

HAUNT

Written by

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INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

From inside the house, everything is pitch black. All that can be seen is blinking red light off in the corner. Until PETRA GARRISON (late 20s) opens the front door to flood the room with light.

After turning on the lights, she pulls a laptop out of her backpack and throws the back pack on the couch. With laptop in hand she walks to...

INT. PETRA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

...her bedroom. She jumps on her bed, which has a bat by the nightstand, and opens her laptop. She sets her phone to the side and cracks her neck before CLACKING away on her keyboard. The laptop's camera is covered with a piece of tape that has 'NOPE' written over it.

She stops typing to think for a moment, but is disturbed when her phone BUZZES. It's a message from an unknown number.

UNKNOWN (TEXT)

You must think yourself so clever
with that tape.

Odd. But Petra shrugs it off by just blocking the number. She takes a deep breath, ready to get back to work, when the doorbell RINGS.

She turns to the sound, then looks back at her phone. She decides to grab the bat and goes to the front door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Petra peers through the peephole. She opens the door while keeping the bat hidden behind the door. Only the bat, the door, and Petra's grip can be seen as she greets a delivery boy.

PETRA (O.S.)

(curt)
What?

DELIVERY BOY (O.S.)

Uh, flowers for Petra Garrison?

Her grip tightens.

PETRA (O.S.)

I didn't order any flowers.

DELIVERY BOY (O.S.)
That would be because they're a
gift.

The bat loosens slightly.

DELIVERY BOY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
There should be a note attached.

Petra leans the bat against the wall to grab the flowers.

PETRA (O.S.)
Thanks.

She SLAMS the door shut.

Petra eyes the bouquet and vase in her hands as she brings
them into...

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

...the kitchen. She sets the vase down on the table and opens
the note, reading it aloud.

PETRA
"Petra, may these bring some light
into your life just as you did for
me. Hope we meet again soon. Dave."
(mumbles)
Take the damn hint, Dave.

She throws the note into the trash and returns to her
bedroom.

INT. PETRA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

She jumps back on her bed and sees that her phone has another
message from another unknown number.

UNKNOWN (TEXT)
Well that wasn't very nice.

More unnerved, she decides to message back.

PETRA (TEXT)
Dave?

UNKNOWN (TEXT)
What about him?

PETRA (TEXT)
Who is this?

GHOST (TEXT)

A ghost.

That's enough for Petra. She blocks the number again and tosses the phone on the bed. Sure enough, it BUZZES immediately.

Petra chews her nails, unsure of whether or not to look. She hesitantly picks the phone back up.

GHOST (TEXT) (CONT'D)

Didn't you try that already?

Petra shoots off her bed and onto her feet. Another message.

GHOST (TEXT) (CONT'D)

Yes, stand up. That should help.

Petra warily looks around her and out the window before responding.

PETRA (TEXT)

How can you see me?

GHOST (TEXT)

Well, either I can see through walls, or I can see through something else. Wave to the closet for me.

Petra stares into her closet where, on the top shelf hidden amongst some boxes, she sees a blinking red light. She walks up to the light and reaches to strip it from its hiding place. She finds in her hand a small, wireless surveillance camera.

Horrified, she drops the camera to the ground and SMASHES it into oblivion.

As she catches her breath from her frenzy, her phone BUZZES in her hand.

GHOST (TEXT) (CONT'D)

You don't actually think that's the only one, do you?

She starts to hyperventilate, but works to keep it in check. She forces herself to assess her situation. After making a connection, she confronts the ghost.

PETRA

If you can see me, then I bet you can probably hear me too, huh?

Another message BUZZES.

GHOST (TEXT)

BINGO!

(new text)

It's a shame that ghosts can't
talk, or can they?

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

Petra!

Petra jumps and instinctively reaches for the bat that she left in the living room. The same place the phantom voice just sounded.

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

Come here, Petra. I won't bite.

Petra steels herself before walking out to meet her poltergeist.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Petra childishly peeks into the room. But no one's there.

GHOST (V.O.)

There. Now it's like I'm really
here.

The ghost's voice BOOMS over Petra's speaker system.

GHOST (V.O.)

(whisper)

Come on out. Don't be bashful.

Petra grimaces at being talked down to. But does as she's told and walks into the middle of the room.

She looks down at her now obsolete phone and tosses it on the couch.

PETRA

Alright. You got me. What is this,
some kind of elaborate peep show?

The ghost LAUGHS.

GHOST (V.O.)

Wow. You really are conceited,
Petra. You're not as important as
you think.

PETRA
 Hey, you're the one watching me.
 You must've chosen me for a reason.

GHOST (V.O.)
 Petra, you aren't interesting. I
make you interesting.

Petra starts to get frustrated.

PETRA
 But why me! Why torture me?!

Beat.

GHOST (V.O.)
 Because the other one died.

Petra's face slackens.

PETRA
 (quiet)
 What are you gonna do to me?

GHOST (V.O.)
 I do what all ghost do. I haunt.
 Until you become a ghost like me,
 your life, Petra Garrison, belongs
 to me. Along with all your
 possessions. Even... gifts.

Petra immediately turns towards the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Petra hurriedly walks to the vase on the table and begins
 scouring the flowers. But it's not long until she sees a
 blinking red light down in the darkness.

GHOST (V.O.)
 5, 4, 3,

Petra turns to the voice of the ghost and looks back at the
 vase before she registers what's about to happen.

GHOST (V.O.)
 2, 1 and 3/4,

Petra runs out of the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Petra rushes under a table and covers her ears.

GHOST (V.O.)
1 and 1/2, 1 and 1/5.

BANG.

The vase explodes in the other room sending bits of flowers and vase through the kitchen doorway.

From her spot under the table, Petra stares at the blinking red light coming from her sound system.

Slowly, Petra crawls out from under the table and sits on it, face expressionless.

GHOST (V.O.)
Someone has been a very bad girl,
lately. I'm afraid I'm going to
have to send you to bed without any
supper.

Petra slowly stands to her feet.

GHOST (V.O.)
Now, that's a good girl. Was that
so hard?

Petra begins shuffling her feet towards the hallway.

But doesn't break stride as she turns sharply towards the front door.

GHOST (V.O.)
What're you doing?

Petra grabs the bat leaning against the wall. And picks up her pace as she goes to grab the sound system.

GHOST (V.O.)
Stop that. Little girl, I gave you
an order!

Petra tosses the system on the floor.

GHOST (V.O.)
OBEY!

She raises the bat above her head.

GHOST (V.O.)
You think any of this ma-

Petra SLAMS the bat into the sound system over and over again, pulverizing it.

With the voice silenced, Petra grabs her backpack and runs into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Petra enters the lightly damaged kitchen and starts going through cabinets; throwing various foodstuffs and water into her bag.

She opens a cabinet and stops. She picks up the lighter fluid sitting on the shelf and looks at it with a new plan acquired.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

We focus on Petra's phone sitting on the couch as it BUZZES wildly.

Around the room Petra can be heard DOUSING the house in lighter fluid. She crosses the frame, out of focus, as her phone continues to beg for attention.

An empty container of lighter fluid is tossed next to the phone as Petra picks it up and walks to the center of the room.

Petra looks at the phone briefly. Dozens of messages shoot by.

GHOST (TEXT)

STOP
 (new text)
 YOU BITCH
 (new text)
 LISTEN
 (new text)
 I CONTROL YOU

With a smirk, Petra lets go of the phone and SMASHES it with her heel.

Petra slings her full backpack over her shoulder. Then, she pulls out a book of matches from her pocket.

CU on Petra's face as she lights the matches and tosses them past the camera.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

CU on Petra's face as the light from the burning building flickers across her face and dances in her eyes. The sounds of a building RAVAGED by flame can be heard.

PETRA

Fuck you.

Job done, Petra turns away from her former life and walks out into the darkness.

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

CCTV FOOTAGE:

Petra is being tracked through multiple security cameras.

GHOST

(taunting)

Uh-uh-uh.

END CCTV FOOTAGE.

Petra stops walking as she feels a jolt in her arm. She lifts her arm to see a red dot blinking just beneath her skin.

CUT TO BLACK.