally got something on the EVP!
Here! Listen to this!!

Austin, who is operating the camera, starts an EVP playback. A woman's voice can be heard saying "GET OUT!". Everyone but Sarah over-reacts.

CALEB
That's evidence! That's solid evidence!

Sarah is just standing around unfazed by everything happening.

CALEB (CONT'D)
We've got to get upstairs! Quick!

As the team runs upstairs, KAI (youngest, Gen Z hipster) comes down the stairs.

KAI
Hey guys can we do that again I think I can make the steps even louder...

Caleb looks at the camera, annoyed.

CALEB
CUT! CUT!!!

The style of shooting changes. We are no longer watching an episode of Haunted and are now looking at the team.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Really Kai? Really?! You couldn't hear us reacting down here? The steps were just a cue we were going to add more oomph in post!

KAI

Oh sorry Boss I was just trying to help and make it more authentic...

Caleb ignores Kai's reasoning and starts shouting directions at other members of the team.

CALEB

Austin when I move TOWARDS the camera, you're supposed to keep me in frame the entire time, people watch this show for me!

Austin looks depressed as he's berated

CALEB (CONT'D)

AND Becca! Really sell that Something or some ONE, put the emphasis on the ONE, if you can't do it I'll just get someone else off of the internet who can ACT. JESUS!

Becca is seen holding back tears.

JOHN

Hey man calm down I thought she did a great job.

CALEB

Oh don't defend your girlfriend just so you can get something from her later. This is a work trip not a little romantic getaway for you two.

John's anger wash over his face, Becca rubs his arm to comfort and calm him.

BEAT

Sarah is relieved that she wasn't targeted this time. Caleb starts moving through the house.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Ok, reset the scene. Where was I?
Oh yeah, this GOD AWFUL life
insurance trope. Really Sarah?
That's the best story you could
come up with? You couldn't find us
a real haunted house?

Sarah snaps back.

SARAH

Every time I bring up a real
haunted house idea you immediately
shoot it down because it's "Too
scary" or "Too boring" or
"Insurance won't cover it" or...

Caleb cuts off Sarah

CALEB

Yeah yeah yeah whatever, you're
lucky we're already filming this
otherwise I'd have some notes to
make this REALLY scary..

SARAH

Oh you want REALLY scary? What
evidence are we going to fake NEXT
time? Native American Burial site
in the basement? Blood dripping
from the walls? Oh maybe we can put
Kai in a sheet with holes cut out
and he can run around like a Scooby-
doo episode!

KAI

Hey yeah I think I saw some sheets
upstairs that would work...

Caleb ignores Kai talking again.

CALEB

Sarah, get the fuck out of here and
go wait outside. Did you know every
time you're on-screen in an episode
the viewership drops? I've got the
analytics if you don't believe me.

SARAH

Oh since when did you learn how to
check the analytics? Or did you
just read anal and clicked it
accidentally? Fuck you.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)
I'll be in the van, good luck with
this bullshit episode.

Sarah storms out of the house and slams the door behind her.
Caleb tries to rally the rest of the team.

CALEB
Alright guys, back to one. We don't
need her! She did her part, if she
wants to be a wet blanket about
this she can freeze her ass off
outside all night for all I care.

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Sarah exits, pulls out her phone, and wipes away a tear.

EMAIL: Subject Line: Hey Haunted team! I've got the perfect
house for you to check out!

Sarah rolls her eyes, she gets an email like this every hour,
but opens it anyways. The email contains pictures of a house,
a backstory of maddening shadows, and gruesome deaths. Sarah
has a lightbulb moment. She types "We'll be there," hovers
over send, then turns as yelling comes from inside.

CALEB (O.S.)
For fuck's sake, Kai! Maybe don't
fall trying to run up the stairs.
Are you an idiot? Do you not know
how FEET work?

BEAT

SARAH
You want scary? You got it,
asshole.

Sarah looks back at her phone, hits send, and walks to the
production van parked in front of the house. Opening the door
she climbs in, wraps herself in a sleeping bag, and pulls up
a video on her phone. It's behind-the-scenes footage of
HAUNTED featuring an unknown young man(BOBBY).

SARAH (CONT'D)
Goodnight, Bobby. I miss you.

Sarah closes her eyes and dozes off as the video plays.

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - DAY

Austin walks backward from the front door, camera on Caleb as he exits.

CALEB

And so... after spending a night in the Monstaro Murder Estate, we can officially declare it... HAUNTED! What was your favorite piece of evidence? Comment down below to let us know! Have a place for us to investigate? Ghost-write us an email and maybe you'll see us in your town soon! Stay vigilant, haunters!

Caleb gives an awkward thumbs up and smile

AUSTIN

...and we're clear!

CALEB

Christ, somebody get me a fucking latte.

Kai runs out, wearing a bedsheet with holes.

KAI

Hey so I was thinking if we had time for one more scene to cut in we could do the...

Caleb rips the sheet off of Kai.

CALEB

What the fuck is this? You know we AirBNB'd this place right? You can't just cut holes in other people's linens. Go to the store right now and replace this! And bring me a latte!

KAI

Oh.. Right. Sorry Boss, I'll be right back.

Kai walks to the van, gets in, drives away. John and Becca exit the house.

JOHN

Hey Man, we need to talk.

Caleb spins his head around to meet eyes with John.

CALEB
Fine, meet me in the tent.

INT. VAN - DAY

Kai is seen driving the van talking to himself.

KAI
Stupid. Stupid. God I'm so stupid.
I can't believe I did that to the
sheets. Wait, what kind of latte
does he want? Do I call? Oh god...

Sarah emerges from the back of the van. Kai doesn't notice.

SARAH
He doesn't actually like lattes; he
wants an americano with sugar and
steamed milk. He's just an idiot so
I told him that's what a latte is.

Kai is startled and swerves the van.

KAI
JESUS! Where did you come from? Did
you sleep in here last night?!

SARAH
Uhh. Yeah. It's not a big deal. I
prefer it. Caleb's ego makes
wherever we stay feel smaller than
it is and the van feels more like
home.

Kai assesses, and carefully crafts his next sentence.

KAI
...You've been on the team for
awhile right? I used to watch you
guys when I was a kid and I
remember you being a lot more hands-
on with this stuff.

SARAH
Well.. yeah. It used to be fun. It
used to be real haunts, real
places, real people. Then
viewership stopped growing and our
great overlord freaked out and
decided to fake a knocking on an
episode. Then that went viral and
started this whole new era.

KAI

That was back when Bobby was on the team right? I remember him and Caleb being basically brothers. Where is that guy? Was he secretly an asshole too?

Sarah smirks, thinking of Bobby.

SARAH

Oh no, Bobby? Sweetest guy on the planet. I remember one-time I felt sick on a case, got the spins, started sweating, and he just sat with me until I could see straight and then he demanded he carry me to the van... This is actually his van. Well, was his van.

Sarah's smirk turns sad.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Then we did a haunt and things kind of went sideways, Bobby protected me, Caleb ran, and I think he's just been running ever since.

KAI

Protected you? From what?

SARAH

Spirit-box session gone wrong.

Sarah points at a stop sign out the windshield.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Stop sign.

Distracted, Kai slams the brakes to avoid the stop sign.

KAI

No way. That radio signal gimmick? It's just static and TOYOTATHON commercials. I know this was my first job with you guys but I saw all the tricks. You're just trying to scare me, I'm not a kid watching the show anymore.

Kai pulls through, continues driving.

SARAH
What's wrong? Don't like a little
bit of static?

Sarah fidgets with the radio, causing static and bleed.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I think I heard something!

Kai looks panicked.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(Caleb impression)
"Kai make sure to match the thread
count on the sheets you idiot"

KAI
Hey! That's not funny!

Sarah laughs while playing the radio some more. In between
the static "Sarah" is faintly heard as the radio turns off.

SARAH
(giggling)
It's a little funny.

Kai is distracted. Sarah points through the windshield.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Stop sign.

Kai slams on the brakes again.

INT. TENT - DAY

Caleb enters the tent with gusto, with John just behind him.

CALEB
Ok big guy, what's the matter this
time?

Caleb sits at a folding table desk, adorned with tchotchkes
and streaming awards. John sits down across from him.

JOHN
You were extra rough on everyone
last night. What's going on?

CALEB
We got demonetized. The last three
episodes we uploaded got flagged
for copyright.
(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)

The spirit-box must have played too much of a Kesha song or something.

JOHN

Oh shit dude, did you appeal it?

CALEB

Sarah said she did but these things take forever. So I'm moving up the timeline on Plan B.

JOHN

Plan B?

CALEB

Haunted-TV. We're gonna launch our own streaming channel. I was talking to Austin, and he's fairly confident that even if we pull a sixth of our normal viewers to a six-dollar-a-month streaming service, combined with merch sales, private sponsorships, we'd make bank.

JOHN

Wait, you want to start charging people to watch us fake ghost encounters?

CALEB

That's just the start. I'm thinking spin offs. Haunted Europe, Haunted Asia, Meet and greets. Doubling down on our convention appearances. The revenue stream possibilities are ENDLESS!

JOHN

Dude... I've been here almost as long as Sarah. Back when it was just you, her, and Bobby. But this is totally against what Bobby started this show for.

CALEB

Yeah and where is Bobby now huh? Exactly. Bobby is ashes, and we've got to keep his legacy alive, right? This is just the next step in any business plan!

JOHN

Uhh.. I guess, man.

CALEB

I was thinking, once we're raking in the dough, wouldn't it be nice if you and Becca had your own little camper? We can pull it along on all our haunts, give you guys some more private time together?

JOHN

Yeah... I guess that would be nice...

Caleb puts an arm around John, painting the picture.

CALEB

A little home on the road to make your own, maybe get a cat, or a dog? Wouldn't that be nice bud?

JOHN

Yeah... It sounds pretty nice.

CALEB

That's the spirit! I knew you'd be in. You've got to keep this between us though. Don't tell Becca, or Sarah, or that little runt Kai.

JOHN

Aww man I can't tell Becca?

CALEB

We don't want to get her hopes up right? One wrong blow and this whole house of cards can come tumbling down. Trust me my big, beautiful himbo.

John smiles as if himbo is a compliment.

Austin busts into the tent.

AUSTIN

(out of breath)

Caleb! I mean, Boss! You gotta see this.

Austin puts a laptop on the desk. A night-vision security recording is paused. Caleb and John lean in.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
So I was going through last night's
footage because you said we need to
upload at least the teaser today,
and I don't remember faking this.

Austin hits the spacebar on the laptop and the video plays.
The video is of the team during their big argument but from a
security cam perspective, with a time code in the corner
creeping along. The video ends.

CALEB
You don't remember faking...
nothing? What am I looking for
here?

AUSTIN
No, I swear I saw something, hold
on.

Austin fiddles with the laptop, slows footage to quarter-
speed, hits play. The timecode creeps forward.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
THERE!

Austin slams spacebar to pause the video. A face appears
next to Sarah during Caleb's yelling.

CALEB
You interrupted us for this? A
piece of dust too close to the
camera? John, what do you see?

JOHN
Oh uhh...

Caleb gives John a look to encourage he sides with him.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Looks like dust to me...

AUSTIN
That's what I thought but look!
There's eyes and a nose and...

Austin points at the screen, deciphering features for Caleb.
To the viewer, it's Bobby.

CALEB

And nothing. This isn't anything. Besides I don't really want to upload a behind-the-scenes clip where I'm going off on my team and "long-time friend Sarah". Delete it.

AUSTIN

Delete it? Really? Don't you think that looks like... you know... Let me at least show Sarah...

Caleb is annoyed.

CALEB

No, you're not showing anyone anything. Delete the clip.

Caleb and Austin fight over the laptop. Caleb wins, hits delete.

CALEB (CONT'D)

There. Gone. No harm, no foul. Right?

Caleb looks at John and Austin, asserting dominance.

AUSTIN

Uhh, yeah. I guess I was seeing things.

JOHN

Nothing there at all.

CALEB

Good boys.

Awkward silence fills the tent.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I do have one question for you guys though.. Where the FUCK is my latte??

EXT. STORE - DAY

Sarah and Kai are walking out of the store and back to the van, laughing, holding coffees, and a bag with the sheets in it.

SARAH

...and then... BAM! Caleb fell on his ass screaming as this stray cat jumped out of the cabinet at him.

KAI

Hahaha oh man, how come that didn't make it on the episode?

SARAH

This was right after we hit 100,000 subs. Caleb convinced us we need to try and make the show feel more grounded and real.

KAI

Wow, and now he just fakes everything?

SARAH

Yeah.. He refuses to go anywhere actually or potentially haunted after the Bobby stuff happened. So.. I think I'm done with all of this after the season's over.

They reach the van and start loading in. Sarah starts getting into the passenger seat in the van.

KAI

You're quitting?! Why?! Is it because of last night?

SARAH

Last night was just the cherry. Bobby has been gone for a year, and it's exhausting watching Caleb berate people every time the camera is off. Besides, I'm sure Caleb would jump at the chance to have an AI write his little ghost stories just to save a buck.

KAI

I feel like if you told me this before last night, I'd be excited at a permanent spot opening up on the team. I've never been yelled at for falling up a set of stairs before but it's worth it for..

Kai's phone buzzes, interrupting him. He hands Sarah the coffees, pulls out his phone.

KAI (CONT'D)

Speak of the devil...

It's a text from Caleb: "Intern, waiting on that latte, be back in 10 or I'm not signing your hours sheet"

KAI (CONT'D)
Oh jeez. Ok. We should get going.

SARAH
Did he threaten to not sign your
hours sheet?

Kai looks confused at Sarah, as if she read his mind.

KAI
Uhh. Yeah...

SARAH
You're not the first intern. It's
ok, we're equal partners I can sign
it if we're late. I'd say he
probably deserves a luke-warm
americano after last night, right?

Kai's worried face turns to a smile in agreement.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Hop in the back. I'll drive us
back.

Sarah moves into the drivers seat of the van and puts the
coffees on the passenger seat, Kai happily climbs into the
van's side door. Sarah takes a moment to adjust the mirrors,
and thinks she sees a face(Bobby) briefly in the side mirror,
her focus is interrupted by Kai closing the side door. When
she looks back there is nothing. She shakes off the sighting.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Maybe I need this coffee more than
I thought.

Sarah drinks some of the coffee and pulls away.

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - DAY

The van pulls up to the house. Becca runs up to the van to
greet Sarah and Kai as they exit. Sarah holding the drinks
and Kai holding the bag with the sheets.

BECCA
Oh thank god Sarah! I've been
looking all over for you. Why
didn't you answer my texts?

SARAH
Oh.. I guess my phone died when I
was sleeping in the van last night.

BECCA

Girl, you had me worried sick! I'm not totally faking the empath stuff ya know. Your energy was impossible to find last night. Especially with Caleb's rage overshadowing everything.

Sarah is amused by Becca's ramblings and hands her a tea from the drinks.

BECCA (CONT'D)

And when I can't feel an energy I start trying to astral project to find it but I'm still figuring that part out and this shaman that I follow on YouTube is always warning me "oh be careful of psychic overload" and I didn't bring enough crystals with me to off set the energy drain 'cause ya know we're faking stuff but I really wanted to make sure you were ok and so I was trying to..

Caleb emerges from the tent and starts approaching the van as Becca rambles at Sarah.

CALEB

(Yelling across the lawn)
Oh there she is! My wonderful latte!

Kai grabs Caleb's coffee from the drink holder in Sarah's hand and runs it to meet Caleb on the lawn.

KAI

Here ya go boss, sorry it took so long.

Caleb looks at his watch.

CALEB

Oh did it take long? Oh would you look at that.. 16 minutes since I texted you.. Well ya know what? I think that was just the lack of coffee talking.

Kai nervously laughs with relief. Caleb joins him in laughing, but abruptly stops and put his free hand on Kai's shoulder.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Next time though, take my threats
seriously.

Kai's eyes widen with fear. Sarah approaches

SARAH
Oh leave him alone.

CALEB
Sarah, nice of you to join us
again. Ready to help us load up?
Next haunt is upstate, right?

SARAH
Oh, about that, change of plans.

CALEB
(Annoyed)
You know I don't like changes.

SARAH
Oh you'll love this one! No rental
fee.

Austin and John emerge from the tent and meet up with the gang talking, each grabbing a drink from the tray Sarah is holding.

AUSTIN Oh sweet coffee is here.

JOHN Coffee time!

CALEB
No rental fee? What do you mean?

SARAH
Your little plug for viewer
suggested haunts finally paid off.
And the best part? Not a single
report of ghostly or demonic
activity. Just a fan who wants us
to have a fun-time in the green
mountain state.

CALEB
Tennessee? That's quite a drive,
but a trip to Nashville could be
fun...

Sarah interrupts Caleb

SARAH
(sighs)
Vermont. It's Vermont.

CALEB

Oh right I knew that! Green
mountain, duh, like the coffee.

Sarah rolls her eyes at Caleb.

AUSTIN

It's got internet?

SARAH

Yes, they have internet in Vermont.

AUSTIN

Dial-up doesn't count.

BECCA

Oh Dial-up! One time I was visiting
my grandma in Vermont and that's
all the internet she had, I
remember 'cause she went to check
her email and it was all *ksssshhh
psshsh bahhbhahhbhahh keessssh*

(French accent)

"Il y a un courrier pour vous"

(Normal accent)

'cause they speak French there.

JOHN

No babe, they speak French in
Canada.

BECCA

I know! And Vermont sometimes too!
I swear.

CALEB

French speaking or not, I'm down to
save a buck.

Caleb begrudgingly looks at Sarah

CALEB (CONT'D)

Good job, Sarah. When's check-in?

SARAH

Let me double-check the email...

Sarah pulls out her phone that is dead to try to check the
email.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Oh. Well, uhh, let me charge this
and get back to you, we've got to
pack up anyways..

Austin reaches in his back pocket and pulls out a portable battery and plugs Sarah's phone in.

AUSTIN

One of these days your living-on-five-percent-battery lifestyle is going to get the better of you.

SARAH

Hey I promise it's not my fault! These things just don't hold a charge around me. It's like-

Sarah's phone comes back to life, and is immediately interrupted with text messages from Becca.

"You ok?"

"Hello?"

"OMG Caleb just yelled at Kai again"

"I'm trying to talk to you psychically are you hearing me?"

"S.O.S. This bed is horribly uncomfortable"

"Do you remember that one time we got McDonald's at 3AM and you thought the guy at the drive-thru was hitting on you but it was an AI? Anyways, bring me nuggies"

"I need nuggies, this edible requires chicken nuggies"

Sarah looks up from her phone and directly at Becca

BECCA

...What? I said I was worried about you.

SARAH

You were high!

BECCA

Uhh... Yeah. You try sleeping in that mattress-in-a-box AirBNB special without some THC.

Sarah scoffs and opens the email from the night before.

SARAH

Ok.. Looks like it's just outside of Brattleboro.. Little town called Guilford.

Sarah looks up at her phone to the team and then directly at Caleb as if to ask "What's next?"

CALEB

Well, ok team, let's pack it up. Wheels up in 2 hours, grab some lunch on the way, and have a nice quiet time in Vermont. Sarah, you got a story for this one?

SARAH

Oh, uhh, yes, of course! I can just retool some elements from the one we just canceled and I'll have something for us by the time we get there. Worst case scenario, you're always down for a little improv anyways, right?

CALEB

Oh totally, those improv classes are going to pay off big time.

Caleb looks around waiting for a laugh.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Oh whatever, you guys just don't understand comedy. Sarah, start writing that script, everyone else, let me know when we're ready to roll out, I've got some calls to make.

Everyone shuffles off to start packing up their projects and equipment. Sarah looks at Caleb knowing he was lying about the phone calls and rolls her eyes. She walks over and enters the tent where Austin and John are already packing up.

INT. TENT - DAY

Sarah enters the tent, Austin and John are busy breaking everything down in the tent into totes, boxes, and bags.

SARAH

Austin where's my laptop? I've got to edit the script a little for the Vermont trip.

Austin finishes packing up a tote.

AUSTIN

Oh, hmm, I think I saw it over here somewhere.. Hold on.

Austin starts moving boxes and bags of equipment

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
So.. Vermont huh? How did this come up?

SARAH
Oh a viewer emailed us.

AUSTIN
And... all these years of getting requests we finally decide to take one?

John exits the tent carrying totes. Sarah notices John's exit.

SARAH
Ok you want the truth?

AUSTIN
Tech doesn't lie, ones and zeroes, on or off, I always want the truth.

SARAH
It's a potentially real haunt.

AUSTIN
Really?! Oh man, finally! I can't believe Caleb signed off on this.

SARAH
Caleb... doesn't know. No one knows, you and I know. I'm just giving you a heads-up in case there's some expensive equipment you don't want breaking when Caleb comes running out of that house with his tail between his legs.

AUSTIN
Well that's awfully kind of you.

SARAH
Well, I've had my fair share of cameras and mics break when it was just me, Bobby, and Caleb and I have a feeling Mr. Cheap-ass will have you pay out of pocket to replace anything that breaks.

AUSTIN
(chuckling)
How thoughtful.

Austin finds the laptop and hands it to Sarah.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
And here is one probably not
charged laptop for you.

SARAH
You know me so well.

Austin then hands over the charger for the laptop.

AUSTIN
There's a writing desk in the room
John and Becca stayed in, go plug
in there and write us something
spooky. I haven't been this excited
for a haunt since..

SARAH
Since Bobby?

AUSTIN
Yeah...

Austin pauses, looks down in shame, and then back at Sarah

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
Sorry. I'm a better texter than a
talker. Sometimes my brain goes too
fast.

SARAH
It's ok.

BEAT

SARAH (CONT'D)
(Caleb Impression)
"Now hurry up, and don't break my
awards!"

Austin chuckles.

AUSTIN
(Laughing)
Yes, Boss!

Sarah and Austin laugh as John enters the tent to grab more
boxes and totes.

JOHN
Hey, what's so funny? Is my fly
down again?

John looks down at his pants.

SARAH

Haha, no big guy, no wardrobe malfunctions today. Now chop-chop boys! I'll see you later, I've got a haunt to write.

Sarah smirks, winks at Austin and exits the tent. John turns towards Austin who has a faint smile on his face.

JOHN

What was that about?

AUSTIN

Oh.. Nothing. Just getting Sarah set up with her laptop.

JOHN

Just tell her how you feel man.

Austin gives John a confused but surprised look.

AUSTIN

(Sheepishly)

...Sarah?? I have no idea what you mean.

JOHN

You should probably just tell her.

AUSTIN

Hah! Nice try. Too many variables. And with a paycheck involved too? No thanks.

JOHN

Ok maybe step one is find a new job.

INT. VICTORIAN HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

Sarah enters a bedroom carrying her laptop and charger, she spots the writing desk, sets down her laptop, plugs it in, turns it on, and sits down at the desk.

SARAH

(To herself)

Ok, now what's the actual deal with this place.

Sarah opens up the email on her laptop. More details on the property are revealed to the viewer.

Over the decades the Vermont House is known for driving residents mad, poltergeist like activities, human bones in the basement, and blurry photos of a featureless SHADOW DEMON who's façade is contrasted by only a glowing mouth.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Oh.. Holy shit.

Sarah leans closer into the laptop, the outside world disappearing as her research deepens. Becca enters the bedroom and throws an empty suitcase onto the bed and notices Sarah is locked-in and unaware of her presence. Becca sneaks up behind Sarah and claps her hands. Sarah is startled and jumps while she snaps back to reality.

BECCA

Hah, got you! You're supposed to be the one to scare us and here I am doing all the scaring.

Sarah quickly closes the laptop to avoid suspicion from Becca.

SARAH

Hah.. Yep. You got me alright.

Becca giggles as she turns around and opens the suitcase. She starts packing up her and John's things.

BECCA

So! All those texts between us had me thinking! We haven't had a lot of JUST US time lately.

SARAH

You mean the literal wall of messages you sent between 12 and 4AM?

BECCA

Yeah! It's our thing, you know that! ANYWAYS! How about for this next trip we bunk up like old times! Have a girls night! We can pop a movie on the laptop while the boys do the little ghost thing and then we can chat and just relax a little! Plus I've got all of these to use up.

Becca pulls a bag of edibles from the suitcase and holds it out in front to show Sarah.

SARAH

Oh...

Sarah takes a moment to examine the situation, giving a small glance to her laptop and then back at Becca. She sees how excited Becca is and doesn't want to break her spirit. Becca shakes the edibles in front of Sarah's face.

BECCA

Come on! Nuggies are on me this time. Promise!

SARAH

We'll see what the bedroom situation is like when we get there but.. sure.

BECCA

OH EM GEEEEEEEE! Eeeee! I'm so excited! We haven't done this in... like... forever!

Becca throws the edibles back in the suitcase and gives Sarah a big hug. She bounces back and zips the suitcase up, picking it up and starts to exit the room.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Now hurry up and finish up that script so we can get out here. I'm gonna go tell John he's on his own tonight.

Becca exits the room. Sarah lets out a small sigh.

SARAH

(To herself)

Damn it...

Sarah opens the laptop back up and opens the file for the previously written haunt. She changes the title of the document from "The Poltergeist of Pawtucket" to "The Ghouls of Guilford".

SARAH (CONT'D)

Alright. Let's do this.

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - DAY

Sarah exits the house holding her laptop and a small suitcase. The rest of the crew is seen loading in the last of the boxes of equipment and suitcases into the van and a hatchback car. Austin finishes placing a box, perks his head up and spots her. He yells over to her.

AUSTIN
There she is!

Austin does a slight jog over to Sarah.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
So.. Bad news. Caleb...

Sarah cuts Austin off.

SARAH
Is refusing to drive again?

AUSTIN
Yeah... It's fine, John said he's ok driving the car again. Caleb's already in the back seat with his feet up and Becca is going to saddle up with them and handle the behind the scene shots for me in that car.. But Kai doesn't feel comfortable driving the van on the highway.. And after last night doesn't want to be in a car with Caleb.. And I've got to do the behind-the-scenes shots in the van for coverage..

SARAH
Yeah, it's ok. I'll drive the van.

AUSTIN
I'm sorry. I know it's probably still hard for you..

SARAH
I said it's ok.

There is an awkward moment. Austin breaks the tension with a joke.

AUSTIN
It won't be so bad.. I'll tell Kai no Drake on the AUX this time.

Sarah giggles.

CALEB (O.S.)
Are we ready or what?? Let's get this show on the road!

Sarah and Austin look over at Caleb hanging his body out of the car with an annoyed expression. They look back at each other and roll their eyes. Sarah yells over at Caleb.

SARAH

Yeah all set "BOSS". You should have the updated script in your inbox.

CALEB

Beautiful! I'll read it after my nap! Let's roll folks!

Austin takes Sarah's bag and laptop as they walk towards the van. Austin loads Sarah's items into the van while Sarah enters the drivers seat. Kai is already in the passenger's seat.

INT. VAN - DAY

Kai looks over at Sarah as she enters the van.

KAI

I'm sorry for making you drive...

Sarah gives Kai a smirk that says "it's ok".

SARAH

Ready to get going co-pilot?

Kai lights up at being called co-pilot.

KAI

(Smiling)

Ready to roll, boss.

Austin climbs into the van as they're finishing the exchange.

AUSTIN

Aww man! I missed a moment! That would have been great footage. Can we do it again?

SARAH

Nope, no fake stuff today.

The three of them laugh. The laughter is interrupted by a walkie-talkie coming from a cup-holder in the van.

CALEB (WALKIE TALKIE)

Hello? We ready? My legs are already getting cramped. Over.

Sarah picks up the walkie talkie to talk back.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Caleb is holding the walkie talkie in the backseat. Sarah's voice comes through.

SARAH (WALKIE TALKIE)
Ready. Kai just shared the route
with John's phone.

Beat

CALEB
Sarah, I'll remind you, when you're
done talking you're supposed to say
over. Over.

SARAH (WALKIE TALKIE)
The only thing I'm OVER is this
conversation... OVER.

Becca giggles.

JOHN
Thanks Kai! Wait. Press the button.

Caleb presses the button and holds the walkie-talkie in front
of John's face.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Thanks Kai!

There's an awkward moment. Caleb wiggles the walkie talkie in
his face implying for more.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Oh. Uhh. OVER!

EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - DAY

The van pulls away from the house with the car right behind
it.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The vehicles are seen driving on the scenic highways of New
England. Montage footage of the group in the van having fun,
singing along to songs, Austin filming behind-the-scenes
content. The montage is contrasted by boring clips from the
other vehicle, Caleb is talking while nobody is listening,
Becca is scrolling on her phone, John keeps getting
distracted by the nature outside and almost swerving off the
road.

INT. CAR - DAY

Caleb talks into the walkie talkie

CALEB
Ok Haunt Mobile 2, where are we
stopping for lunch? Bossman is
hungry. Over.

SARAH (WALKIE TALKIE)
We just passed a sign for a diner
called the Sugar Shack up ahead. If
no one is opposed to some Vermont
Maple Syrup doused pancakes.

Beat.

CUT TO:

INT. VAN - DAY

Sarah is driving and holding the walkie talkie.

SARAH
(Rolling her eyes)
...Over.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

BECCA JOHN
Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes!
Caleb looks at them like spoiled children.

CUT TO:

INT. VAN DAY.

CALEB (WALKIE TALKIE)
No pancake objections on this end.
Maybe if we tip the server well
enough we can get them to give us
some scripted B-Roll about the
house. Over.

SARAH
No objections on the story?

Beat. Sarah is nervously waiting for a reply.

CALEB (WALKIE TALKIE)
I think the word Ghoul is a little
outdated but other than that we can
work with it. No re-enactments on
this one, love it, easy to pull off
so it should be an in and out. My
favorite. We'll talk at the sugar
shack. Over.

EXT. SUGAR SHACK - DAY

We see the van and the car pull into the dirt parking lot of The Sugar Shack. A rustic piece of New England architecture nestled in the woods that is older than the sum of everyone on the Haunted team. Becca and John are the first out of the car continuing their chant for pancakes.

BECCA JOHN

Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes!

Everyone else exits their vehicles, Austin is holding gear for the "behind-the-scenes" footage that would normally accompany an episode.

CALEB
Sarah! Go get that location use
signed while I do my duty as the
star of this brigade. And make sure
you give the waitress a run-down on
this ghoulie haunt you wrote up.

Austin approaches Caleb. Caleb's face is seething with authority and general anger until he notices the camera and changes to his social media persona.

CALEB (CONT'D)
(Talking into Austin's
camera)
Ok Hunters! We're on our way to
our next Haunt in Vermont but we
decided to stop off for some
delicious Maple Syrup and Pancakes
along the way! Without your support-

Sarah and Kai run passed Caleb and Austin to get into the sugar shack before them. Caleb is still grandstanding about pancakes.

INT. SUGAR SHACK - DAY

Sarah and Kai enter, John and Becca are already sitting at a booth. Kai runs to join them at the booth.

Sarah stops and starts talking to the waitress behind the counter. She's an older woman with gray hair and an infectious smile who's name tag says JEANICE.

SARAH

Hey... So, Janice.. Is it? This is going to sound odd but this is the deal. We're an online ghost hunting show that goes around the country and we film behind-the-scenes stuff along the way and we just need a signature saying that it's ok to film here.

Sarah gestures outside the restaurant where we see Caleb still talking to the camera.

JEANICE

Oh Sugar! It's "Jeanice" dear, and I knew I recognized that handsome young man out there! You're part of that Haunted show my Grandson always puts on when he visits. He's going to be so excited when I tell him Caleb was here! What brings you up to this neck of the woods?

SARAH

Oh... Just a house over in Guilford...

Jeanice goes white.

JEANICE

Guilford? It's not that awful cult of the demon house, is it?

Sarah gets a shocked look on her face, realizing the lie may be in jeopardy.

SARAH

It might be.. why?

JEANICE

Bad things. Horrible things.

Jeanice crosses herself and pulls a cross necklace out from under her blouse.

JEANICE (CONT'D)

That house has claimed dozens of lives, not including the heart attacks after people hear what happened there.

Sarah quickly pulls out a \$100 bill.

SARAH

Look.

Sarah slides a \$100 across the counter to Jeanice.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Caleb is going to come in here, I
need you to say everything you're
about to say to me to him.

Jeanice looks at the \$100 and then back at Sarah confused.

SARAH (CONT'D)

It's compensation.. for being on
the show.

Jeanice gets excited.

JEANICE

Oh! I get you now, sugar. I can't
wait til my Grandson sees me on
this little episode.

Sarah pulls up a form on her phone for Jeanice to sign.

SARAH

And this is for us filming here
today...

She signs excitedly. Sarah gestures out the window at Austin
to signal it's ok to come in and film.

SARAH (CONT'D)

And one last thing, don't say the
word demon, just say.. Ghouls, ok?

Jeanice looks at Sarah puzzled as Caleb and Austin enter the
restaurant.

CALEB

..And that's why Vermont is known
as the Green Mountain State! Mmm
Can you smell that? Smells like
flapjacks to me!

Caleb turns from the camera and faces Jeanice

CALEB (CONT'D)

Oh and who is this lovely young
lady?

(MORE)

CALEB (CONT'D)
Do your parents run this place, or
are you the sugar of this sugar
shack?

Jeanice giggles like a school girl.

JEANICE
Oh you!

CALEB
Say.. I heard there's a haunted
house in the area. Would you happen
to know anything about that?

JEANICE lights up with excitement.

JEANICE
Oh! You mean The De.. Ghoul House?
Oh my goodness. Terrible. Terrible
things have happened there.

Caleb looks at the camera with an overly shocked face.

CALEB
No! Tell me more.

JEANICE
Well.. About 60 years ago.. there
was a cult of.. ghoul worshipers.
And they summoned a umm ghoul.. Who
was not happy to be brought to this
world..

JEANICE crosses herself again.

JEANICE (CONT'D)
And the worshipers, they tried to
contain the uh, ghoul, but in doing
so they just made the ghoul mad and
he proceeded to summon other ghouls
and... possessed the entire cult.

Caleb looks confused for a second and looks over to Sarah,
Sarah just shrugs like she has no idea what Jeanice is
talking about.

JEANICE (CONT'D)
And then once they were all
possessed, one by one they would
lure people from town to the house
to either posses them or...
sacrifice them.

Caleb's look of confusion turns to worry. He gestures to Austin to stop filming, but he focuses on JEANICE instead.

JEANICE (CONT'D)

And slowly over the years the towns population dwindled until they tried to lure the local priest there. But once the priest got there, legend has it, he sacrificed himself to put a holy seal on the property to lock the possessed there. Eventually.. they all just starved to death, after they ran out of corpses to eat..

Caleb starts to look scared.

JEANICE (CONT'D)

The house changed hands a few times, first the town took it over and sold it at auction, then a family moved in but quickly moved out, that happened a few times, sometimes with one or two less family members...

Caleb remembers the camera is still rolling and looks directly at it.

CALEB

(Fakely through a smile)
Well! Any story like that is sure to scare away all the other ghost hunters, but not the Haunted crew! Thanks for the story,
(He pauses and looks at the name tag)
Janice, but it's time for pancakes now!

JEANICE

Actually it's Jean-

Caleb ignores that JEANICE is talking and starts talking into the camera.

CALEB

What do you think Haunted crew? Is this Haunt going to be our last? Are the ghouls going to get us? Let us know in the comments below! And remember: Stay vigilant, Hunters!

Austin stops recording.

AUSTIN
..Uhh.. we're clear...

Caleb is off kilter, and takes a second to gather himself.

CALEB
Ok. Who wants pancakes?

John and Becca and now Kai are chanting.

BECCA, KAI, JOHN
PANCAKES! PANCAKES! PANCAKES!

A rush of relief washes over Sarah as she thinks she's gotten away with it. Austin and Caleb walk over to the booth to join the others, Sarah pulls out another \$100 and slides it to Jeanice.

SARAH
Thank you for that.

JEANICE
Don't thank me. You be careful
heading up that way. I'll be over
to take your orders in a minute,
dear.

Sarah quietly nods at Jeanice and heads over to join her companions at the booth.

EXT. THE DEMON CULT HOUSE - DUSK

The Haunted vehicles pull into the mile-long dirt driveway. The crew takes in the ominous quiet. Inside the cars, silence reigns. Caleb grows increasingly nervous, sitting at full attention. Sarah, equally nervous, questions her decision, glancing at Austin (nervous) and Kai (oblivious). The vehicles park. Everyone exits. The house, unlike the road leading up to it, is a modern looking property that just so happens to be set far back from the road. Caleb looks at the house relieved. Sarah and Austin look at the house and then at each other.

CALEB
Alright alright, this isn't so bad!
Little set back from the road but
this is a nice looking house for
once. Ok folks, start getting the
equipment out, we're losing
daylight! Austin! Start rolling.

Austin's focus snaps from Sarah to Caleb as he realizes he has a job to do.

AUSTIN

Oh, right.

Austin points the camera at Caleb and starts recording.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

Rolling.

The crew feverishly unloads equipment. Caleb swaps to his social media personality.

CALEB

Well Hunters, we made it, to the
Ghoulish Guilford House. Years ago
this property...

We see Sarah at the front door of the house. Trying to pull up her email for instructions on how to get in. The phone shows No Service. She goes to her photos app to find a screenshot of the email.

The average front door has an electronic keypad and lock. A doormat reads "ALL ARE WELCOMED, DON'T BE A STRANGER!" Sarah picks up a gnome, revealing a key and pin-code: 1960. She uses the code, unlocking the door, pockets the key, questioning its existence. As she grabs the doorknob, Bobby's worried reflection appears. The doorknob static shocks Sarah.

SARAH

Gahhh! Damn it.

Sarah takes a step back and shakes her hand from the sudden jolt of electricity. John and Kai are carrying a large tote up to the door.

JOHN

Door please.

Becca, suitcase in hand, runs past them, and effortlessly opens the door for the crew.

BECCA

There ya go, handsome!

As the door opens, all the lights in the house turn on. A small gush of air moves past Sarah and Becca, ruffling their hair. Becca feels a rush of fear, quickly brushes it off.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Umm. I'll go find us a bedroom!
Girls night here we go!

Becca rushes into the house.

BECCA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Oh this place is NICE!

John and Kai push past Sarah, carry the tote inside. Kai struggles with his side.

JOHN
Come on, Intern! Put your back into it!

KAI
(struggling)
I'm... Trying...

Sarah looks at Austin and Caleb filming, then into the open doorway.

SARAH
Well... here we go...

Sarah enters the house.

INT. THE DEMON CULT HOUSE - DUSK

Sarah enters, looking around. A side-table holds a welcome sign and blank guestbook. She flips through it, finding nothing. She closes the book, picks up the rules sign..

Rules: "Welcome to your Green Mountain Getaway! Trash goes out Wednesday night, WiFi password is: ToolshedAstrojunk33!. Please use care when using the jacuzzi, temperature can rise quickly. Strip beds on checkout and leave used towels in the shower.

Sarah hears Caleb and Austin start approaching the house.

CALEB (O.S.)
So does horror await us inside?
Let's find out.

Sarah puts down the rules and uses this as her cue to continue moving throughout the house. She cautiously peeks into doorways. Everything is normal. In the dining room, a vintage record player catches her attention.

CALEB (O.S.) (CONT'D)
According to this rules sheet,
looks like these ghouls are living
comfortably with some Wifi and a
nice hot tub!

It's spun out. She turns it off, picks up the vinyl: "GHOULS NIGHT OUT THE MISFITS." She looks confused.

SARAH
(to herself)
What the fu..

Caleb enters the living room with Austin.

CALEB
Well Hunters, I think it's time to start this investigation. Will this be our last haunt? Will the ghouls get us? Will the hot tub have too much chlorine? Be sure to put your predictions in the comments below while we get our equipment set up.

AUSTIN
...Clear.

Caleb turns to Sarah.

CALEB
Sarah, what are you doing? Stop playing with that big CD player there's still equipment to grab. Daddy's got a date with a hot tub.

Sarah looks at Caleb with a deadpan face. Caleb pulls out his cellphone

CALEB (CONT'D)
Also, I lost service when we pulled into this driveway! This WiFi better be half-way decent, I have comments and fan-mail I need to look at.

Sarah rolls her eyes.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Hey! I saw that! Here's an idea, why don't you go grab the spirit box equipment, I want to get some Estes method footage with you and Becca.

SARAH
Me? I thought I was poison for the analytics?

CALEB
Yeah but Becca's tits cancel out your resting bitch face.

Austin gives Caleb a shocked look.

SARAH
...You got it, Boss.

CALEB
See? Now you're getting it! There
might just be hope for you yet.

Caleb exits the room. Austin turns to Sarah.

AUSTIN
I can't believe you let that slide.

SARAH
I'm not letting my last haunt be
another screaming match.

Austin looks at Sarah, confused.

AUSTIN
Last haunt...?

SARAH
Uh. Yeah.. Don't tell anyone, ok?
We can talk about this later.

Sarah goes to leave. Austin gently grabs her arm.

AUSTIN
I know Caleb is a dick, but lets
talk about this now.

Sarah is turned away from Austin, she can't look him in the
eyes.

SARAH
There's nothing to talk about. If
Caleb wants the show, he can have
it. It's not worth fighting for it
anymore.

BEAT

SARAH (CONT'D)
Come on, we have equipment to set
up.

AUSTIN
Yeah.. ok.

Austin drops his gentle grip from Sarah, she leaves. He takes
a second and exits the room. His shadow lingers and doesn't
leave with him. The shadow smiles.

Equipment setup montage: John brings in boxes, Austin sets security cameras, Becca blathers at Sarah as she sets up her bed, Kai tries to help anyone. Caleb relaxes in a hot tub.

INT. THE DEMON CULT HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The team sets up for recording. Sarah and Becca sit back-to-back, headphones around necks. Kai holds cue cards, sitting by a bucket with a hammer. John holds a temperature sensor. Austin points a camera at Caleb, ready to start.

CALEB

Ok folks, lets see if we can get this in one take. You guys remember your lines?

BECCA

Yes sir got it all memorized and I'm feeling great.

SARAH

I wrote it, I know what to say.

CALEB

Ok, lets hit it!

Sarah and Becca place the headphones on their heads.

The HAUNTED intro plays for this new property. We are now watching this episode of HAUNTED for this property.

CALEB (CONT'D)

(Into the camera)

Welcome Hunters, to the night-time investigation of the Ghoulish Guilford House... As we all know, when the sunsets, the paranormal come out to play. Tonight, we'll be using the Estes method.

Explainer video on what the Estes Method is.

CALEB (V.O.)

Using noise canceling headphones attached to a spirit box, I'll attempt to commune with the spirits of this house. Sarah and Becca won't be able to hear my questions, and they'll say every word they hear.

Back to the episode.

CALEB
So, Becca, Sarah, are you ready?

	BECCA		SARAH
Ready.		Ready.	

Ok. Let's begin.

Sarah and Becca place the headphones on and turn on the spirit box.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Oh Ghouls of this property. Are you
with us this evening?

SARAH
Yes.

Caleb looks into the camera with an overly shocked face.

CALEB
Why haven't you left this plane of
existence?

We. BECCA

SARAH
Can't.

BECCA
Leave.

SARAH
Without.

A. BECCA

SARAH
Sacrifice.

Caleb continues his shocked expression.

JOHN
Oh man, Caleb! I don't like the
sound of this.

CALEB
This might be our most CRAZY haunt
yet! John what kind of readings are
you getting?

JOHN

The EMF reader is jumping all over the place! And I keep picking up on a cold spot!

CALEB

Let me try and talk to them some more.

Caleb starts talking to nothing once again.

CALEB (CONT'D)

How many of you are here?

Beat.

Caleb looks annoyed. Smiles into the camera, and asks the question again. He slams his foot on the ground the cue the responses.

CALEB (CONT'D)

How many of you are here?

SARAH

We.

BECCA

Are.

SARAH

Many.

BECCA

But.

SARAH

There.

BECCA

Is.

SARAH

Room.

BECCA

For.

SARAH

More.

The sound of a hammer hitting against a bucket happens three times.

CALEB

Uhoh folks, I don't know if we're going to make it out of this one! Austin, are we picking anything up on EVP?

AUSTIN (O.S.)

Uhh. Yeah. I think I heard a whisper Caleb!

CALEB

Haunters, be on the look out for evidence throughout-

Caleb is cut off by Becca.

BECCA

Oh brother, I finally get this guy here and all he can do is wax poetic to his audience? This just won't do.

John and Caleb look at Becca with confusion.

CALEB

(fearful)

Hahaha... what?

BECCA

Oh, I'm sorry.

SARAH

Let's try for a more cinematic introduction.

The room goes dark, lit only by equipment. Becca and Sarah sit up.

BECCA

I think it's time for the fun to start. Hit it boys!

SARAH (CONT'D)

I think it's time for the fun to start. Hit it boys!

Becca and Sarah slump. Kai and John rush to catch them. The record player in the dining room comes to life. Music starts to play.

MUSIC CUE - Song: Pop Muzik - Artist: Robin Scott & M.

We are no longer watching this episode of Haunted.

With each chime, a featureless shadow pop up along the walls, mouths hollow. As lyrics start, they sing along to backing vocals. THE DEMON makes himself known.

SHADOWS

(Singing)

Pop. Pop. Pop Music. Pop. Pop. Pop
Music.

The conscious crew is alarmed. John and Kai hold Becca and Sarah. Caleb watches in disbelief. Austin is frozen.

THE DEMON (O.S.)

(Singing)

Get up

Sarah and Becca stand fully.

THE DEMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Get down.

Sarah and Becca fall to the floor. John and Kai catch them again.

SHADOWS

(Singing)

Pop. Pop. Pop Music. Pop. Pop. Pop
Music.

A larger shadow appears to sing lead vocals.

THE DEMON

(Singing)

Radio.

The Spirit box slams against the wall.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Video.

Austin's camera flies, crashes against the wall.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Boogie with a suitcase.

An open equipment case slams shut.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

(Singing)

You're living in a disco! Forget
about the rat race!

A disco ball appears. Kai and John stand, dance uncontrollably.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Let's do the milkshake! Sell it
like a hotcake! Try some, buy some,
fe fi foe fum!

The musical number continues. Caleb is panicked and doesn't know what to do. Austin attempts to run to the dining room but shadows pull taut an equipment cable, tripping him. He struggles to his feet.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

(Singing)

New York, London, Paris, Munich,
everybody talk about, Pop Music!

With each location mentioned, the crew is seemingly teleported to that location. Changing places immediately in a dizzying effect. Caleb proceeds to vomit after their return to the house at the same time the last "Pop Music" is said.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

(Singing)

Talk about, Pop music! Talk about,
Pop Mus...

The music slows, stops. Austin holds the record player's power cord. Lights turn on. Everything returns to normal. Everyone looks around. Sarah and Becca regain consciousness.

JOHN

Becca! Becca, are you ok?

BECCA

(Groggy)

Ughh. Yeah.. My head is pounding
though...

CALEB

Sarah, what the fuck was that?

SARAH

(Panicking)

I.. uhh..

THE DEMON (O.S.)

Oh what's wrong? Rights issue?! I'm
sorry I'm just such a big fan of
your show. I just felt like your
viewers would like something
entertaining for once!

Everyone stops and looks around. The voice is coming from everywhere and nowhere.

CALEB

Who the fuck are you?? Show yourself!

THE DEMON (O.S.)

Oh Caleb Caleb Caleb.. Don't worry, you'll be seeing plenty of me. It's been so long since I've had fresh meat-sacks in here that I got this place nice and gussied up for you all! Too bad you're only here for the night. SPOILER ALERT: The seven of you aren't making it out of here alive.

Everyone looks around at each other confused at him saying seven.

JOHN

Hah, you're bad at counting my guy, there's six of us.

THE DEMON (O.S.)

Oh we already want to go down to six? Thanks for volunteering, friend!

John goes limp and lifeless as he becomes a marionette for invisible strings.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

(speaking via John's mouth)

Ugh these muscles are just so big and stiff! I think he needs to loosen up in the jacuzzi don't you?

John flies across the room, through an open doorway leading to the hot tub on the porch. The door slides shut and locks. He lands facedown in the jacuzzi. The camera focuses on the temperature as it quickly climbs past 200°.

BECCA

(screaming)

John!!!

Becca starts to run to him. The hot tub catches fire. She drops to her knees, sobbing as his corpse boils and melts.

THE DEMON (O.S.)

Oh man, well, that was fast. I need to calm down if I want this to last. Oh I know!

(MORE)

THE DEMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Lets put it on a timer! The
 anticipation will make it even more
 fun!

In the kitchen, the timer on the stove sets to 60 minutes and starts ticking down.

THE DEMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 See you guys in an hour!

Beat.

CALEB
 We're getting the FUCK out of here.

Everyone stands around unsure. Sarah is in shock. Becca sobs. Austin comforts Becca. Kai slumps into a chair.

Caleb starts banging on the door.

CALEB (CONT'D)
 FUCK! Fuck! Come on! Open the door!

Caleb is met with silence.

CALEB (CONT'D)
 Austin! Try to break a window, or something!

AUSTIN
 I don't think it's gonna happen..

CALEB
 Oh come on do I have to do everything around here?!

Caleb picks up a chair and throws it at a window, the chair breaks and no damage is done to the glass.

SARAH
 We're not getting out of here.
 We're all dead.. I'm.. sorry...

Caleb looks at Sarah

CALEB
 You're.. Sorry??? What the fuck Sarah what did you do?!

SARAH
 I was just so mad I.. I...

CALEB
 You knew this would happen?

SARAH

No! Not like this! I just wanted to scare you!

CALEB

Oh real fucking mature! Your little temper tantrum is going to get us all killed!

AUSTIN

Her temper tantrum?? The way I see it we wouldn't be here if you weren't such a fucking DICK!

Austin shoves Caleb, Caleb rushes at Austin and tackles him to the ground.

CALEB

You little pussy-whipped bitch! We're gonna die and you want to play knight and shining armor for her?

A loud Hockey BUZZER sounds. Caleb is thrown off Austin by an unseen force.

A TV in the living room turns on. We see The Demon sitting at a sports-caster desk.

THE DEMON

Uhoh! Looks like we've got ourselves a penalty! That's two-minutes for roughhousing!

The clock in the kitchen loses two minutes off it's remaining time.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Come on guys, play by the rules! If you kill each other, how am I supposed to have any fun?

CALEB

FUCK YOU!

Caleb slams his fist against the TV. The TV turns off.

SARAH

Rules...

Everyone looks at Sarah confused.

KAI

Rules?

SARAH

Demons have rules, right? We've dealt with a fucking demon before. Which means it's as much a game to him as it is to us. So maybe we can win? What do we know about demons?

CALEB

I know this thing is a certified dickwad.

SARAH

A pop-culture dickwad who seems to have only had TV and Radio for the last couple of decades. Remember what the waitress said? I think all these shadows have been trapped here since the seventies.

Caleb gives Sarah a confused look.

CALEB

Wait. Janice was telling the truth?

SARAH

(Sighing)

Jeanice's story is the only lead we've got to go on at this point.

Hope washes over everyone but Becca, still sobbing.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Austin, pull out your laptop and start researching everything you can about this house. Maybe we can get this thing's name or something. Kai, you and Caleb start looking around the house for anything we can use to protect us. Salt, crosses, anything anti-demon. Becca...

Becca quietly looks up at Sarah

SARAH (CONT'D)

It's going to be ok.. ok? We're getting out of here. I'm so sorry about John..

BECCA

(sobbing)

I.. I.. I can still feel him here ya know..?

Becca points to her chest. Sarah leans in and gives her a big hug.

SARAH

Hey.. no crying on girls night.

Becca smiles through her tears.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's get you cleaned up.
We're going to need your empath
skills to get through this.

Sarah gives Becca a wink and helps her to her feet.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Me and Becca are going to go
through what crystals she brought
to see what we can use for rituals
or protection or whatever.

AUSTIN

Ok, great, sounds like we've got a
plan..? And 53 minutes to make it
happen.

Everyone nods and gets to it. Determined to survive, the team sets off on their assigned tasks.

Austin grabs a laptop and puts it on the table. He goes to connect to the WiFi and is greeted with the password prompt.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

Fuck. Right. Password.. Uhhhhh.

Austin remembers the password being shown on the rules sheet and heads for the front hall. He runs for the front hall. Exiting the dining room, he enters it from the other side.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

What the...

Austin turns around and attempts to go the other direction, finding himself entering from the other side of the room.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

Oh COME ON!

Austin starts to sprint running in circles fruitlessly.

THE DEMON (O.S.)
(Baseball Announcer Voice)
And as he rounds the dining room he
finds himself back, in the dining
room! The crowd goes wild!

SFX: Crowd Cheers - The walls become adorned with the shadowy
figures from the musical number, who are now cheering,
wearing baseball fan gear.

AUSTIN
Fuck off!

The canned cheers abruptly stop.

THE DEMON (O.S.)
Not a baseball guy?

Austin, exhausted and panting, sees the camera from earlier
and runs to grab it.

THE DEMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Lights, camera, action! Make sure
you get my good side!

Austin turns on the barely functioning camera. He plays back
footage, pauses on house rules, revealing the WiFi password.

AUSTIN
Got it.

THE DEMON (O.S.)
Got it? Got what?

Austin runs to the laptop and punches in the WiFi password,
he's connected.

THE DEMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Wait what. Hey! You can't do that!

AUSTIN
Fuck you, I just did.

The laptop screen shuts on his hands.

THE DEMON (O.S.)
Stop it!

Austin opens the laptop; it promptly shuts. Frustrated, he
grabs table salt, forms a ring around himself and the laptop.

THE DEMON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(Frustrated)
SALT?! UGH FINE I'LL GO PLAY WITH
SOMEBODY ELSE.

Austin opens the laptop, pauses. Safe for now, he starts his research.

INT. GIRLS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sarah and Becca enter the room, Becca is still very shook but is trying to function. Sarah starts dumping out all the bags.

SARAH
Ok, Becca, Focus. I need something.
Some kind of energy blocking
anything crystal.

BECCA
I umm. I don't know. Ok?

SARAH
You don't know?!

BECCA
I mean. I know where they are.
They're right here.

Becca grabs her handbag, and pulls out crystals. Both unaware, The Demon's shadow appears on the ceiling, watching.

SARAH
Ok, great! Are any of these
"charged" or whatever?

BECCA
That's what I don't know.. They're
just rocks, ok?

SARAH
What? Just rocks? I thought you
were into this stuff!

BECCA
I'm just tired of being the dumb
one! Ok?! Like.. Yeah. If I focus
really, really hard I can feel
auras or whatever but everywhere I
go in life I was always just the
dumb blonde so I got high all the
time but I wanted something more to
my gimmick like everyone else here!

(MORE)

BECCA (CONT'D)
Everybody already had their thing
and I was just the new girl with
the weed! And then I got high and
watched some YouTube videos and
then I saw an ad online for
"crystals" and I just kind of
bought stuff and I don't know! I'm
pretty sure this one is just salt!

Becca shakes a pink salt rock at Sarah. The DEMON's Shadow recoils on the ceiling with each shake. Becca sobs after her confession. Sarah comforts her.

SARAH
Beccs.. You're not the dumb one.
Caleb has had that locked in since
day one.

Becca smiles a bit.

SARAH (CONT'D)
And you're sure this is salt? Salt
is good! We just need a way to
break this up!

Becca has a lightbulb moment and her face lights up.

BECCA
Oh! I think I saw a wrench in the
bathroom!

Becca runs out of the bedroom. The DEMON's shadow disappears.

SARAH
Wait! Don't go out there alone!

Sarah runs out of the bedroom after Becca. She enters a pitch black hallway, she runs her hand along the wall to guide her.

SARAH (CONT'D)
(Whispering)
Becca! Where are you?!

Sarah sees a edge-lit door at the end of the hallway. She makes her way towards it. She opens the door and enters the new room.

INT. GAMESHOW STUDIO SET

As Sarah crosses the threshold of the doorway, she finds herself in a fantastical new location, the set of a gameshow.

SARAH
What the fu...

Sarah is interrupted by a shadow wearing a headset and holding a clipboard.

PA SHADOW
Oh great you're here! Let's get you
to make up and mic'd up quick!

Sarah is teleported to a make-up chair, shadows are tending to her applying make up, adjusting her hair, and attaching a lapel microphone.

PA SHADOW (CONT'D)
Ok, so we've got you at podium
three. Your camera is camera four.
Remember to answer the questions
with a "Who", "What" or a "Where"
and you'll do great!

Sarah is overwhelmed by everything happening around her. The shadow crew finishes making her "TV Ready". In an instance the make-up chair and crew disappear. Only the PA Shadow remains.

PA SHADOW (CONT'D)
Go get 'em, Tiger!

The PA SHADOW gives Sarah a firm slap on the ass to get her to move. She turns around to hit the PA SHADOW Demon and no one is there. Slowly, she turns back to the gameshow set and begins her steps forward.

Sarah approaches the edge of the stage, pausing before stepping onto the gameshow floor. The stage, audience, and host stand are all empty, with no crew in sight. Only the APPLAUSE sign flashes slowly.

In the distance, she hears Becca scream.

BECCA (O.S.)
AHHHHHHHHHH! LET GO OF ME!

Sarah starts to run towards the scream. As her two feet touch the gameshow floor, things come to life.

The audience is now filled with applauding shadows. Cameras and sound equipment operate with eerie precision. At the host stand, The Demon stands in a suit, while shadows occupy contestant podiums 1 and 2. The Demon gestures for Sarah to join them, and she slowly takes her place as the third contestant.

Music Cue: GENERIC GAMESHOW MUSIC

THE DEMON
(Addressing the Camera)
Ladies and Gentlemen! Welcome back
to ON THE SPOT! The Gameshow that
puts YOU! On the spot. I'm your
host CH..

The Demon stops mid-sentence and looks directly at Sarah

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Did you really think it would be
that easy?

The Demon turns back to the camera.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Aww who am I kidding! You know who
I am. So, who's ready to be...

AUDIENCE DEMONS
ON THE SPOT!

The applause sign flashes. The crowd goes nuts.

The Demon is laughing along joyously. He quickly goes from
jovial to hostile.

THE DEMON
(Yelling at the audience)
OK ENOUGH!

The music stops. Everything becomes silent.

A shadow in the audience coughs to break the silence.

The Demon Smiles and takes control of the situation by
starting the show.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Ok lets meet our contestants!
Contestant number one, tell us a
little about yourself!

SHADOW CONTESTANT 1
(sheepishly)
Oh wow, real quick I just wanted to
say I'm a big fan. I'm just a
regular shadow looking to win big
today, Boss!

The crowd applauds.

THE DEMON

Aww and who doesn't love a little
ass-kiss every now and then?

SFX: Canned Laughter

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Contestant Number 2 what brings you
here today?!

SHADOW CONTESTANT 2

Well Boss, I showed up to what I
thought was just a really cool
party about 50 years ago and I just
haven't found myself able to leave!

The crowd applauds.

THE DEMON

Haha well don't blame me for that
one! That's this guys fault!

The Gameshow board behind The Demon flashes to an old
polaroid. It's a twisted and bloodied dead body of a Priest.
The picture has the Priest's eyes scratched out. Kneeling
next to the corpse is The Demon giving a peace sign.

The audience boos and jeers. The Demon settles the crowd down
with his hands.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

For those of us new here...

The Demon glares at Sarah.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

You may be wondering.. Jeez, what's
the DEAL with all these shadows?
And the truth is; They're all me!
Well, parts of me. You see, I'm
kind of everything and nothing
right now. I can make these grand
illusions, the occasional but brief
possession, but these days I'm a
bit.. Scattered...

The Demon gestures to the audience and rest of the shadows.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Can you believe people used to come
here and give their souls to me?!
I'd show them everything they've
ever wanted and BAM! One more
shadow for the flock. But lately-

SARAH

Lately you haven't been able to
lure anyone here because that
priest bound you all here?

THE DEMON

You are a sharp one. I can see why
Bobby likes you.

Sarah stands at her podium scared at the mention of Bobby's
name from The Demon.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

But hey, enough about me! Let's
talk about you! Contestant number
3, Sarah Williams!

The audience is silent. An awkward cough breaks the silence
just as before.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Sarah, why don't you tell us a
little about yourself?

Sarah stands at the podium still scared and stoic.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Looks like someone's got a bit of
stage fright! Let's see if we can
help her out.

A shadow appears behind Sarah, it envelopes her taking
control. Sarah is now possessed, and her personality
drastically changes.

SARAH

(Bubbly and Outgoing)

Hi! My name is Sarah Williams. I'm
a single Virgo with the personality
of a curt slug. Fun fact about me:
My dumbass ex-boyfriend died
fighting off a low-level demon I
summoned!

The audience awes and applauds.

THE DEMON

I think we've got some behind-the-
scenes footage of that!

The screen behind The Demon swaps to footage of Bobby's
death.

CUT TO:

INT. PREVIOUS HAUNTED HOUSE

We're watching the footage of Bobby's death. Since the footage is "Behind-the-scenes" security camera. We see time-codes and a date. The date 8/25/2021, the time: 3:33AM.

Caleb, Bobby, and Sarah are all in the scene. High winds are blowing throughout the room with Bobby at the center of the wind storm. Sarah is screaming.

SARAH

BOBBY! NO! STOP THIS! Caleb DO
SOMETHING!

Caleb looks at Bobby and then to Sarah. He makes the decision that Bobby is a lost cause. He runs to Sarah and grabs her by the arm to pull her out of the room with him. Sarah rips her arm away from his grasp, he doesn't bother to try again and leaves her in a hurry. Bobby looks at Sarah sadly, then looks straight up. He puts his arms straight out and closes his eyes. We see only Sarah's reaction: eyes wide, she cries.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(Hysterically screaming)

NO! TAKE ME! DON'T DO THIS!

Sarah's face is blinded by a flash of light, forcing her to close her eyes. The wind stops. The room is calm. Sarah opens her eyes to see Bobby's lifeless body on the floor of the room. She drops to her knees and cries. The footage stops on Sarah's ugly crying face.

BACK TO:

INT. GAME SHOW STUDIO SET

The paused footage is seen behind The Demon as we return to the soundstage.

THE DEMON

Wow! Losing your boyfriend to a
demon you summoned? Rough break.
But hey! Looks like he was just
DEAD WEIGHT!

SFX: Canned Laughter

The possessed Sarah smiles while a tear rolls down her face.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Maybe we can bring him in for an
interview later!

(MORE)

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
With all these demons I'm sure you
guessed it already, but the veil
here is thin, maybe he'll
materialize for us!

The audience boos.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Hah! Maybe not then! Well with the
introductions out of the way, lets
start the game! Hey Prize Booth,
tell them what our contestants are
playing for today!

A big box with a question mark is rolled out onto the stage.

PRIZE ANNOUNCER DEMON (V.O.)
Well Boss, we've got a STELLAR
prize for you all today! You'll be
playing for the soul and body of...

The box falls apart, revealing Becca tied and gagged to a
chair, tears running down her face.

PRIZE ANNOUNCER DEMON (V.O.)
Haunted's very own emotional fraud:
Becca Towne!

Becca panics, as she struggles to break free. She looks at
Sarah. The smiling, possessed Sarah makes eye contact back.
Sarah instantly snaps free from the hold, briefly goes limp,
braces onto her podium. Becca is wheeled off stage.

THE DEMON
Wow! Heck of a prize if I do say so
myself.

The audience cheers, catcalls, and whistles as Becca is being
wheeled off of the stage.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Ok folks, no more stalling and on
with the game!

The Demon pulls cards from his podium. The game starts.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
For 200 Points and control of the
board... Known as the "Lord of the
Flies," this demon was worshipped
in Ekron.

Contestant 1 Buzzes in.

SHADOW CONTESTANT 1
Oh I know this.. Hmm... Who is
Beelzebub?

THE DEMON
That's correct! And the board is
yours.

The game categories are revealed.

The Jeopardy style categories are:

Names of the Damned
Biblical Beasts
Demonology 101
Hellish Geography
Possessed Pop Culture

SHADOW CONTESTANT 1
Lets take Possessed Pop Culture for
800!

THE DEMON
Alright. For 800 points: Known for
faking haunts and evidence, this
person is the writer/producer of
the popular Ghost Hunting show:
Haunted.

Sarah is caught off guard as SHADOW CONTESTANT 2 buzzes in.

SHADOW CONTESTANT 2
Who is.. Sarah Williams?

THE DEMON
That's correct!

Sarah is in shock, and realizes she must play along. The
Demon knows more about her than she knows about them.

INT. THE DEMON CULT HOUSE - BASEMENT

At the top of the stairs into the basement the door opens.
Caleb and Kai are at the top. Caleb flips a light switch, and
they walk down to explore the basement. The basement is floor-
to-ceiling junk: old radios, TVs, crates of newspapers. A
hoarder's horde.

KAI
Anti-demon stuff.. Anti-demon
stuff.. What are we even looking
for?

CALEB

Man I don't know ok? This was Bobby's schtick I was never a fan or a believer of any of this.

Kai slows, falling behind Caleb, who rummages through junk.

KAI

Wait. So, do you even know anything?

CALEB

I know how to get the views. That's my deal. I launched this channel after I got drunk with Bobby and he started telling me about this shit. Bobby and Sarah came with all the "smarts". None of this is supposed to be real. Fucking FUCK I just want to get out of this stupid house.

Caleb forcefully knocks over a pile of junk.

CALEB (CONT'D)

There's nothing here. We're all dead.

Caleb rages, kicking, pushing, throwing junk. He collapses, exhausted.

Caleb sulks. Kai is unsure what to say. Silence breaks as a briefcase drops from a junk pile, landing in front of Kai. It pops open, revealing a dusty exorcism kit. Kai looks up and for a brief second the visage of Bobby is seen. He looks down at the briefcase.

KAI

Uhh.. Caleb? Do Bibles, Holy Water, Crosses, and Iron count as Anti-Demon?

Caleb doesn't even bother to turn around and continues sulking.

CALEB

Yeah Kai, I think those oddly specific things would count as anti-demon. If by some miracle you found all of those things in these piles of junk, please tell me there's a latte with it.

Kai smiles.

KAI
There's no latte, but everything
else is exactly as described.

Caleb's eyes go wide, he turns around to check see Kai is
telling the truth. He starts laughing hysterically.

CALEB
Hahahaha! Do you know what this
means you sweet child?! It means we
might have a chance to get out of
here! Let's get upstairs and back
to Austin FAST.

Kai nods in excitement. He closes the case, runs up the
stairs, out of the basement. The basement door shuts behind
Kai. Caleb stands, brushes himself off, and runs after Kai.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Hey! Wait up! Don't leave me down
here by myself!

Caleb starts to run up the stairs, but makes no progress.
Frustrated, he attempts to go faster. After a minute of
trying, he slips, slides down..

SFX: Cartoon Banana Slip

SFX: Canned Laughter

CALEB (CONT'D)
Fuck this! There's got to be
another way out of here.

Caleb moves back through the basement, going down aisles of
junk. As he passes through the aisles, shadows form behind
him and start to follow. Caleb's steps eventually slow. He
peeks behind him. The shadows scatter and disappear. He
brushes it off and moves forward again slowly.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Come on.. a door.. a bulk-head.. an
open window.. anything..

The shadows begin to amass behind him again. His walk slows
as he attempts to catch them. He turns his head quickly.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Ah-ha!

The shadows disappear before he can see them just like
before.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Ok...

He moves his body around to try and peak around the piles, looking for a sign of anything. As he gives up, he turns back and is met with a shadow directly in front of his face.

BASEMENT SHADOW

Boo

Caleb falls on his ass.

SFX: Cartoon Thud.

SFX: Canned laughter.

The shadow fades. Caleb brushes himself off, and gets to his feet. In the distance, a red glow attracts his attention.

CALEB

Is that.. an exit sign...?

Caleb starts a jog. Shadows amass behind him once more.

Weaving through junk, Caleb finds a door with a glowing "ON-AIR" sign. He stands with caution, questioning its existence. In an instant, the door suddenly swings open and the shadows that were following him push him through the threshold.

CALEB (CONT'D)

No no no wait!

INT. GAME SHOW STUDIO SET

We see the game show has been progressing. The podiums have the scores for the contestants. Contestant 1 shows 2800, Contestant 2 shows 2400, and Sarah's podium shows -400.

THE DEMON

Ok folks that's it for the first round! It's still anybody's game as the points double for Round Two. But it wouldn't be TV without a good ol' fashioned twist!

The audience cheers.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

So let's get things started! Contestants, for 400 points and control of the board... Identify this man.

Caleb appears from above, and falls to the stage with a thud.

CALEB
SON OF A BI..

SFX: Swear beep

Sarah is feverishly slamming her buzzer.

SARAH
Who is Caleb Prescott???

THE DEMON
That's absolutely correct!

The audience cheers. Caleb looks around his new surroundings, dazed and flabbergasted. He locks eyes with Sarah, with a confused expression. She shrugs back.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Great job Sarah! With that amazing answer that puts you right back to zero.

Her score changes to zero.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
And Ladies and Gentlemen please meet your new contestant, Caleb Prescott!

The crowd goes wild, popcorn is being thrown, shadows in the audience are grabbing each other and shaking. The cheers are deafening. A fourth podium is wheeled out and placed next to Sarah.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Now now settle down! The final round is only just beginning!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kai reaches for a doorknob that isn't there. He starts banging on the door into the basement, desperately trying to get it open.

KAI
(Yelling)
Caleb! Caleb! Can you hear me?!

Austin comes running in to see what the commotion is.

AUSTIN

Kai, what the fuck is going on in here?

KAI

Austin! Caleb and I were in the basement looking for the anti-demon stuff.

Kai is extremely animated during his explanation, he shakes the case at Austin. Austin thinks he's trying to hand it to him and goes to grab it, but it's swiftly pulled away during Kai's frantic moment.

KAI (CONT'D)

And this just fell out of nowhere right in front of us and so I ran up and I swear Caleb was right behind me but this door just slammed shut and the doorknob is gone, and I can't even hear him.

Austin grabs onto Kai's shoulders to calm him down.

AUSTIN

Dude, hey, calm down. Caleb can handle himself. There's something funky about this whole house. Look.

Austin points to the glass door where John flew out earlier. His body is no longer there and the hot tub is gone.

KAI

Wait. What? Does that mean John's alive?

AUSTIN

Maybe. I don't even know if that hot tub was real, but he sure looked dead. But it got me thinking, and I started digging around for reality manipulating demons..

Austin starts moving back towards the dining room, Kai follows. The kitchen timer shows 13:37 remaining.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

AUSTIN

And I started typing in what we know already.

(MORE)

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

This thing was trying to amass a following, he lurks in the shadows, and he's got a real pop-culture addiction. And check this out.

Austin turns the laptop around to show the Wikipedia page for the demon CHORONZON. Kai starts reading from the laptop out loud.

KAI

"Choronzon, is more of an abyss than a demon in the traditional sense. He is often described as a shifting void, a chaotic mass of shadows that speaks in fragmented voices that lure and tempt travelers with hallucinations and what they desire most.." Holy shit.. That's gotta be him right? Ok cool what do we do next?

AUSTIN

That's what I was trying to figure out when you started banging on that door. The only documented encounters I found on this thing are from 1909 at the latest and they didn't really have TV or anything to spark this thing's imagination. I think when he got trapped here his own mind warped with nothing to feed his imagination except TV and radio. Until, I'm guessing recently, he got the internet.

KAI

Yeah, how the hell did this thing get online?

AUSTIN

Best guess? This thing can seemingly conjure anything, probably used the phone in the kitchen, conjured up a credit card number, and ordered an in-home install kit and a laptop. And that's not even the worst part.

Kai looks at Austin with a confused and fearful look.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
Once I got connected to the router,
I dug through this dudes connection
history and check this out.

KAI
It's.. All Haunted?

AUSTIN
Yep.

KAI
Wait so.. This guy knows us?

AUSTIN
This guy is obsessed with us. For
over a year, this thing has
commented on every video, using
multiple accounts, sometimes
fighting with himself in the
comment section. The IP here
matched at least 40 separate
accounts that have engaged in any
capacity on our videos.

KAI
Why Haunted? There's at least a
hundred other ghost hunters on
YouTube, all without Caleb's ego.

AUSTIN
Maybe it's the ego he's after.

BACK TO:

INT. GAME SHOW STUDIO SET

The game has progressed. We see the four podiums, but the
ones with shadow contestants are empty, their scoreboards
showing a dot-matrix skull and crossbone, only Sarah and
Caleb remain, covered in soot, ash, and blood. Their
scoreboards each read 2000.

THE DEMON
Wow folks, with our two human
contestants surviving against all
odds what an amazing turn of events
and incredible TV the last round
has been!

The audience jeers and boos.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
And for the first time in the
history of our show, we have a tie!
Which means it's time.. for the
incredible tie-breaker round!

The audience quickly cheer. Two chairs appear. Sarah and Caleb teleport into them, tied, struggling to break free. A stand with two buttons rises between them. Their faces are shocked.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Ok folks! It's time... for the tie
breaker! Literally! Since this is
our first time any of you are
seeing this at home, here are the
rules!

Sarah and Caleb are still struggling, The Demon suddenly appears next to them.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
So I suggest you settle down and
listen if you want to win. Let's
remind you what we're playing for.

Becca, unconscious, tied and gagged, is slowly lowered on a rope. The floor beneath her opens to a pit of spikes. Sarah and Caleb stop struggling and pay attention.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Now that I have your attention..
You'll each be asked a series of
questions about the other, for each
question you get correct, a limb
becomes untied, first one to become
untied and hits one of these
buttons will win the game. But what
do the buttons do? Well... One of
them saves Becca and dooms the
other, and the other? Well that pit
under your friend isn't for
dramatic flair. Use your
imagination when I say Someone
still has to die here today. And
legally I don't have to tell you
which button does what.

The audience cheers. The Stage lights dramatically change, putting a spot light on our contestants.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Ok folks.. It's time to be.. ON THE
SPOT!

SFX: Dramatic Gameshow Jingle.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Sarah, this first question is for you... Haunted was founded on the principle of Real People, Real Haunts, in what year did Caleb decide it was time to sell out and start faking evidence?

Sarah looks Caleb in the eyes as she answers.

SARAH
2024...

THE DEMON
That's correct!

Sarah's left leg becomes untied from the chair.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Caleb.. How you doing Caleb, nervous? Sarah already got one question right.

CALEB
F***

SFX: Swear beep

Caleb goes on a beeped out tirade.

THE DEMON
Oh my goodness, this is a family show! Well at least you've got some fight in you. Ok Caleb, here is your question. After using fake YouTube accounts to report Haunted for copyright and successfully getting your account demonetized, how much were you planning on charging for the premium Haunted-TV streaming service?

Sarah looks at Caleb mouthing the words "you son of a bitch".

CALEB
Well... Wait. Ok hold on... I thought we could get \$20 a month but Austin said if that's what we had to do to survive, \$6 a month would be more than enough.

THE DEMON
Time's running out I need an
answer...

CALEB
\$20 a month...

THE DEMON
That's correct!

The crowd cheers. Caleb's left leg unties. He immediately
tries to kick The Demon.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
My my, you are a greedy boy, aren't
you? Ok Sarah are you ready for
your next question?

Sarah eyes are still ragefully locked onto Caleb.

SARAH
(frustrated)
Yes.

THE DEMON
You've gotten hundreds of emails
with suggestions on where to bring
the Haunted crew next. What made
you say yes this time?

SARAH
Caleb is a dick who needed to be
taught a lesson.

The crowd gasps.

THE DEMON
That's correct! And do you think
he's learned that lesson? How many
more people do you think need to
die to really cement that in?

Sarah lowers her eyes, disappointed with herself, John's
death weighing on her. Her head unties, allowing her to sulk.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)
Ok Caleb, if you get this next
question right we'll untie 2 of
your ropes. How does that sound?

CALEB
(Sarcastically)
Great...

THE DEMON

Fantastic! When Bobby was about to die and you ran out of the house, were you secretly hoping Sarah would die too?

CALEB

Hold on. That's not fair.

THE DEMON

60 seconds on the clock.

CALEB

Did I think things might be easier if I had full control? Maybe. Sure. But no I never wanted her to die! That's ridiculous. I'm not that bad of a guy! I promise!

THE DEMON

Deep down, are you sure? Is that your final answer?

Sarah looks up at Caleb.

CALEB

Yes! I swear! Get me out of here!

The demon puts a finger to his ear.

THE DEMON

Caleb... I'm getting a note from the judges... That... is correct! Wow! I'm shocked!

Caleb's head and right arm become untied.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Wow Sarah, what do you think of that answer? Is he telling the truth or are we just messing with you?

Sarah is silent.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

You are just no fun tonight, are you? Well, for one rope here is your next question.

SARAH

(Frustrated)

One rope?! Wait hold on, you gave him two on his last question!

THE DEMON

Yeah well I like him better than
you right now.

The crowd cheers and starts chanting Caleb's name. Caleb is
basking in the admiration and cracks a smile.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Sarah, deep down do you wish Caleb
died instead of Bobby that night?

Sarah looks down again and delivers her answer.

SARAH

...Yes...

The crowd boos at Sarah. Her right leg becomes untied.

THE DEMON

Wow, and here I was thinking you
were the good guy in this story.
Not like our superstar champ,
Caleb. A hardworking entrepreneur,
doing everything he can to keep his
teammates employed and out of
trouble. He's starting to look like
a pretty good guy isn't he?

The crowd cheers for Caleb once more. He is leaning more and
more into the admiration and agree's with The Demon's
assessment of him.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Say Caleb, how many ropes do you
have left tied up?

Caleb looks at his body, his right leg and left arm still
tied.

CALEB

I appear to have two limbs still
tied to the chair.

THE DEMON

That's correct! The man can count
folks!

The crowd cheers and chants for Caleb once more. His left arm
becomes untied.

SARAH

Hey! What kind of question is
that?!

THE DEMON

We call that a softball question,
you gotta keep the audience at home
rooting for the good guy, right?

AUDIENCE DEMONS (O.S.)

We love you Caleb!

THE DEMON

You hear that Sarah? They love him!
Do you think that maybe you've been
wrong the whole time?

SARAH

No.

SFX: BUZZER

THE DEMON

Ooooh, Sorry! That's not what we
have here. See, everyone gets a
softball question.

SARAH

You motherfu-

SFX. Swear beep.

THE DEMON

Hey now! Remember, I said this was
a family show!

SFX: Canned laughter.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Ok Caleb, you get this right and
you're walking out of here.
For your last question-

An alarm starts going off.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Oh my, wait a minute, I'm getting
something from the booth...

The Demon intently listens, nodding along.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

I see... Hmm... are you sure? Oh...
wait... really? And that checks
out? Ok I'll ask him...

Caleb looks around with excitement.

CALEB

What is it? What happened?

THE DEMON

Caleb... It seems we have an interesting proposal for you. How would you like to have everything you've ever wanted and more? The Haunted-TV, the money, the admiration, everything?

Sarah looks panicked as she desperately tries to break her arms free.

CALEB

Hah, is that my question? I mean, yes! I'd love it!

THE DEMON

Hah! This guy! No, that's not the question, but we do have an offer for you. It turns out, we might be able to help each other out. You see, I've been stuck here for a very, very long time, and that's not fair right?

CALEB

I mean.. Doesn't seem fair to me..

THE DEMON

Exactly! Well, we've got a loop-hole situation here.. You see, I'm not allowed to leave this place. But you, technically are. And you've seen my little possession party trick. Turns out, if I find myself a willing host, the two of us can just walk right on out of here.

The audience gasps.

CALEB

A willing host? Listen man, I don't swing that way, I don't want a demon inside me.

THE DEMON

Hey now it's not like that.. Think of it as a.. business partnership.

(MORE)

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

You've seen the production I've put on here, you know what I'm capable of. Think of the money, the fame we could get if we just work together!

Caleb is contemplating the offer.

SARAH

Don't do it. Caleb. Please. Don't listen to him.

CALEB

Yeah and why shouldn't I listen to him?! He seems to get me! He knows what we could grow this thing into. The only thing you've done for us lately is some bad writing, bad lattes, and crying in the stupid van! You don't see the stuff I put up with from everybody else. "Caleb, we can't do that! What would Sarah say?" "Caleb that wasn't what BOBBY wanted for the show, what about his memory?". It's an exhausting balancing act, I'm tired of people half listening to me. And finally, FINALLY, somebody sees the future I see and you tell me not to listen?!

SARAH

You're kidding me right? The future you see? This is a team effort! Always has been. If you don't like that maybe you should just-

The Demon snaps his fingers and Sarah is instantly gagged.

THE DEMON

Nope! That's enough out of you.

Caleb looks at The Demon and back at the gagged Sarah, he smirks.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

See how easy that was for me? To just.. shut up a nay-sayer? You were just saying your life would be easier if people just LISTENED and didn't talk back, right?

Caleb looks Sarah in the eyes, her muffled pleas and puffy eyes are begging to not let the possession happen.

CALEB

And what happens when I want out of
this deal?

The game board screen turns into a blue "ORDER NOW" advertisement, a 90s infomercial. It reads "WILLFUL POSSESSION!! ORDER NOW!! SOUL-BACK GUARANTEE!!" with illegible legalese.

The Demon gestures to the screen.

THE DEMON

It comes with our 100% Demon-backed
guarantee. I'm not a bad guy Caleb,
I want what you want. To be seen,
worshipped even!

Silence in the studio, only Sarah's muffled voice is heard.

Caleb looks at the screen, trying to make out the blurred text. He turns to Sarah, then The Demon.

CALEB

Ok.. Let's do it..

The Demon grins.

THE DEMON

Wonderful...

The lights go out.

An angled spotlight illuminates Caleb, now standing, free of chair or ropes. His shadow extends far behind him.

Caleb looks around confused.

CALEB

Uhh. Is this it? Am I possessed? I
don't feel any-

Caleb's breath is taken. He attempts to cough, nothing. He thrashes, gasping for air, falls to his knees, clawing at his face and throat, leaving deep gashes that bleed.

His shadow closes in, revealed as The Demon's shape. Caleb's struggle weakens. Blood drips from his eyes and nose as he curls into a fetal position. His arm slowly reaches out, then stops.

Lights come back on. Sarah and Becca are still tied and gagged. Caleb is motionless on the floor. No more shadows are seen in the audience or the crew.

In the silence, Becca awakens, and struggles above the spiked pit. Silence breaks with a voice from Caleb's body. Caleb is now The Demon.

THE DEMON CALEB

Oh my god. He just HAD to die like Yamcha.

Caleb's limp, bloodied body is slowly pulled to its feet like a marionette. Sarah's eyes widen as she watches Caleb come back to life. Becca stops struggling, watches in horror.

The Demon Caleb's head contorts as he stares at Sarah. A familiar grin appears, shifts to playful.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

Ugh there's just so much meat and junk in here and... This taste and.. Oh MAN! When these guys are willing you feel SOOO much more stuff! I'm tasting! I'm tasting... Hmm.. Is that coffee.. wait no.. Hold on...

The Demon Caleb starts tasting his tongue, sticking it in and out of his mouth grossly.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

An Americano with Sugar and.. steamed milk? And.. PANCAKES? Ugh let me tell you something, being stuck in Vermont and not being to taste maple syrup?? Worse than hell and TRUST ME I've been there.

The gagged Sarah is stunned as The Demon Caleb runs around like a cartoon.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

Oh I'm sorry, you're not that good of a conversationalist when you're like this. Let me see if I can fix that.

The Demon Caleb snaps his fingers at Sarah's gag. It misses. Behind Sarah, a studio light shatters violently.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

Oh Jeez! Sorry. New body. Lots of... feelings.. Was that.. sympathy for a second? Oh I don't like that.

(gags)

Hold on.

He takes his fingers to his head and snaps them.

SFX: Zap

His ears start bleeding. He shakes his head like a dog.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
There we go! Goodbye sympathy..

Sarah and Becca look at The Demon Caleb in shock. Becca attempts to scream through her gag. Her muffled scream catches The Demon Caleb's attention.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Oh! You're still here. Hang on,
I'll get you down in a jiffy.

The Demon Caleb uses his fingers to take aim at Becca. Snap. The buckle on the gag explodes as the gag falls into the pit below. Becca takes a moment to stretch her mouth and screams.

BECCA
AHHHHHHHH!

The Demon Caleb plugs his ears with his fingers for a second. He pulls his fingers away and notices they now have blood on them. He looks at Sarah and smiles embarrassedly. He flicks off the blood and replugs his ears until Becca's scream stops.

Becca runs out of breath.

THE DEMON CALEB
Jeez. Ok, are you done now?

BECCA
You.. Caleb.. What the FUCK is
happening?!

The Demon Caleb rolls his eyes.

THE DEMON CALEB
Well.. what are you FEELING? Hmm?
Wanna use some rocks? How well is
that little empath brain of yours
working?

Becca carefully studies the new being. It overwhelms her.

BECCA
How many of you.. are in there?

THE DEMON CALEB

Oh ho! I guess I should try and count it out.. let's see.. one.. two.. three hundred and thirty-one now probably, I dunno. Parts of me break off and it's hard to tell which ones are me or something else anymore... But now that we're in a single body, talk about amplified power! But don't worry, there's only one that they listen to.

The Demon Caleb strikes a pose.

In the distance, the faint sound of a kitchen timer can be heard going off. Becca and Sarah start looking around trying to figure out where the noise is coming from. The Demon Caleb perks up at the noise.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

Oh.. and I never forget a promise, even if it's to myself.

The Demon Caleb skips over to a button and gently hits it. Fear washes over Becca and Sarah's face.

Nothing happens.

The Demon Caleb smiles with embarrassment.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

The Demon Caleb is seen in a "The Office" style confessional, still covered in blood.

THE DEMON CALEB

I really should have double checked the wiring.

BACK TO:

INT. GAME SHOW STUDIO SET

The Demon Caleb is frantically pushing the button over and over hoping for a different result. Becca starts giggling.

BECCA

Maybe you should have taken over Austin's body, Caleb's never been good with buttons.

Becca's giggle becomes infectious. Sarah starts her muffled giggles. The Demon Caleb stops hitting the button, and looks back and forth between the two of them. He starts joining in on the laughter.

His laughter grows until it's over the top and much louder than the two girls.

THE DEMON CALEB

You're so right!!! But guess what?!
I don't need buttons.

The Demon Caleb snaps his fingers at the rope suspending Becca. The rope breaks. She screams as she falls into the pit below. A large spike enters her screaming, gaping mouth. The spike sticks into her head as the momentum from the rest of her body continues to fall. Her head and spinal cord are removed from her body. Becca's head remains on the spike. The faint noise of the timer stops.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

Man that felt good! I wonder who is
next?

Sarah looks at The Demon Caleb in horror. He moves in slowly. He puts his hands on her shoulders as she attempts to wiggle free of them.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

It would be so easy to just...

The Demon Caleb puts his fingers into snapping position in front of Sarah's face.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

But it wouldn't make for an
exciting season finale now would
it? Oh I know. Let's give me some
time to get used to my new meatsuit
and give you and the boys a chance
to regroup. Maybe you can stop me,
probably can't though. Feels very
James Bond, right? See you in
twenty.

We hear the setting beep of the kitchen timer as The Demon Caleb snaps his fingers and Sarah disappears from in front of him.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah, still tied and gagged to the chair, drops onto the dining room table where Austin and Kai are working. The two are caught off guard as she slams onto the table.

AUSTIN
..Sarah?!

KAI
..Sarah?!

Kai and Austin spring up and start to untie her. Once one hand is removed Sarah violently rips the gag from her face.

Sarah takes a deep breath in from her newly freed mouth as she continues to be untied.

SARAH
He got fucking Caleb!

She is untied and pushes the chair away from her and gets off the table.

AUSTIN
Wait what? What happened?

KAI
Where's Becca?

Sarah looks at Kai with a mournful look.

SARAH
Caleb.. The Demon.. Ugh. He fucking killed her.

AUSTIN
WHAT? Caleb killed Becca?

SARAH
No no. I mean. Kind of? That fame-fueled mother fucker let himself get possessed..

AUSTIN
POSSESSED? Like.. Really really possessed? Like The Exorcist?

SARAH
Yep. And here's the kicker, since it was willful possession that thing has an incredibly strong hold on Caleb and the two egos are amplified ten-fold. And now..

KAI
Now what?

Beat.

SARAH

Now we're all fucked.. Unless you
guys have some good news

Austin and Kai point to the exorcism kit on the table.

SARAH (CONT'D)

No way. This must have belonged to
that priest! Where did you find it?

KAI

It just kind of.. fell in front of
me in the basement.

SARAH

Fell? From where?

Sarah is digging through the contents of the case taking
inventory.

KAI

I have no idea. That basement is a
hoarders dream.

Sarah takes a beat to think about how that is possible, and
shakes off her crazy idea to focus on the task at hand.

SARAH

Ok.. Exorcism kits are only good if
we know the name of the Demon.
Austin?

Austin turns his laptop around to show Sarah the Wikipedia
page.

AUSTIN

I'm 99% positive we're either
dealing with Beetlejuice or some
guy named Choronzon.

SARAH

Based on the amount of
grandstanding I just went through,
I guarantee this thing wishes he
was Michael Keaton.

AUSTIN

So what's the plan?

SARAH

He said he was giving us twenty minutes to get our shit together for our "Season Finale". And we need to do everything in our power to stop him from getting out of that door.

Sarah points to the front door.

KAI

TWENTY minutes? Are you sure Caleb being possessed is a bad thing? When was the last time he gave us twenty minutes to do anything?

Kai awkwardly laughs. The other two look at him not amused.

AUSTIN

Ok. Ok. Let's do this I guess? What do you need us to do?

SARAH

Salt the doors. Salt the windows. Draw a circle. Find some candles. We're not giving him the twenty. We're going to summon his ass and attempt an exorcism.

AUSTIN

And if we can't save Caleb?

Sarah pauses, looks down for a beat, then looks up at Kai and Austin.

SARAH

We can't let that thing leave. We need to burn the house down.. and hopefully him in it.

KAI

...And us?

Sarah doesn't answer.

AUSTIN

I think we go down with this ship, buddy.

KAI

Oh.. Well.. I've lived a good life. Let's do this.

Kai and Austin smile at Sarah giving her the permission to do what she needs to do to stop The Demon Caleb.

The team starts prepping for The Demon Caleb's arrival. Sarah flipping through the Bible for the exorcism passage while using chalk from the kit to draw a circle on the floor of the living room.

Austin starts rummaging through the nearly empty kitchen, he finds a large bag of driveway salt tucked under the sink and throws it to Kai who barely catches it. Austin starts grabbing anything that's flammable to line the summoning circle: Chopsticks, Q-tips, pieces of cardboard boxes, uncooked spaghetti, toothpicks, and a few tea light candles. He walks by a liquor cabinet in the dining room with a sign that says "NOT FOR GUESTS!". He smashes it open and grabs a bottle of 151 rum, takes a swig, gags a bit, and adds it to his pile of items. The kitchen timer is shown in the background with 6:23 remaining.

Kai is awkwardly flinging around his bag of driveway salt, trying to line the edges of the doors and windows, dragging the salt bag over to the circle when he's done to line what Sarah has drawn, as the bag empties he runs to grab the exorcism kit.

Austin comes running over to the circle with his flammable objects and pulls a lighter out of his pocket, lighting them after they are balanced in the salt creating the fire for their ritual. He hands Sarah the bottle of 151 rum and she takes a big, unflinching swig and hands the bottle back to Austin. After the last spaghetti is lit, Austin turns to Sarah.

AUSTIN

Hey.. Sarah.. If we don't make it out of here-

SARAH

Yeah, you love me, I get it. I'm a fucking delight, of course you love me.

Austin is shocked at the curtness of Sarah's response.

AUSTIN

Oh.. That didn't go the way I thought it would..

Sarah sighs.

SARAH

Austin, you're great. Incredible even, but I'm not girlfriend material. I'm barely even people material anymore. We're probably gonna die because of my stupid all or nothing response so the last thing I want to do is discuss the life we could have had if things were different, ok?

Austin smiles at her response.

AUSTIN

If we make it out of here, one date.

SARAH

If we make it out of here you get half a date.

AUSTIN

(laughing)

What the fuck is half a date?

Sarah joins in laughing with Austin

Kai comes running over with the rest of the exorcism kit, and notices the two of them laughing, and awkwardly joins in.

KAI

(laughing)

What are we laughing at?

Sarah smirks at Kai.

SARAH

How we're all fucked, I guess.

KAI

There is no one I'd rather be fucked with.

Kai realizes what he said and gets embarrassed, all three of them laugh.

The spaghetti slowly starts to burn while they all look at each other. Sarah is holding the bible and cross from the kit, Kai arms himself with the Iron chains and hands Austin the Holy Water.

KAI (CONT'D)

Ok, now what?

SARAH
If this thing wants to be the next
Beetlejuice, let's start with that.

The timer shows 2:49 remaining.

SARAH (CONT'D)	AUSTIN
Choronzon, Choronzon,	Choronzon, Choronzon,
Choronzon.	Choronzon.

The lights in the room begin to flicker. Kai grips his iron tightly. Austin starts to sweat. Sarah is showing no fear.

KAI
It's showtime...?

The room goes dark. Lights slowly return, revealing Demon Caleb within the salt circle.

THE DEMON CALEB
(menacingly)
Hey.. That's my line.

Kai panics and swings at Demon Caleb with iron chains. It hits his arm, smoke puffs from impact.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Ahh! What the fuck?! What did I do
to you?! The other guy was the
jackass I'm just wearing his face!
Knock it off!

Kai takes a step back and looks at Sarah and Austin.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Hey! Hold on. I still had a minute
left! What is this? A SALT CIRCLE?
Oh REAL CUTE Sarah. Was this your
idea? I thought you would have
learned your lesson about playing
with these things after Bobby but I
GUESS NOT!

Sarah starts tracing her finger across the bible to read the exorcism incantation.

SARAH
Audi, et time, Choronzon, inimice
fidei, hostis generis humani-

The Demon Caleb starts convulsing in an over-dramatic fashion. Austin starts splashing holy water on him.

THE DEMON CALEB
Agh! Ugh! Ogh! Egh!

Sarah continues.

SARAH
- mortis adductor, vitae raptor,
iustitiae declinator, malorum
radix, fomes vitiorum, seductor
hominum -

The Demon Caleb continues his charade.

THE DEMON CALEB
(Sarcastic)
Nooo! Stop! It hurts!

SARAH
proditor gentium, incitator
invidiae, origo avaritiae, causa
discordiae, excitator dolorum.

Beat.

The Haunted crew looks around. Nothing happens.

THE DEMON CALEB
Oh.. My turn? Hold on.

The Demon Caleb puffs cheeks, violently projectile vomits
black tar on Kai's face. He appears normal for a brief
second, clean.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Sarah. You did it. You saved me.
You saved me like how Bobby saved
you. Please, Kai, get me a latte.

Kai takes a swing at The Demon Caleb with the chains again,
The Demon Caleb returns to his bloodied state.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Ugh! Fine. Listen kids, do you need
a lesson in exorcisms?

The TV comes to life and a scientific explainer starts to
play, it's a voice over with animated visual aids.

T.V. (V.O.)
 Demonic possession got you down?
 Well if you find yourself an
 unwilling host to one of those
 parasitic poltergeists, just recite
 the Latin incarnation and that
 pesky demon will be expelled
 lickety-split!

Sarah tilts her head in confusion, and starts the ritual again.

SARAH
 Audi, et time, Choronzon-

THE DEMON CALEB
 Ugh. Run it back.

The T.V. Program starts to loop and speeds up with each loop.

T.V. (V.O.)
 "...Unwilling host.. ..Unwilling
 host.. ..Unwilling host..
 ..Unwilling host.. ..Unwilling
 host.."

The T.V. explodes.

THE DEMON CALEB
 UNWILLING you trepidatious twits!
 This guy WANTS me up inside him.
 And we WANT to get out of here, so
 if you could please break this
 circle we'll be on our way..

Kai takes another swing with the iron chains. The Demon Caleb grabs onto them as they make contact. His palm starts to smoke.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
 Third time's the charm

The Demon Caleb pulls the chain and drags Kai into the circle with him. As Kai's feet drag across the circle, the salt circle is broken.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
 My turn.

The Demon Caleb throws Kai out of the circle and slams him into a wall. Austin's eyes grow wide in fear and he proceeds to throw the rest of the holy water at The Demon Caleb's face, briefly blinding him. He takes this moment to rush in and pin his arms behind him.

Austin attempts to hold The Demon Caleb, who starts to laugh.

AUSTIN
Sarah! Do something!

Sarah starts flipping through the Bible, finding another incantation, pushing the cross into his forehead. Smokes starts to pour out from his forehead.

SARAH
Ecce Crucem Domini: fugite, partes
adversae.

THE DEMON CALEB
Hahahaha! You know, it always
PISSED ME OFF that after that Jesus
bastard died lower-case t's
everywhere became a real fucking
problem.

The Demon Caleb overpowers Austin and flips him over his head into Sarah. Sarah and Austin tumble to the ground.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Ok motherfuckers, fine! You want to
play the game this way? You fucking
got it.

The Demon Caleb looks down and realizes the circle is broken. Sarah, Austin, and Kai push themselves off the ground. We show the kitchen timer start to flash 0:00 as the timer chime is heard.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Ahh. Times up.

The Demon Caleb cracks his neck.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Let's see what kind of chaos this
body can handle.

The Demon Caleb claps his hands together and music starts to play from nowhere.

Music cue: The National Anthem

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
AND THIS CONCLUDES YOUR BROADCAST
DAY. Looks like it's time for you
guys to STOP!

He teleports behind Sarah, and smacks her with a conjured stop sign.

Austin swings at The Demon Caleb, but he disappears, and Austin accidentally strikes Kai.. Austin goes to swing at The Demon Caleb but in an instant he disappears and he accidentally strikes Kai.

KAI
Ow! What the hell man?!

AUSTIN
Sorry!

The Demon Caleb is now behind Austin. He briefly turns him into a marionette and makes Austin slap himself in the face.

THE DEMON CALEB
Stop hitting yourself! Stop hitting yourself!

Sarah and Kai rush over and grab Austin's arms holding them down to try and help him.

The Demon Caleb grabs Sarah and Kai's heads and pushes them together.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Now kiss!

Sarah and Kai lips are forced together like dolls.

The Demon Caleb pulls them apart and then slams their heads together.

SFX: Cartoon thud

Kai and Sarah fall to the ground.

Austin attempts to tackle The Demon Caleb but whiffs, he lands on top of Sarah.

SFX Cue: Porno Beat.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Hey now! This isn't SKINEMAX!

The Demon Caleb pulls them off of each other and throws them into the couch. He then appears in a chair next to them in therapist attire.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
So tell me, when did your love of hentai really start to affect your friendship?

Sarah and Austin look at each other confused.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)
Oh wait. Sorry, that's my other
client.

Kai grabs the stop sign off the ground and proceeds to hit
The Demon Caleb in the back of the head with it.

KAI
Stop sign!

Kai smiles at Sarah. The Demon Caleb is unfazed by the hit
and turns around.

THE DEMON CALEB
Well that wasn't very nice now was
it?!

The Demon Caleb backhands Kai, he flies into a wall across
the room.

The couch beneath Sarah and Austin disappears and they fall
flat on their asses, exhausted from the fight.

Sarah and Austin writhe in pain, trying to regroup. The Demon
Caleb stands proud, and steps slowly towards them.

AUSTIN
(Struggling and out of
breath)
Any more ideas?

SARAH
(Out of breath)
Maybe we can get Caleb to give it
up, we gotta try and get through to
him or something.

Austin nods at Sarah and pushes himself to his feet.

AUSTIN
Hey Caleb... Did you hear the brand
deal Sarah turned down? Logan Paul
wanted to do a guest spot.

Sarah picks up what Austin is trying to do and pushes herself
to her feet.

SARAH
Oh yeah Caleb, it wasn't just Logan
Paul, MrBeast wanted to do a candy
bar collab too.

The Demon Caleb twitches.

THE DEMON CALEB

(To himself)

Don't listen to these liars, stay with me and you'll be bigger than both of those twats. You want to box Mike Tyson? We can do that and more baby just get me out of this house.

Kai pushes himself off the ground and joins in.

KAI

Hah yeah and uhh.. Ms. Rachel wanted to uhh... Make babies uhh.. with us.

Kai shrugs at Austin and Sarah

Demon Caleb twitches. His voice and demeanor change to Caleb.

CALEB

Oh my GOD Kai! Shut up!

They're through to Caleb. Sarah takes this opportunity to talk to him.

SARAH

CALEB! You have to give this up!

CALEB

Ugh, why?! I'm tired of trying to be something and take this show places by myself because nobody takes my ideas seriously.

The Demon Caleb persona takes back over, back and forth they fight for control of the body.

THE DEMON CALEB

Caleb, I listen. I hear all your thoughts.

CALEB

Yeah I mean, that's not great either. There's hundreds of voices in here how am I supposed to get a word in? I think if we're gonna make this work I want more of a say of what happens.

THE DEMON CALEB

Jeez man ok we can talk about it, just get me out that fucking door and we'll have a nice chat.

CALEB

No, we can talk about it now.

Sarah takes advantage of the bickering, picks up the Bible and attempts the exorcism again.

SARAH

Audi, et time, Choronzon, inimice
fidei, hostis generis.

Caleb twists and contorts as the incantation is delivered. The Demon slowly and violently starts to separate from Caleb.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Mortis adductor, vitae raptor,
iustitiae declinator, malorum
radix, fomes vitiorum, seductor
hominum.

The Demon separates from Caleb for a second, he starts to grab the body and pull himself back into him.

THE DEMON

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU BITCH!

The Demon snaps fingers wildly, holding Caleb's body, trying to hit something. Walls explode, windows shatter.

With each tug from The Demon, Caleb fades in and out of consciousness.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

Do you know how much blood this guy
has lost? If you kick me out of
here HE DIES. Can you handle
another death on your show? Think
of the insurance premiums!

Sarah stops the ritual for a beat and looks at Austin for advice.

AUSTIN

He's bluffing.

THE DEMON

Am I, big guy? Caleb, listen buddy,
you lose me right now you die. You
don't have a choice right now.

Caleb woozily nods his head in agreement.

THE DEMON (CONT'D)

FINALLY

The Demon fully merges with Caleb. A large force explodes outward, blowing salt and the three crew back. Kai is knocked unconscious. Austin and Sarah writhe in pain.

THE DEMON CALEB

I'M DONE fucking around. I'm done
with you fucking this up for me.
I'm done with this fucking house.
I'm done with fucking VERMONT. LA
LA LAND HERE I COME.

The Demon Caleb walks towards the door. Sarah and Austin attempt to get to their feet, exhausted.

Austin sees the 151 Rum bottle. He reaches, but can't grasp it, fingers tickling it as it rolls. A foot appears, and taps the bottle towards Austin. Austin grabs it, and looks up. Bobby is here.

Without a word, Bobby rushes The Demon Caleb and tackles him. Sarah watches in total awe.

THE DEMON CALEB (CONT'D)

Ahhh there you are Robert! I was
wondering when you'd show yourself!

SARAH

Bobby?!

Sarah and Austin are able to bring themselves to their feet. Austin rips off a piece of his shirt and jams it into rum bottle, creating a Molotov. He pulls out his lighter, preparing to burn the house down.

Bobby wrestles The Demon Caleb, trying to pull The Demon out of Caleb's body. His ghostly hands pass through Caleb, grabbing and pulling at parts of the Demon. With each pull and push, light, wind, and energy explode from Caleb's body. Sarah and Austin attempt to weather the storm and stay on their feet. The energy and wind mirror Bobby's death scene.

THE DEMON CALEB

What's your plan here huh?! What
are you going to do when you get me
out of this body? A round of
fisticuffs?

Sarah picks up the Bible, flips through exorcism pages, looking for another way to end this. She finds something.

SARAH

(Yelling over the wind)
AUSTIN! I have an idea! Look!

Sarah shows Austin the Bible. It's to open a portal to Hell.

AUSTIN

(Yelling over the wind)

What the fuck? What kind of Bible is this?! You want to open a Hell portal? Why?!

SARAH

(Yelling over the wind)

If Bobby can pull him out of there maybe we can push him in! It's a stupid long-shot.

AUSTIN

OK! What do we do?

SARAH

Light the floor on fire!

Austin attempts to light the Molotov. The wind makes it impossible. He panics.

AUSTIN

I can't get it to light!

SARAH

GIVE IT TO ME!

Austin hands Sarah the cocktail and lighter. She pulls the rag out, soaks her hand in rum, and recorks the cocktail with the rag. She cups her hand around the lighter, ignites her hand and transfers the flame to the rag on the bottle. She shakes her red, blistered hand dry. She throws the bottle at the floor between them and the fighting. The floor ignites.

Sarah picks the Bible back up and starts to read the incantation.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(Yelling)

Ignis purgatorius, porta damnata,
Per hanc flammam recludo abyssum.
Daemone, revoca te in tenebras,
Exsilium aeternum fiat!!!!

Hell's maw opens on the floor. Hands and claws reach out, attempting to grab anything nearby.

Bobby notices the portal, and tries to wrestle The Demon Caleb towards the edge.

THE DEMON CALEB

Oh come on! I know I said I wanted
to get out of Vermont but have you
actually been down there?! That
place SUCKS!

Bobby continues to pull and claw, trying to get The Demon out of Caleb's body, but it's fruitless. Austin rushes to help Bobby but is met with a look of "Don't". Bobby looks at Sarah with sadness and understanding. Sarah looks back at him with sadness at his non-verbal suggestion.

SARAH

Bobby...

With The Demon Caleb and Bobby at the edge of the maw. A hand grabs Caleb's body. They pull The Demon out of Caleb while also grabbing Bobby's spirit. The house violently shakes.

Sarah stands still. Austin rushes over, shaking her.

AUSTIN

Sarah! We gotta go! This whole
place is gonna collapse!

Sarah drops the Bible and snaps to.

SARAH

BOBBY! I love you...

Bobby looks at her and gives a smile as he, Caleb, and The Demon are pulled into the Hell maw. Austin and Sarah go to make their escape, making their way to the main hallway and stop for a second to look at each other wide eyed.

AUSTIN

Kai!

SARAH (CONT'D)

Kai!

They run back for him as the house crumbles around them. In the living room the portal is still open but Caleb's body is lifeless. There is no sign of The Demon or Bobby. Kai's body is still unconscious. Sarah goes to grab Caleb, and Austin to grab Kai.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

Sarah! What are you doing? I can't
carry Kai out by myself! Grab his
legs!

SARAH

I gotta see if Caleb is alive!

AUSTIN

We can only save one of them and
I'm voting for the person who
didn't willfully possess themselves
for fame and fucking money and then
try to kill us.

Sarah struggles with the decision for a second and grabs Kai with Austin. They drag Kai out of the house as it continues to crumble. During the decay, the façade of the house starts to fade revealing its true design. Gone is the millennial gray paint and furniture. We see walls decaying walls of horsehair plaster and no furniture.

EXT. THE DEMON CULT HOUSE - NIGHT

They escape through the front door with barely a moment to spare. As they drag Kai across the lawn, the team turns around and watches the house collapses entirely.

SARAH

Holy shit.

In the debris, we can see Caleb's corpse.

AUSTIN

Do we.. Go check on him?

Austin takes a step towards the house. The debris and Caleb rise, then collapse in on themselves, leaving just an empty basement foundation behind.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

I guess not...

Kai slowly starts to come to.

KAI

Ugh.. Can we go back to faking the
haunts? I think I prefer mental
over physical abuse..

Austin chuckles. Kai stands up.

AUSTIN

Hey, welcome back.

KAI

Did we win? We're outside but I
don't see the house.. how long have
I been out?

AUSTIN
We... Uhh...

Beat.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)
Sarah... Are you ok?

Sarah starts to cry.

SARAH
Bobby saved me again. Twice he died
for me and now he's trapped in
Hell. Because of ME! Do you know
how fucking hard that is to
process?

AUSTIN
We don't know he's trapped there...

SARAH
I mean.. I've got a pretty good
fucking idea Austin! Last time I
saw him those grubby fucking demon
claws had a grip on him. And...

She silently sobs.

KAI
Wait what? Bobby? Hell? What did I
miss?

AUSTIN
Bobby showed up and saved us, Sarah
opened up a portal to hell, and..

SARAH
And they got sucked into Hell.. I
opened up a portal and it ate my
dead boyfriend.

Beat.

AUSTIN
He's still out there. We'll find
him, or something, ok?

Sarah is still crying.

KAI
Well.. If you opened up a portal
why don't you open a new one and
get him back? Or something?

(MORE)

KAI (CONT'D)

I dunno how ghosts work but if a Demon can get out of Hell I don't see why we can't get him out.

Sarah stops her crying, and looks at Austin.

AUSTIN

The intern's right.. But it might involve a few real haunts.. or more.. What do you think Sarah, are you up for it? Or are you still quitting on us.

KAI

Yeah.. We'll do it for Bobby. If there's still a team.

Sarah stands and looks at the two.

AUSTIN

Well.. What are you thinking?

She gives a small hopeful smirk.

CUT TO BLACK.

ON SCREEN TEXT FADE IN: 6 MONTHS LATER

Text fade out.

EXT. ABANDONED CHURCH - DAY

The Haunted Van driven by Kai rolls up to the location and parks out front, Sarah is in the passenger seat and Austin is running the camera.

INT. VAN - DAY

We're watching behind-the-scenes footage of an episode of Haunted. Sarah is explaining the haunt to the team.

SARAH

Ok guys, we're here at the site of a demonic ritual gone wrong. In the 1980s, this Church was purchased by a cult who worshipped.. Get this.. Satan's dog.

KAI

Satan has a dog?

SARAH

These guys thought so. But not enough people donated and eventually the Church was foreclosed on and kicked out all the members. We got special permission to be here today because there's rumors of a portal to Hell that was left behind.

AUSTIN (O.S.)

A hell portal? That sounds familiar.

SARAH

Well.. What do you guys say?

Sarah looks directly at the camera.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Want to come check it out?

THE INTRO FOR "HAUNTED" PLAYS, INTRODUCING THE TEAM IN STYLE.

Each character is introduced in the show "HAUNTED"'s opening credits, showing the character, their name, and position on the team.

Sarah: Master Detective

Kai: Apprentice Detective

Austin: Tech-tective

Fade to a new logo for "HAUNTED" with the tagline: "Real People, Real Haunts".

CREDITS ROLL.