

Suburban Spirit World

by
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CALEB- male, 20 An angsty, rebellious ghost boy, older brother to Jeremy. Dead.

JEREMY- male, 17 A good guy at heart, but a little awkward. Younger brother to Caleb, also a ghost boy. Dead.

TORI- female, 17 A headstrong, rebellious, dark-humored teen. Alive.

LISA- female, 17 A pretty, easy-going, somewhat superstitious follower-type. Alive.

ABBY- female, 17 Kind of an airhead, easily freaked out, loud. Alive.

JOSHUA- male, 19 A really energetic stoner, basically an idiot. Alive, then dead, then alive again-- but who can really tell.

Lights up. Jeremy is alone in a living room of what once may have been a lovely home. Much of the furniture is still in tact, but rubble litters the floor and there are scorch marks all around. There is a pentagram in the middle of the floor, and melted wax dribbled everywhere. Jeremy is in the middle of the pentagram, and is visibly very bored. He has a white sheet with him, with eye holes cut out. He looks around for signs of Caleb, but determines that the coast is clear. He puts the sheet over his head.

JEREMY

(Noncommittal ghost noise:) Oooo.

He looks around again just to make sure he is all alone.

(With a lot more feeling:) OoooOOOoOoOoOooo...

He gets really into it now, flailing his arms and widening his eyes as much as physically possible.

(Really into it:) OOOooOOOAAOOOHHOAOHH--

Jeremy hasn't noticed, but Caleb has entered amidst his ghost noises, and has been observing him for a little while. As Jeremy continues, trying to make the scariest noises possible, Caleb creeps up behind him unnoticed.

CALEB

Boo.

JEREMY

(Genuinely scared, whipping around to face Caleb.) AH! (He removes the sheet from his head.) Don't do that!

CALEB

...Practicing?

JEREMY

What? No! ... Yeah.

CALEB

Nerd.

JEREMY

Well, what else am I supposed to do?

Caleb shrugs and flops himself onto the couch.

Ugh, this SUCKS.

CALEB

What does?

JEREMY

This! Everything! You know, when I pictured the afterlife, I thought it'd be like... I don't know, all-you-can-eat buffets and like... cool shoes and stuff.

CALEB

Cool shoes?

JEREMY

Yeah, like... Shut up, you know what I mean.

CALEB

I mean... this is a lot better than what I had pictured.

JEREMY

What'd you picture?

CALEB

Fire, demons, rivers of blood... you know.

JEREMY

Ew. Stop.

CALEB

No, really. And who'd have thought I'd end up in the same place as ... the golden child.

JEREMY

Caleb--

CALEB

If mom and dad could see us now, their favorite son stuck with the black sheep for--

JEREMY

Yeah, well look how that whole “favorite son” thing panned out.

CALEB

Oh... yeah... about that... thank you for--

JEREMY

Don't.

CALEB

No, really I--

JEREMY

Please.

CALEB

Okay. Well... thanks for at least trying. I'm sorry it landed you here. *(Long pause.)*
Sooo... what's the deal with this whole walking through walls thing?

JEREMY

What?

CALEB

You know...

JEREMY

Wait... Can we do that?

CALEB

Oh, you didn't know??

JEREMY

What?? No!

CALEB

Try it!

JEREMY

Wait... this isn't one of those things, right?

CALEB

One of what things?

JEREMY

You know... Like the time you tricked me into eating a spider egg.

CALEB

(Snickering as he reminisces:) Oh right, I forgot about that... No, definitely not one of those things. *(Jeremy gives Caleb an unconvinced look.)* What? I swear on my lif-- I swear.

JEREMY

Okay...

Jeremy finds a good looking patch of wall. He lines himself up with it and begins to hop up and down, hyping himself up. He shakes out his limbs and his face, and he squares himself up. He charges at the wall head on, expecting to go through it. He does not. The wall stops him, harshly. He falls back onto the floor with as much force as he hit the wall. He sits stunned for a moment until Caleb bursts into hysterical laughter.

You. Colossal. ASSHOLE!

CALEB

Oh man, did that hurt? It looked like it hurt...

JEREMY

Yeah, it fucking hurt! Ow...

Jeremy stands and tries to shake off the pain.

CALEB

You have to admit--

JEREMY

Wait. No, wait... so you're telling me that we can't go through walls, but we can still feel pain? What kind of bullshit is that!? No, really, every movie got it wrong. Man...

Jeremy throws himself onto the couch.

CALEB

Hey, at least we can still sit down and stuff. Can you imagine standing for an eternity?

JEREMY

Yeah, fair, but I'd much rather be able to open doors.

CALEB

Where would you even go?

JEREMY

I don't know... school maybe. See how everyone's doing.

CALEB

You couldn't catch me dead in that place. *(Pause.)* Literally.

JEREMY

There are just a few people I wouldn't mind checking up on.

CALEB

Didn't you have no friends?

JEREMY

What? Shut up, I have friends. *(Realizes the error. Correcting himself:)* Had...

CALEB

Name three.

JEREMY

(Pause.) So there's... *(First name that comes to mind:)* Tyler. *(Thinking hard. A made up name:)* And Rosco! And... *(Thinking of her and swooning:)* Lisa Campbell.

CALEB

Uh-huh. Sounds like you've got a real tight group there. Best friends.

JEREMY

You know what? Whatever. I don't need a reason. Next time that door opens, I'm getting out of here and--

Jeremy is interrupted by someone smashing through the window on the door and reaching their hand blindly to the door knob. Jeremy panics.

Holy shit! Someone's breaking in! We should call-- *(Realizing.)* Oh.

CALEB

Yeah.

JEREMY

So I guess we just... let this... happen...

Caleb and Jeremy watch as the hand feels its way to the lock on the knob and turns it.

CALEB

Hey, this could be your chance to get out of here.

JEREMY

Oh shit, you're right!

Jeremy prepares himself to make for the door as soon as it's open. The hand finds the deadbolt lock and turns it and then disappears from sight. A moment later, the knob turns and the door opens. Tori, Lisa, and Abby enter.

ABBY

I can't believe you just did that!

TORI

Shhhh.

ABBY

Why are you shushing me?? It's not like there's anyone here.

JEREMY

Holy shit.

TORI

You never know.

CALEB

What??

JEREMY

Dude, that's--

LISA

It's a lot creepier in here than I thought it'd be.

CALEB

Jeremy, the door's open. If you're gonna go, now is probably the time.

JEREMY

Hold on!

ABBY

Okay, we did it. Now can we go home?

TORI

We just got here! God, Lisa, can you shut the door please?

Lisa begrudgingly shuts the door.

CALEB

Dude!

JEREMY

HOLD. ON.

LISA

Okay, now what?

TORI

You don't want to have a little... fun?

Tori pulls out a ouija board from her purse and begins unfolding it. Abby screams. Tori and Lisa jump. Jeremy and Caleb scream.

Jesus, Abby, someone's gonna call the cops!

ABBY

I'm sorry, those things just freak me out.

TORI

Don't be a baby.

LISA

I don't know... Something feels weird about this house. Like it's not completely... empty.

For a moment, Lisa looks directly where Jeremy is standing.

ABBY

Don't say that!

CALEB

Okay, seriously, what is going on?

JEREMY

That is Lisa Campbell.

Jeremy walks up to her and studies her face closely.

CALEB

One of your three friends? She's cute.

JEREMY

(Swooning:) Yeah.

TORI

Hey Lisa, didn't you know one of the guys that lived here? Jared?

LISA

Jeremy... I didn't know him very well.

CALEB

Ooh... ouch.

JEREMY

Wait, what?

Tori waves the ouija board at Lisa.

TORI

Wanna get to know him better?

JEREMY

We sat next to each other all through fifth grade!

ABBY

Didn't he have a brother... Caleb? Caleb was hot.

CALEB

Nice!

JEREMY

I gave you my Gogurt every day! How do you not remember me?

TORI

(To Abby:) Maybe you can talk to Caleb then?

ABBY

I'm not touching that thing!!

LISA

Isn't it kind of in poor taste? I mean they just died last--

Lisa moves and walks directly into Jeremy. He falls to the ground instantly and she continues moving forward, but she's thrown off.

Whoa.

TORI

What?

Jeremy starts writhing around on the ground, clearly in discomfort.

CALEB

What??

LISA

I just got that feeling... Like I just walked through someone... It was so weird. I don't know, has that ever happened to you?

TORI

Totally.

ABBY

Umm, no!

CALEB

Are you alright!?

JEREMY

That. (Pause.) WAS THE STRANGEST FEELING IN THE WORLD.

CALEB

Like good strange or--

JEREMY

BAD STRANGE. BAD STRANGE.

TORI

Alright, ready?

Caleb helps Jeremy off the floor. Tori places her hand on the planchette on the ouija board and prepares to ask it a question.

ABBY

Wait, Tori! I really don't think you should--

TORI

(Extravagantly:) OH SPIRITS! Are you here with us now?

Tori, Abby, Lisa, Caleb, and Jeremy all freeze and stare at the board expectantly. No one breathes. A moment passes.

JEREMY

(To Caleb:) Wait, are we supposed to do something?

CALEB

Oh shit, you're right.

Caleb starts to reach towards Tori's hand, but before he can touch her she starts to move the piece. Abby gasps.

Hey!

TORI

It says... yes.

Abby screams again. Lisa rolls her eyes.

CALEB

Hey, I didn't do that!

TORI

(Taunting Abby:) I'm going to ask the spirits another question now.

ABBY

No don't, don't!!!

Tori slowly moves the planchette back to the neutral position.

CALEB

You saw, right? I didn't even touch it!

Jeremy shrugs at Caleb, and then goes back to staring at Lisa.

TORI

OH SPIRITS! We--

ABBY

No, please--

TORI

Abby, shut up, you're ruining it.

Abby runs to Lisa and buries herself in her arms. Lisa half-heartedly comforts Abby, as she is distracted by Tori's grandiosity.

OHHH SPIRITS!! We call upon you now--

Abby starts bawling, Tori has trouble concentrating.

WE CALL UPON YOU NOW, and ask you... we ask... uhh... Shit. I forgot what I was going to ask.

LISA

(Over Abby's crying:) Ask them if they know who we are.

TORI

OH SPIRITS! Do you know who we are?

Tori's hand hovers over the planchette. Abby stops crying for a moment and watches closely. Again, all eyes are on the ouija board and no one dares to move.

JEREMY

Should we say yes?

CALEB

I mean, I don't know them.

JEREMY

Yeah, but I do.

Okay, so you answer it. CALEB

Jeremy hesitantly moves over to the ouija board. Tori looks like she's in a trance.

Do I just...? JEREMY

Maybe nothing will-- ABBY

Jeremy awkwardly leans over and tries to put his hand on the planchette, but before he can, Tori begins moving it again. Abby squeals and returns to Lisa's arms.

LISA
(To Abby:) You know it's just Tori moving it, right?

ABBY
(Sniffing.) Really?

TORI
(Breaking her trance-like facade.) Am not!

Lisa glares at Tori. Tori stops the planchette's slow path towards "yes," and veers it to "no."

There. They don't even know who we are. Happy? Let's just go home.

LISA
Yeah, probably a good idea.

JEREMY
What? No!

Tori removes her hand from the planchette, but Jeremy grabs it and places it back on.

TORI, JEREMY, & CALEB
Whoa!

What??
 ABBY

Jeremy, with his hand on top of Tori's, starts to move the planchette towards "yes."

LISA
 Tori, knock it off. You just said--

TORI
(Genuinely afraid:) No, I'm not doing it.

Abby screams.

LISA
 Seriously, Tori, Abby is already--

TORI
 No, really! I admit I was moving it before, but now-- I can't move my hand!

Tori, Lisa, and Abby all watch, horrified, as the planchette lands on "yes" and halts.

JEREMY
 This is so cool!

CALEB
 Wait. So you can touch the board?

JEREMY
 Apparently!

Lisa snaps out of it first, and approaches the board, consequently abandoning Abby in the corner of the room.

LISA
 Uh.. Hey spirits! Who's talking to us right now? Like, what's your name?

CALEB
 I wanna try.

JEREMY

No dude, this is my one chance to talk to her!

Jeremy moves the planchette to the "J."

TORI

J!

CALEB

But I want to do that!

*Jeremy moves the planchette to the "E."
Caleb places his hand on top of Jeremy's,
which is still on top of Tori's.*

TORI

E!

CALEB

Nice.

LISA

He's spelling "Jeremy!"

JEREMY

Okay, you can keep your hand there, but don't mess this up for me.

Jeremy moves the planchette to the "R."

TORI & LISA

R!

*Jeremy starts to move the planchette to the
"E," but Caleb takes control and moves it
to the "K" instead.*

JEREMY

DUDE!

TORI

...K?

*Caleb takes his hand off the planchette.
His work here is done.*

CALEB

(Snickering:) What? Oh, come on...

ABBY

Jerk?

JEREMY

Now look what you did! Oh, that's great, that's just fantastic.

CALEB

Aww what's the matter, *Jerkemy*?

JEREMY

Now I look like an idiot! I'm dead and I can't even spell my own name!

TORI

So who are we talking to? Just... a jerk?

LISA

(Suddenly:) Oh! It must be Caleb!

CALEB

Wait, what?

JEREMY

HA!

ABBY

What about Caleb?

LISA

Jeremy always talked about how much of a jerk his brother Caleb was!

CALEB

Oh, really!?

Jeremy laughs nervously. Caleb sits down on the couch, moping.

TORI

Wait, I thought you said you didn't really know Jeremy.

LISA

I mean... we were friends a long time ago. I actually had a huge crush on him in middle school. For like a day. I don't think he knew. I guess he never will...

Everyone falls silent, taking in the weight of the subject.

JEREMY

Oh. My. God. Did you HEAR that!?

CALEB

Good for you.

JEREMY

What? *(Pause.)* You're not mad about the jerk thing still, are you?

CALEB

Whatever.

JEREMY

I said that in fifth grade! You have to remember, this is around the same time you were stealing my allowance every week and replacing my school lunches with bags of dog shit.

CALEB

(Nostalgically:) Oh yeah...

Abby goes to sit on the couch, almost sitting on Caleb's lap. He narrowly escapes.

ABBY

I don't think Caleb was a jerk.

TORI

You didn't even know him, Abby.

ABBY

Didn't have to.

CALEB

(Approaching Abby.) I like this one.

JEREMY

She's like three years younger than you.

CALEB

Do the same rules apply when you're dead?

JEREMY

Yes!

CALEB

No, think about it. In three years she'll be my age. In six, she'll be three years older than me.

Jeremy considers this for a moment. The math checks out.

JEREMY

Holy shit.

CALEB

Exactly.

JEREMY

Wow.

CALEB

Yeah. Wow.

Jeremy reaches out and absent-mindedly fluffs one of the pillows on the couch, and puts it down. After all, they have guests. Abby sees the pillow move and her eyes widen. She tries to get the attention of her friends, but is too shocked to get a full thought out. Tori and Lisa remain oblivious.

CALEB

(Turning to Abby:) What I wouldn't give to just...

Caleb reaches out and tenderly grabs Abby's face. Her entire demeanor changes. He has now unknowingly possessed her. From now on, when Caleb and Abby speak, they speak in unison. Caleb speaks with expression, whereas Abby is almost zombie-like in her replies.

*Caleb can move Abby's arms and head,
and steer her around the room wherever
he wants.*

Don't touch her!	JEREMY	
What?	CALEB & ABBY	
No one said anything.	TORI	
Wait...	JEREMY	
Why?	CALEB & ABBY	
Because no one had anything to say?	TORI	
Abby... are you... feeling alright?	LISA	
<i>(Whispering to Lisa:)</i> She's just trying to freak us out.	TORI	
Holy shit... I think they can hear you!	JEREMY	
Me??	CALEB & ABBY	
Yes you, dumb ass!	JEREMY	LISA
		Yes, you. Are you okay?
Hell yeah!	CALEB & ABBY	
Stop talking!!	JEREMY	
... Alright.	LISA	

CALEB & ABBY

Is there anything you want to tell them?

TORI

Tell who...?

Lisa looks at Tori, visibly concerned and uneasy. Tori rolls her eyes.

JEREMY

Uhh...

CALEB & ABBY

Hey Lisa, did you think Jeremy was cute?

JEREMY

Wait no, don't--

LISA

I mean when I liked him, yeah.

CALEB & ABBY

No, like... in high school.

JEREMY

DUDE.

LISA

Uhh...

TORI

Wait.. Did you?

LISA

Well...

TORI

You did, didn't you!

JEREMY

Ohmygod.

LISA

I'm not answering that. Especially now that I have Joshua...

JEREMY

Joshua?!

CALEB & ABBY

It's okay, you can say it. It's just us. The girls.

LISA

Abby... Are you sure you're feeling alright?

CALEB & ABBY

Never better.

*Caleb moves his hand to Abby's, and
bends her fingers into an awkward thumbs
up.*

TORI

Okay...

JEREMY

Stop being weird.

CALEB & ABBY

I'm not being weird!

JEREMY

Yes, you are!

LISA

Abby, we're just worried--

CALEB & ABBY

Am not!

JEREMY

Are too!

TORI

Okay, this is--

CALEB & ABBY

Am not!

JEREMY

Are too!

CALEB & ABBY

Am NOT!

Lisa approaches Abby cautiously, looking back at Tori periodically. She reaches her hand out to Abby slowly.

LISA

It's alright, Abby. I think we should probably go home now...

JEREMY

NO! I need to know who this Joshua is.

LISA

(Still cautious:) Okay?

CALEB & ABBY

Does it matter?

TORI

Does WHAT matter!?

JEREMY

Please?

Tori!

LISA

CALEB & ABBY

Ugh fine. Hey Lisa?

LISA

Yeah? What's up buddy?

CALEB & ABBY

Who is Joshua?

LISA

What do you mean?

CALEB & ABBY

Who is he?

LISA

My boyfriend...?

JEREMY

Boyfriend?

LISA

You've met him. Like, a bunch of times.

JEREMY

Why does this always happen to me?

CALEB & ABBY

Dude... you're dead.

Lisa looks at Tori, shocked. Tori shakes her head, equally confused.

Oh, shit... I meant to say, why don't you tell him to come here, now?

JEREMY & TORI

What??

CALEB & ABBY

Yeah, it's been too long since we've all hung out.

LISA

... We all hung out today, Abby--

CALEB & ABBY

I just miss him.

JEREMY

Dude, WHAT are you doing!?

TORI

Look out, Lisa. Sounds like Abby has a thing for your man.

CALEB & ABBY

Oh, no. My heart belongs to Caleb. Forever and always.

JEREMY

Knock it off!!

LISA

I mean, Joshua lives like two doors down, I'm sure he wouldn't mind coming by for a few minutes.

JEREMY

What?? I don't want that guy in my house!

LISA

I'll go call him!

JEREMY

No! No, don't call him!

Lisa exits out the front door to make her call.

TORI

Great, Abby. As if spending the afternoon with him wasn't bad enough.

JEREMY

Wait... Joshua... Two doors down... Oh God, is she dating Josh Davenport!?

CALEB & ABBY

EW, I hate Josh Davenport!

TORI

Yeah, exactly! *Everyone* hates Josh Davenport. So WHY did you tell her to invite him!?

CALEB & ABBY

God damn, I keep forgetting she can hear me.

JEREMY

For the love of God, STOP TALKING.

TORI

Alright, ENOUGH. Abby, I don't know what the fuck your game is, but knock it off. You're obviously trying to freak me out or something by acting all ... I don't know, possessed. *(Pause.)* Well?

Caleb is using Abby's arms to reach towards Tori, but she keeps batting them away.

CALEB & ABBY

I--

JEREMY

(To Caleb:) Don't.

TORI

I'm waiting.

JEREMY

I swear, if you--

TORI

Are you gonna apologize or what?

JEREMY

Just... stop possessing Abby and let her answer for herself!

CALEB & ABBY

I don't know how!

Tori smacks Abby across the face. Abby does not react.

TORI

SNAP OUT OF IT!

Caleb grabs Abby's hand and uses it to slap Tori in the face.

TORI

Ow!

JEREMY

Dude!! You just hit a girl!

CALEB & ABBY

Okay, but technically--

Tori regains her composure for a second and then lunges towards Abby, complete with a battle cry. Instinctually, Caleb scoops Abby into his arms and evades Tori. Tori gasps and freezes. Terrified, she reaches out her arm and points at Abby, who appears to her to be levitating.

TORI

Ohmygod! You're...!! How are you... Doing that...!! I...

CALEB & ABBY

Shit!

JEREMY

(Frantically:) PUT HER DOWN PUT HER DOWN! PUT! HER! DOWN!

Caleb drops Abby to the ground. Tori is speechless. Lisa and Joshua enter.

LISA

Look who's here!

JOSHUA

What is UP?? How's everybody doing? Oh man, this place is so hype!

CALEB & ABBY

(Flatly.) Hi, Joshua.

Jeremy gets up and faces off Joshua. Tori is still freaking the fuck out.

JEREMY

I mean, what does this guy I have that I don't.

CALEB & ABBY

The gift of life?

JOSHUA

Didn't catch that, dudette!

Tori moves suddenly and grabs at Lisa's arm. She pulls her to the side.

TORI

Lisa... Lisa... I think Abby is possessed.

LISA

Seriously, Tori? Give it up. All that stuff with the ouija board, now this? It's getting old.

TORI

B-but...

JOSHUA

Man, this house needs a major reno! Some interesting design choices, I gotta say. For instance, what's going on with all this black?

Joshua gestures towards the scorch marks on the walls and furniture.

Tori, annoyed by Joshua, starts to snap out of her panicked state. She keeps a close eye on Abby still.

That's from the fire.
LISA

Fire?
JOSHUA

(Irritated.) Yes, Joshua. The fire. Don't you live on this street? How do you not know about the fire?
TORI

Tori! He was just making a joke.
LISA

Was I?
JOSHUA

Hilarious.
CALEB & ABBY

Tori moves a little farther away from Abby. Joshua fixates on the pentagram on the floor.

Ooh, this star was an excellent touch. Really ties the room together.
JOSHUA

Lisa picks up a partially ruined book: Satanic Rituals for Dummies.

Whoa. Tori, you gotta come see this.
LISA

No way... I mean I thought it was just a rumor but...
TORI

Jeremy snaps his head toward Caleb.

What?
LISA

TORI

Well, I heard that one of the brothers was performing a ritual when the fire happened.

LISA

What... what kind of ritual?

TORI

He was calling upon the devil to help rid him of his family.

JEREMY

THAT's what you were doing!?

LISA

No way...

JEREMY

I can't believe I tried to save you when you were hoping I'd die!

TORI

Yeah.

LISA

Which brother was it?

JEREMY

Well, I guess you got what you wanted.

CALEB & ABBY

Jeremy--

TORI

No way. I would have thought it was the other one. Caleb.

LISA

Jeremy worshipped the devil??

JEREMY

GREAT. Now Lisa thinks I'm some crazy Satanist, this is unbelievable!

CALEB & ABBY

No, listen.

There is a pause as Caleb has realized that he accidentally won the attention of the entire room through his possession of Abby. He hesitates before deciding to speak as Abby.

Caleb is the one who did it, not Jeremy. I don't think a lot of people know how hard it was for him to be home. It was really rough, you know? Like all the fucking time. Our-- er, his parents were always disappointed in me-- I mean him after he was kicked out of college. I-- FUCK, he couldn't get a job or his own place with his record. So he did the only thing he could do. He wished for it all to go away. He wanted his parents gone forever. The one person he never wanted to hurt was his brother, and he's... I'm sure he would be... really fucking sorry... if he knew that his actions had cost Jeremy his life.

JEREMY

Wow.

LISA

Wow.

CALEB & ABBY

I know.

JEREMY

I had no idea, Caleb. *(Pause.)* I forgive you.

TORI

Wait... How did you know all that? Were you and Caleb like banging or something? Were you fucking a Satanist??

CALEB & ABBY

Boy, wouldn't that have been something...

JOSHUA

I miss those dudes that lived here, they were great!

JEREMY

(Harboring animosity:) This guy.

LISA

Yeah... *(Trying to lighten the mood:)* Hey babe, do you want to ask the ouija board a question?

JOSHUA

Oh, radical! I love Luigi boards!

Lisa giggles.

TORI

(Under her breath.) Jesus.

JOSHUA

(Talking directly to the board.) How many fingers am I holding up?*Joshua puts up two fingers. Jeremy stares down Joshua. With his hand placed on top of Tori's, he spells out his message.*

TORI

F... U... C... K... O... F... F... Yikes.

JOSHUA

Don't feel bad, ghost! It's a hard game, y'know?

CALEB & ABBY

Let's kill him.

Tori and Lisa stare at Abby, shocked. Joshua is, of course, oblivious.

JEREMY

What?

Caleb lets go of Abby. She is no longer possessed, but has no memory of being possessed either. These next lines happen rapid fire.

CALEB

Yeah, it'd be easy.

LISA

Uh... hey Abby... care to explain?

ABBY

Explain what?

TORI

The thing... where you said... "let's kill him" ?

ABBY

When did Joshua get here?

JEREMY

So are you like... done possessing her now?

JOSHUA

Oh hey!

CALEB

Oh yeah, no. Turns out I just had to let go.

ABBY

God, my head hurts...

JEREMY

Ah.

TORI

Okay, literally Abby what the fuck is / going on?

JEREMY

So, let's revisit this whole killing / thing.

ABBY

Why are you yelling at me?

CALEB

Yeah, you in?

TORI

Because you're acting really weird and it's freaking me the fuck / out!

JEREMY

We can't do / that!

ABBY

I've been saying how I've wanted to leave this whole / time!

CALEB

Why not? There are no laws / here!

TORI

Yeah, minus the part where you started acting like a complete psycho!

LISA
Tori...
JEREMY
No, I mean we *can't* do that. Like *physically* /how would we do that..?

ABBY
Psycho?? You're the one screaming at me / for no reason!

CALEB
Damn. You're right.

JOSHUA
Whoa, ladies, ladies...

TORI, ABBY, CALEB, & JEREMY
Shut up, Joshua!

CALEB
Okay, so we know we can touch the couch and the board. There's gotta be / something there.

LISA
I think maybe we all just need to take a deep breath...

ABBY
Tell that to her!
JEREMY
Oh yeah, let's just kill Josh Davenport with a fucking couch. How is that supposed to work?

Joshua places his hands on Tori's shoulders and tries to give her a massage.

TORI
What the hell are you doing!?

JOSHUA
Just trying to calm you / down, man!

CALEB
Maybe if we push the couch like this...

Caleb mimes pushing the couch, trying to visualize the couch murder plan in his mind.

TORI

(Threateningly:) Touch me again, and see what happens. I swear / to God.

CALEB

And then if he's right there...

Joshua, not understanding Tori's tone, slowly reaches one finger out and pokes Tori's nose. She screeches and pushes him as hard as she can. He stumbles backwards into a bookcase. The entire thing collapses onto Joshua, killing him. Tori, Lisa, Abby, Jeremy, and Caleb all stand in silence for a moment, stunned.

CALEB

Or... that. That works.

LISA

(Running over to his body.) Joshua!

ABBY

Oh my God!

JEREMY

Holy shit.

LISA

(Fighting back tears:) Tell me you didn't just kill my boyfriend.

TORI

I...

ABBY

We should call someone right?

TORI

No, wait, fuck, no! No calls. Just hang on.

LISA

Tori--

TORI

No, damn it. Just let me think. *(Pacing.)* Oh shit, my life is over.

ABBY

No, his is.

Joshua starts to get up. Only Jeremy and Caleb react to this.

CALEB

Aw damn, he's fine.

JOSHUA

Oh man, what a ride! *(Pause.)* Bros? Hello?

JEREMY

Wait... Are you talking to us?

JOSHUA

Well who else??

CALEB

I don't know... Them, for example.

JOSHUA

Hey, my girlfriend! Hey Lisa! Wait, why is it raining from her eyes?

JEREMY

She's crying over you, you idiot.

JOSHUA

But I'm right here! Lisa! LISA!

CALEB

She can't hear you! You're dead.

JOSHUA

Oh.

CALEB

Yeah.

JOSHUA

Are you guys dead too?

JEREMY

Unfortunately.

JOSHUA

Okay, radical. I didn't want to be like, the only one. *(Long pause.)* So what do you guys do for fun?

CALEB

Fuck! You know what we didn't take into consideration?

JEREMY

The fact that we now have to spend eternity with this guy?

CALEB

YUP.

JEREMY

Fuck.

Caleb points to Abby and Lisa who are sobbing on the floor, holding each other.

CALEB

See, we should have been trying to kill them so they could keep us company. But instead we're now stuck with Josh fucking Davenport.

JOSHUA

Oh hey!

JEREMY

What do we do now?

CALEB

I think we have to send him back.

JEREMY

Can we even do that?

CALEB

I dunno. Worth a shot.

JEREMY

Count of three?

CALEB

One...

JEREMY

Two...

What are we counting?
JOSHUA

Three!
CALEB & JEREMY

Caleb and Jeremy charge at Joshua and send him flying into the fallen book case. The bookcase swings upright, and Joshua falls flat on the ground, alive again. He sits upright.

J-Joshua???
LISA

He's alive??
TORI

What is UP?
JOSHUA

How is that even...?
ABBY

I met some ghost boys and they sent me back to being alive!
JOSHUA

Joshua does a victory dance.

Ghost boys???
ABBY

Abby shrieks.

So wait. If we can restore life, why haven't we done that to each other yet? I mean there's no way to know for--
JEREMY

OW! What the fuck!?
Caleb pushes Jeremy, hard.

I was just trying to--
CALEB

JEREMY
I wasn't ready! Asshole!

Jeremy pushes Caleb back.

CALEB
HA! That was weak.

JEREMY
(Pause.) I guess we can't resurrect each other.

CALEB
I think maybe you have to hate someone enough for it to work.

Jeremy punches Caleb in the arm lightly. They have a sweet brotherly moment. Caleb immediately becomes uncomfortable and punches Jeremy in the arm back, only harder. They go back and forth, and the moment transforms from sweetness to something competitive and aggressive.

LISA
I'm just so glad you're alive.

Joshua hugs Lisa.

TORI
I'm just so glad I won't be facing murder charges.

Joshua goes to hug Tori. She dodges him.

ABBY
Can we please get out of here??

TORI
Absolutely.

Tori and Abby exit through the front door. Joshua and Lisa follow behind them, but Lisa stops just before they cross the threshold.

LISA

Just curious... the ghosts you saw... were they the ones that lived here?

JOSHUA

Yeah! Jeremiah and his brother Kale, I think.

JEREMY

(To Caleb:) Ha! You're a vegetable.

LISA

You go on, I'll meet you outside in just a second.

JOSHUA

Kay babe! *(Yelling and enunciating:)* Thank you ghost boys!

Joshua hugs the air twice, thinking he's hugging Jeremy and Caleb. They watch in disgust.

JEREMY

Man. What an idiot.

Joshua exits.

CALEB

Are you gonna kill her? Now's your chance!

JEREMY

I don't think I have the heart to--

LISA

Jeremy?

Caleb and Jeremy freeze.

JEREMY

Did she just...?

LISA

I don't know if you're still here, or if you can even hear me, but thanks for what you did tonight. And... thanks for all the Gogurt.

There's a pause, then Jeremy bumps the couch a little bit, moving it slightly.

Lisa jumps at the movement and then smiles to the room, which appears empty to her.

CALEB

Are you sure?

Caleb has picked up a brick and quickly starts following Lisa as she exits, threatening to hit her with it.

JEREMY

Yeah! *(Caleb stops.)* Just because I didn't get to finish my life, doesn't mean she shouldn't get to finish hers.

Lisa takes one last look at the room before exiting through the front door, shutting it behind her.

CALEB

Fuck.

JEREMY

What?

CALEB

We should have at least gone outside. I'd give anything to get out of this house.

JEREMY

Eh, I'm sure there's a way out. We're only just beginning to figure out what we can do.

CALEB

(Pause.) Wanna try to go through the wall again?

JEREMY

Caleb.

CALEB

What? I'm sure it's possible! You think we can possess humans but not go through walls??

JEREMY

If you wanna go through the wall so badly then you test it out! I'm not going to be your guinea pig for the rest of eternity!

CALEB

How else are we gonna learn!?

JEREMY

No, nope, I'm not doing it.

CALEB

Come on...

JEREMY

If you want to go through walls so badly, you try it.

Jeremy exits the room into another part of the house. Caleb stands alone for a moment. He picks up Jeremy's sheet from earlier and puts it over his head.

CALEB

Hey Jeremy! Who am I? *(He clears his throat. Imitating Jeremy:)*
OoooOOOoOoOoOooo!

JEREMY (OFF)

You're an asshole.

CALEB

Close! Another guess? *(Replicating Jeremy's exact intonation and movements from before:)* OOOooOOOAaOOoaaOOaa!! Oooo Caleb, my big strong brother, please help me win over my long lost love from fifth grade, Lisa Campbell!

JEREMY

(Re-entering and pulling the sheet off of Caleb:) You're a jerk.

CALEB

AH!

End of play.